

# Comet News

Volume 8 Issue 2

Winter 2023

## Career Day Inspires Hicksville Students

By Daiwik Uppal

Friday, December 2nd, was a day to remember as the students of Hicksville High School were able to meet and interact with many professionals who spoke about their experiences in specialized fields of work. This opportunity was provided by Career Day, Inc.

This Career Day was particularly special as previous events were held virtually due to COVID. The students of Hicksville High School were curious to see what the event might bring.

Career Day, Inc. was founded by Ms. Beth Bucheister. According to Ms. Bucheister, the goal of their program is to, "inspire students through career choice awareness."

Ms. Bucheister also hopes that, "...students understand the important opportunity to interact with professionals and be prepared to ask open-ended questions (those without a yes or no answer)."

Students began the selection process the week leading up to Career Day to identify the careers they preferred to hear about on the day of the event.

The morning of the event, students received their schedules. Many were excited to see that they received some of their preferred choices.

"Not everyone will get their first choices, and it is important to remember that each person brings a unique story of their career journey, the ups and downs of their professions, and something to offer even if this is not the career

you think you'll study in the future," Ms. Bucheister said.

Among the presenters, who ranged from interior designers, attorneys, a commercial pilot and more, were some Hicksville High School alum, including actor, comedian, and writer Michael Pagano and Emmy Award Winning Senior Producer at Good Morning America, Alyssa Lapertosa.



Photo: Career Day, Inc.

# Career Day Inspires Hicksville Students (con'td)

By Daiwik Uppal

Keynote presenters also included Dailisha Rodriguez, executive director of *Hey There, Beautiful* a nonprofit creating safe spaces for girls, and Josh York, founder and CEO of GYMGUYZ, a mobile-in home fitness training provider.

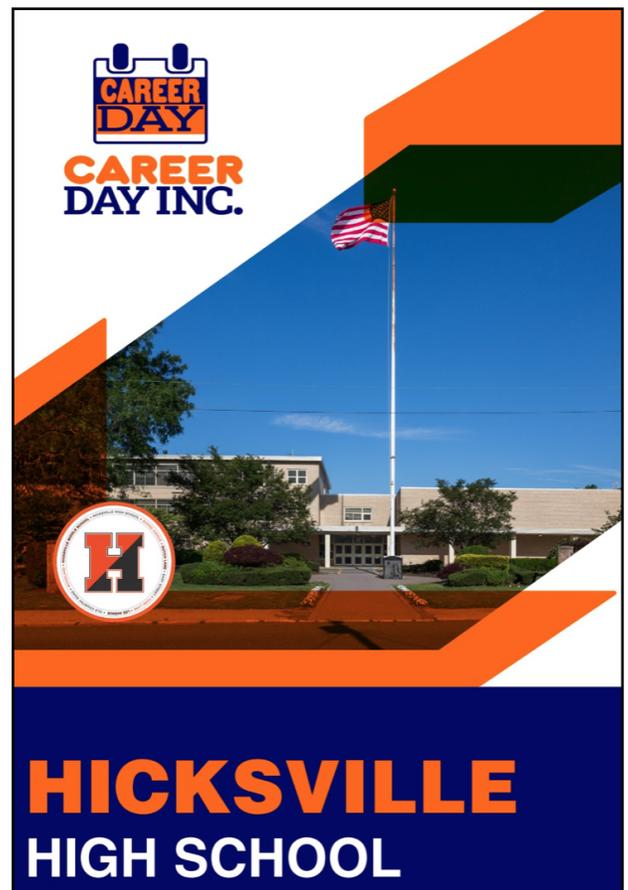
According to surveys conducted at the end of the day on Career Day, the event was a success. Ms. Bucheister noted, "Over 995 students responded to the survey questions. That alone is a sign of successful impact. 84% of students responding felt that they had a better understanding of the careers now then before the Career Day Inc. program. When teachers responded, 84% agreed that the sessions they attended were valuable to all students regardless of academic ability. "

A common explanation by students in their response to the question, "What was most impactful about the day?" was, "I learned today to dream big; I also learned that there will be many steps before I get to my career. I also learned that I may sometimes fail and that it is okay, but I have to keep trying until I succeed," Ms. Bucheister shared.

Due to the success of Career Day, Inc., Hicksville High School hopes to continue this event in the years to come.

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>MARCHING COMETS</b>	<b>PAGE 3</b>
<b>NEW STAFF</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>STUDENT GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>PAGE 6</b>
<b>TAYLOR SWIFT</b>	<b>PAGE 7</b>
<b>KANYE WEST</b>	<b>PAGE 8</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY ADDAMS</b>	<b>PAGE 9</b>
<b>COACH LOCASCIO</b>	<b>PAGE 10</b>



# Marching Comets Take the Trophy Home Again

By Zahel Nasari

After winning all five competitions against Long Island schools, the Marching Band finished the season with their performance of “Color My World” at the Syracuse University Carrier Dome on October 30, 2022, placing first in the New York State Field Band Conference Championships. In the division of Large School 2, competing with seven other schools, Hicksville won first place with an overall score of 89.45. The first-place distinction is a symbol of success that emphasizes teamwork, sharing, and determination — values that are more important than winning. Hard work is an understatement to describe the tireless hours of rigorous practice and the sacrifices each member made. Additionally, it is crucial to note the efforts of the staff — Ms. Barnett, Ms. Pinto, Ms. Parisi, Mr. Kamping, Mr. Caruso, Mr. Lensky, Mr. Valente, Mr. Moya, and Ms. Smith — who worked endlessly to ensure the success of the Marching Band.

In hopes of providing a glimpse into the experiences and regimen of the HHS Marching Band, members were asked to share their thoughts on the season.

Regarding preparedness, drum major Fatima Aguilar explained that she felt well-equipped and excited to perform. She described the moment as bittersweet, emotional, and exhilarating.

Moreover, Andrew Fontanetta, a junior who plays the trumpet, expressed that he greatly encourages all students to join the marching band. Andrew mentioned that he was “met with nothing but kindness from people” when he attended the first rehearsal and described the atmosphere as unmatched. Additionally, Miguel Ortiz, a junior who plays woodwind baritone, stated that his time with the marching band was an unforgettable experience that allowed him to “build strong connections with newcomers and people he knew.”

Furthermore, Prashakha Shah, a senior who plays bass drum, shared that she had many other responsibilities to handle and efficiently balanced the workload by planning ahead of time. She stated that it



From L-R: Mr. Steven Lensky, Ms. Kerri Barnett, Gia Rangi, Samantha Mason, Fatima Aguilar and Mr. Michael Caruso Photo Credit: Hicksville Marching Band

was crucial to be organized and prioritize certain tasks. Another bass drum player, Giovanni Velasquez, explained that he highly enjoyed his experience and described the marching band as “one of the most accepting and loving teams.” He expressed that “although it is a huge commitment, it is definitely worth it.”

The Marching Band consists of four different sections: the woodwinds, brass, percussion, and color guard which work in unison throughout the season. The Marching Band begins rehearsals in June. A significant part of the Marching Band is band camp, a week during the summer where students rehearse eight to nine hours at the high school every day. In particular, the season consists of biweekly practices, which last three and a half hours in the summer and three hours during the school year. During this time, members of the band work diligently to perfect their marching and playing skills in preparation for their competitions in September and October.

In addition to their incredible dynamics and uniformity of musical and visual performance, this marching band family never fails to radiate wonderful energy and enthusiasm — strengthening the bond between members and attaining victory on the field.

# Getting to Know You: New Staff and Teachers of the 2022-23 School Year

**By Stephanie Dolan and Sabrina Bishnu-Klat**

This school year, Hicksville High School not only welcomed new students, but also many new teachers and staff in a variety of departments. From Foreign Language to Special Education and more, here are just a few new names that were added to the faculty and staff this year.



## Ms. Avrutine Social Worker

**What or who inspired you to choose this career path?** I felt inspired by my own middle and high school social workers, who made their

offices a safe space for me during difficult times in my life.

**What college did you attend?** I got my bachelor's degree at the University of Delaware and my master's degree at Hunter College.

**Who is your role model?** My parents; they work hard, treat others with respect and dignity,

**Favorite way to spend free time?** Reading, going to the beach in the summer, and playing with my daughter.

**Anything else you wish to add?** I am so excited to be here at Hicksville High School and feel so lucky to be working with such amazing staff and students!



## Mrs. DiLeo ENL Teacher

**What or who inspired you to choose this career path?** I have known I wanted to be a teacher since I was in second grade.

For a school project, I created a timeline of my life, and I wrote that in September of 2020, I wanted to be a teacher. I started my teaching career in September of 2018 in the NYC Department of Education as an English teacher. I have always loved helping others. But, in teaching, I really love having the ability to make small or big impacts on each of my students' lives every day.

**What college did you attend?** I went to St. Joseph's College in Patchogue for my Bachelors in English Secondary Education. I then went to Queens College for my Masters in TESOL.

**Who is your role model?** My brother - he is my best friend and biggest supporter.

**Favorite way to spend free time?** I love to be active, go on long walks, and lift weights. I also love spending time with my family, friends, and dogs.

**Anything else you wish to add?** I have two German Shepherd dogs; one female named Demi and one male named Oliver (Ollie).

## Mrs. Dixon ENL Teacher

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and came to the US at the age of 14, and grew up in Astoria, Queens, and later moved to New Jersey when I got married.



**What or who inspired you to choose this career path?** I was an ESL student myself, and I wanted to give back to the community, but share a common ground with my ELL students because I know how hard it is to assimilate, learn a new language, and the struggles that an immigrant goes through, and being able to make those connections with my students is key.

**What college did you attend?** Baruch (CUNY) and majored in Journalism for my Bachelors. For my Master's in TESOL. I went to Ashford University in Arizona.

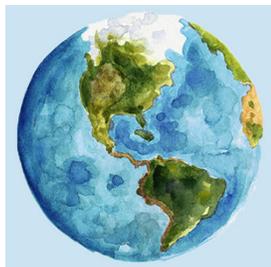
**Who is your role model?** My brother. He taught me that nothing is impossible!

**Favorite way to spend free time?** When I am not working, I am traveling. I love to travel around the globe.

**Anything else you wish to add?** I just moved from Jersey to Long Island over the summer. I speak

## New Teachers and Staff (continued)

Portuguese, English and Spanish. I am so happy I moved to the Island because now I get to spend more quality time with my younger brother. I am the only girl out of three boys.



### Ms. Maher Special Education Earth Science

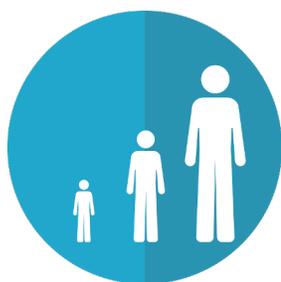
**What or who inspired you to choose this career path?** This was a second career for me. My Earth Science teacher aided in my love of science.

**What college did you attend?** I went to Farmingdale State, Dowling and Concordia and took some classes at a few other schools.

**Who is your role model?** My Mom.

**Favorite way to spend free time?** Hiking and painting rocks.

**Anything else you wish to add?** I previously owned and operated a gymnastics school.



### Ms. Porter Lifespan at HHS and Family and Consumer Sciences at HMS

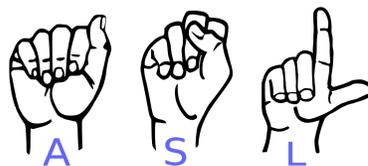
**What is your position here?** Lifespan at the High School and Family and Consumer Sciences at the Middle School.

**What college did you attend?** Fashion Institute of Technology and SUNY Oswego.

**Favorite way to spend free time?** In my free time I love to run, sew and crochet!

**Anything else you wish to add?** I look forward to having a great school year in Hicksville.

### Ms. Saftchick American Sign Language



**What made you want to be a teacher?** One of my ASL teachers in middle school.

**What college did you attend?** Townsend University for undergraduate and Hunter in New York City for graduate school.

**Who is your role model?** There are teachers in my family and I'm the youngest in my family to become a teacher.

**Was there any other career you wanted to pursue?** Veterinarian



### Ms. Shanahan Reading Teacher at HMS & HHS

**What or who inspired you to choose this career path?** I was inspired to choose this career path because I love reading. I believe

that reading has the power to change lives. I love what I do!

**What college did you attend?** I went to St. John's University for my undergraduate degree. I went to Queens College for my graduate degree. Then I went back to St. John's for my degree as a Reading Specialist.

**Who is your role model?** In elementary school, I had a favorite 4th grade teacher. Her name is Mrs. Lembo, and she was so kind and sweet.

**Favorite way to spend free time?** I love to spend time with my family and friends. I also like to exercise by walking or going to the gym. I also love reading in my downtime.

# Student Government Strives for Change in 2023

By Stephanie Dolan



Photo: Google Images

The 2023 Student Government Officers were inaugurated on January 3rd. Each officer has a specific role they must fulfill for Student Government, and they all have a perspective on changes or new programs that should be implemented.

**Wesley Kong, President**

**What made you want to run for President?** Last year, I had a friend who complained about the bathroom policy, and I realized that was an actual health issue. I read in the student handbook that we were allowed to start petitions, so I wanted to start one with the bathroom. I pursued it, but I learned that due to COVID and security, there was little room for change at the time. I decided to run for vice president last year, but sadly lost. I continued with the club and helped out in the events it hosted. I decided to run for president in my senior year because the president and vice president meet with Mr. Williams once a month. It would be an opportunity for me to discuss the issues that the students had directly.

**What is the first thing you will try to change or implement?** I said in my speech that one thing I hope to change would be with the water fountains and how they don't work as traditional water fountains. That has actually been a problem not only for students, but some teachers as well.

**Zahel Nasari, Recording Secretary**

**What made you want to run for Recording Secretary?** Student government is a great way to be involved and get to know and work with new people. I was interested in running for recording secretary because I wanted to help express the voice of the student body. I consider myself a team player, and I enjoy working with others. Together students can develop great ideas to help the school and community.

**What is the first thing you will try to change or implement?** An initiative I am passionate about pursuing is the Battle of the Classes. This will create an opportunity for student engagement and cultivate the school environment we seek.

**What does your position entail?** As recording secretary, I keep a record of the minutes during meetings, meaning I must write and take notes on what is discussed. It is my job to maintain an organized and effective system to keep everyone and everything in check.

**Alyssa Garger, Treasurer**

**What made you want to run for Treasurer?** I wanted to run for Hicksville High School's student body treasurer because I excel in STEM fields, including math, and care about the student body. I enjoy being an officer for Ms. Temps, and believe that she pushes me to be a better person, which is part of my reason for running. Being on the Student Government Board not only means working with Ms. Temps, but also having an opportunity to improve the school environment and listen to students' voices/ideas.

**What is the first thing you will try to change or implement?** The first thing that we are working on changing is the bathroom system. The 25-minute time period every hour in which students cannot use the restroom is unhealthy. It causes students to often opt to not utilize the restroom for the entire seven hour day, meaning students drink less water than they should because they want to avoid using the bathroom.

**What does your position entail?** My position entails keeping organized records of the finances of the Student Government and formulating fundraising opportunities for the club. This can be done through the numerous events we are working on introducing, including a social event/dance, Battle of the Classes, and other events.

**Vivek Bedi, Corresponding Secretary**

**What made you want to run for Corresponding Secretary?** I wanted to be more involved with extracurricular activities and running for Corresponding Secretary seemed like a suitable way to.

**What is the first thing you're going to try to implement or change?** I want to try and push for more student based things, like maybe longer times at the bathroom by changing the wait from 10 minutes to 5 minutes.

**What does your position entail?** As a corresponding secretary, I take attendance of meetings and help organize them.

---

We wish this year's officers the best in helping to make Hicksville High School a fun and safe place to learn.

Student Government welcomes all voices in our building. If you would like to get involved, see any of these officers or Ms. Temps or Dr. Powell.

# A Not So "Swift" Experience With Ticketmaster

By Samantha Castro



On Tuesday, November 15th, like 1.5 other lucky Taylor Swift fans, I got a presale code for Taylor Swift's long-awaited Era's tour. I also got an email from TaylorNation that I was boosted in line, yet it took me seven hours to get three seats, and they're limited view nosebleeds.

The internet proclaims that I should be grateful, since tickets have skyrocketed to \$100,000 for the front row. I could pay for a semester of college by selling just one of my tickets.

As did 2.8 million, I also attended her last tour, the Reputation Stadium Tour, and can attest to claims that it was "hands down the best concert ever". Now people are demanding Taylor apologize, refunds people, and many ambiguous statements have been made. What happened?

Personally, I followed the instructions of Twitter and TikTok Taylor Swift fans, who encouraged people to log on to Ticketmaster at 9:30am, to get into the lobby at 10am, and hopefully experience a maximum of a 45 minute wait.

An entire workday later, after being stuck in the same spot for four hours, I got tickets at 2:30pm in the nosebleeds for \$60 above the advertised price, and the presale sold out ten minutes later.

This was widely regarded as a disaster, but it only got worse. Out of 3.5 million "Swifties" who signed up for pre-sale, the two million who didn't were

reliant on the Capital One pre-sale, which was postponed, as was the west coast pre-sale after the four hour crash of the east coast.

The general ticket sale was canceled as of November 18th, the expected start of pre-sale. Throughout this chaos, many fans were left wondering what happened.

The typical Ticketmaster rule of 15% of tickets being released during pre-sale was blatantly ignored due to the demand of three million people, and this message wasn't sent to the public, so when tickets sold out in pre-sale, they were sold out for everyone.

Starting with the Tennessee Attorney General and making its way up to the United States Supreme Court, Ticketmaster's monopoly is being investigated by the federal government due to corrupt practices like this, and ticket fees being almost 50% of the ticket price.

Taylor Swift and Ticketmaster have made statements apologizing for the "inconvenience". Swift stating that she feels horrible her fans feel like they went through "several bear attacks" to get tickets, and responds to demands that she should refund all tickets and redo the process, shutting down rumors and saying she simply hopes there are more opportunities to share in live music together post-pandemic.

Swift also claims that Ticketmaster knew about this "unprecedented" and "historic" demand, and reassured them that they could handle it.

Evidently, they couldn't be more wrong.

## Wednesday: Latest Buzz in TV

By Yaritza Menjivar

*Wednesday*, Netflix's original spin to *The Addams Family* starring Jenna Ortega, is the all-new hottest topic of internet discussion in media and entertainment.

The story begins with Chapter 1, "Wednesday's Child is Full of Woe." After getting a weird vision of her brother, Pugsly, being tormented by a pack of jocks, Wednesday Addams gets revenge, resulting in her expulsion from the school. Her parents, Morticia and Gomez Addams, send her off to Nevermore Academy, the boarding school for all different kinds of misfits. Upon arrival, Wednesday meets her colorful and completely contrasting werewolf roommate, Enid. Morticia Addams warns her not to try to escape, and gives her a necklace as a good-bye gift. Secretly, her parents also leave Thing, an interesting fellow who happens to be just a hand, to watch over her. Wednesday quickly finds out and may or may not use

threats in order to assure Thing's complete loyalty to her. But the real mystery begins when human remains begin to appear near the woods of the school, which seem to be from some "animal" attack. Throughout the story, things take many different unexpected, and sometimes bloody, turns. From murder accusations and shapeshifting to school dances and pilgrim memorials, Wednesday needs to uncover the secrets of the past in order to be ready for what is to come.

Overall, many were pleasantly surprised by the show, since it did have a pretty iconic family to live up to. The acting, especially Jenna Ortega's performance, was absolutely phenomenal. *Wednesday* fans eagerly wait for a Season 2, especially after the way things ended for Season 1.

## Kanye West: Ye or Neh?

By Sahej Lehal

On December 2nd, West shared a photo of the Star of David and a Swastika combined that led him to be banned on Twitter. After getting unbanned, the first thing he tweeted was "Shalom." One Twitter user states, "Shalom has three meanings: hello, peace, and goodbye. Hello, Kanye. Please leave us in peace. Bye." The public caught Elon Musk liking Kanye West's "Shalom" tweet and have been quick to react.

After his divorce from Kim Kardashian, Kanye wore a 'White Lives Matter' shirt while opening the Season 9 *Yeezy* fashion show in Paris. This opened up a huge controversy between Kanye West and the public. West also posted on his Instagram, "Everyone knows that Black Lives Matter was a scam. Now it's over. You're welcome," which he later deleted. After this, he got dropped from many of his collaborations, such as *Adidas*.

Recently, he appeared on *The Alex Jones Show* and stated his opinion about the Holocaust and Hitler. West stated, "I don't really care much about Hitler. I love him. It's like he had a really cool outfit and stuff and he was a really good architect and he didn't kill six million Jews... I don't like the word evil next to Nazis.

I love Jewish people, but I also love Nazis."

After Kanye's anti-semitic comments, many people were quick to vilify him. On

the *Today* show, Jamie Lee Curtis said, "I woke up and burst into tears. 'DEFCON 3 on Jewish People'? What are you doing? I mean, it's bad enough that fascism is on the rise around the world, but on Twitter, on a portal, to pour that in as if Jewish people haven't had it hard enough?"

West has been involved in many controversies before and his fans have always been there to support him, but after these incidents, many people can't defend him anymore. Even so, many are blinded by him and continue to justify his actions. The real question is, what will Kanye West do next?



# The Rebirth of Wednesday Addams

By Danna Taboada

A couple months ago, Netflix revealed on social media a teaser image of young actress Jenna Ortega dressed as Wednesday Addams, the daughter of the fictional beloved family, the Addams Family. Fans hoped that the actress could bring a new spark to this character as she has been played before by other actresses in the past, such as Christina Ricci and Lisa Loring. After a long awaited period of time, *Wednesday* was finally released on November 23rd (a Wednesday) of 2022. Directed by Tim Burton, *Wednesday* focuses on the adventures of the young daughter as she is sent to Nevermore Academy after being expelled from her original school and aims to solve a mystery that's been haunting her family for quite some time.

Almost immediately after its release, critics of the show are praising Jenna's work as Wednesday and calling it the best rendition of this character of all time. Not only that, but *Wednesday* was able to break the record for most hours viewed in a week for an English-language speaking show, with the previous holder being *Stranger Things*, one of Netflix's most watched shows of all time. Older fans of the Addams Family are just as on board with the show as well, praising the cast, the director, and the creative team behind this show. New fans are blown away by the story's plot and eager for Season 2 to drop as soon as it possibly can.

And as seen before, when a new and popular work emerges, a trend on social media is usually right

behind it. One particular scene in the hit show caught the eye of many even if they didn't watch the show just yet. Wednesday Addams can be seen at what appears to be a typical high school dance as she is drenched in black clothing, contrasting sharply from those around her who are dressed in pure white. She begins to dance to The Cramps' "Goo Goo Muck" in a manner that one considers odd and weird yet she does it full of emotion, highlighting her unique personality. And like that, many went on TikTok to post videos of themselves recreating the dance over and over again. It was either that or you recreated the dance to Lady Gaga's "Bloody Mary" thanks

to a popular edit of the character using the same song. Not only was this trend shedding more light on the show but also to these songs as well.

Bringing back the love for the Addams Family, the creative minds behind the show have come to social media to express their immense gratitude for what the show has been able to accomplish in the past week. I haven't watched the show yet, but I certainly know that it's a show worth watching with guest stars such as Christina Ricci, who played Wednesday Addams when she was a child in the 1991 movie, and Fred Armisen, a popular American comedian, as Uncle Fester. So if you're in need of new show to watch while you lie on your couch, I, and probably many others, suggest you take a look at Netflix's hottest show yet.



Photo: Google Images

# Coach LoCascio: The Playmaker

By Ellen Michalakis

***Head Coach LoCascio, of the Boys' Varsity Basketball team at Hicksville High School, gives us an insight as to why running a team is easier said than done, but worthwhile in the end.***

Whether you found yourself watching one of their games on a cold afternoon, or overheard how many points they scored at their latest away game; it is undeniable that basketball plays a vital role in Hicksville High School's culture and recreational entertainment. But, there is more to a game than just watching the coaches stand and yell out plays as the players run up and down the court, switching between offense and defense.

Every sport requires time, training, agility, a tough grind, and the willingness to learn from your mistakes and improve from them. You can go on and on listing the fundamental aspects of playing basketball. However, you can not exclude the maestros that put on the show behind the scenes and who work day and night to assist their players.

Every year basketball tryouts for the boys are always packed to the tee, from one gym end to the other, young players are eager to prove themselves and make the team. The man who regulates that jam-packed setting and places everyone in check is Coach LoCascio. With the qualified experience of Assistant Coach Dempsey at his right hand, LoCascio brings his player, coaching, and teaching experience to build up a vigorous and diligent team.

Besides Mr. LoCascio's vast background in basketball and all-around athletics, he also works at Hicksville High School as a Special Education teacher in the math field. "I teach mostly self-contained math classes, so that means that there are at most 15 students in one classroom. In my time here at Hicksville I've done inclusion (I. C. T.) classes as well; that is when there is a math teacher and special ed teacher in the room together," LoCascio explains.

## **LoCascio's Basketball Background**

To Coach LoCascio, basketball has always been number one. From when he was a kid to now, there isn't a day or an hour when the sport doesn't cross his

mind. His passion for basketball transfers into his career, and he integrates his devotion to teaching and coaching all in one.

"I've played basketball since I was five years old. My first basketball present my dad bought me was a basketball hoop when I was five, and he put it in the backyard cemented into the ground. That was my favorite Christmas present I ever got."

When basketball came up, LoCascio would drop soccer and baseball practice and go straight to basketball. This loyalty to the sport stayed with him as he went to high school where he played for four years on varsity, scored over a thousand points, and went on to play division three basketball at Saint John Fisher University.

So, why was he drawn to basketball? Coach revealed, "Not only do you need certain skills, like shooting a basketball [which is] incredibly tough to do, as well as handling a basketball, you also have to be really athletic and be able to fly up and down the court, and jump all over the place. You have to be quick moving laterally, moving forward, moving backward, so I think that combination of skill and athleticism is what attracted me to basketball the most."

It is a special type of player who can transform what they have learned into something more than that, but having player experience sometimes isn't enough to build someone into a quality coach. Coaching and training a team is easier said than done, and different from playing the game itself. LoCascio, though, has been coaching since his younger years at camps where he gained immense playing exposure while acquiring the opportunity to teach younger players.

Athletes require coaches who can efficiently guide their technical, tactical and physical development while improving their skills in the sport. Coach LoCascio obtained coaching experience from a young age and combined both to grow teams and players with ease here at Hicksville. His tremendous experience has added to the competent coaching logic that he goes by today.

## Coach LoCascio: The Playmaker (cont'd)

"Once I've finished my playing days I started coaching here at Hicksville, I was the boys' freshman basketball coach back when we actually had two JV teams, [and] I coached the girls' varsity basketball team, so I've been coaching basketball here for twelve years now. This is my third season coaching the boys' varsity basketball team."

### LoCascio's Coaching Philosophy

Coaching a team and coaching sports like basketball does not mean you wing it and go onto the court pulling out plays and drills from your head. You have to be prepared.

"A typical basketball practice starts off with everybody warming up as I get on the court. If they're in there early, they should be doing form shooting or other things like that. Once I get in there, and we get going, we usually do a full-court drill to get everyone's blood pumping, and then we go through skill work," Coach described.

Training doesn't only involve physical work, but also IQ work. LoCascio is keen on studying opponents and knowing how to react in certain situations when you're on the court.

"We prep for teams that we are playing against, [and] a lot of times we'll have scouting reports talking about their best players, [and] things that they like to do, so that could be a section of basketball practice. I'm pretty regimented, and I have a schedule every day, so I usually do that the day before. I think about what we need extra work on, and what may help us prepare for the next game that we're playing in."

Whether it's improving handling skills or footwork, Coach LoCascio tries to find a balance between high intensity and having a bit of fun; he only does what's required and beneficial for the team.

Motivation and mentality play a vital role in how athletes perform and play. LoCascio feels, "If you're playing a sport, especially basketball, then you should be giving it a hundred and ten percent." He thinks that if you have decided to be there and play, then you should be willing to go all out and spare no effort.

### Successful Moments As A Coach

Victory after a period of adversity and an uphill battle always tastes extra sweet like when the Girls' Varsity

Basketball team had their playoff game against Oceanside at home, the packed crowd was roaring and shaking the bleachers as Hicksville won the game by 30 points, or when the Boys' Soccer Team won the New York State Championship in 2011. For Coach LoCascio, these moments are some unforgettable moments.

"We finished the season and ranked about 12 or 13 in the country. A ton of those kids went on to play in college, that was probably the greatest team I've ever been a part of. Just the family atmosphere, the brotherhood, everyone fighting for one another to achieve that one goal of being the best team in New York State," recalls LoCascio.

Some of the most rewarding moments for Coach LoCascio is when his players go on and play at the next level. After all the time they spent training and working together, it is gratifying to see the players you coached move on to a higher level.

The most irreplaceable and valuable things LoCascio can gain and take away from coaching basketball are not the wins, but the connections he has built. The stats, numbers, and wins achieved are still significant, but they fade away eventually. Whereas, the memories and relationships he has developed over the years with his fellow coaches and players will last a lifetime.

"I've coached some pretty special people over the years at Hicksville who I would have never met if I didn't coach basketball. I think that the relationships that I've made, and gained, and that I'll have for the rest of my life, is something really special about coaching."

LoCascio finds it crucial to step in as a role model and as someone who his players can trust and rely on, because you don't know what other people go through in their own lives.

Coach LoCascio said the most worthwhile and fulfilling part of coaching is, "You really don't know what kids are going through at home and sometimes sports can be an escape for them, so I think that those are some of the most rewarding things that you get as a coach."



### The Comet News Staff

#### President

Katelyn Corbett

#### Vice President

Danna Taboada

#### Secretary

Sadaf Farid Ahmad  
Gia Rangi

#### Treasurer

Zahel Nasari

### Contributing Reporters

Sabrina Bishnu-Klat  
Samantha Castro  
Stephanie Dolan  
Sahej Lehal  
Shakira Mashriqi  
Emma Mayer  
Yaritza Menjivar  
Ellen Michalakis  
Zahel Nasari  
Danna Taboada  
Daiwik Uppal

#### Editors

Brody Adam  
Faiqa Ali  
Shirley Joo  
Dishaa Kaur  
Keelin Livingston  
Yaritza Menjivar  
Tasmiya Rahman

#### Advisor

Ms. Civello

# Lights, Camera, Video Production Club!

By Emma Mayer

Are you interested in working with cameras, audio, editing software and more?

Hicksville High School's Video Production Club is an interactive experience in which you are able to record different HHS events, such as school plays, homecoming, graduation, ceremonies, news production and more.

This club, run by Mr. Clive, can offer you many new and exciting

opportunities! There are many different jobs available that go into the video productions. There are camera directors, audio directors, slate operators, floor directors, technical operators, PTZ operators and directors.

Hicksville High School also offers a Video Production Technology class that will help you become acquainted with the latest media technology and possibly put you onto a career path that you will enjoy!



Comet News would like to thank the following people for their support in helping us spread the news.

#### Board of Education

Brenda Judson, President  
Sunita Manjrekar, Vice President  
Linda Imbriale, Secretary  
Phil Heckler, Trustee  
Irene Carlomusto, Trustee  
Annette Beiner, Trustee  
Danielle Fotopoulos, Trustee

#### District Administration

**Ms. Marianne Litzman**  
Superintendent of Schools  
**Mary Bediako**  
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Personnel  
**Anthony Lubrano**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum & Instruction  
**Marcy Tannenbaum**  
Assistant Superintendent for Business  
**Brendan McGowan**  
Supervisor of English Language Arts

#### High School Administration

Raymond Williams, Principal  
Lauren DuBeau, Assistant Principal  
Patrick Harris, Assistant Principal  
Walter Roche, Assistant Principal  
Timothy Sweeney, Assistant Principal