

News Release

Dobbs Ferry Middle School Guidance Department Hosts Annual Career Days

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. April 12, 2018—An important part of the career development program in Dobbs Ferry Middle School is getting students to start thinking about college and career readiness early on. The Middle School's **annual Career Days kicked off this year with the 6th grade on March 29th, followed by the 8th grade on April 13th and the 7th grade on May 4th.** Each grade will focus on a related group of job possibilities with numerous parents from the community volunteering to talk about their own career paths.

The 6th grade theme was the Arts. Students heard from six professionals in multiple fields all within the arts domain. "All of the presenters are parents of present 6th graders," said counselor Sandra Hacker. "The kids were so excited to have their family member participating in this school-wide event." The 6th grade Career Day speakers included:

- Yoko Katz - Hat Designer, Professor Fashion Institute of Technology
- Susan Rowe Harrison – Artist/Teaching Artist
- Anne Scharer - Musician, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
- Rachel Barrer - Acting Teacher/Actor, The Lee Strasberg Film and Theatre Institute
- Ivan Orkin - Chef/Restaurateur
- Mary Jane Farnsworth- Photographer/Owner Mary Jane Photography

In the 7th grade, the goal is to have the students begin to look at their individual strengths, interests and personalities. **The 7th grade Career Day focuses on our exploratory classes which includes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math).** "Even at this age, it is important to be exposed to many different careers and to point out that they use similar skills that might be math-related," said Ms. Hacker. The 7th grade Career Day speakers include:

- Heidi Krauss - VP of Marketing and Business Development, Siggis Dairy
- Joseph Neumaier - Film Critic
- Alisha Neumaier - Graphic Designer
- Claudia Scott-Hansen – Business Development
- Patrick Gorham - Firefighter and Contractor
- Dr. Lawrence Lustig - Chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center

The 8th grade Career Day is based on student interest. Using Naviance, an online college and career planning tool, students prioritize the career clusters or fields they would like to learn more about. "Students learn about the speakers' career paths and educational backgrounds, job tasks and responsibilities," said counselor Rose Mittan. "The real take-away is learning about the process of looking for a career and developing the self-awareness to find what you are interested in and might want to pursue." The 8th grade Career Day speakers include:

- Dr. Asaf Cohen – Primary Care Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical Associates

- Christina Ha – Arts Reporter, PBS
- Naria Halliwell - Media Coach, TV/Broadcast News and Journalism
- Jean Lucasey - Attorney, Judge, Impartial Hearing Officer
- Ronald Fried - Information Technology Business Applications
- Peter Pralle – Vice President of Engineering & Operations

Ms. Hacker and Ms. Mittan both emphasized how important it is for students to be exposed early to different career opportunities as it helps them make informed decisions. “At this age,” they said, “the sky’s the limit. It’s all about finding their passion.” The Dobbs Ferry Middle School Counselors would like to thank all of the Career Day volunteers for making these events so special and educational for the students.

#

For more information, please contact:

Public Information Officer, Elizabeth Hausman (914) 693-1500 x3013