

**BIG**  
**'21 - '22**  
**SIBS**

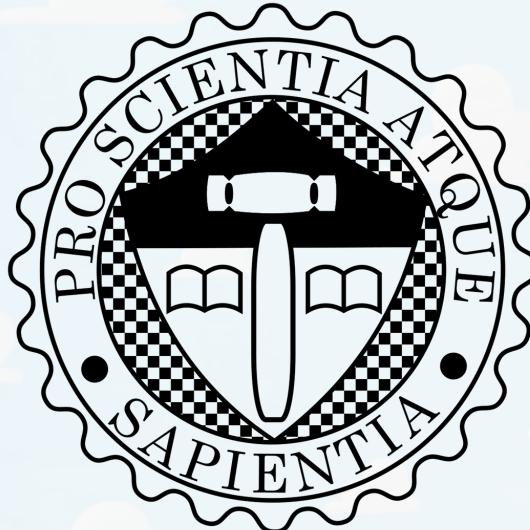
**HAND**  
**BOOK**

# The Big Sib Handbook

2021-2022

Your Big Sib Chairs:

Aaron Wang  
Alec Shafran  
Daniela Maksin  
Samuel Espinal Jr.  
Syeda Zahan



Stuyvesant High School  
345 Chambers St  
New York, NY 10282

Materials in the 2021-2022 edition of the Big Sib Handbook are the expressed opinions of the contributing writers and do not necessarily reflect the official policies of Stuyvesant High School.

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# Useful Rooms and Offices

## Principal

Mr. Seung Yu - Room 105

## Assistant Principals

Organization: Dr. Haber - Room 103

Security: Mr. Moran - Room 207

Counseling: Ms. Pedrick - Room 222

Teacher Development: Ms. Prabhu - Room 260

Social Studies: Ms. Suri - Room 302

Mathematics: Mr. Smith - Room 402

Foreign Languages, Art, and Music: Ms. McAuliffe - Room 502

English: Mr. Grossman - Room 601

Biology: Ms. Fong - Room 701

Chemistry, Physics, and Tech: Mr. Thomas - Room 901

## Rooms

Attendance Office - Room 209

College Office - Room 225

Counseling Suite - Room 236

Program Office - Room 239

School Store - Room 262

Student Union (SU + Big Sibs + ARISTA) - Room 270

Business Manager/Family Engagement - Dina Ingram - Room 273

Health & Phys. Ed: Mr. Bologna - Room 501

Medical Suite - Room 371

# Useful Contact Info

**Big Sib Chairs Email:**

bigsibchairs21@gmail.com

**Dina Ingram (Business Manager/Family Engagement):**

ringram3@schools.nyc.gov

## Assistant Principals

**Dr. Haber (Organization):**

ghaber@stuy.edu

**Mr. Moran (Security):**

bmoran@schools.nyc.gov

**Ms. Pedrick (Counseling):**

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**Ms. Prabhu (Teacher Development):**

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**Ms. Suri (Social Studies):**

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**Mr. Smith (Mathematics):**

esmith42@schools.nyc.gov

**Ms. McAuliffe (Foreign Languages, Art, and Music):**

fmcauliffe@stuy.edu

**Mr. Grossman (English):**

mr.grossman@stuy.edu

**Ms. Fong (Biology):**

apbiotchr345@stuy.edu

**Mr. Thomas (Chemistry, Physics, and Tech):**

sthomas@stuy.edu

# Stuy Bell Schedule

**Stuyvesant High School - Bell Schedule**

REGULAR		HOMEROOM		CONFERENCE	
1	8:00	1	8:00	1	8:00
	8:36		8:35		8:32
	8:41		8:40		8:37
2	8:45	2	8:45	2	8:41
	9:21		9:20		9:13
	9:26		9:25		9:18
3	9:31	3	9:29	3	9:22
	10:10		10:04		9:54
	10:15		10:09		9:59
		<b>Homeroom</b>	<b>10:13</b>		
			<b>10:25</b>		
4	10:20	4	10:30	4	10:03
	10:56		11:05		10:35
	11:01		11:10		10:40
5	11:06	5	11:14	5	10:44
	11:42		11:49		11:16
	11:47		11:54		11:21
6	11:52	6	11:58	6	11:25
	12:28		12:33		11:57
	12:33		12:38		12:02
7	12:38	7	12:42	7	12:06
	1:14		1:17		12:38
	1:19		1:22		12:43
8	1:24	8	1:26	8	12:47
	2:00		2:01		1:19
	2:05		2:06		1:24
9	2:09	9	2:10	9	1:28
	2:45		2:45		2:00
	2:50		2:50		2:05
10	2:54	10	2:55	10	2:09
	3:30		3:30		2:41
	3:35		3:35		2:46
				Meeting	2:50 3:30

**THERE WILL BE A WARNING BELL AT 7:55 AM**

**Teacher Time Schedule**

1 – 9      8:00 am – 2:50 pm

2 – 10     8:45 am – 3:35 pm

Meeting    8:00 AM to 3:30 PM (All Staff)

There are 3 relevant types of bell schedules at Stuyvesant, and the respective week's schedules are posted on <http://bert.stuy.edu/pbrooks/schedules/schedules.py>. Make sure to check it out if you ever need help figuring out what schedule school is running on! You will also receive a weekly schedule sent out by the SU, detailing specifics of each day for the respective week. These emails are usually sent out on Sundays.

**1. REGULAR SCHEDULE:** The most common schedule at Stuy is the regular schedule. Each class is 41 minutes long, with the exception of third period, which is 44 minutes long. First period begins at 8:00 A.M. and tenth period ends at 3:35 P.M.

**2. HOMEROOM SCHEDULE:** Homeroom Day means that every class is 40 minutes long instead of 41 minutes, and there is a 12 minute homeroom after third period. First period still begins at 8:00 A.M. and tenth period also still ends at 3:35 P.M.

**3. SPECIAL SCHEDULE:** Sometimes the administration will post a “special” schedule that refers to a schedule created for one day, like a half day. So, make sure you check the website periodically!

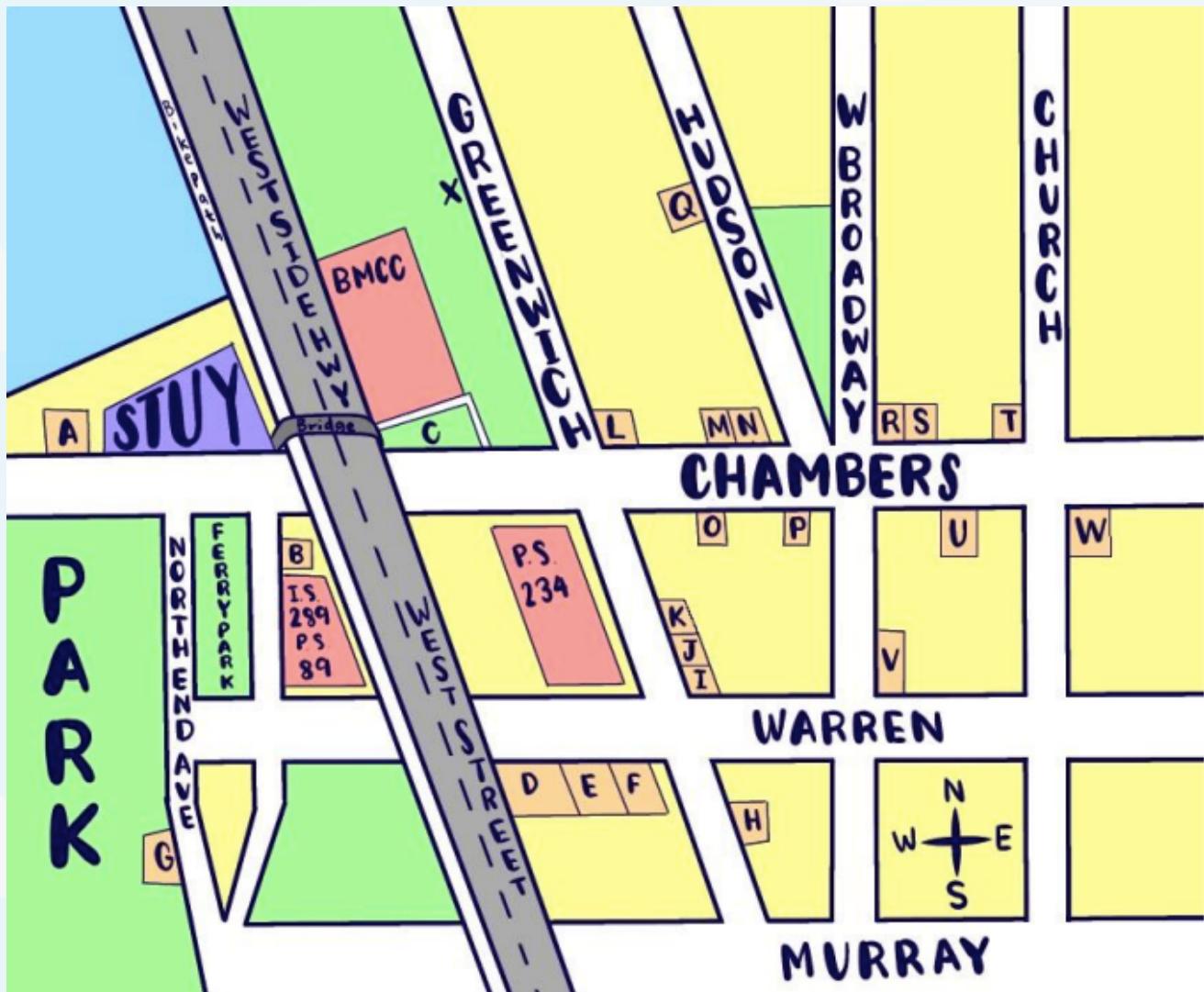
## **WARNING BELLS**

Before the end of each period, you will hear a “warning bell” which indicates that there are five minutes left until the period ends. After five minutes you will hear the “end bell” which indicates the end of class. The end bell means that you have four minutes to get to your next class. Once the four minutes are up, the “late bell” will ring, so make sure to get to class before the bell, or else you’ll be late!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION SCHEDULES**

Besides the schedules just mentioned, there are also physical education schedules at Stuy. On your schedule you will see that you have either an A or B physical education cycle (located at the end of your class code). If you have an A cycle PE you will have PE on A days; if you have B cycle Phys.Ed, then you'll have it on B days. A and B days are posted on the weekly schedule on the school website. A days and B days generally alternate, but check the website to help you keep track!

# Map of the Neighborhood



map courtesy of BSC'21

A. Terry's: Deli right down the block from Stuy, lots of sandwiches as well as chips, drinks, candy, ice cream, and other snacks. Because it's so close to Stuy, it often gets very crowded very quickly, so don't delay if you plan on going there for lunch.

B. Battery Park City Gourmet Market (a.k.a. Ferry's): Officially the Battery Park City Gourmet Market or Fake Terry's has grown in popularity among Stuy students. As Fake Terry's is similar to Terry's in terms of food (sandwiches, drinks, snacks, etc.), it's really just a matter of personal preference when it comes to choosing which you want to go to.

**C. Tennis / Basketball Courts:** These basketball courts sit behind The Wall (a place where some like to sit or meet friends after school) and are a good place to play some basketball, if that's something you enjoy. There are also basketball courts located in The Park (Rockefeller Park, runs along the Hudson River south of Stuy to Battery Park City) just a few hundred feet south of school.

**D. Whole Foods:** Great place to grab lunch, good food, good service, and great seating, although the lines can be a bit long and the food can get a bit pricey. However, you can find good, relatively inexpensive food if you look hard enough (try the Mac and Cheese!). Whole Foods is also a fantastic place to meet up with friends on a rainy day, because there's lots of room (and free WiFi!) in the seating area.

**E. Bed, Bath and Beyond:** Probably not your first stop for lunch, but if you're ever in dire need of some home furnishings by school, this is the place to go.

**F. Barnes and Noble:** We have a well-stocked Barnes and Noble right by Stuy, located in the same building as Whole Foods and Bed, Bath, and Beyond. The Barnes and Noble is very large, and contains pretty much everything you'd want, from comic books to fiction books to test prep books to DVDs and CDs. There's also a Starbucks Café inside if you want a quick bite to eat while you're browsing.

**G. Duane Reade:** The closest pharmacy to Stuy, has everything you'd expect a pharmacy to have (candy, hygiene products, school supplies, etc.), as well as a Citibank ATM.

**H. Kaffe 1668:** Great coffee and snack-y type deserts. It's like Starbucks, except more hipster.

**I. Chipotle:** Great burritos, tacos, and bowls, but usually packed to the brim. Make sure you get here fast if you plan on getting lunch here.

**J. Gee Whiz:** A sit down diner just two blocks from school. Not a place that you'll have time to go to for lunch (it's a sit down diner!) but it's great if you're looking for a good meal in the evening, especially with friends.

**K. Poke Green:** Come here for some fresh Hawaiian Poke bowls that are pretty filling. A little on the pricey side so see this as an occasional treat (although there is a student discount).

**L. McDonalds:** Our local branch of one of the most famous fast food restaurants in the world. Home of McNuggets and the Big Mac, though we recommend opting for healthier options on a daily basis. Great if you're looking for something cheap or fast (but try not to go there every day, it's extremely unhealthy!).

**M. Subway:** The largest fast food chain in the world! Famous for their sandwiches (most notably their five dollar footlongs). Subway is a good place to grab a relatively inexpensive, yet very filling, meal. \*the location on the map above is closed but there is another Subway just a few blocks away: 165 Church St.\*

**N. Cafe Amore:** The pizza parlor in Tribeca that is closest to Stuy. While the prices are a bit high, the slices are very generously cut, so you get what you pay for.

**O. Tribeca Hardware:** No food here, but if you're by school and need something from a hardware store, this is the place to go.

**P. Zucker's:** Bagel store on Chambers Street. Great bagels and generous helpings of whatever topping you ask for. They also have some fancier bagel toppings, such as lox. Nice seating area (although not very large) and a friendly environment. Great place for breakfast, lunch, or whenever you feel you want a bagel! A fair warning: it can be kind of expensive.

**Q. Morgans Market:** Another deli a few blocks farther from school than Terry's or Fake Terry's, but if you can make the trip, it's worth it. They have a huge variety of food, from grilled cheese to hamburgers to deli sandwiches to a hot bar, as well as having a well-stocked grocery section as well. Good food and good prices.

**R. Starbucks:** If you ever need a coffee or a fancy blended drink with coffee in it, Starbucks is the place to go. They also have a number of different food items. Perfect place if you're feeling drowsy in the morning and need some caffeine.

**S. Sweetgreen:** Fancy salad place that sells HUGE salads. A lot of office workers and adults come here for lunch, so be quick if you want to stop by. Remember to eat your greens kids!

**T. Dona Bella (ACE) Pizza:** Another pizza parlor in the neighborhood that's a little bit farther than Café Amore, but is also quite good. Their pizza slices are a little bit smaller, but are cheaper as well. Has a fantastic lunch special (two slices and a soda for only \$5). Try both Dona Bella and Café Amore so you can figure out which you like better.

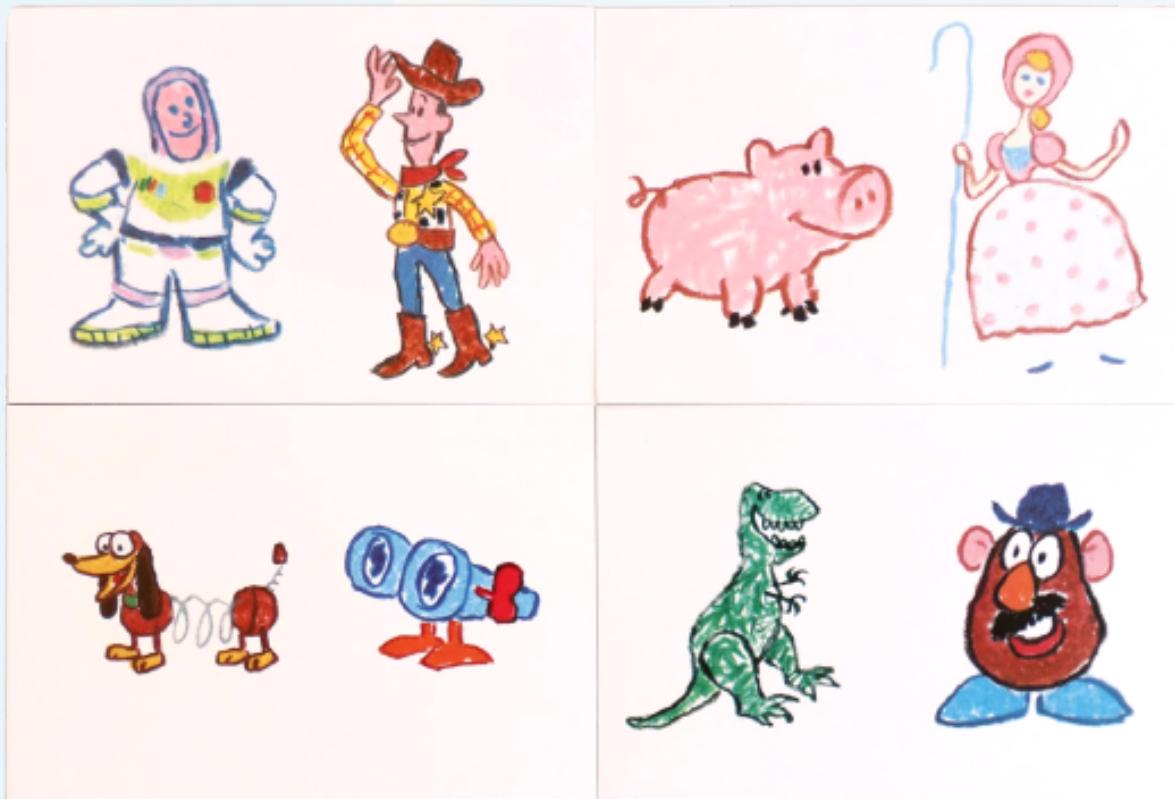
**U. China Red:** Cheap but tasty Chinese food, what's not to love?

**V. Le Pain Quotidien:** Sandwiches, soups, salads. Good place to grab a delicious meal, although a little bit pricey.

**W. Dunkin Donuts:** America (and why not Stuy too?) runs on Dunkin! Grab some cheap coffee and donuts on your way to school.

**X. Site of the Wednesday Farmers Market:** The Farmer's market comes to this corner every Wednesday, great for fresh food. There are various stands, some have fresh fruit, others have pastries. If it's a nice day it's nice to get some food at the farmer's market and sit outside while you eat.

Remember that during and after school hours, we all represent Stuyvesant. Please act appropriately wherever you may go, and respect the spaces around you.



# Letter From Your Chairs



Left to Right: Alec Shafran, Aaron Wang, Syeda Zahan, Daniela Maksin, Samuel Espinal Jr.

Dear Class of 2025,

Congratulations and welcome to Stuyvesant High School! We are so proud of you all for making it through your first week of Stuy! As you may know, we are the Big Sib Chairs, the leaders of the Big Sib Organization at Stuy, which facilitates a program of 150 upperclassmen to be assigned to your homerooms. While there are only six Big Sibs assigned to each homeroom, every single Big Sib out there is there for you, every single one just a mere message, email, or question away. If there's one thing we would like to emphasize about the Big Sibs Program, let it be this: never be afraid to reach out to a Big Sib—the one assigned to you, other Big Sibs in your homeroom, or any other Big Sibs in our program. They have all been in your shoes before and likewise have so much advice to give you. Please remember that your Big Sibs aren't just your mentors, but they're your friends too!

It's a strange time right now for you all, having just come from a remote school year and still being in the midst of a pandemic. That's why we're here to help aid you in your transition to Stuyvesant. While every student transitions differently, one thing's for certain: Stuyvesant isn't going to be like middle school. You won't be able to find your footing right away and that's all been even more complicated by the state of the world we're living in. However, like we mentioned, we, your Chairs and all of the Big Sibs are here to help make this transition as smooth as possible.

We know that many of you have come to Stuyvesant for its academic rigor. While Stuyvesant is renowned for that reason, please don't let that be your only focus during your four years here. There is so much more to Stuy than to the naked eye, aspects that you can find pervasive throughout the passionate community and vivacious after school student life; so we hope you will cherish these next few years here as it won't just be your high school, it'll be your second home!

You're all troopers for getting through the first week, it's definitely no easy feat! However, we hope you stay vigilant as High School won't be getting any easier from here! We understand that adjusting to High School doesn't come naturally for the great majority of students (believe us, we've all been there) so that's why we've created this handbook. The Big Sib Handbook is our survival guide, our enciridion, our magnum opus to you- filled to the brim with personal advice, super important information and resources that we highly recommend that you take advantage of in these coming years at Stuy. However, throughout your time here at Stuy, we're sure you'll develop your own advice through your individual experiences and find something new that we haven't included. In that case, we ask that you pay it forward to the next generation of incoming students.

We are always available if you need any advice, are interested in the clubs we're in, or just want someone to talk to, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We just want you to have the absolute best time at Stuyvesant and we know that you're all going to absolutely kill it in the next four years, so we wish you the absolute best of luck!

**Welcome to the Stuyvesant Family,**  
**The Big Sib Chairs**  
**2021-2022**  
**bigsibchairs22@gmail.com**

# Personal Remarks From Aaron

Hey everyone, I'm Aaron!

Buckle up, 'cause you're in for one hell of a rollercoaster ride!

If I could compare Stuyvesant to anything, I don't think there's a better comparison than that of riding a rollercoaster. Throughout your next four years (or three, if you're an incoming sophomore), you'll find yourself faced with the ups and downs of the Stuy experience (and I'm not just talking about the escalators). On some days you'll find yourself on a dopamine high, feeling like you're at the top of the world, and on other days Stuy will throw you for a loop and everything can come crashing down in an instant- and that's okay! That's because contrary to the popular belief that Stuy is a toxic darwinian dystopia, there's actually so many people at Stuy that WANT you to succeed and WANT to help you achieve that. You'll find that these people come in many forms whether they be your teachers, faculty members, or most often, your own peers... myself included. And so, here's my advice to you:

1) Please make the most of your time here. You are extremely lucky to be in such a great and privileged environment. Join extracurriculars, meet new people, and find a way to be a part of the community. High school is not a race to the finish line, please enjoy it and don't graduate with any regrets,

2) Take risks, test the waters, you might just find your niche. You do not have to be the most outgoing, extroverted individual to succeed at Stuy. I know I sure wasn't. But when you see an opportunity, something that you're even the slightest bit interested in, do it. Don't wait for things to happen to you, be proactive.

3) Never ever be afraid to ask for help. If there's one thing that Stuy has taught me, it's to swallow my pride. There is nothing wrong with being confused and with needing assistance. On the other hand, trying to do everything yourself and rejecting help is one of the greatest pitfalls a student here can find themselves in. Work smart, not hard. You won't find people as willing to help you anywhere else.

Like any rollercoaster ride, it all ends as swiftly as it begins. I still can't believe that I'm about to graduate next year; and I'm sure when time comes, you'll feel the same way. As for the time being, sit tight, brace yourselves, and most importantly, have fun!

Wishing you all the best,

Aaron Wang

[awang20@stuy.edu](mailto:awang20@stuy.edu)

Big Sib Chair

Class of 2022

# Personal Remarks From Alec

Hey y'all!

I'm Alec, one of the 5 Big Sib Chairs. Getting straight into it, I really want to emphasize how important it is to always remember that you're still a person. At Stuy, we are pigeonholed as tending to focus a lot on our college applications, our extracurriculars, and most infamously, our grades. While there is definitely a grain of truth to this, the most important thing that you all need to remember is that everyone's experience is extremely different. At the end of the day, you are a person first and a student second. You always have to make sure that you're putting yourself first and prioritizing your own mental health and wellness. I've personally been guilty of ignoring my health and wellness in order to study for a test or get ready for a show. However, over time, I learned that taking care of myself in the moment will help me in the long run, and quite frankly, that has really helped me so much. If there's anything that you take away from what I'm telling you, I want it to be that there is absolutely nothing wrong with change. If you're not satisfied with how things are going for you (whether it be a lack of sleep, lower grades than you'd like, or poor mental health), you can't be afraid to take a step back and make a change. We're all human and we all make mistakes, but the important thing is knowing when to take a moment and work on yourself, because you are and always will be your own number one priority.

Best,  
Alec Shafran  
[ashafran20@stuy.edu](mailto:ashafran20@stuy.edu)  
Big Sib Chair  
Class of 2022

# Personal Remarks From Daniela

Hi guys!

My name is Daniela and I'm another one of this year's Chairs. I have absolutely adored my last three years at Stuyvesant, despite the academic challenges I've encountered and the sleepless nights I've endured. I've made some of my closest friends, I've interacted with some of the most amazing kids in the city, and I've had experiences that I wouldn't give up for anything. As a senior, I can truly say that I look forward to every single school day and couldn't possibly have more gratitude for this community. The Stuyvesant experience is exactly what you make of it — so put yourself out there, try new things, challenge yourself, go to events, talk to the people sitting next to you in your classes, raise your hand to ask questions. Most importantly, be proactive and don't be afraid to seek out help. We all sometimes need help during our tough moments! Good luck in each and every one of your endeavors, and never hesitate to let me know if you need anything at all.

Love,  
Daniela Maksin  
[dmaksin20@stuy.edu](mailto:dmaksin20@stuy.edu)  
Big Sib Chair  
Class of 2022

# Personal Remarks From Sam

Hi everyone!!

I'm Sam, one of the 5 Big Sib Chairs. Coming into Stuy, we try to make ourselves fit into the school environment. I'll admit, I was also a victim of imposter syndrome when I came into Stuy. I tried to be like other students or the vision of what I thought a Stuy student was. Just remember that you already got into Stuy so guess what? You are already that puzzle piece that completes Stuy. Now what you need to do is find ways to make Stuy work for you so don't focus on how it works for other students. This can be anything from using our various resources such as group AIS sessions vs. one-on-one interactions such as being matched with an ARISTA tutor. But at the end of the day, I can't emphasize enough that you need to do extracurriculars that you want to do. If you're not interested in science, there's no point in joining the Science Olympiad when you see yourself debating others at tournaments or representing a country in Model United Nations (MUN). While you may also be bored, trying to make yourself become this person that you know deep down you're not is mentally exhausting. Taking care of yourself can truly help you in the long run, both socially and academically. Remember to always ask yourself "Do I really want to do this?" If your answer is "no," there's no reason to be ashamed. It's better to learn earlier rather than later the importance of taking moments to work on yourself.

Much Love,  
Samuel Espinal Jr  
[sespinal20@stuy.edu](mailto:sespinal20@stuy.edu)  
Big Sib Chair  
Class of 2022

# Personal Remarks From Syeda

Hi everyone!

My name is Syeda and I am one of the five Chairs that runs the Big Sibs Program! I would first like to congratulate you all on your acceptance to Stuyvesant and assure you that you made the right decision to attend. At Stuy, you will truly be able to find many different people, diverse extracurriculars and opportunities, amazing courses and teachers, and altogether a community that will be by your side throughout your short time in high school (it really does fly by!).

I remember once being a Little Sib too. On the first day (honestly, the entire first month), I remember being really scared and anxious for my classes and the transition to high school, especially since I did not know many people going in. Since September 2018, I can confidently say that Stuy has really changed my life. I've made so many new friends, and continue to do so. I've joined various clubs, including Stuy Smile and Stuyvesant Theater Community's tech crew. I've enjoyed so many classes I never thought I would enjoy or even knew were classes, like Chemistry, AP English Language (American Places & Perspectives), and Pre-Calculus. I have become a completely different person than the one that entered the Stuyvesant doors a few years ago. I have learned so much about what interests me through my classes and extracurriculars. I have learned to be a leader in my community and formed important relationships with teachers and staff members who want to see everyone succeed.

I will be honest, though, my transition was not an easy one, albeit these last three years (and this final one) hold some of my most unforgettable memories. Throughout it all, my own Big Sib has helped me with anything I needed, big or small. Even though she is a sophomore at college now, we still keep in touch!

My best piece of advice is to never be afraid. Firstly, never be afraid to ask for help when you need it; there are so many resources available to you! I know how scary it may be to be in a school with over 3000 intelligent and talented students but asking for help is something that you should never be afraid of doing. Never be afraid to be yourself because you will find your people. Never be afraid to try new clubs and sign up for classes you aren't quite sure you may easily succeed at. I promise you that every moment you have at Stuy—big or small, disappointing or fulfilling—will lead you to become a completely different person than the one who entered our community just two weeks ago! You will soon see how these high school years truly change you, not just as a student, but as someone who is prepared to take on the real world.

Good luck in all that you do here and onward and, if at any point, you need anything at all, just know that I am here for you so feel free to reach out anytime!

All the best,  
Syeda Zahan  
[szahan20@stuy.edu](mailto:szahan20@stuy.edu)  
Big Sib Chair  
Class of 2022

# Letter From SU President

Dear Incoming Stuyvesant Students,

Congratulations on your admission to Stuyvesant, and welcome to our student community! We are so eager to share with you an unforgettable high school experience.

I know many of you may be feeling anxious about the approaching first weeks of school, and trust me, I am feeling the exact same way. For over a year we have been learning from our homes, and going back to a completely new school can feel like a daunting challenge. I can't promise that the transition will be easy, but I can promise that you will always have a support system behind you, whether it be to give you directions around the building or tutor you when you're struggling academically.

My favorite part about Stuy is undoubtedly the student life. For example, the Student Union organizes over 150 clubs and publications, a vibrant SING! season, and numerous dances, spirit days, and holiday events along the way. Whether you are a passionate tech buff, creative visual artist, or someone still figuring it out (like I was!), there is a place for you at Stuy. Aside from these fun activities, the SU is also active in policy advocacy and keeping you updated on important Stuy announcements. We are always here to answer your questions, so never hesitate to reach out.

If you take away anything from this letter, let it be that you are never alone at Stuyvesant. There are always students who are going through, or have already gone through, the emotions and struggles you are facing. Never be afraid to ask for help and always prioritize your well-being. If you do that, I can wholeheartedly say that you will learn to love Stuy as much as I have.

I'm beyond excited to meet you all in-person and support you in experiencing Stuy in its truest form. Please stop by the Student Union Room (located on the 2nd floor near the entrance), and say hi to Ryan or me!

Best,  
Shivali Korgaonkar  
[shivali.korgaonkar@stuysu.org](mailto:shivali.korgaonkar@stuysu.org)  
Stuyvesant Student Union President  
Class of 2022

# Letter From SU Vice President

Dear Incoming Class of 2025,

Congratulations! You're finally at Stuy, and on behalf of all of your Big Sibs, welcome! A little bit about me: my family's from Hong Kong, I like to collect books, and I'm really bad at throwing frisbees.

I know we're all very intimidated to be going back to school after nearly two years of remote learning. And to be straightforward, it's going to be a difficult challenge for all of us, but there are so many things in Stuy that I think make it worth it.

I think Stuy is so special because many of our opportunities are student-built. For example, the Student Union runs a ton of different projects throughout the year, such as Speaker Panels, Halloween Costume Contests, or SING!. Stuy has an endless amount of opportunities available for whatever passion you may have. From our renowned school newspaper to several high achieving sports teams, if there's something you want to do, Stuy has it.

On a final note, it's going to be a massive challenge to go back to school and do things as they once were. There are going to be a myriad of obstacles that we'll face on the individual level. But as we move forward, things will get better. I remember my transition from a very small middle school to Stuy was tough, but as time moved on and I found the things I love to do, it was all worth it.

With that being said, if you ever need advice or just want to ask a question, don't hesitate to come to the SU room or say hi in the hallways! Looking forward to meeting you all!

See you around,  
Ryan Lee  
[ryan.lee@stuysu.org](mailto:ryan.lee@stuysu.org)  
Stuyvesant Student Union Vice President  
Class of 2023

# COVID-19 Response

After a remote (or blended) year, school is finally back in person! Stuyvesant is ready to welcome students back into Stuyvesant from all over the 5 boroughs and into our classrooms. We are going back to our regular bell schedule with 1st period starting at 8:00 AM and 10th period ending at 3:35 PM.

In accordance with DOE guidelines, there are procedures and suggestions that Stuyvesant has to follow. The first being encouraging all students to get vaccinated, submit consent for COVID-19 testing, and upload vaccination cards when available. There will be air purifiers in every classroom, MERV 13 filters through the entire building, open dampers to maximize ventilation, and hand sanitizer dispensers spread throughout the building.

Extracurriculars are also facing a major change. COVID-19 vaccination is required for all students to participate in high-risk PSAL sports or high-risk extracurricular activities. With fall sports starting, participants must get their first dose by the first day of competitive play; spring and winter sports have until the beginning of their season to be vaccinated.

The Big Sib Program will follow all CDC and Stuyvesant guidelines regarding any events we host for all the Little Sibs to ensure everyone's health and safety are accounted for. While we are back to being fully in-person, this time brings on new uncertainties and we will all get through this year together and adjust to changes as they happen. If you have any concerns with any events/activities our Program carries out in regards to COVID-19, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Lastly, remember to submit your health screening form every morning, keep your masks on, and remain socially distanced from your peers. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year/school-year-2021-22>

# Secrets of Stuy

- 1) It's okay to ask for help. In a sea of 900 students, you may feel a little lost or confused. We'll let you in on a little secret: everyone feels the same way. If you're struggling to find a club that suits you or need help with a class, the school network is here to help and we encourage you to use it. Whether that's emailing your Big Sib, setting up an ARISTA tutoring session, or reaching out to your guidance counselor, know that help is there for you when you need it.
- 2) With a heavier high school workload and a new environment, the importance of organization cannot be stressed enough. To manage your due dates, assignments, club meetings, and external commitments, your planner will become your best friend. Whether you prefer online or physical calendars, make sure to set one up before the pace of everything speeds up.
- 3) At Stuyvesant, our grading system may be a little different from what you're used to. There are two semesters and three marking periods within each semester, making for a total of six marking periods. The first marking period of each semester will only be graded with E, S, N, U (Excellent, Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, Unsatisfactory). The second marking period will be a number grade out of 100. The third and final marking period will be written on your official high school transcript and also out of 100.
- 4) StuyActivities is a SU-run club portal that is usually up-to-date with club meetings, inquiries on how to join, and a master list of the clubs available. And no, not all are academic! From Pokemon Go clubs to nonprofits and literary magazines, there is something for everyone.
- 5) Stuy is not all about grades! We know that Stuyvesant has a reputation for academic rigor, but at the end of the day, high school is more than a set of numbers. These are the years that you meet new friends, find subjects that interest you, and explore yourself as a person—all of which come independent of the grades you receive. High school only lasts for four years, so make sure to make the most of it!
- 6) Do things that interest you! You shouldn't be choosing classes/clubs based on how they would look to colleges.
- 7) Get to know your teachers. They want to help you, but they can only do that best if they know you as a person, not just a numeric grade.

8) One of the best ways to meet new people is by joining clubs. There is no limit to the number of clubs you're a part of, but make sure you join a couple that you're interested in by the end of your freshman year. Clubs are also a very good way to find out what you enjoy doing outside of class.

9) Escalators at Stuy cover two floors instead of one (except for the 2-3). That means that some escalators only go on even floors and others only on odd. There are markers at the end of each escalator so you can figure out where you are. No escalator reaches the first or tenth floor (you'll need to take the stairs).

10) Getting to know your guidance counselor is extremely helpful, as they are also a great resource to go to if you need to vent, ask for advice, or need academic support.

11) Mr. Blumm sends out elaborate newsletters each week. They are super helpful for helping you find internships and other opportunities outside of Stuy.

12) Stuyvesant runs on an A or B schedule. This means that every day is either assigned an A day or B day and it alternates. There are also other variations of A or B days, with A, A1, or A2 day and likewise B, B1, or B2 days. These different letter days correspond to variations in the classes you may take. Your teachers will make sure you're aware of these changes.

13) Stuyvesant High School is only a 15-20 min walk from Chinatown! Make the short trip to get tons of delicious food from \$1.25 dumplings to a classic Stuyvesant-favored restaurant, Wok Wok! Take advantage of the location of our school and explore neighborhoods you haven't visited often.

14) There are always tons of free space for you to study, complete work, or just relax. The 1st floor always has room and the upper floors have benches scattered near your next class. Just make sure that you are never blocking the hallways and you stay aware of the classrooms around you. Find a quiet space to just sit down and relax your mind until you have to get up and learn again, safety regulations permitting.

15) Don't be late to school or classes! You may be suspended from sports teams, barred from extracurriculars, and your grades can be lowered as a result. It is imperative that you maintain good attendance.

16) Absence/lateness notes and early excuse forms, which need to be signed by your teachers, and working papers can be printed off of the "Students > Forms" section of the Stuyvesant website. Hand in your forms as soon as possible!

# What's That?

1. Get involved in **SING!**, a competition between the grades where students create entire original musicals of their own. You can act, direct, sing, dance, play an instrument, paint, build, and more! An annual performance, this pits SophFrosh against Juniors and Seniors! This is an amazing way to be a part of something that connects a huge number of students in a fun and exciting way!
2. **Open Mic** occurs on the first Friday of every month in the library, and allows students to share their writing, music, and other talents. You can perform or watch! Remember to catch the last performance that is sure to have special performances by faculty and is all seniors!
3. The **Stuyvesant Theater Community (STC)** is a great way to get involved at Stuy during any time of the year. Students in all grades can participate in any of the three productions (fall, winter, and spring), and you don't necessarily have to be a theater person to join, be a part of the lights and sound or set crew! Reach out to this year's STC board for any questions or information!
4. **The Spectator** is our school newspaper which comes out with a new issue every two weeks. Departments include News, Features, Opinions, Arts & Entertainment, Humor, Sports, Photos, and Science. If you aren't into writing, no worries! Join departments like Copy, Business, Layout, or Art! Pick up your copy in front of the bridge exit!
5. **ARISTA**, which you can apply to join at the end of your freshman, sophomore, or junior year, is an excellent resource for tutoring and volunteer opportunities. Go to "Students > ARISTA" on the Stuy website to find a peer tutor or visit the ARISTA website: <https://stuyarista.org/>
6. The **Speech and Debate Team** is where to go for public speaking skills! In Debate, you can choose to join Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary, or Congressional. In Speech, you can participate in Interpretation, Original Oratory, Declamation, and more! Visit Room 627 to see all of our trophies and awards!
7. **StuyMUN** is always looking for more delegates to help tackle the world's most pressing issues. Develop a love for public speaking and international affairs at conferences hosted by either local high schools or colleges a bus ride away. You will find yourself in the shoes of important decision-makers from all throughout history, debating with your counterparts represented by high schoolers from all over the world.
8. If you are having trouble in a class, attend an **AIS** session after school! Meet with both teachers and upperclassmen to receive some extra guidance or even practice for your next test or perhaps homework you are struggling with. Find the schedule on a bulletin board right next to Ms. Pedrick's office on the second floor!
9. The **Senior Bar** is located on the second floor next to the bridge entrance. Many seniors will spend their free time hanging out and fun events like promposals occur here! Wave hi to your senior Big Sibs as you walk by!

Most importantly, don't forget to apply to become a **Big Sib** at the end of your sophomore or junior year!



# **Big Sib Experiences**

# What is your favorite thing about Stuy?

The supportive people and all the opportunities that are available here.

- Ella Krechmer, 1OO

My favorite thing about Stuy is how many amazing people you'll get to meet! Unlike middle school, where you may have spent every class with the same group of people, at Stuy every single class will be filled with new faces. The clubs are also amazing, where you'll get to meet so many people with similar interests, and you can even make friends with people in different grades

- Ava Yap, 1HH

All the events!! Stuy ALWAYS has ongoing events whether it be STC productions, StuySquad, SING!, or SU planned events. There's never a shortage of things to join where you can meet new friends and become more integrated into the Stuy community!

- Katherine Chang, 1TT

My favorite thing about Stuy is the vibes from the after school experience. On the fencing team we do something called a school run where we sprint all around the school as a warm up. Throughout the run, that spark of joy when I see one of my friends in the hallways, its like finding treasure. That cheery "hi" feels so good.

- Jason Jiang, 1NN

My favorite thing about Stuy is all the catered academic courses they offer.

- Alisha Zaman, 1DD

My favorite thing about Stuyvesant is the emphasis on getting through things together. Whether that's stressful rehearsals or odd teachers, we all end up uniting over something or another.

- Jenna Mackenroth, 3JA

I really enjoy how spacious the building is and the vast amount of ways that you can spend your free time. Some days may feel like doing some productive work in the library, while on other days I go to the cafeteria or outside with friends. Sometimes, however, I prefer being alone and sitting on one of the wooden benches scattered all around the school.

- Amir Elnashar, 1EE

My favorite thing about Stuy is undoubtedly the friendships and support system that I've found. It is understood by everyone that Stuy is insanely difficult but when you find your people, it makes it a whole lot easier!

- Andrea Li, 1KK

# What's your favorite eatery and go-to Order?

The halal cart right in front of whole foods is a must!! I always got chicken over rice and the prices are just \*chef's kiss\*

-Ella Chan, 1PP

FERRYS BACON AVOCADO CHIPOTLE ON A TOASTED HERO

-Isabel Ching, 1SS

Any sandwich from Whole Foods

-Calista Lee, 1JJ

Sugar cookies at Barnes and Nobles!

-Danielle Que, 1TT

McDonald's, 20 piece chicken nuggets for \$5 :)

-Christopher Dou, 1PP

My favorite eatery is ViVi Bubble Tea and my go to order is a medium Bubble Tea and salt and pepper chicken.

-Nicole Liu, 1CC

the pizzeria next to the subways! i usually get chicken pizza and the zeppoles are really good.

-Samantha Farrow, 1GG

Chopped Cheese with everything on it from Ferry's (plus a couple of Twix's on the side). I love bringing my meal to Brookfield Place and eating with my friends (or alone) in the gorgeous lobby.

-Isabella Chow, 1FF

hard to choose but either the falafel over rice from the cart outside mcdonald's or a salmon bowl from dig at brookfield

-Yuki Feng, 1XX

Dos Toros Taqueria in Brookfield, I usually get the chicken burrito with corn, lettuce, sour cream, tomatoes, and more

-Raymond Yang, 1LL

The coffee cart near the Chambers St. 2/3 station has tasty and cheap options for breakfast, and great coffee too (this is coming from someone who usually despises coffee).

-Joshua Gindis, 1RR

Terry's (not Ferry's) and their Lox Everything Bagel

-Michelle Zhang, 1ZZ

# Most embarrassing moment at Stuy?

I showed up to my second period Spanish class while it was still the middle of first period, because my first period teacher dismissed us early. I didn't understand or appreciate the concept of early dismissal from a class back then, so I was so confused to see that everyone was already seated and engaging in classwork when I walked in. I don't think my teacher was amused either.

- Judy Chen, 1WW

One girl yelled Ilona and started waving in my direction and even though I didn't recognize her, I started waving and smiling to her. At the same time another girl walks from behind me and started saying hi. They both gave me confused looks and I ran out as fast as I could.

- Ilona Lakusta, 1XX

Thinking that the ninth floor was the half floor because it was half the size.

- Leo Rahn, 1JJ

Unfortunately this has happened to me a couple times, but when I thought someone was waving at me in the hall and I waved back, when in reality they were waving at someone behind me. So awkward :(((

- Lucy Bryce, 1QQ

I walked into the wrong classroom twice on the first day of freshmen year and they both also happened to be senior classes. (Nobody laughed or was mean though because apparently that happens a lot.)

- Shivali Korgaonkar, 1FF

Calling Ms. Dunkel mom.

- Theo Kubovy-Weiss, 3JA

I accidentally thought I had a free and went outside the building to meet my friends. When they didn't show up, I realized I completely messed up my periods and had to explain myself to the ID scanner people and book it up to math.

- Isabella Chow, 1FF

I dropped my binder and all my papers fell out and I had to crouch and pick them all up while people were rushing during passing like two weeks into freshman year.

- Xinni Lan, 1NN

# What is your biggest piece of advice?

Sleep is so important! Genuinely nothing is more important than being (somewhat) well-rested, getting a good amount of sleep is the best thing you can do for yourself.

- Sophie Poget, 1QQ

Get used to rejection. Let yourself feel sad for a moment, then pick yourself up and move on to the next thing! There's always the next thing, and everything works out in the end.

- Cadence Li, 1AA

Take advantage of Stuy's resources and don't be afraid to reach out when you need help! We're here for you.

- Elicia Chau, 1AA

You only have four years of high school! Enjoy it while it lasts. One low grade or one bad class aren't what you're going to remember ten years down the line. It'll be the people and the memories that will truly make your time at Stuy!

- Isabel Ching, 1SS

Try to make at least one friend in every class to contact about anything- HW, tests, clubs, how they're doing.

- Joseph Lee, 1GG

Don't let what other people are doing get into your head about what you should be doing. Focus on yourself, your own goals, and your own happiness.

- Owen Kuchinad, 1LL

Don't be afraid to advocate for yourself (emailing teachers about classes you want, meeting with guidance counselors, taking advantage of your resources, etc); it will only help you in the long run!

- Naya Mukul, 1RR

Please be open to the new clubs and to meeting new people! Its not as competitive as many people will tell you it is- whatever you enjoy, there will be people who find similar enjoyment and clubs to develop your hobbies into lifelong passions.

- Sanjiv Jewram, 1HH

Be patient!! Stuy is full of changes and new experiences that can be really scary (even when you're an upperclassman)! Just be patient with yourself because the transition is going to be hard but you'll figure everything out in the end.

- Elah Wilson, 1LL

# What is your favorite way to relieve stress?

I completely step away from my work or whatever is stressing me out and eat a snack, drink water and talk to my family or friends.

- Nora Loftus, 1XX

My favorite way to relieve stress is to take long walks and listen to music that makes me happy. I feel like this really grounds me.

- Amanda Brucculeri, 1FF

Favorite way to relieve stress is to take time by myself, either through a bath or Netflix. I used to get serious FOMO about missing plans with groups of friends, but it's important to take time to decompress alone.

- Ava Fung, 1UU

My personal favorite way of relieving stress is writing. When there's something bothering or stressing me out, I have a document online as well as a notebook that I can write in.

Depending on where I am, I either type out or use pen and paper to write about whatever it is that's stressing me out. I find that this just makes me comfortable with my troubles because I'm putting it into words without having to worry about what "other people might think".

- Julia Lee, 1RR

I relieve stress by playing sports, hanging out with friends, and playing piano.

- Matt Melucci, 1BB

My favorite way to relieve stress is by watching nostalgic movies that boost my serotonin!

- Katherine Yo, 1HH

I love taking naps. It can just be for 5 minutes or 5 hours, but it's really nice to just turn your brain off and just give yourself a chance to rest. Chances are you'll wake up with more energy and a better mindset!

- Lillian Tran, 1KK

Giving myself study breaks by playing video games for half an hour.

- Ava Yap, 1HH

I live off hugs! A hug from my grandma is better than coffee.

- Xiaoshen Ma, 3JA

# How have you developed/changed as a student/individual since Freshman Year?

Stuy has taught me to become more independent and I've definitely become a lot more outgoing than I was in freshman year! I've also become more open to try new things, especially when Stuy consistently offers new opportunities.

- Jeremy Wong, 1TT

I've become more comfortable and more sure of who I am as a person- my likes and dislikes, how I would describe myself, and who I am to be in the years ahead. I've also learned a lot about the importance of reaching out to people and the joys of social interaction (especially b/c of quarantine).

- Sanjiv Jewram, 1HH

I've definitely become more outgoing and since I tried so many different things at stuy I found a lot more interests I'd like to keep exploring in the future.

- Sirui Pu, 1MM

I definitely became more mature and more respectful. The community here is one of a kind, and it's hard to find that anywhere else. I don't think I would be the same person I am today if I didn't attend Stuy!

- Kripamoye Biswas, 1KK

I've definitely become more mellow in general. One specific thing is that I've learned to recognize the importance of mental and physical health over grades. I've learned to ask for help when needed instead of being too scared/prideful to.

- Katherine Chang, 1TT

I have become more confident in myself, more outgoing and willing to take risks, more hard working, and more comfortable expressing myself and my opinions.

- Ava Rem, 1BB

I've become a lot more confident in my own abilities, but also recognized when I need to ask for help (and that it's perfectly fine to do so!) whether that means speaking up more in class, attending office hours regularly, and showing teachers the effort you're putting into their classes.

- Naya Mukul, 1RR

I think I have learned how to enjoy my time in school, and not let the pressure of Stuyvesant overwhelm me. I've learned to manage my work better, and become more productive in short periods of time.

- Jeremy Lee, 1FF

# What is an experience that has strongly resonated with you at Stuyvesant?

I was really struggling in my algebra/geometry class as a freshman, so I reached out to my teacher and was very pleasantly surprised by how supportive she was, and I think knowing that she believed in me helped me improve so much in that class. Our teachers are so amazing and always willing to help, which is something I'm very thankful for.

- Sophie Poget, 1QQ

I was staying up late doing my Art Appreciation project the night before it was due, and I saved some things that I needed to complete to do during my lunch and frees the next day. However, when my art appreciation class came around, I still had to finish gluing some of the art pieces, and I was desperately trying to as I was rushing up to my class. When I entered the classroom, my table mates saw me panicking and they crowded around my table, offering to help me finish gluing. I was so touched!

- Calista Lee, 1JJ

Being a part of SING! has strongly resonated with me at Stuyvesant. It is so amazing getting to see how a group of high school students can pull together such a high quality performance in a matter of weeks. Being a part of SING! has taught me teamwork, leadership, and time management skills. I'll never forget my first SING!, as that is what helped me come out of my shell and make a lot of friends as a freshman.

- Amanda Brucculeri, 1FF

The Spectator has been a HUGE part of my Stuyvesant experience. I met so many great people in my department and on the Editorial Board, and it has arguably changed my life for the better. I became part of a huge community and got exposed to the world of journalism, and younger me would have never ventured into the field. And all of this was just because I decided to apply for my department on a whim. Take risks guys! Do something new!

- Kelly Yip, 1NN

I used to buy cookies at Whole Foods and just keep them as snacks in my bag for the afternoon. Eventually, people caught on that I had cookies, and soon enough, people were asking me for a cookie everyday (even if I didn't have any), and I would be left with 2 for myself from a pack of 16. It really resonated with me because I started talking to people that I hadn't talked to previously, and it just showed how Stuy students can start talking over the smallest things, such as cookies!

- Danielle Que, 1TT

I remember that sophomore year I had a pretty difficult math test and I was studying for it the night before. I was really tired and I wasn't understanding anything and basically I had a breakdown which had happened in a long time. But then my mom really helped me calm down, I got some sleep and I didn't fail my test (I think I got like a B). It just made me understand that my mental health and my sleep are always really important and sometimes I just need to take a breath and realize that even though school maybe stressful a lot of the time, I'm still gonna do fine and it's all gonna be okay and I have people to support me and help me get through it.

- Ella Krechmer, 10O

**Every year, the Big Sib Handbook  
gets a new theme.  
The next page is last year's!**



Art Courtesy of Emily Lu: Big Sib for Homeroom 1AA

# THE BIG SIB HANDBOOK

## הנובמבר 20-21

# THANK YOU!

The 2021-2022 Big Sib Program would like to thank:

## The 2020-2021 Big Sib Chairs!

Aki Yamaguchi

Anaïs Delfau

Andrea Huang

Elena Hlamenko

Henry Michaeleson

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