



ROBERT JOHNSTON <rjohnston@stfrancisprep.org>

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## Re: Hello from St. Francis Prep

1 message

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**Lopez Joenatan** <JLopez30@schools.nyc.gov>

Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 8:18 AM

To: Contarsy Brandon <BContarsy@schools.nyc.gov>, ROBERT JOHNSTON <rjohnston@stfrancisprep.org>

Cc: ROBERT CORBINO <rcorbino@stfrancisprep.org>

Hello Mr. Johnston,

Thank you Mr. Contarsy for the warm introductions. I am truly humbled and honored to be taking over this program that Dr. Archer has overseen for the past 30+ years. I will do everything in my power to maintain the high level of excellence that has been a mainstay of MS 74.

I have been a band director for the past 12 years at MS 137 and assistant band director for the Queens Salute to music program. Collaboration with outside organizations has always been a central pillar in my teaching, as I truly believe this is one of the fundamental ways to provide our students authentic musical experiences. This is why I helped co-found the Queens College Honor Festival, participate in NYSBDA music festival, have participated in numerous joint opportunities with fellow band directors and have hosted NYSSMA majors.

I would love to continue and strengthen the relationship between MS 74 and St. Francis Preparatory School. I will share this video with the music students in the band program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and let me know if this year there might be any performance opportunities.

Joenatan Lopez

Band Director

MS 74 Nathaniel Hawthorne

61-15 Oceania St

[Queens, NY 11364](#)

(718) 631-6800

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**From:** Contarsy Brandon <BContarsy@schools.nyc.gov>

**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:54 AM

**To:** ROBERT JOHNSTON <rjohnston@stfrancisprep.org>

**Cc:** ROBERT CORBINO <rcorbino@stfrancisprep.org>, Lopez Joenatan <JLopez30@schools.nyc.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Hello from St. Francis Prep

Mr. Johnston,

Thanks for reaching out, and for the well-wishes. These are indeed historic times.

Dr. Archer did retire at the close of last school year. I'd like to take this moment to introduce you to Mr. Joenatan Lopez, who we have brought on to carry the torch in Dr. Archer's stead.

Mr. Lopez has been an understudy and partner with Dr. Archer and members of the District 26 arts community for years. I believe our students are in excellent hands, and when the time is right, look forward to continued collaboration between our two schools.

We'll know that we are truly safely home when our students can learn together and grow alongside each other. All the best between now and then.

Brandon Contarsy

(he/him/his)

Principal, IA

Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74

[61-15 Oceania Street](#)

[Bayside, Queens 11364](#)

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**From:** ROBERT JOHNSTON <[rjohnston@stfrancisprep.org](mailto:rjohnston@stfrancisprep.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 10:23 AM  
**To:** Contarsy Brandon <[BContarsy@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BContarsy@schools.nyc.gov)>  
**Cc:** ROBERT CORBINO <[rcorbino@stfrancisprep.org](mailto:rcorbino@stfrancisprep.org)>  
**Subject:** Hello from St. Francis Prep

Hello Mr. Contarsy:

My name is Robert Johnston, and I am a member of the Music department of St. Francis Preparatory School. I do hope that you and your school community are doing well during these historic times. Our department, led by our Chairperson, Dr. Robert Corbino, would like to send along our best congratulations on being appointed Principal!

Over the last many years, we have developed a wonderful relationship with Nathaniel Hawthorne and your Music department. In fact, Dr. Peter Archer was recognized by Prep as an "Outstanding Music Educator," at our Spring Concert in 2016. Subsequently, we honored Anthony Armstrong in his work as an administrator who advocated for Arts Education.

We've had students from 74 perform at Prep in our annual, "Hallelujah Project," where we invite singers from around Queens and Brooklyn to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus," with our ensembles. Frank Auriemma was instrumental in preparing his students for multiple years.

I wanted to share a brief video with you that highlights our department, and what we offer our students, which can be found here, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofrLhr21tkg&ab\\_channel=SFPWebsite](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofrLhr21tkg&ab_channel=SFPWebsite). We certainly hope we can continue our relationship, even with the times as they are!

One question...did Dr. Archer retire? If so, we'd love to reach out to his successor.

Wishing you great success, especially given the circumstances,

Rob Johnston

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**Robert L. Johnston**

*Director of String Studies*

*Co-Internal Coordinator, MSA*

*Director of Publicity & Public Relations*

**St. Francis Preparatory School**

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