



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Message from Dr. Benante

Dear Haldane Community,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I am pleased to share that we are off to a successful start. Our students and staff have adapted to new routines and are excited to learn together.

This month's issue of Haldane Horizons features several new members of our faculty and staff. Please join me in welcoming them to our school community!

One of the unique characteristics of Haldane is the support we receive from our partner organizations. Please consider joining one of these groups, or participating in one of the many activities that each hosts throughout the year.

SEPTEMBER 2021

New Faces at Haldane

Buffalo Soldier With Haldane Roots

French Media Contest Winner

High School Club Fair

October Calendar Highlights

Haldane Partners

Finally, our Board of Education and District have adopted our goals for the upcoming year. These goals form the basis for our improvement work this year and have implications for our future improvement efforts.

I look forward to seeing you on campus soon and wish you and your family a successful year.

Sincerely,

Phil Benante, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

Haldane Welcomes New Faces



JOSH ELDER

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND HUMAN RESOURCES

"My first few weeks have been filled with getting better acquainted with Haldane's faculty, staff, and students - it is apparent from my conversations that there is a great sense of pride and community on the campus. I'm grateful for the opportunity to join the Haldane learning community and look forward to the 2021-2022 school year with promise of the possibilities that lay ahead."



DAN COWAN

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND DEAN OF STUDENTS

"Beginning my new role as the Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, and Dean of Students has been a fantastic experience. In just a few short months, it has become abundantly clear that Haldane is a special place. I am honored to be a part of this excellent school district and am grateful for all of the support I have received from colleagues, staff members, students, and the Haldane community."



SAMANTHA FAUGHNAN

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST

"After 8 years in the private sector, I'm thrilled to be joining the Haldane Community. The supportive staff and families, and welcoming environment have made the transition smooth. I'm looking forward to many great years ahead!"



LESLIE ISHOO

WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH

"This district exudes community, support and love and has been extraordinarily welcoming and supportive. I am looking forward to a successful career en la comunidad de Haldane!"



WILL RICH

MUSIC TEACHER AND CHORAL DIRECTOR

"I am very excited to join the Haldane community, where I will be teaching chorus and digital music to 4-12th grade. I am an experienced pianist, vocalist, and music director from Rockland County, NY. When not at school, I can usually be found directing and playing in pit orchestras for local and regional musical theater productions."



AMY PASTULA

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AIS TEACHER

"I am thrilled to be joining such a close knit community. I look forward to forging relationships with the families of Haldane!"



LIANA FESTO

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, GRADES 6-9

"As a school counselor at Haldane, I have noticed that everyone in the community is supportive and welcoming. There is a consistent amount of enthusiasm and effort among all faculty members to ensure students have their needs met in order to reach their full potential."



RYAN COURTIEN

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY COACH

"Very excited to be the new Cross Country Coach here at Haldane! Both the staff and students have been so welcoming. Our student athletes are very dedicated and we're all looking forward to both their personal as well as the teams' success."



MIKE LENTINI

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER COACH

"I am very excited to join the Haldane family and I am eager to help build the Blue Devil soccer program."

West Point Honors Buffalo Soldier With Haldane Roots

New statue in likeness of former Haldane employee pays tribute to those who taught military horsemanship at West Point

Earlier this month the U.S. Military Academy at West Point unveiled a bronze statue in tribute to the U.S. Army's famed Buffalo Soldiers. Sculpted by Eddie Dixon, the statue was created in the likeness of Sgt. Sanders H. Matthews who served on the base from 1939 to 1962, and is believed to be the last known Buffalo Soldier at West Point.

Following his military career, Sgt. Matthews ("Matty"), served as a police officer in Highland Falls, NY, a campus bus driver at West Point, and a bus driver at the Haldane Central School District.

Erected on Buffalo Soldier Field, the statue was a gift of the Buffalo Soldiers Association of West Point, founded by Sgt. Matthews in 2008, eight years before his passing.

The Buffalo Soldiers, members of the Black 9th and 10th U.S. cavalry regiments, are known for their fight against the Native Americans during the nation's westward expansion in the late 1800s. In 1907, they began service at West Point, teaching horsemanship to cadets. They remained a unit until the racial desegregation of the Army in 1948.



Etched: "In Memory of the Buffalo Soldiers who served with the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments as part of the United States Military Academy Cavalry Detachment at West Point."



Sgt. Sanders H. Matthews whose photographs were used by West Point historians to ensure the statue's historical accuracy.



Sgt. Matthews, "Matty," seen here with other faculty and staff Veterans, worked at Haldane from 2005-2011.

HALDANE BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

2021-2022

- 1 Support the district in providing a safe learning environment that supports in-person learning to the greatest extent possible.
- 2 Support the district in building widespread understanding of and commitment to the Strategic Coherence Planning and Campus Master Plan.
- 3 Create and adopt a new board member on-boarding process to facilitate information transfer, promote consistency, and maintain a highly effective governing body.
- 4 Customize the NYSSBA Board Self-evaluation tool to fit Haldane's specific needs to promote self-reflection and consistent growth within our leadership team.

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS

2021-2022

- 1 Establish and implement a structure for a continuous review of K-12 program areas that: 1) identifies relative strengths and weaknesses within the instructional program; 2) reviews programs that are being considered for implementation within the school system; 3) monitors internal and external resources (human, fiscal, etc.) that may be of benefit to the school system; 4) adapts to the changing needs of the curricular and instructional program; and 5) clearly defines measures of student success.
- 2 Build widespread understanding of and commitment to the District's Mission, Beliefs, and The Haldane Essentials developed through the Strategic Coherence Planning process in order to guide decision making on every level of the organization, ensuring student success and preparedness for life, learning, and work beyond school.
- 3 Facilitate a process to develop a campus master plan that reflects the community's shared values and the district's strategic priorities.
- 4 Maintain a safe learning environment that supports in-person learning to the greatest extent possible while providing a high level of support for students who are unable to access in person instruction due to quarantine.

2021 Graduate, Max Hutz, Wins French Media Contest



Class of 2021 Haldane graduate, Max Hutz, won Honorable Mention in the American Association of Teachers of French Media Contest. The theme was "anything is possible with French." Max created a three-minute video on the humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders. In recognition of Max's video, the contest awarded \$75.00 to the French program at Haldane. We are all proud of Max! Nous sommes tous fiers de Max! [Watch here.](#)

High School Club Fair Attracts New Members



Haldane High School hosted its annual Club Fair on September 22. Advisors and members from Haldane's more than 15 clubs took to the front lawn to share their purpose and enthusiasm with other students. With extracurriculars in full swing this year, it's the perfect time for students to join new organizations and get involved. New members are always welcome!

OCTOBER 2021

**SAT
2**

Haldane School
Foundation
Fall Fundraiser 7:00PM
Taconic Outdoor

**SAT
9**

Homecoming
Dance
6:30PM

**MON
25**

Red Ribbon
Week Starts

**MON
4**

Spirit Week
Starts

**MON
11**

Columbus Day
No School

**WED
27**

Haldane
Flu Clinic

**THU
7**

Elementary &
Middle School
Picture Day

**WED
13**

PSAT/SAT
9th Grade Retreat

**FRI
29**

K-3 Halloween
Parade

**FRI
8**

Putnam County
Early Dismissal Drill
Middle/High 2:00PM
Elementary 2:45PM

**WED
13**

PTA Meeting
3:30PM
via Zoom

**FRI
8**

Homecoming
Football Game
7:00PM

**THU
14**

9th and 10th Grade
Parent Night
6:30 PM

**SAT
9**

Athletic Hall of Fame
Brunch & Induction
11:30AM Hotel Thayer

**MON
18**

PTA Book Fair
Starts

Check out the
[Homecoming 2021](#)
page of the Haldane
website for Spirit Week
themes and the full
lineup of events!



Become a Haldane Partner

Please consider joining or supporting one of Haldane's partner organizations. Their contributions to academic, athletic, and artistic programming are a vital part of each school year at Haldane.

HALDANE PTA

[Learn More](#)

HALDANEPTA
EVERY CHILD • ONE VOICE

HALDANE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

[Learn More](#)



HALDANE ARTS ALLIANCE

[Learn More](#)



BLUE DEVIL BOOSTER CLUB



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Dr. Peggy Clements, Trustee
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