

Dear Herricks School District Community,

Happy Monday! I hope this email finds you all doing well and that everyone enjoyed the weekend and the beautiful fall weather. Our family enjoyed some time outdoors as our son was home from college for the weekend on his mid-semester break. It was so great to have him home and to hear all about his positive experiences thus far as he successfully adjusts to living on campus. Needless to say, we are incredibly proud of him and look forward to supporting his journey moving forward.

It has also been a wonderful and busy couple of weeks in our schools and classrooms. Our students have been engaged in a number of meaningful experiences from exploring place value in second grade to installing new members of DECA (prepares future business leaders) at the high school. Overall, it has been a positive and productive last few weeks in Herricks!

### **Board of Education Recognition Week**

This week we recognize and celebrate our Herricks School District Board of Education Trustees, Mr. James Gounaris (President), Mr. Henry Zanetti (Vice President), Ms. Juleigh Chin, Ms. Nancy Feinstein and Mr. Brian Hassan, in honor of School Board Recognition Week. As the New York State School Boards Association states, "School board members give generously of their time and expertise and take on a crucial responsibility: overseeing their community's public school system." The members of the Herricks Board of Education not only represent the priorities and hopes of the school community, but they also help develop policies, strategies and systems that promote a healthy district culture and support the district vision and goals. Thank you to our incredible Board of Education for their commitment and dedication to the students, faculty, staff, families, and community in Herricks - we appreciate you!

### **Health and Safety Update**

For our families at the Middle School, who drive their child(ren) to school, please be mindful of the traffic patterns and regulations. We have observed various safety issues during drop off and pick up including cars cutting off buses, cars cutting off other cars, and cars blatantly violating traffic rules. These actions are incredibly dangerous because they put our students, staff and families at risk. Moving forward, please follow all the traffic rules and regulations near the Middle School so we can safely get all of our students to and from school.

Additionally, as we head further into fall, we will be dealing with various illnesses including the common cold, the flu ([click here for more information](#)), and Covid. To that end, we want to share some important reminders to promote a healthy and safe environment in our schools:

- If your child is sick, please keep them home until they are fever free for at least 24 hours and/or their symptoms are improving.
  - If your child exhibits Covid symptoms, you are encouraged to keep them home and test them for Covid as the virus remains highly contagious.
- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue or upper shirt sleeve covering the mouth and nose.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth.

Thank you for your attention to these important reminders. Your partnership and cooperation are critical factors to ensuring the health and safety of our students, staff and families.

## **Facilities Update**

We are happy to share that our final phase of our bond projects and capital improvements continue to unfold in Herricks. Our masonry work continues throughout the district with significant progress being made over the last month while our generator installation project at the high school awaits the delivery of the generator in early 2023.

We are also excited about two important projects that are nearing completion - the libraries at both Herricks Middle School and Herricks High School. Both spaces are beautiful as they have undergone significant improvements from new flooring to new lighting to new furniture. The spaces are bright and feature lots of flexible furniture options to nurture collaboration, creativity and communication. While we will have ribbon cutting ceremonies at each library within the next couple of weeks, the spaces are being accessed by students.

## **Entry Plan Update**

I want to start by thanking all the parents and family members who participated in the voluntary entry interview process with me over the last several weeks - your participation is greatly appreciated! I am excited to share that I have met with approximately 100 parents and family members as part of my entry plan and through those conversations I have learned a tremendous amount about the Herricks School District. For example, I have a deeper understanding of what makes our schools so special and highly effective while also developing a sense of the opportunities that exist for us to grow and enhance as a learning organization.

The next phase of my entry plan will focus on conversations with our faculty, staff and students. I began those conversations with my first school visit. These conversations will continue through the middle of November as I continue to learn about our school district in an effort to develop and articulate our collective vision and future trajectory.

## **Other Important Updates**

- Our next Board of Education Meeting will be taking place this Thursday (10/20) at the Community Center starting at 7:30pm with presentations in honor of Board Recognition Week and from our external auditors.
- Please be aware that the Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2022 will be taking place at Herricks High School in the school library. The meeting will be starting at 7:30pm.
- District goals will be presented at the Board Of Education Meeting on Thursday, November 3, 2022 (not at the October 20th meeting as previously mentioned).
- Schools are closed on Monday, October 24, 2022 in observance of Diwali.

Thank you so much for reviewing all of this information and for your active participation and partnership - these are critical components to promoting the strong sense of community that exists in Herricks.

Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Dr. Tony Sinanis  
Superintendent of Schools  
Herricks School District