

Dear Herricks School District Community,

Happy Monday! I hope this email finds you all doing well and that everyone enjoyed the weekend. It is hard to believe that we are already in the fourth week of the school year. It has been wonderful seeing our students actively engaged in learning across all our schools during my various visits. Some of the highlights from my visits include reading with first graders and practicing my Spanish with students in the high school Dual Language Spanish Immersion program. Overall, it has been a terrific start to the school year and I would like to thank our faculty and staff for all of their hard work.

### **Herricks' Happenings**

As part of our efforts to meaningfully engage our students, faculty, families and community, we are constantly thinking about the different types of communication we can leverage to effectively tell our district story. While written communication will continue to be our primary mode of communication, I am excited to share that starting today we will also be using videos to share important information and updates about our district. Our video updates will be known as *Herricks' Happenings* and will generally run between 1 to 3 minutes and will be shared via email, social media, and the district website. Please click below to access our first ever *Herricks' Happenings* video update and if you have any feedback, please email me.



### **Entry Plan & Entry Interviews**

As your new Superintendent of Schools, one of the first things I did was develop an Entry Plan to support my first year in Herricks. My entry plan, which [you can access here](#), allows me to approach the position of Superintendent of Schools of Herricks Public Schools as a learner first. By developing an entry plan, I am challenging myself to “*hit the ground learning*,” instead of hitting the ground running, by engaging with various members of the community in a reflective way. A thoughtful entry plan allows me to prioritize relationship building, which will happen through both formal and informal interactions, so I can better understand the community and its norms, priorities and values. This information will help me determine where we are now and where we want to be in the future, which will be critical in developing a vision and action plan that resonates with the community. Ultimately, the entry plan involves the following steps...

1. Developing, drafting and finalizing the entry plan.
2. Conducting various entry interviews, with both individuals and small groups, to collect data about our schools and community.
3. Analyze and make sense of the data I have collected.
4. Enact a “feedback loop” where I share my entry plan findings with the community to help make sense of the data.
5. Finally, these new understandings will help us form an action plan moving forward.

As you can see, the most critical part of the entry plan is the data collection, which is gathered through entry interviews and conversations. To that end, I would like to offer our families the opportunity to participate in voluntary entry interviews during the first week of October (10/4, 10/6 & 10/7). I will be facilitating ten different Family Entry Interview groups and each group will be capped at 6 people (*only 1 member per family can participate in this process*). The guiding questions for these family entry interviews are as follows:

1. What makes Herricks such an effective learning community? What is an instructional practice/organizational structure you are proud of? Why?
2. What is the most important issue facing the district today?
3. Please tell me about the ways our district engages families. What works well?
4. What inspires you about our community? Schools?

If you are interested in participating in a Family Entry Interview, please [click here](#) and sign up for a date/time that works best for you. If you have already met with me as part of a different parent leadership group, please don't sign up. Furthermore, if you are unable to sign up because all the slots are taken, please email me and based on the level of interest, I may add more sessions. I am really looking forward to speaking with our families and learning more about our school community from your perspectives as I know it will be invaluable to me as we plan for the trajectory of our district.

Thank you so much for reviewing all of this information and thank you for your ongoing support of our faculty, staff and schools - it is truly an honor to serve as your Superintendent of Schools.

Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Dr. Tony Sinanis  
Superintendent of Schools  
Herricks School District