



Herricks Dateline

SUMMER 2024

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Congratulations CLASS OF 2024

Herricks celebrates our amazing Class of 2024 graduates as they focus on the future and confidently join the next generation of entrepreneurs, leaders and innovators.



A Message from The Board of Education

Dear Herricks Community,

We hope this letter finds you in the midst of a wonderful summer, taking time to relax, recharge and have fun with family and friends. While you're enjoying the warm weather, we're keeping busy in the district with summer programs for our students and several capital projects aimed at improving our facilities. From enhancing our learning environments to ensuring our schools are well-prepared for the new academic year, we're committed to continuous improvement.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to Nancy Feinstein and Brian Hassan for their dedicated service to the Herricks Board of Education; their contributions have been invaluable these past 12 years. As we welcome our new Board members, Maria Bono and Shaheda Quraishi, we are looking forward to our upcoming Board retreat where we will set our goals and vision for the year ahead. This is always a great opportunity for us to come together, reflect on our mission and strategize on how to best serve our community.

Looking ahead to the new school year, we're eager to begin actualizing the initiatives outlined in our strategic plan. One of our key focuses will be on enhancing our assessment practices. We will be reflecting on our current methods and exploring research-based methods to ensure our assessment practices are as effective as possible. Additionally, we are actively exploring the role of AI in teaching and learning, seeking innovative ways to integrate technology that enhances educational experiences for all students.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the fall, ready for another fantastic school year!

Warmest regards,

Herricks Board of Education



Celebrating Our Class of 2024 Graduates



On June 25, families and friends gathered in a celebratory spirit as the Class of 2024 took a giant step toward the future at the 65th Herricks High School Commencement.

As members of the high school band performed "Pomp and Circumstance," the processional, led by valedictorian Devon Lee and salutatorian Dylan Lee, entered the stadium to cheers and applause.

Principal Joan Keegan opened the ceremony by inviting members of the senior class to welcome guests with a greeting in their native languages, a tradition that showcases the rich diversity within our community.

Nancy Feinstein, a member of the Board of Education, spoke on behalf of the Board. She reminded students to embrace their new chapter with imagination, courage and optimism. To those unclear of their future path she offered encouraging words.

"Don't sweat it," she said. "Not all who wander are lost. Some of us are just taking the scenic route."

Next, Ms. Keegan introduced Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis, who thanked families, teachers and staff for "nurturing inquisitiveness, encouraging critical thinking and cultivating a love of learning." Dr. Sinanis urged students to "put your whole heart into whatever you do. This allows you to gain clarity about who you are and what you believe in, both of which are essential for happiness and success in life."

Next on the dais, valedictorian Devon Lee and salutatorian Dylan Lee delivered a joint address that focused on compassion, individuality and time. They highlighted the joy of growing up as twins and the challenge to be recognized as individuals. This experience inspired their advice.

"Get to know someone for real," Dylan said.

"Everyone is different and should be appreciated for who they are rather than just a prejudice or biased assumption that you might see on the surface."

Devon encouraged classmates to cherish the memories but look towards the future. "It's been an incredible journey," he said, "and we should all be proud of ourselves as we turn to a new chapter in our lives. We know our futures are bright because we are ready."

This year's guest honoree was Director of Science and Technology Karen Hughes, who pushed back tears as she recounted her fears as a student and credited her parents for helping her develop life skills that have been critical to her 36 years as an educator. Ms. Hughes, who retired at the end of the school year, advised the graduates to build relationships and earn respect by making eye contact.

"Be really diligent in looking up from your phones to make new friends and to build new support systems," Ms. Hughes said. "These authentic personal interactions that you cultivate and nurture will ward off loneliness and bring you the greatest satisfaction throughout your life."

Before the diplomas were handed out, Jocelyn Chiu, the president of the Class of 2024 Student Government Executive Board, remarked about the talent, dedication and acceptance that is the hallmark of the Class of 2024.

Finally, the moment everyone had been waiting for arrived. Confetti flew and applause and cheers filled the air as diplomas were presented by Board of Education members and the graduates posed for photos.

Before the evening concluded, members of the Class of 2024 took part in the "turning of the tassels," and tossed their caps high in the air.



Board of Education:

Juleigh Chin, President

James Gounaris, Vice President

Trustees:

Maria Bono

Shaheda Quraishi

Henry R. Zanetti

Dr. Tony Sinanis

Superintendent of Schools

Visit www.herricks.org for more district news and information!

Moving Upward and Onward!

Congratulations to all fifth and eighth grade students throughout the district who celebrated their moving-up ceremonies in June. Each ceremony featured student reflections, words of wisdom from educators and special guests and poignant musical selections.

We were also proud to celebrate the graduation of our pre-K students who will be joining our Center St., Denton Ave. and Searingtown families this fall.

We wish all our new kindergartners, sixth and ninth graders much success as they begin their next steps in Herricks!



Herricks Middle School



Center Street Elementary



Denton Avenue Elementary



Searingtown Elementary



Prekindergarten