

Hyde Park Central School District Connections

June 2024

From the Desk of Dr. Pedro Roman

Dear Hyde Park Community,

I am delighted to present our first Accomplishments Report, which showcases our district's remarkable achievements. This milestone reflects our entire school community's collective efforts and support, and I am deeply grateful for everyone's contributions.

Our students have made progress in developing the competencies outlined in our Portrait of a Learner: becoming confident learners, responsible citizens, critical thinkers, adaptable innovators, and effective communicators. These essential skills are the cornerstone of preparing our scholars for future college and career pathways.

Our Board of Education has played a pivotal role in this success. Their steadfast support and leadership have provided the foundation for our educational programs, ensuring our students have the resources and opportunities needed to thrive. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our mission.

To our community members, your involvement has been invaluable. Your participation in school events, volunteering efforts, and continuous encouragement have created a supportive environment that empowers our students to reach their full potential. We are grateful for your partnership and investment in our students' futures.

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Achievements Report Elementary Highlights

Violet Avenue resurrects programs and events

Staff at Violet Avenue brought back programs and events where students had fun and learned a lot.

The Pick a Reading Partner program was reintroduced in the fall with events and incentives for reading provided to all students. This culminated with a schoolwide assembly where students received prizes for reaching their reading goals.

Families were welcomed back to school for a math night in January and a STEAM night in May where they could participate in fun activities promoting math fluency and coding with robots.

The Arts in Education program returned with two guest speakers inspiring students. Aaron Golub, the first legally blind Division 1 athlete to become a free NFL agent, visited in early March sharing a message of leadership and overcoming adversity. Musician Jared Campbell performed songs with an anti-bullying message in mid-April.



RRS soars in expectations

Students at Ralph R. Smith (RRS) continue to improve when it comes to expectations surrounding behavior and absenteeism. The fifth grade student council brainstormed behavioral expectations, created several options and collected feedback from third to fifth graders before deciding on Owls SOAR, standing for "Safety, Ownership, Achievement, Respect." Posters were created for all spaces and staff are teaching those expectations to all students.



Last year's chronic absenteeism rate stood at around 25 percent. This year, teachers communicated with families early and often to address the barriers to regular attendance. The rate stands at 19 percent.

"While this is not our end goal, it is much closer to the state average of 18 percent," Principal Matthew Darling said. "We all know the importance of being in school on a regular basis."

RRS also purchased a book vending machine and students work to earn tokens for it through a positive referral system.

Netherwood makes changes in behavior and other areas

This year Netherwood committed to creating a schoolwide positive behavior recognition system encompassing all areas of school.

Netherwood's building leadership team examined discipline and positive referrals data

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From the Desk of Dr. Pedro Roman

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I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to our exceptional leaders, educators, support staff, and school-related professionals. Your unwavering dedication, hard work, and passion for education are not just evident, they are the driving force behind every success story we share. It is through your tireless efforts that we can celebrate these accomplishments.

This Accomplishments Report is a testament to what we can achieve while putting students first. As you review it, I hope you feel a sense of pride in our school community's collective achievements. These accomplishments reflect our shared commitment to educational excellence and the bright future of our students.

Let us not only celebrate these successes but also eagerly anticipate what the 2024-2025 school year holds for us. The future is bright, and we will continue to achieve great things together!

With Hyde Park Pride,



Elementary Highlights

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This year, students' growth potential through various resources was analyzed and teachers used that to hone in on their individual needs.

and formed a committee to support positive behavior recognition throughout the building. They created a schoolwide common language, held assemblies to promote it and recruited fifth grade student council members to be school models and leaders.

"We already had many ways to support positive behavior, so we wanted to capitalize on current positive behavior implementations," Principal Stephen Hicks said. "We created lesson plans for modeling all aspects of expected behaviors with recurrent check-ins."

"Shout Out" cards were created so students could recognize their classmates and read them on the loudspeaker. "Click It" cards were used in class to earn hole punches for good behavior. A full positive behavioral interventions and supports system is being implemented next school year.

Hicks noted the team values and uses student data to inform classroom instruction.

North Park continues building culture and more



School culture is important and North Park staff have continued to build it, aligning it to the school's pledge. Each week, staff draw names of students who then earn book tokens. Additionally, each quarter is celebrated with new awards related to the pledge, recognizing students as Courage Captains, Lion Leaders and SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Superstars for using a "growth mindset."

Additionally, family engagement at school increased with quarterly

night events themed around reading and STEAM (science, technology, engineering art and math), the latter of which was attended by over 100 families.

"We are looking to continue and build these incredible opportunities to partner with our families to support students in all areas," Principal Megan D'Alessandro said.

Haviland is on the right track

Haviland is now a school in good standing, as part of the New York State accountability process. This was accomplished through complete engagement in the school improvement process where achievement gaps for all students were closed.

Building leaders developed a systemwide approach to analyzing data where goals are set and progress is monitored. Teachers were given instructional support strategies for English language learners by using an

approach where literacy skill gaps are closed through direct instruction. Staff will also focus on instructional equity and relational capacity, the connection among individuals that develops over time when interactions are built on respect, trust and honesty. Additionally, student input was gathered and incorporated when developing extracurricular activities and clubs and a redesign of the Second Step program was implemented with an extended daily homeroom experience.



FDR continues to impress

Throughout the school year, FDR students and staff have organized and been involved with several initiatives they can be proud of. Students involved in the Winners Circle Project successfully built a Factory Five Vehicle and traveled to Lime Rock Park in Connecticut to compete with four other high schools in New York. Another group of students promoted the car using marketing and communications efforts. "Students in the marketing, visual communications and build courses did an outstanding job as the first ever Winners Circle Cohort at FDR," Principal Michael Ruella said.

Ruella also praised FDR's student government for organizing events for everyone. It worked with athletic teams and clubs to promote homecoming events, as well as the junior and senior proms and countless other activities that improve the school's climate and culture.



FDR athletes end year on a high note

It has been quite a year for FDR athletes, who made impressive accomplishments individually and as members of teams.

Over 75 percent of the varsity teams received the Scholar Athlete Team Award which allows the athletic department to apply for the School of Excellence Award presented by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

The varsity girls volleyball and softball teams, and the boys baseball team made it to sectional tournaments.

The cheer team was crowned Section IX Champions and the varsity girls and boys track and field teams each earned Mid-Hudson Athletic League Championships.



Individual accomplishments include:

- Troy Speare:**
Boys Swim (States)
- Christopher Herrmann:**
Wrestling (States)
- Ike Rothman:**
Bowling (States) & Golf Sectionals
- Jasmin Sanchez:**
Bowling (States)
- Lawrence Joyner and Marina Scott:**
Winter Track (States)
- Julia Meyer:**
Gymnastics (States)
- Natalia Quinteros-Tejada:**
Girls Section IX Wrestling Champion
- Joe Andros:**
Crew, State Champion u17 single event.
- Ian Nelson and Alex Hart:**
Golf Sectionals

New assessment, scheduling methods tested

The curriculum and instructional department worked with instructional staff to develop authentic performance tasks, a three-year project helping administrators provide students with opportunities to show what they know in numerous ways going beyond traditional paper and pencil tests.



Administrators also examined how instructional days are scheduled at all levels. At the elementary schools, common scheduling expectations and templates were created prioritizing core instructional time while seeking to reduce conflicts with other academic interventions and related services.

Literacy outcomes improve

The K-5 District Literacy Audit laid a robust foundation this year for enhancing reading instruction and improving

student literacy outcomes.

Twenty-one literacy educators deepened their understanding of evidence-based assessments by creating a literacy assessment calendar for elementary students. This assessment will result in marked improvements in students' reading and writing abilities, according to Jennifer Criser-Eighmy, director of humanities.

Fourth grade teachers participated in an English language arts (ELA) data project where they identified patterns and then implemented targeted instructional changes addressing areas of need. They continually monitored and adjusted instruction to ensure students made progress toward learning goals.

Math and science curriculum expanded

Two elementary math coaches played a pivotal role in guiding 35 teachers through comprehensive coaching cycles, which focused beyond implementing the new Eureka Math² curriculum.

"These coaches empower educators to fine-tune their instructional approaches, ensuring optimal student engagement and academic growth," Kim Knisell, director of math and science said.

New science standards were fully implemented, which foster a dynamic learning environment where students are

deeply engaged with scientific concepts resulting in more enriched experiences.

Arts growing and thriving

The district's music program saw a robust and steady enrollment, as well as a good retention rate, reflecting heightened student interest and commitment. This coincided with Hyde Park's eighth consecutive year of being on the list of Best Communities for Music Education.

Melinda DiMaio, director of fine and performing arts, noted that recent theater electives at FDR help to expand students' creative opportunities and enhance the cultural landscape.

Students are thriving in visual arts too. A diverse selection of high school art electives, that are consistently fully enrolled, reflect students' strong interest and dedication. The annual District Art Show showcasing student work from all schools drew a large and enthusiastic crowd.



Blueprint for Excellence moves towards next step

Using feedback provided by district leaders, Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman shared information on the district's refined mission, vision and core values with staff and the community during a May 23 meeting regarding the Blueprint for Success.

After this final meeting, Roman and his team will focus on devising an actionable plan to present to the Board of Education on June 20 with the ultimate goal of formally adopting a new strategic plan in July.

Priority areas for both staff and families include providing comprehensive supports and services to students, teachers reinforcing highly effective instructional practices and assuring everyone's safety and security.

Roman expressed his appreciation to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council members, faculty and staff, parents and guardians, as well as community partners for their support and feedback.

"It is through teamwork that we transform our dreams into reality," Roman said. "While we recognize that the journey toward realizing our mission, vision and core values is ongoing, the prospect of our collective future is undeniably promising and bright."

"It is through teamwork that we transform our dreams into reality."

**Dr. Pedro Roman
HPCSD Superintendent**

Pupil Services tackles varied and unique needs

Special education staff prepare students for next chapter

The special education department has provided many services this year for students taking the next step.

Families attended a workshop about transitioning from preschool to school-age special education where they spoke with a panel of educators. Five elementary students from out-of-district programs with autism and communication disorders attended a new specialized class where they learned and interacted with typically developing peers.

Additionally, a Practical Assessment Exploration System lab was opened for high school students with severe learning disabilities designed to identify post-graduation outcomes and employment potential.

Students explored careers in varied fields and acted as employees for job coaches



who acted as supervisors in the lab, which is structured like a real workplace.

Social emotional learning offers students many skills

The impact of the multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) surrounding social emotional learning (SEL) for Hyde Park's elementary and middle school students has been felt across the district.

Guidance Director Malissa Reeder noted that the school climate became more positive and inclusive due to SEL initiatives, which are tailored to students' needs.

Students have since become empowered to become leaders and promote empathy, skills that are beneficial for their personal and professional lives.

During two Superintendent's Conference days, professional development focused on developing a common MTSS language and understanding.

This framework integrates data and instruction to maximize students' achievement, while supporting their social, emotional, behavioral and academic needs from a strengths-based perspective.

College and career programs benefit students

The School Counseling Guidance Advisory Council serves as a cornerstone



in providing comprehensive support to students, addressing their diverse needs and empowering them to succeed in various aspects of their lives.

The council offers college and career readiness programs, scholarship opportunities and guidance on post-high school options to ensure students are well prepared once they graduate.

Reeder said when students utilize these opportunities, it results in higher rates of college enrollment and successful career placements.

BRYT promotes student well-being

The Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) program embodies the district's commitment to ensuring that every student's holistic well-being is nurtured, regardless of obstacles.

One of BRYT's most inspiring aspects is its ability to forge meaningful connections with students, families, educators and community resources.

This creates a climate where every student feels valued, supported and empowered to reach their full potential.

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Work begins utilizing \$3.5 million Stronger Connections grant

In an effort toward enhancing educational opportunities, district staff began work on initiatives as part of receiving a \$3.5 million Stronger Connections competitive grant from the New York State Education Department.

Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman and administrators are moving forward in creating a steering committee, hiring a community school facilitator and family liaisons, who serve as a link between families and schools.

Roman and Melissa Lawson, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, spearheaded the grant application to empower students, across all six schools, through comprehensive wraparound support services, including the Community Schools Model. It tailors services and assistance to each

neighborhood by leveraging insights of those intimately familiar with the student body to address their multifaceted needs.

Central to this endeavor is creating a nurturing and inclusive environment for students to thrive academically and emotionally, combating chronic absenteeism, aiming for a minimum attendance rate of 95 percent, as well as challenging high-achieving students and providing targeted assistance to those who need it.

"We want all students in Hyde Park to succeed and thrive," Roman said. "When kids feel supported, when they feel they are valued and respected, they're going to rise to the occasion and be successful."

Behind the scenes work key to student success



The business office manages district funds strategically to support exciting projects, including a new athletic field and upgraded courts at FDR.

Payments totaling \$4,716,077 were issued to complete phase one of the 2022 districtwide capital project.

Recently, the facilities and operations team completed the first phase of the capital project, bringing FDR a new athletic field, track and tennis courts, perfect for gym classes and community youth programs. FDR and Hyde Park Elementary School received new roofs as well.

Plus, blackout shades were installed on all classroom and office doors districtwide to enhance safety and security.

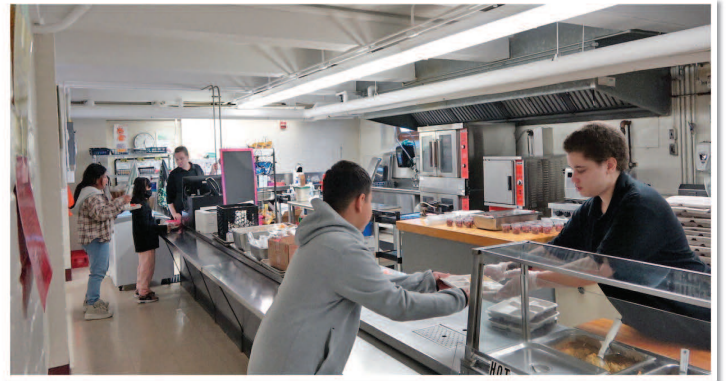
Additionally, \$3,956,926 from the American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant funded after school programs, expanded summer and extended day options. These programs empower students to thrive inside and outside the classroom.

Free meals for all eliminates barriers

The district's food service department oversaw the Community Eligibility Provision program which allowed all students to receive free and nutritious meals, eliminating financial barriers and promoting food security.

"By collaborating with the school community, we successfully launched and operated the program, increasing participation and fostering a healthier environment," Linda Steinberg, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, said.

Positive feedback from students, parents, and staff confirms the program's impact on student well-being and academic success.



Transportation employee receives special recognition

Everyone remains incredibly proud of Linda Lawlor, an outstanding transportation employee, who received the prestigious Dutchess County School Bus Driver of the Year Award in April.

This award recognizes drivers exemplifying safe driving practices, perfectly aligning with the district's priority of keeping students safe, while also boosting morale and encouraging a school wide culture of excellence.

Electric meters will lead to savings

Electric meters were installed districtwide to remotely monitor energy consumption and conditions in each school building.

This, coupled with the development of an advanced analytics platform and a performance dashboard, allows the district to detect and correct anomalies as they occur. The outcome typically results in energy savings and a more comfortable environment for students and staff.

HR kicks organization into gear

Staff from Hyde Park's Human Resources department has kept things humming through a busy year.

They attended five recruitment events for certified candidates, three for support staff candidates and worked with Orange-Ulster BOCES' records management office to remove all personnel files prior to 2018 from a storage room and warehouse.

Additionally, New York State record retention requirements were implemented and all remaining permanent records are available electronically through a secure server. An annual process will be implemented in the 2024-2025 school year.

Technology team keeps plugging away

The Hyde Park technology team places a high value on responding to district needs.

This year, the team implemented simple and reliable computer-based testing for all grade-levels by grouping all computer-testing systems under Google's App-Launcher. Accessing these tests is simple for all students, particularly younger learners who have not yet mastered logging in.

While the rollout of any new system is fraught with challenges, the tech team is proud of the Infinite Campus implementation. In the coming months, the goal is to enhance the system so students, families and staff can access data to improve teaching and learning for everyone. Since July 1, 2023 the team closed out over 4,600 incident tickets, with most closed within two days of submission.

Pupil Services tackles varied and unique needs

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School nurses foster culture of collaboration

School nurses came together to participate in collaborative professional learning about important topics as they relate to school avoidance and other related matters.

"This collaborative environment for school nurses stands as a beacon of pride within our educational community," Reeder said. "Their specialized expertise enhances the overall well-being and safety of our students." This collaboration helps nurses engage in specialized professional development that enhances their individual expertise and enriches the entire district.

Safety measures examined

The district partnered with Putnam Northern BOCES to conduct a comprehensive safety and security audit where each building was toured and plans and practices were reviewed.

Recommendations were shared with each building's safety team and they are working to implement the suggestions. In addition, each elementary school has a full time security staff member to greet guests, monitor safety and provide consistent support.

Registration system being tested

The registration department was the first to fully utilize a new data management system, Infinite

Campus. Staff are currently exploring the online registration feature so families can register students and upload documents.



Behavioral practices strive to be proactive

A code of conduct committee formed to review and revise behavioral expectations and interventions. This multi-year project will result in a new code of conduct focused on proactive and preventative measures that support students and ensure their academic success.

This committee's work included training all administrators in restorative practices, which uses the foundation of strong relationships to repair harm and reestablish harmony as a prevention measure. Staff have led restorative talking circles in all elementary schools where students demonstrated empathy, active listening and honesty when participating.

FDR students sign to play collegiate sports

Eight FDR seniors committed to playing sports at the collegiate level on athlete signing day May 1.

Cali DeLawder will play softball at the University of Rhode Island

Owen Brink will play baseball at Mercy University

Natasha Diaz-Santiago will play girls lacrosse at Mount Saint Mary College

Kaleigh Dean will play girls soccer at Russell Sage College

Presley Kafereo will play football at Jireh Prep

Lawrence Joyner, will play football at Alfred State

Marco Quinteros will play football at Alfred State

Christopher Herriman will compete in wrestling at Alfred State

Athletic Director Beth Fletcher congratulated students on their achievements and encouraged them to thank their coaches and especially their parents for driving them to practices and being supportive.

"You wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for them," Fletcher said of students' parents. "It takes a lot of dedication, hard work and a lot of time to move to the collegiate level."

Despite having to take junior year off due to injury, Dean came back determined to succeed and proved it.

"She came in fit, fast and just hungry to play the game," soccer coach Barbara Demczar said. "She played every game like it was the most important game."

Dean is excited to continue playing soccer in college and noted that believing in herself was a key factor in being successful.

"You have to stay determined and stay confident," Dean said. "Once I got confidence in myself, it was easier for me to take the next step forward."



Congratulations!

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HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Administrative Offices
 P O Box 2033
 Hyde Park NY 12538
 www.hpcsd.org • 845-229-4000
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Hyde Park students inducted into the National Technical Honor Society



Five Hyde Park students were among the 31 students inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) this year at Dutchess BOCES.

To qualify, students must complete an application with a writing prompt, provide community service hours and recommendation letters from instructors and job supervisors, and have an overall career technical education average of 93 or above.

Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman and FDR Assistant Principal Daniel Cowan attended to cheer for juniors Prem Bedi, studying computer technology, Chase Figueroa, studying animal and plant sciences, Atrayu Fisher, studying HVAC, Aedan Kaake, studying small engine repair and Olivia Peek, studying cosmetology.

Peek, whose willingness and eagerness have allowed her to excel in her first year, appreciates receiving the award which she said pushes her to work harder.

"I feel honored," Peek said. "I really worked on my professional image and I'm really excited to see what the future holds."

FDR school counselor Rebecca Moore was credited by Peek for encouraging her to attend CTI.

"She really allowed me to pursue my dream," Peek said of Moore.

CTI Principal Nick Millas noted that the NTHS' mission is to advocate for and empower all students to pursue the skills needed to build their careers and the global workforce. He encouraged students to follow this mantra and be community leaders.

"Whatever pathway you choose, do what makes you happy, give back to your community, and put in an honest day's work that you and others can be proud of," Millas said.

