



# 2023-2024

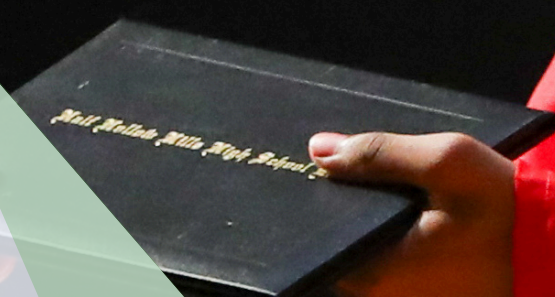
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# ANNUAL REPORT

☎ 631-592-3000

✉ [superintendent@hhh.k12.ny.us](mailto:superintendent@hhh.k12.ny.us)

🌐 [www.hhh.k12.ny.us](http://www.hhh.k12.ny.us)





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# Overview



**Committed to providing all students with opportunities to excel in academics, athletics and the arts.**

An education-oriented community with high academic expectations, the Half Hollow Hills Central School District is located in a residential area of 50,000 people in the central part of Long Island, approximately 40 miles from New York City. Providing for the education of approximately 7,200 students, the school district has five elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools. Half Hollow Hills high schools are fully accredited by the New York State Department of Education.



# Superintendent's Message

On behalf of the entire Half Hollow Hills Central School District of Huntington and Babylon, I am pleased to share with you the highlights of our 2023-2024 school year in this Annual Report.

The 2023-2024 school year featured many outstanding accomplishments in academics, including National Merit Scholars, finalists and champions in math, computer science, business, world language and science competitions. Many also received recognition for service learning projects that benefited our community and the world. Both of our high schools continue to be ranked in the top 1,000 high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

The Fine Arts program was distinguished with a Scholar Artist Award winner, as well as numerous awards in art, music and theatre throughout the year. Our student athletes won or placed at several team and individual League and County championships.

During the 2024-2025 school year, we look forward to continuing to develop our strong culture of equity and excellence, while providing all of our students with opportunities to excel in academics, athletics and the arts.



Dr. Patrick Harrigan  
Superintendent of Schools



*Our students come to the classroom with diverse backgrounds, experiences and learning styles, and we pride ourselves on being able to help them achieve both excellence and equality.*



# Board of Education Trustees

The Board of Education is a seven-member volunteer board elected by district residents that is entrusted with the responsibility of developing policies under which the district is managed. The Board has all the powers and duties stated in the Education Law and other applicable New York State Laws.

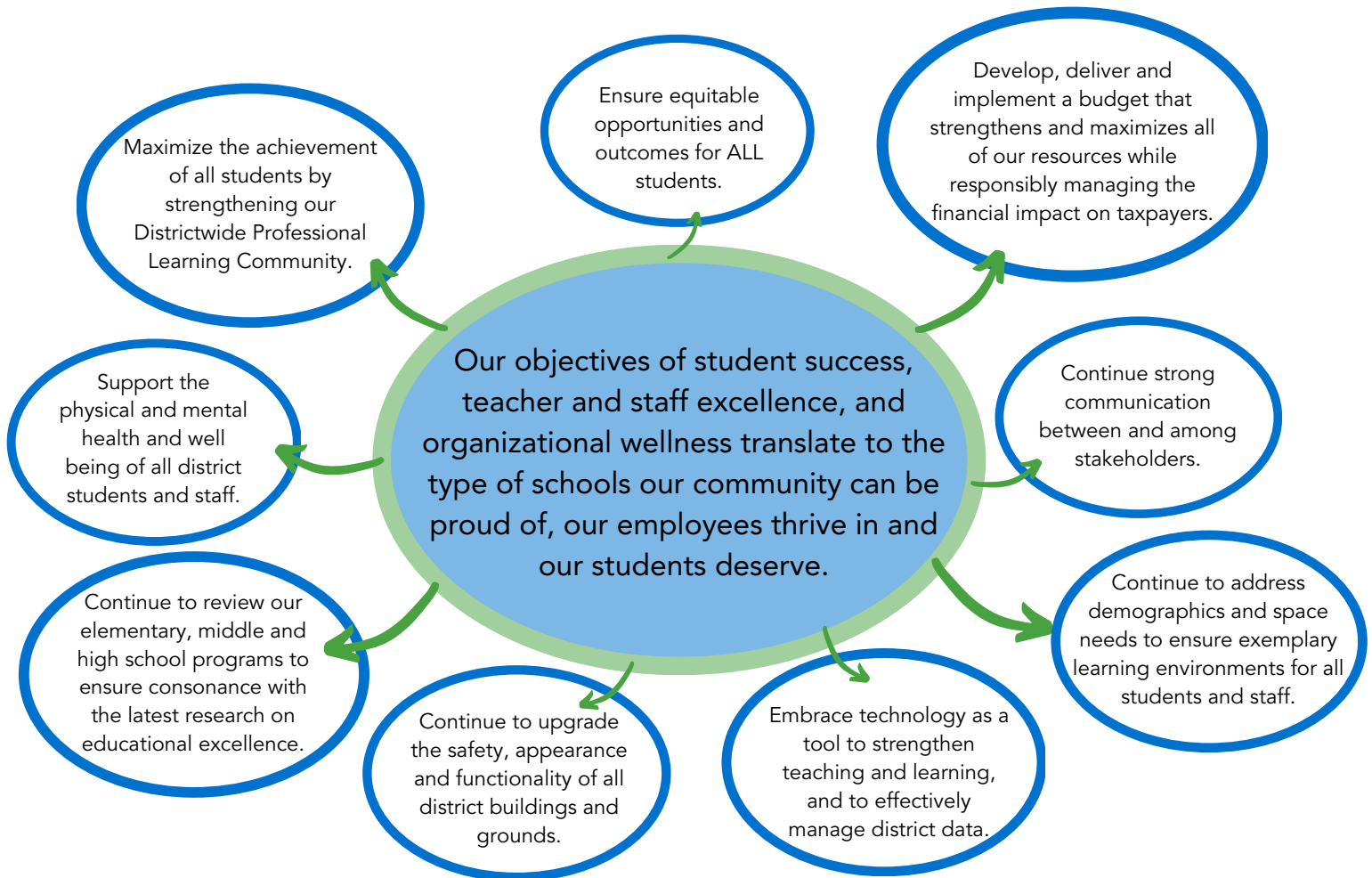
## 2023-2024 Board of Education Trustees

Diana Acampora, President  
Stephanie Gurin, Vice President  
Nadia Bilal, Trustee  
Eric Geringswald, Trustee  
Adam Kleinberg, Trustee  
Dr. John Mathew, Trustee  
Michael Prywes, Trustee



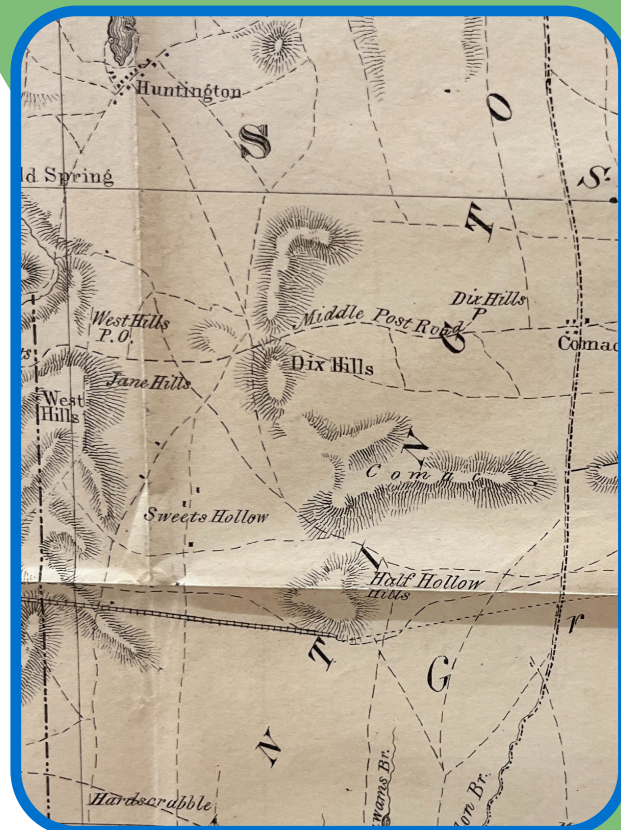


# Organizational Goals





# District Profile



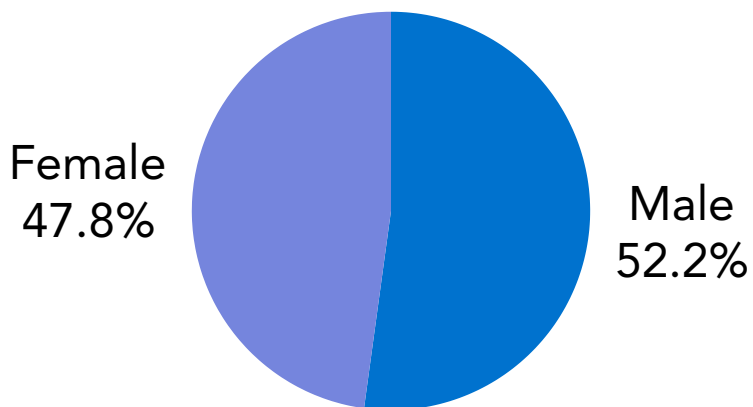
## History

Originally called Half Way Hollow Hills because it is found just about halfway between the Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, our school district merged with the Dix Hills School District in 1931, and then further enlarged by merging with the Upper Melville and Sweet Hollow School Districts in 1954.

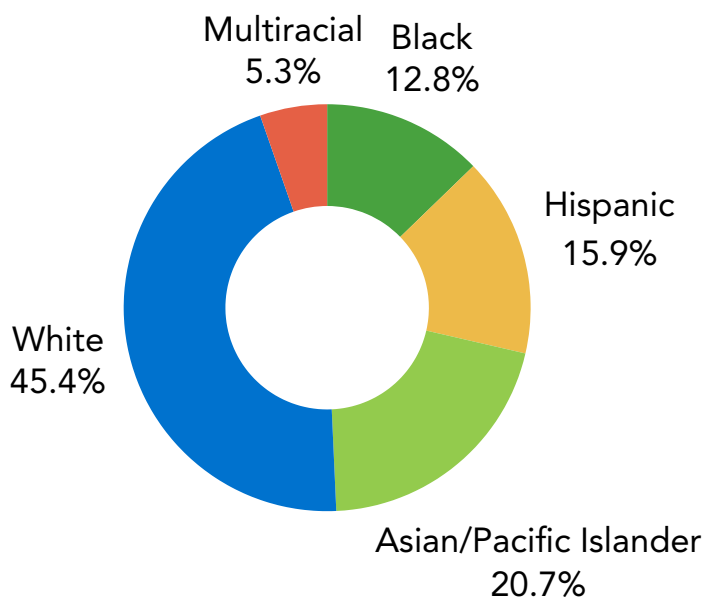
Today, the Half Hollow Hills Central School District of Huntington and Babylon operates nine schools serving students from Dix Hills, Melville, Wheatley Heights, and parts of Deer Park, Huntington, East Farmingdale and East Northport.

# Student Enrollment

## Gender



## Ethnicity



### Other Enrollment Data

Students with Disabilities: 22.8%  
 Economically Disadvantaged: 27.8%  
 English Language Learners: 3.8%



### Enrollment

High School East: 1,440  
 High School West: 989  
 West Hollow Middle School: 954  
 Candlewood Middle School: 738  
 Vanderbilt Elementary: 705  
 Signal Hill Elementary: 665  
 Otsego Elementary: 583  
 Paumanok Elementary: 584  
 Sunquam Elementary: 489  
 Total: 7,147

Data From NYSED BEDS Day - 10/4/2023



# District Leadership



## Central Administration Team

Dr. Patrick Harrigan  
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jeffery Woodberry  
Assistant Superintendent for Districtwide Administration

Ms. Diana Ketcham  
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Ms. Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo  
Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities

Mr. John O'Farrell  
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

# Faculty

Half Hollow Hills educators are dedicated, knowledgeable and highly skilled professionals who go beyond expectations to teach, inspire and nurture our students. We adhere to exceptionally high standards in selecting teachers and staff for our district. There are 733 teachers with an average of almost 18 years of experience. 98.5 percent have earned Master's degrees or higher, nine hold National Board Certification and there are nine New York State Master Teachers.

The staff regularly participates in professional development to strengthen their abilities and stay current with new and evolving strategies to better serve our student population. Nearly 35 of our teachers and administrators led over 135 professional development courses in 2023-2024.

Our teachers engage students in high-quality, meaningful and unique learning experiences which assist them in reaching their full potential. Teachers care about their students and exhibit this through all that they do in the classroom, during their non-teaching time and in extracurricular activities. The professional staff in our district provides an exceptional learning environment for students and makes Half Hollow Hills a great place to learn and work.





# Key Personnel Changes



Half Hollow Hills welcomed Jon Trapani, our new Director of Fine Arts. Mr. Trapani joined the district after spending six years as the Director of Fine and Performing Arts at the Lindenhurst UFSD.

Half Hollow Hills welcomes Matt Mayo to his new role as Principal at Candlewood Middle School beginning in 2024-2025. Mr. Mayo was previously an Assistant Principal in the same building.



Half Hollow Hills welcomes Steven Vitolano to his new role as Principal at Paumanok Elementary School beginning in 2024-2025. Mr. Vitolano was previously the Assistant Principal in the same building.

Half Hollow Hills welcomes Sara Choit, our new Assistant Principal at Hills West beginning in 2024-2025. Ms. Choit joins the district from Centereach High School where she was an Assistant Principal.



# Key Personnel Changes



Half Hollow Hills welcomes Paige Furman, our new Assistant Principal at Hills East beginning in 2024-2025. Ms. Furman joins the district from Huntington High School where she was a business teacher.

Half Hollow Hills welcomes Maria Belfiore to her new role as Assistant Principal at Candlewood Middle School beginning in 2024-2025. Mrs. Belfiore was previously an Assistant Principal at Hills East.



Half Hollow Hills welcomes Melissa Peyton, our new Assistant Principal at Paumanok Elementary School beginning in 2024-2025. Ms. Peyton joins the district from the New York City Department of Education where she was a Special Education Teacher.

Half Hollow Hills welcomes Carolyn DiPreta, our new Assistant Principal at Signal Hill Elementary School beginning in 2024-2025. Ms. DiPreta joins the district from North Shore Central School District where she was an elementary school counselor.





# Academics



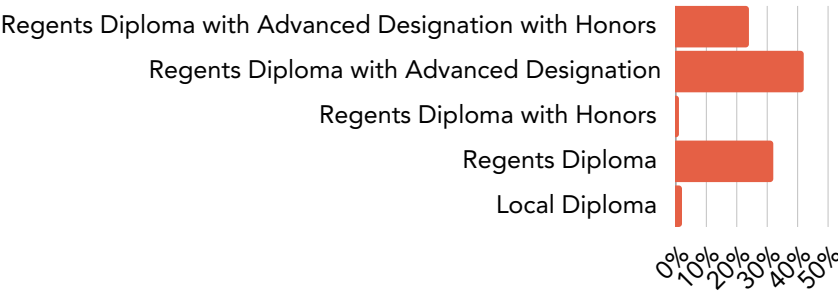
The Half Hollow Hills K-12 program is designed to meet the individual needs of all students. Our diverse population includes many students at various levels of educational development. Our high schools offer strong academic programs, including 31 Advanced Placement courses, 25 Honors and/or college-level courses offered in collaboration with Stony Brook University (ACE Program), Long Island University (High School Scholars Program) and Farmingdale State (High School Program). Additionally, students have an opportunity to earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. Both schools offer "Project Lead the Way" Engineering courses affiliated with Rochester Institute of Technology; in addition to a "Senior Experience" program for a select group of senior-year students that combines English 12 and Government/Economics into a Humanities-based curriculum. Incorporated into this program is a required year-long professional internship.

Many students enroll in Independent Studies in World Languages, including American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, Greek, and Russian. A select group of students participate in our competitive Independent Science & Math Research Programs, culminating in various national events & competitions.

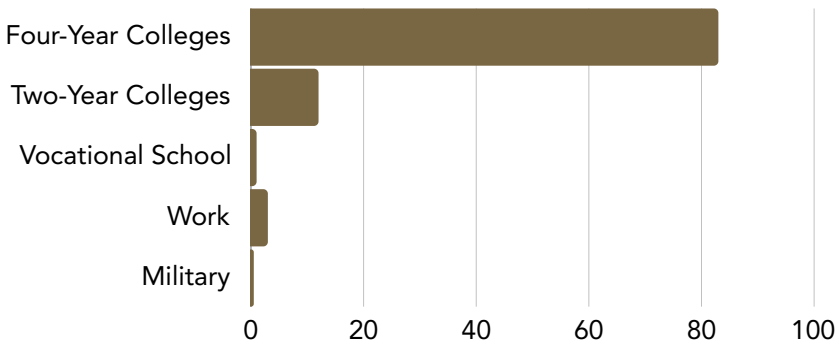
Several students participate in the BOCES Wilson Tech Program for their junior and/or senior year. Others audition to participate in the BOCES Long Island High School for the Performing Arts School, available to juniors and seniors. Both high schools offer extensive extra-curricular club and organizational activities as well as interscholastic athletic programs, intramural sports and community service opportunities.

# Graduation Data

## Graduation Degree Data



## Post-Graduation Plans



### Individual Accomplishments

- 3 National Merit Scholars
- 10 National Merit Finalists
- 10 National Merit Semifinalists
- 33 National Merit Commended Students
- 13 National African-American Recognition Program Scholars
- 9 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars
- 1 Coca-Cola Scholarship Semifinalist

### AP Performance

- 33 AP Seminar & Research Certificates
- 59 AP Capstone Diplomas
- 270 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 117 AP Scholars with Honor
- 88 AP Scholars



# Extracurricular Activities

Half Hollow Hills believes that participation in activities outside the classroom plays an important role in our students' academic, social and emotional development.

Our goal is to provide a variety of opportunities at every grade level so that students can participate in school life, have fun and enhance their interests and abilities.



## Elementary Activities Included:

- African American Club
- Archery Club
- Art Club
- Arts and Crafts
- Board Game Club
- Chess Club
- Coding Club
- Dance Club
- Drama Club
- Drawing Club
- Engineering Club
- Foreign Language Club
- Game Club
- Garden Club
- Imagination Playground
- Intramurals
- Kindness Club
- LEGO Club
- Lunch Club
- Media Arts Club
- Musical Stories
- Newspaper Club
- One World Youth Club
- Passport Club
- School Store
- Stay and Play Club
- Storytime Club
- Student Council
- Yoga

## Secondary Activities Included:

- Amnesty International
- Art Club
- Best Buddies
- Broadcasting Club
- Chamber Orchestra
- Chinese Culture Club
- DECA
- Drama Club
- First Robotics Challenge
- FBLA/Business Honor Society
- Gaming Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Girls Who Code
- Homework Club
- Jewish Heritage Club
- Key Club
- Mock Trial
- Muslim Student Alliance
- National English Honor Society
- National Junior Honor Society
- National Social Studies Honor Society
- One World Youth Club
- Poetry Out Loud
- Pond Club
- Science Olympiad
- Speech and Debate
- Student Executive Senate
- Student Government

# Athletics

Half Hollow Hills offers our middle and high school students many opportunities to participate in sports. Our teams are very competitive and often succeed at the local, regional and state levels. We have 51 Varsity Teams, 30 Junior Varsity Teams, 44 Modified Sports Teams, and both high schools were named 2023-2024 NYSPHSAA Schools of Excellence. To receive a School of Excellence Award, 75% of a school's varsity teams must qualify and receive the Scholar-Athlete team award. Plus, we offer three Varsity Unified Teams: Bowling, East Basketball and West Basketball.

## High School East

- Girls Tennis: Suffolk County Large School Champions and League I Champions
- Boys Basketball: Suffolk County Champions and Long Island Finalist
- Girls Basketball: League III Champions and Suffolk County Finalist
- Girls Golf: Co-League I Champions
- 13 Scholar Athlete Teams

## High School West

- Girls Volleyball: League V Champions, Suffolk County Finalist
- Girls Golf: Co-League I Champions
- 13 Scholar Athlete Teams

## Combined

- HHH Girls Cross Country - Co-League I Champions
- HHH Boys Swimming & Diving: Undefeated League II Record
- HHH Flag Football: Suffolk County Champions and Long Island Finalist
- HHH Boys Lacrosse: Division I Champions, Suffolk County Champions and Long Island Finalist
- 18 Combined Scholar Athlete Teams





# Fine Arts



## Theatre Programs:

- Drama clubs are offered from grades 5-12, and each year there are two musical productions at each middle school, as well as one drama and one musical production at each high school.
- Hills on Stage is offered for all elementary 5th graders and brings together more than 98 students from all five elementary buildings.
- Recent theater productions have included The Little Mermaid Jr., Clue, The Addams Family, The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon, Freaky Friday, The Lion King, Guys and Dolls, and Annie Jr.
- Our Hills East & West Theatre programs were honored at the annual HuntingTony Theatre Awards held at The Paramount with East's Elijah Jin winning Best Lead Actor - Musical and West's Dante DiGiorgio winning Best Supporting Actor - Play. East also won Best Musical for The Addams Family and Best Stage Crew - Play for Clue, while West won Best Stage Crew - Musical for Freaky Friday.



## Art Programs:

- High school art classes are offered in all of the traditional arts, as well as Media Arts, photography, architecture and fashion design.
- Annual art shows are displayed at the elementary, middle and high school levels.
- Annual Secondary Art Exhibit hosted at the HHH Community Library.
- Art Visions exhibition held at LIU Post.
- Numerous trips to both Long Island and NYC based professional artists to attend workshops and view exhibitions.
- Student art is exhibited at Huntington Camera Club, Long Island's Best: Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum, Suffolk County Art Leaders Association All-County Art and Senior Scholarship Show, and Huntington Arts Council.
- Scholastic Art Awards – 2 Gold Key, 2 Silver Key recipients.
- Artwork displayed at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. by Congressional Art Contest winner, Maia Schnaider.
- Student artists have won numerous scholarships and contests, both locally and nationally, including top scholarship winners at the Suffolk County Art Leaders Association All-County Exhibit.
- 1 Long Island Alliance Scholar-Artist award winner - Becca Hochman.
- 1 intern with the production team at Annie Liebowitz's studio as a part of Drexel University's 6-month co-op program.
- Best in Show at the annual Suffolk County Art Leaders Association All-County Art and Senior Scholarship Show – Best in Show, All-County Award in Video, and Mixed Media.
- Finalist in the national 2024 ARTEFFECT competition with the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes!



## Music Programs:

- More than 2,500 students participate yearly in performance ensembles that include concert bands, orchestras, choirs, wind ensemble, jazz bands, vocal jazz, a cappella groups and guitar ensembles.
- Students have access to a full recording studio, broadcast studio, and music recording and production technology courses.
- Honored with the "Best Communities for Music Education" designation from The NAMM Foundation for our outstanding commitment to music education for the fourteenth time.
- 7 All-State Musicians.
- 9 All-County Jazz Musicians.
- 36 NYSCAME HS All-County Musicians.
- 154 SCMEA All-County Musicians Grades 5-10.
- 67 LISFA Musicians Grades 5-10.
- 16 PEAK Festival Musicians.
- 6 students participated in SCMEA's Day of Tuba.
- Student musicians have won numerous scholarships and contests, both locally and nationally.
- 1 Student musician was selected to attend this year's New York State Band Director's Association festival.
- Skyla Peltzman performed in the Honors Flute Ensemble at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.
- Hills East violinist BangHua Pan performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute's Artist Training Program.
- Elijah Shin from East was awarded a \$1,000 senior scholarship from NYSCAME Suffolk for the pursuit of a career in music.

# Programs for Students with Disabilities

Half Hollow Hills provides special education and related services to meet the needs of students who are identified as having a disability. Our programs and services are designed to ensure that children with disabilities receive appropriate and equal opportunities for their educational growth. We are proud to be able to offer a myriad of opportunities along the continuum of a student's development. This continuum includes related services, resource room, integrated co-teaching, special classes, as well as out-of-district options. Each of these opportunities is available to students in grades K-12. Our district prominently features programs for students with autism and other developmental disabilities within our in-district classes. These classes allow students to challenge the curriculum and grow according to their individual educational needs.



*The Hills Academy is an in-district program for students grades 8-12. It is a program designed for students of average to above average intelligence who possess social/emotional issues which impact their ability to meet with success in high school. Students are in classes taught by dual-certified special education and content area teachers, follow the Half Hollow Hills academic curriculum, work towards a New York State Regents or Advanced Regents diploma and have an opportunity to challenge the curriculum to earn honors status for their core academic classes.*

*Within the program are two mental health professionals (a school psychologist and a social worker) who provide individual and group counseling, weekly communication with the families, home visits and are available at any time a student feels the need to speak with a mental health professional. The Hills Academy staff identify personal goals with each student that are worked on in conjunction with the tenets of the program to build the skills and strategies needed to return to the larger high school setting.*

*The ultimate goal is to provide students with the tools, resources and skill-set to be successful; we want our students to attend school regularly and help to develop the skills/tools to transition successfully back to high school. In this safe, structured environment, students will gain academic and social skills as well as develop self-discipline to return to their respective high schools.*



# English as a New Language Program



In Half Hollow Hills, approximately 40 home languages represent the diverse population in the ENL (English as a New Language) program. Our 20 ENL teachers service approximately 380 students in the district with varying proficiency levels of the English language. As a department, they work with students and their families, helping them adjust to our district and the community. Our ENL teachers work with students in their integrated classrooms and in a stand-alone setting to best meet their individual needs based on the CR Part 154 regulations. Professional development has been provided to general classroom teachers to educate them about the English Language Learners in the district and strategies to help them provide appropriate instruction during their transitional period of learning English. ENL teachers continually collaborate as a department and with classroom and special area teachers to ensure that their students are doing well academically, socially and emotionally. Additionally, community support is provided for families of children that are in the district learning English as a New Language.

# Service Learning

Half Hollow Hills encourages all of our students to participate in service learning programs to understand and experience the importance of volunteering while building a life-long love of giving back to their community.

These initiatives help develop leadership skills and well-rounded young adults while benefiting important causes.

## 2023-2024 Service Learning Programs

- Students Rebuild Challenge
- Cody L. Byrnes Memorial Foundation Super Hero T-shirt Day
- "Kids Need More" Fundraisers
- Teen Promise Fundraisers
- Childhood Cancer Month Fundraisers
- Valentines for Veterans Cards
- Origami Art for local Nursing Homes
- ALS Ride for Life
- Breast Cancer Walks
- Holiday Toy Drives

**\$454,200**

Raised in matching dollars for Students Rebuild Challenge

**45,420**

Students Rebuild Challenge projects submitted





# Instructional Technology



Half Hollow Hills Central School District is committed to fostering information literacy as a cornerstone of 21st-century education. The ability to effectively find, analyze, manage, present and share information, while adapting to the rapidly evolving information landscape, is essential for our students' success. To cultivate these critical skills, we have implemented a comprehensive approach that includes:

- 1:1 Chromebook Device Program (K-12): Equipping every student with a personal device to facilitate learning and collaboration.
- Comprehensive Technology Curriculum: Integrating technology across all subject areas to develop digital literacy and problem-solving abilities.
- Rich Digital Resources: Providing students and teachers with a wealth of online tools and materials to enhance instruction and support independent learning.
- Integrated Digital Whiteboards: Creating interactive, engaging learning environments that promote collaboration and critical thinking.

By embedding technology seamlessly into our curriculum, we empower students to become confident and skilled digital citizens prepared to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

# Communications

Half Hollow Hills is dedicated to continual and transparent communication with all of our stakeholders. We engage with them by providing valuable and necessary information through a wide variety of tools and channels, while telling the stories of our students and schools. District communications are distributed using the following methods:

- Parent Portal and Student Portal
- Learning Management System (LMS)
- Automated calling and email system
- District and school websites
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn)
- Local media including print, TV, digital and radio in the Long Island and Metro-NY markets
- Community engagement via meetings, guest speakers and direct communication
- Electronic newsletters and printed communication, districtwide and within individual schools





# Buildings & Grounds

The Half Hollow Hills Central School District maintained 15 buildings in 2023-2024 including one administration building, five elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, a transportation building, a natatorium and a maintenance building. These buildings encompass over 1.5 million square feet sitting on over 300 acres.

In 2023-2024, the district was also landlord to four tenants in two closed buildings, maximizing revenue from the additional space.



## 2023-2024 Capital Project Highlights

- Began initiative to outfit many instructional spaces with air conditioning
- Installation of six-foot chain link fencing with privacy slats at all elementary schools
- Upgrade of lighting outside buildings
- Full replacement of gym floors at Hills West and Signal Hill
- Elevator modernization and renovation to boys locker room at West Hollow
- Renovation of wrestling room at Hills East
- Refinish and restriping of the main gym at Hills East
- Replacement of walk-in refrigerator/freezer combo units for kitchens at West Hollow and Candlewood
- At various buildings, targeted renovations in boys bathrooms to address deteriorated plumbing issues

# Transportation

The Half Hollow Hills Transportation Department is committed to safely and efficiently transporting our approximately 7,200 students to and from school every day. The district has its own fleet of buses and contracts many other buses from a private bus company in the local area to transport students to and from school.

In 2023-2024, there were 345 bus routes in our district with approximately 8,373 bus stops each day equaling 1,515,513 bus stops each year. They also provided transportation for over 902 athletic events and almost 994 field trips in 2023-2024. Our buses travel over 1,150,617 miles each year on their routes.

The Transportation Department's greatest strength is its dedicated staff who ensure the safe transportation of every student, every day.



# Food Services



**Half Hollow Hills recognizes that it takes a strong cohesive team of food service workers to prepare and serve nutritious, well-balanced and reasonably portioned meals that are essential for student wellness. The Food Services Department serves an average of more than 435 breakfasts per day, or more than 75,000 per year, and an average of over 3,100 lunches per day or over 546,000 per year.**

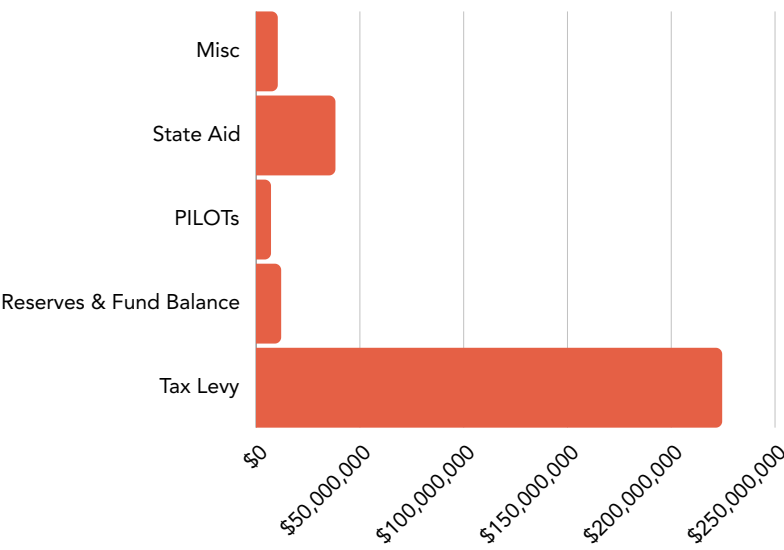
As of December 1, 2023, Half Hollow Hills had four schools (High School East, High School West, Otsego Elementary and Paumanok Elementary) that qualified to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. Students in CEP schools are offered one free breakfast and one free lunch daily. This ensures that all students have access to nutritious meals daily, regardless of their family's income, reducing food insecurity and the stigma associated with receiving free meals.

The Food Services Department is actively engaged in the NYS farm to school movement. There are many benefits to implementing a thriving farm to school program. Most notable is the increase in unprocessed and minimally processed food items which tend to be healthier options for the students consuming school meals. The goal of farm to school is to support local farmers and producers, as well as provide a stable market for our state's farmers/producers. The commitment of the Food Services Department to the farm to school movement gives our students the opportunity to be a part of an ever-growing movement to support and consume local foods.

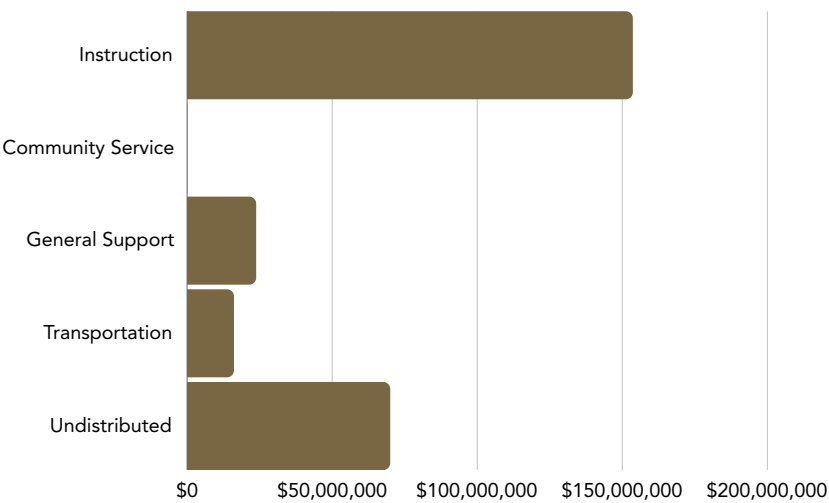


# 2023-2024 Financials

## 2023-2024 Revenue Overview



## 2023-2024 Expenditures Overview



The leadership of the Half Hollow Hills Central School District is committed to responsible stewardship of the funds it receives from all sources, including taxpayers, as it administers the annual budget.

We continually scrutinize spending to ensure every dollar is used appropriately, always with a focus on student learning. In 2023-2024, the pre-audit total budget expenditures were \$264 million with over 80% percent budgeted to be directly spent on instruction and learning.

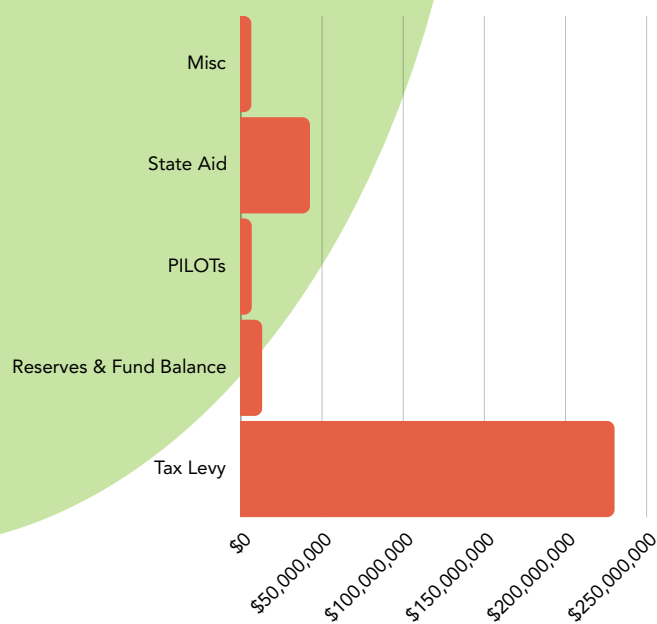
# 2024-2025 Financials



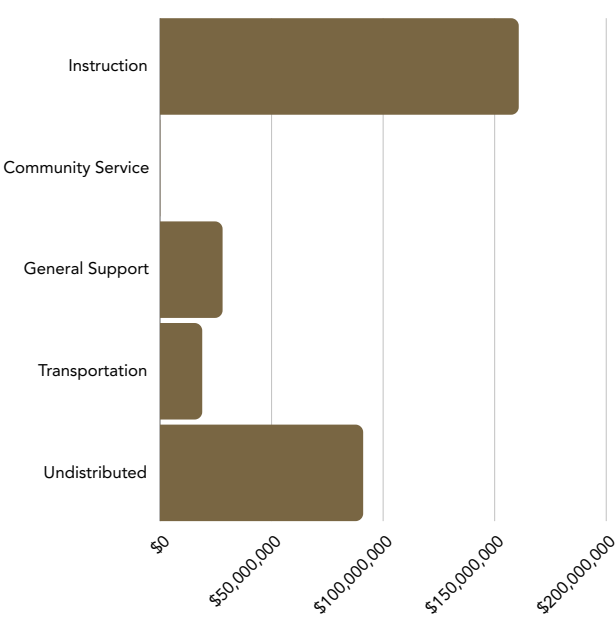
The 2024-2025 budget for the Half Hollow Hills Central School District was developed to provide all the programs and services students need to excel, while also allowing for investments in our facilities.

The 2024-2025 budget adheres to the property tax levy cap formula with a total budget increase of 3.15%, enabling many new and expanded opportunities for students.

## 2024-2025 Anticipated Revenue



## 2024-2025 Anticipated Expenditures





# Half Hollow Hills

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Half Hollow Hills Central Office Administration

Fran Greenspan Administration Center  
525 Half Hollow Road  
Dix Hills, NY 11746

(631) 592-3000  
[www.halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us](http://www.halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us)