



# HIGHLANDERS PRIDE ON DISPLAY AT HOMECOMING



On Oct. 18, Herricks faithful filled the high school stadium to capacity and geared up for a high-energy homecoming celebration.

The crowd roared as the parade, led by the band and cheer teams, marched by with hundreds of waving students, parents and teachers representing each of the district's five schools, as well as administrators, Board of Education members and local dignitaries.



As the festivities continued, senior football and cheer students were joined by their parents and introduced as they walked across the field, basking in the spotlight of their final homecoming. The presentations were capped off with a performance by the Herricks Dance Theater Club and the announcement of the Highlander 11, an honor that recognizes exemplary members of the senior class who are actively involved in the school community and nominated by peers.

Congratulations to the Highlanders for scoring a 55-33 homecoming win over the Hicksville Comets!



# Herricks DateLine

FALL 2024

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## A Message from The Board of Education

Dear Herricks School Community,

Herricks has always been more than just a place of learning – it's a community where students, families, teachers and staff come together to support one another and celebrate shared achievements.

We recently had Herricks homecoming, which celebrates our collective Herricks pride and unity while building core memories for our students and community. It's always a day of camaraderie and joy, and winning the big game is always fun too!

One of our primary goals as a Board this year is to continue strengthening this incredible sense of community. Whether through academic success, athletic achievements, artistic endeavors, or moments of support and camaraderie, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all. We believe that by working together, we can ensure that every student, family and community member feels connected and valued in Herricks.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to a year filled with collaboration, communication, confidence, critical thinking, creative innovation and compassion. We are Herricks Strong!

Regards,  
The Herricks Board of Education

## Welcome, New Teachers and Staff!

Herricks Public Schools is proud to welcome 18 new educators to the school community for the 2024-25 school year.

We are so excited to have each of these exceptional educators in the Herricks family and thank them for their passion and dedication to helping our students learn, grow and succeed!



Herricks welcomes 18 new staff for the 2024-25 school year.

## Meet Our NEW Administrators

Herricks Public Schools is proud to announce four administration appointments for the 2024-25 school year.

After three years as principal of Denton Avenue, Dominick Tolipano has been named assistant superintendent for human resources. His experience prior to joining Herricks in 2021 includes 22 years as an educator and administrator. Mr. Tolipano has a Master of Science in elementary education from Hofstra University and a professional diploma with honors in school administration and supervision from Queens College.

The district welcomes Andrea Brand, who has been named district director of science and technology. Ms. Brand joins Herricks after 18 years of experience as a high school administrator and educator in New York City. She holds a Master of Philosophy in immunology from George Washington University and two Masters of Science - one in secondary science education and another in educational leadership - from the City College of New York.

Denton Avenue Assistant Principal Lily Ho, who has served in the role for two years, has been elevated to building principal. Her previous experience includes 17 years as a special education educator and administrator in New York City public schools. Ms. Ho has a Master of Arts in childhood education and special education for grades 1-6 from New York University and is pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership and innovation at NYU.

The district welcomes Regina Capowski, who is joining the leadership team as assistant principal of Denton Avenue. Ms. Capowski brings 18 years of leadership and teaching experience at New York City schools with an emphasis on the development of teaching protocols, instructional models, assessment and data analytics. She has a master's degree in bilingual/bicultural education, international and transcultural studies from Teachers College at Columbia University and both a Bachelor of Science in childhood education and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, modern languages and literature from the State University of New York at Fredonia.



Herricks welcomes four new administrators for the 2024-25 school year.



# Instructional Goals and Priorities

In Herricks Public Schools, our core values shape everything we do. From kindergarten through 12th grade, we are committed to fostering a community built on trust, integrity and respect.

Building on the district's commitment to its core values, Portrait of a Graduate and Strategic Plan, the district has outlined clear instructional goals for the 2024-25 school year, aiming to foster student success and prepare them for the future. The instructional priorities are informed by the Strategic Plan and staff feedback, and will reinforce the POG competencies.



1

### ASSESSMENT/SUCCESS CRITERIA

The district will continue building on Learning Targets and will explore and define success criteria for student learning, including a focus on academic and behavioral supports. The district will also begin looking at the collective assessment practices, which are directly connected to learning targets and success criteria.

2

### WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING SPACES

The district is committed to offering welcoming and affirming environments for all our students.

We are focused on the integration of student-centered learning spaces, giving learners at all levels the best opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Our building leaders and faculty are beginning to implement Restorative Practices across all grade levels. The goal is to create a safe, supportive environment where students, faculty, and staff feel comfortable showing up authentically, expressing their concerns, and advocating for their needs. Ultimately, the goal is to build a stronger sense of community by nurturing relationships rooted in mutual trust and respect.

3

### DIGITAL FUTURE

The district will continue its work with meaningful instructional technology integration, including artificial intelligence, to help our students achieve digital fluency and an understanding of the responsibility that comes with being a digital citizen in the 21st century.



Scan the QR code for more information on our District Goals for 2024-25.

**#WeAreHerricks** The Herricks School District, a Community of Learners, through its educational programs, promotes intellectual curiosity and creative expression, values diversity, and measures success by one's personal development and contributions to society.



**Board of Education:**

**Mrs. Juleigh Chin, President**

**Mr. James Gounaris, Vice President**

*Trustees:*

**Mrs. Maria Bono**

**Dr. Shaheda A. Quraishi**

**Mr. Henry R. Zanetti**

**Dr. Tony Sinanis**

*Superintendent of Schools*

Visit [www.herricks.org](http://www.herricks.org) for more district news and information!

# Congratulations, National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students



*Ten Herricks High School seniors have been named National Merit semifinalists.*



*Herricks recognizes 20 National Merit Commended Students.*

Herricks Public Schools congratulates 10 seniors on being named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

The 2025 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists are Maya Aboutaleb, Afnan Ali, Shome Chakraborty, Lucy Liu, Diane Ma, Krish Maheshwari, Pratham Patel, Maximilian Peng, Kaitlyn Rams and Vidhi Shah.

These students were selected from over 1.3 million juniors in over 21,000 high schools who applied for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. Semifinalists represent the top 1% of high school seniors and highest-scoring entrants from each state.

The next steps include completing a scholarship application which will spotlight their academic record, leadership experience, participation in school and community activities, and honors and awards. Winners will be announced beginning in April.

Additionally, Herricks High School continues its tradition of academic excellence with 20 seniors recently named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

To qualify for the honor, students have typically scored in the top 3% of all students nationally on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test taken during their junior year.

Congratulations to our National Merit Commended Students: Allison Chen, Marc Cheng, Nikki Cheng, Venice Fan, Shannon Hong, Connor Huang, Nazarin Jamil, Hannah Joseph, Albert Kuo, Edward Lee, Hallie Lee, Kloie Liao, Ashna Muni, Nicole Muzaka, Sanvi Patel, Enya Sakhrani, Andrew Simons, Armaan Vaswani, Ellie Wu and Ryan Yen.