



Searingtown Scotties start their day with a yoga session led by school social worker Kathy Wong as part of Wellness Wednesday, a schoolwide initiative.

HERRICKS SHINES LIGHT ON *Mental Health and Mindfulness*

At Herricks, our goal is to educate the whole child, by focusing on the academic component, the social-emotional well-being of an individual and the social connection that students have with one another.

One element that is key to our efforts is social-emotional learning, the process that teaches individuals how to acquire and apply the information, skills and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make positive, responsible decisions.

Led by our SEL Committee made up of administrators, teachers and mental health support staff, Herricks has been a trailblazer in this arena, emphasizing the fact that students

must be emotionally present to learn, which requires a sense of well-being and a positive mindset.

In each school, our initiatives are led by our social workers and school psychologists, who work directly with administration and teachers to ensure that each student gets the care and attention they need to succeed.

Herricks also maintains a close partnership with Northwell Health to support the mental health needs of our students, families, staff and community. This unique

Behavioral Health Partnership offers a wide range of resources, including training, tools and tips from trusted professionals.



Students, teachers and parents can get more information on Herricks SEL resources and the Northwell Health Behavioral Health Partnership by visiting the Mental Health Matters website.



Herricks Dateline

WINTER 2025

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Message from The Board of Education

Dear Herricks School Community,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the school year. Together, we've already accomplished so much this school year, and it's inspiring to see the strength of our community reflected in the achievements of our students.

As we start the new year, we are gearing up for budget season. Over the next few months, we'll be discussing plans for the 2025-2026 school year. These conversations are vital to ensuring that we continue to provide our students with the highest-quality education and programming while remaining fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. We encourage everyone to attend our Board of Education meetings in the coming months to learn more about the budget that we will be voting on in May.

We would also like to take a moment to thank everyone who attended our recent board meetings. Your presence, input and support demonstrate the shared commitment we all have to the success of our schools. In response to the strong turnout and to foster even greater connections with our community, the Board will be arriving 15 minutes prior to public meetings. This additional time will provide an opportunity for board members to mingle and chat informally with community members before the meeting officially starts. We hope you will join us for these valuable conversations.

The strength of Herricks lies in the unwavering support of our community. We encourage everyone to continue championing our schools, our Board of Education, and, most importantly, our students. By working together, we can continue to build on our successes and ensure a bright future for all.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Warm regards,
The Herricks Board of Education

Spotlight on Herricks Homegrown

Herricks alumni return to the district for their second act – as administrators, teachers, faculty and staff!

Throughout the district, Herricks alumni are continuing to make their mark as they proudly serve our students in a variety of important roles.

In fact, over 50 alumni work at Herricks – from kindergarten teachers to head custodian, from coaches to Board trustees. Nearly everywhere you look, there's a lifelong Highlander!

Each of them has unique experiences to share, and they are always happy to reflect on their fondest memories and what drew them back to the district that helped provide the foundation for their future.



Joanne Savitt
Middle School PACE
Teaching Assistant
Class of 1984

"Herricks has always felt like family."

Dana Lieberman
Middle School Nurse
Class of 1984

"I just love the neighborhood and was excited to raise my kids here and help support families throughout this amazing community."



Jillian Valletutti
Center Street Kindergarten Teacher
Class of 2002

"Coming back to Herricks was always a dream and is a gift every day. The support and love I received from teachers growing up inspired and motivated me to spread that love to my students."



Robert Gioia
High School STAC Program Teacher
Class of 2004

"There are so many of my former classmates working at Herricks that sometimes when we're all together I get this feeling that I'm still a student! We all came back because of a love for the district and a shared set of values. Those values were bestowed upon us by our predecessors, and now it's our responsibility to share them with the next generation."



Vinny Chimenti
Head Custodian at Herricks High School
Class of 1976

"The district looks a lot different than it did when I went to school here, but some things never change. Herricks has always been in my heart, even when I had some distance from it. When I had the opportunity to return in 2010, I felt like I was welcomed back into the family. Though much has changed, it's still the amazing community that I remember fondly."



Melissa Bergersen
Denton Avenue Reading Teacher
Class of 2011

"Herricks has always been my home. I hope that the kids who leave the district someday and go live elsewhere can always think of Herricks as a place where they could be themselves, where they were safe, and where they loved what they did and learned – just like I did as a student and still do even now."



Sitara Cherian
Denton Avenue Reading Room
Teacher Assistant
Class of 2019

"Coming back to Herricks is like a dream come true! Since I was a student here, it has been my goal to return and to give back to the district that gave me so much. I am excited to have the opportunity to help our students learn and grow and to watch their progress daily. I also love seeing my former teachers and having the opportunity to be a colleague, as well as to continue to learn from them."



Tom Graef
Searingtown Special Ed & Head Varsity
Football Coach • Class of 2012

"It was always my goal to return to Herricks and follow in the footsteps of the teachers and coaches who had such a positive impact on me. After graduation, I volunteered as a coach and was thrilled when the opportunity arose for me to officially join the team."



Rachel Brillon
Center Steet Gemini Teacher & PLW
Science Enrichment • Class of 2007

"I feel incredibly fortunate to teach at the same elementary school that played a key role in shaping who I am today. My students and colleagues continue to inspire me every day to challenge myself and think more creatively."



Dr. Shaheda A. Quraishi
Board Trustee
Class of 1995 (Valedictorian)

"I truly do believe that my years at Herricks gave me the strong foundation upon which I built the rest of my academic and professional career. I am so grateful for the opportunity to give back to the place that gave me so much. At the end of the day, it's all about the children. I'm excited and eager to make a positive contribution to the Herricks community and help shape the future of our educational program."

Stay Connected and Informed With PARENTSQUARE

All District Community Members are invited to

scan the QR code and sign up to receive important school and district updates, emergency alerts and event reminders, all in one place. Don't miss out on the latest news; join our community on ParentSquare and stay in the loop!



HERRICKS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
999 Herricks Road
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
GARDEN CITY, NY
PERMIT NO. 1491

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 for more district news and information!



'Peter and the Starcatcher' Shines in Front of Sold-Out Crowds

On Nov. 15 and 16, the Herricks Theater production of "Peter and the Starcatcher" delighted audiences with three enormously entertaining performances at Herricks High School.

The district is proud to congratulate the cast and crew on this amazing production and for setting a new Herricks record, selling out all three shows in advance!



TRANSPORTATION REQUEST DEADLINE FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



All requests for transportation to a NONPUBLIC SCHOOL must be received no later than April 1, according to state law. Applications may be obtained online at Herricks.org/district-administration/transportation. For more information, please call 516-305-8950.