



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



MARCH 2025

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Model UN at Bard College

*Seniors or
suffragettes?*

*This year, Haldane's
senior class
spent three days in
Philadelphia.*

*Their itinerary was
packed with
historical highlights,
aquatic life, a run on
the Rocky steps, the
76ers vs. the Wizards,
and, of course,
cheesesteaks.*

Haldane Appoints New Superintendent of Schools



"I'm honored and humbled to take on the role of Superintendent of Schools for the Haldane Central School District, where I will strive to lead with authenticity and a deep commitment to serving the needs of all students. I look forward to embracing this very special district and partnering with the community at large."

Dr. Gail Duffy will begin at Haldane on July 1, 2025. Please watch for opportunities to meet Dr. Duffy and join us in welcoming her to Haldane.

Haldane is preparing to welcome a new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gail Duffy. The March 14 announcement from Haldane's Board of Education shared:

Dr. Gail Duffy is an accomplished and experienced leader in the region, currently serving as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Human Resources in the Irvington UFSD. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise, as well as passion and enthusiasm, to her new role as Superintendent of Schools for the Haldane Central School District. Her extensive career includes Assistant Superintendent for Administration & Instruction and Director of Curriculum & Instruction in the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction in the Cornwall CSD. She also served

as an elementary and special education teacher, assistant coordinator of special education, assistant principal, and principal.

A resident of Fishkill, Dr. Duffy is devoted to her family. She has a daughter who is a high school junior, a son who is in his freshman year of college, and a fiancé. Dr. Duffy holds a Bachelor of Science from SUNY Plattsburgh, a Master of Science in Education and Educational Administration from Pace University, and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from Manhattanville University. She is also an adjunct professor in the Educational Leadership Program at Hunter College. Dr. Duffy plans to visit the district this spring and we will arrange opportunities for the community to meet her over the summer.

Snapshots of Haldane Art

Tucked in their little corner of the campus, Haldane art is full of creativity and creatures. Recently, elementary and high school creations were on display at the Garrison Art Center mentorship program under the theme “Exploring Identity,” where their works were featured among those from twenty neighboring schools. Behind the scenes, many amazing explorative things are happening. Seen here, masterpieces both public and private.



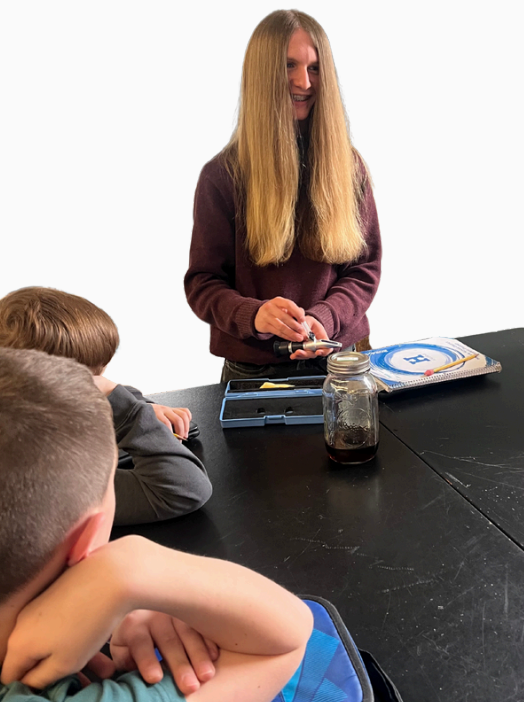
Follow [haldaneschoolart](#) and [haldanehighschoolart](#) to keep an eye on their continuous creations.

Ecology Class: Middle Schoolers Dig Into the Science Around All Us



While watching closely for signs of spring, Mr. Wick's ecology class was not disappointed! Students study local ecosystems in preparation for frequent explorations of the wooded areas of the Haldane campus. On their most recent trip, they were treated to sightings of spotted salamanders, spring peeper frogs, and clearwater crayfish. They also practiced rock climbing skills on our giant glacial erratic (giant boulder that was deposited here by a glacier over 10,000 years ago!).

Thanks to a generous grant from the Haldane School Foundation, Mr. Wick's students will soon have a gravel-paved forest trail with signage to enjoy on campus.

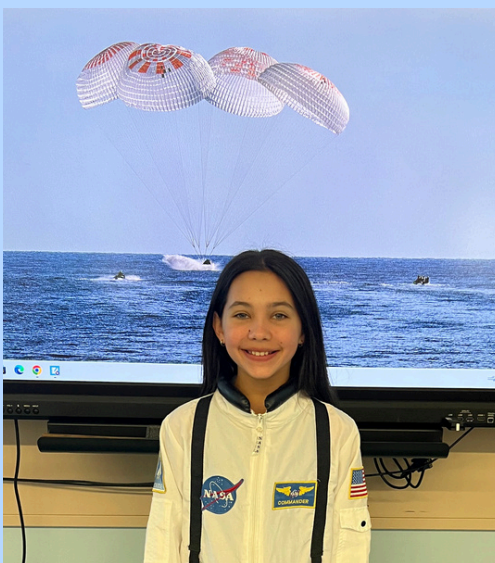
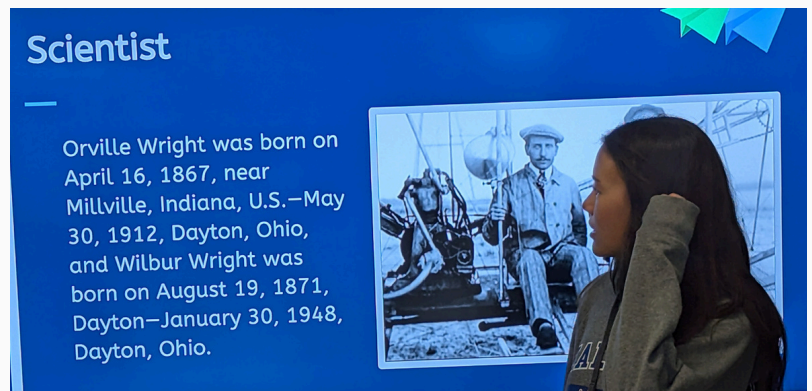
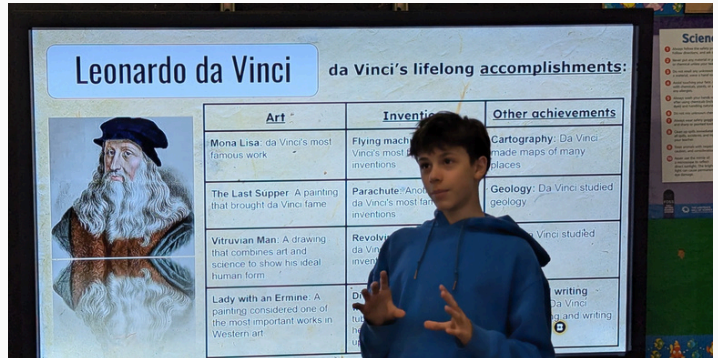
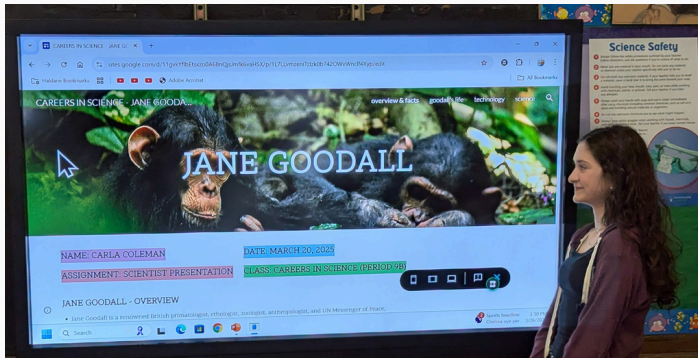


Haldane Senior, Robert Freimark, graciously volunteered his time to share his impressive maple syrup operation in the school forest! Students tasted 3 different batches and had to guess their season. Early season syrup has more of a butterscotch flavor, while late season syrup has more of the classic maple flavor. Students also used a refractometer to measure and compare sugar content in the maple sap.

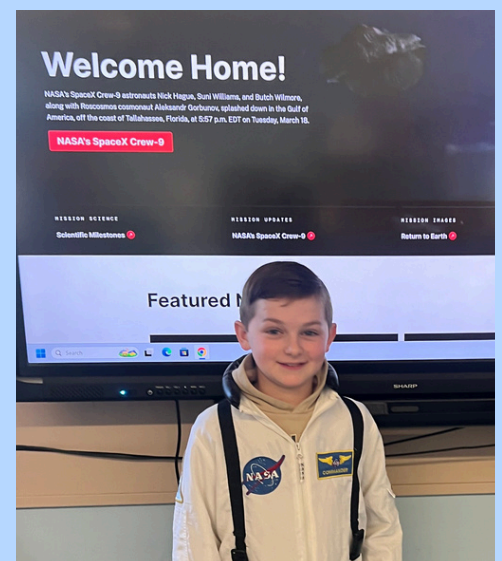


Careers in Science: Preparing Students for the Future

Eighth grade students in Mr. Douglas' Careers in Science elective class learn about the range of job opportunities in the field. Many students request the class due to an established interest in science, while others are looking to expand their horizons. Studying accomplished scientists past and present is an important part of exploring where their career aspirations can lead. Haldane Middle School welcomes our next generation of surgeons, physicists, and chemists to hone their skills.



Mr. Wick's science classes closely followed the story of NASA's stranded astronauts, whose eight-day mission in June turned into nine months aboard the International Space Station! You can tell from their smiles that they're more than happy to be back home on Earth!



Sixth Grade Interdisciplinary Learning in Reader's Theater



The sixth-grade wing was filled with excitement on March 21, in anticipation of Toga Day, also known as Reader's Theater. In the weeks leading up to this interdisciplinary learning experience, under the tutelage of Mr. Sniffen and Ms. McCollum, students studied scripts, practiced projecting their voices, and prepared costumes of ancient societies. Unlike a play or skit, Reader's Theater requires minimal production, leaving students free to focus on reading the script. The novelty of this interdisciplinary approach fosters engagement, reading fluency, and comprehension.



PCMEA All County Success

Putnam County Music Educators Association (PCMEA) provides talented young music students a special opportunity to participate in yearly Junior High and Elementary All-County Music Festivals. Over twenty music teachers from Brewster, Carmel, Garrison, Haldane, Mahopac, and Putnam Valley donate their time and expertise to organize, prepare, and rehearse for many weeks to create productive, fun, and memorable musical experiences for their students. PCMEA selects students for each group based on current grade in school, NYSSMA levels and scores, instrumentation and voicing, fair district representation, audition, and teacher recommendation.



Family Vacation: Sock Babies in Philly

What does it mean when the senior class trip falls in the middle of Mr. Ogden's AP Psychology sock baby lesson? It means, you take your baby to Philadelphia. What could be more real life than experiencing the highs and lows of travelling with a baby? After creating their sock babies, students were responsible for the 24-hour care and protection of their babies for eight full school days. Rules of the lesson stipulate that babies must be in responsible care at all times (no lockers or backpacks!), and they must attend class with their parents. Looks like our Founding Fathers were entrusted with some of that responsible care. At the conclusion of the project, "parents" must write a reflection on the struggles and joys of sock parenthood, including details on their babies' cognitive and psychosocial development. The babies appear to have had a great time in the City of Brotherly Love.



Marc Firpo

Class of 2025 Valedictorian

What would you say contributed to your academic success at Haldane?

Despite the hard work, effort, and late nights studying, all those things would not be possible without a strong support system. I've been surrounded with amazing people for most of my life, with family, friends, and teachers giving me the emotional and moral support to perform well in school. Furthermore, I think setting a goal is really important, as it has helped me stay on track and surpass what I thought I was capable of.

What activities are you involved in at Haldane?

I played Varsity Soccer at Haldane for 4 years, becoming the starting Goalkeeper and Captain during my senior year. I have really fond memories of the team, playing with some of my best friends, and sharing our passion for the sport. At Haldane, I have taken part in clubs that I am passionate about. I am President of the International Club, where we help raise money for international organizations and expose students to the cultures and languages of different countries. I have been a part of this club for four years, and I truly believe that an international perspective is incredibly valuable today and for the years to come. I participated on the Debate team for four years, helping the team win the 2022-2023 High School Debate Tournament at Bard. I now serve as the Co-Captain alongside Keira Shanahan. Outside of Haldane, I was a part of ALCE, a program sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education for Spanish students abroad. Every Wednesday after school, I would take the train to Grand Central to learn more about my Spanish heritage and culture. I was elected as the student representative of the ALCE Manhattan classes, helping organize events for the Spanish community in New York. After three years in the program, I took the final exam and received my C1 certificate from the government. This activity has meant the most to me and has really shaped me as a person by giving me a better understanding of where I come from.



Best part of senior year so far?

Scooping the Loop at the start of senior year was one of the best moments so far. Driving with my friends in the car, blasting music, and honking my horn as we drove across town. It was a moment I will never forget.

Favorite Haldane memory of all time?

My favorite moment at Haldane was winning states with the soccer team in my sophomore year. Although I didn't get much playing time, the unity of the team was something I had never seen before. When the final whistle blew, it was pure ecstasy as we stormed the field. The bus ride back home was a memorable one.

What are you most excited about for life after Haldane?

I'm both nervous, but really excited about college! I can't wait to meet new people and learn more about what I am passionate about. I'm still deciding on what college to go to, and am considering studying at a university abroad. However, before the fall begins and I am off to study again, I must say that I am looking forward to a well deserved summer vacation.

Scotia Hartford

Class of 2025 Salutatorian

What would you say contributed to your academic success at Haldane?

Other than studying, I would say the Haldane community contributed to my academic success. Each and every person I have met at Haldane has supported me and my peers and pushed us to be our best selves. I think this dynamic of mentorship and encouragement has made me determined to strive for academic achievement.

What activities are you involved in at Haldane?

I am involved in multiple clubs and sports teams at Haldane. I am the National Honor Society Treasurer, Student Body Secretary, and the Vice President of the International Club and Model UN club. Although the Putnam County Youth Court program is not affiliated with Haldane, I have deepened my involvement in the school community because of my membership. This program allowed me to lead events like our school's first 9/11 Memorial, teen driver safety initiatives, and more. As for sports, I played on the Varsity Volleyball team for four seasons and on the Varsity Lacrosse team for three.



Best part of senior year so far?

The best part of senior year so far is seeing where all of my classmates are headed after graduation. I love celebrating everyone's accomplishments and it truly makes me proud to be a part of Haldane's Class of 2025.

Favorite Haldane memory of all time?

My favorite Haldane memory of all-time would have to be the Senior Scoop the Loop on Homecoming weekend. It was truly magical to turn out onto Main Street and see so many familiar faces, loved ones, and parents waving back to us. It was such a full circle moment seeing our parents and friends celebrating our last year of high school.

What are you most excited about for life after Haldane?

I am most excited to be in new places and to meet new people. I look forward to creating memories just as high of quality as I have at Haldane.

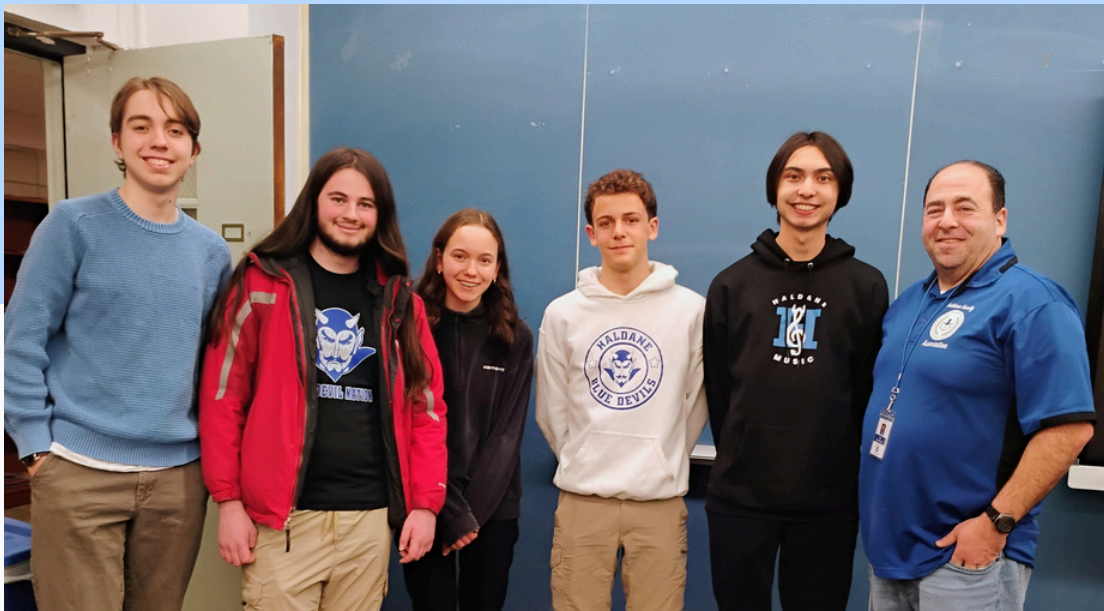
First Timers at The National Science Bowl

The National Science Bowl is a nationwide competition at both the middle and high school levels. It's a classic "college bowl" type game, with questions that are strictly related to math and science. The competition begins at the regional level, where Haldane's brand new team competed for the first time against top high schools from New York City, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, and Broome counties.

This year's Regional competition occurred on Saturday, March 1, at Hunter College High School. It began with a "round robin" where each team played against three other teams. The top 16 teams, including Haldane, moved on to the "knockout" stage. Haldane competed against and beat James Madison HS (Mr. Posniack's alma mater), before falling to Hunter College High School's 2nd team.

Haldane had an amazing showing, particularly for their very first year. Seth Lunin-Pack was instrumental in finding the competition, forming Haldane's team with Mr. Posniack as advisor, and securing a grant from the Haldane School Foundation. Special shout out to Max and Alice who were the only freshmen in the entire competition! Stuyvesant High School's 1st Team and Hunter College High School's 2nd Team won overall.

Congratulations on a tremendous job!



Haldane's first Science Bowl team consisted of Seth Lunin-Pack, Kaito Kester, Alice Stevenson, Lincoln Wayland, Max Kupper, and advisor, Lee Posniack.

Into the Woods

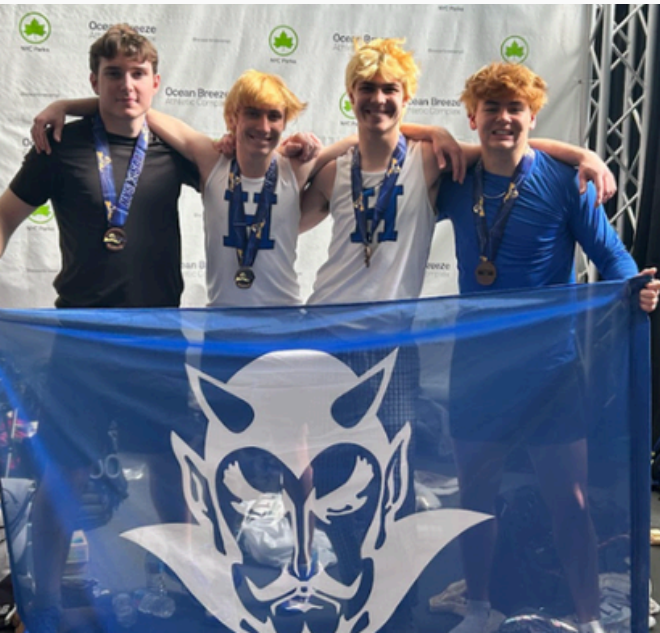
Haldane Drama's spring performance, *Into the Woods*, showed on March 21, 22, and 23 to sold-out crowds. New this year: an understudy show on the afternoon of March 20 and two Haldane musicians, Delia Starr and Noah Green, among the pit orchestra. Congratulations to all who worked so hard - on and behind stage - on another amazing performance.



Photos: Jim Mechalakos

Winter Track League Champs: Haldane History Makers

First-time league champs, Haldane Winter Track, competed in the States competition on March 8 at Ocean Breeze Track in Staten Island. Haldane's 4x200 Relay Team placed 5th in Division 2, while the 4x1600 Intersectional Relay Team placed 5th in States Division 2 and 6th in Federation Division 2. Congrats to Owen Powers, Milo Pearsall, Jake Thomas, Merrick Williams, Rhys Williams, Dusty Berkley, and Emmett Horner for making Haldane history!



APRIL 2025



[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

TUE 8

PTA Public Meeting
7:00PM Butterfield Library

TUE 8

Blue Devil Booster Club Meeting
7:00PM Home & Careers

THU 10

Middle School Orientation
for 5th Grade Parents
6:30PM Band Room

FRI 11

Middle/High School
End Quarter 3

MON 14 - FRI 18

SCHOOL CLOSED Spring Recess

THU 24

Blue Notes & Blues Devils Performance
7:00PM Auditorium

FRI 25

Elementary School Arts Alive

FRI 25

Elementary School
Talent Show for Peers

National Merit Finalists



Congratulations to Dana Spiegel and Julian Schwarz who were each recognized as National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program by demonstrating, through distinguished performance on the PSAT, high potential for future academic accomplishment. Both students are now in the running for a National Merit Scholarship.

Model UN at Bard College



Last weekend, Haldane students participated in a Model UN conference at Bard College. Katherine, Alice, Eli, Eamonn, and Max represented various countries in the United Nations General Assembly, engaging in discussions and drafting resolutions on significant events from 1991, including the collapse of the Soviet Union, the outbreak of the Croatian War of Independence, and the aftermath of the Gulf War. Shayla participated in a crisis committee, taking on the role of Robert de Normandie, the eldest son of William the Bastard of Normandy. According to advisor, Kaitlyn Secor, our delegates represented Haldane with great skill and for many of the underclassmen who attended, it was an exciting first-time experience.

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