



20 Herricks High School students in the ESP have earned 2025 Scholastic Writing Awards, the most prestigious recognition program for creative teens.

## ENGLISH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# *Inspiring Literary Excellence*

The English Scholars Program at Herricks High School is empowering passionate writers to pursue individualized literary projects in a workshop-based environment.

Now in its 18th year, ESP aims to inspire students to design and execute their own creative endeavors, from poetry collections to novels to literary research to other types of extended projects, while receiving guidance through regular teacher conferences and peer workshops.

Working independently yet supported by a collaborative community, students develop their craft, build professional writing habits, connect with authentic audiences and develop confidence and a love of writing that will last a lifetime.

During this school year, 124 students in grades 9-12 participated in this unique elective class, which offers honors credit and the opportunity to bring writing skills to the next level.

"ESP is the embodiment of the greatest capacity for creativity, encouraging students to pursue their creative narrative endeavors and encouraging teachers to provide their unwavering support to said students. ESP is a safe space for students to grow into writers, motivating teachers/mentors to view students as authors and letting students take the initiative to follow their passion for writing."

– Charu Goyal, Class of 2025

"To me, ESP has been an outlet where I can really let my emotions and opinions flow freely onto paper. Whether in the form of a poem or a story, I know it's a safe place for me to create based on experience and aspirations."

–Hiba Irfan, Class of 2025

**SEE PAGE 4**  
**To Learn More About the  
 Program and Achievements**



Herricks Dateline  
 SPRING 2025  
 HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# A Message from The Board of Education

Dear Herricks School Community,

As we wrap up another incredible school year, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has flown. This year has been filled with meaningful milestones, memorable experiences, and so much to be proud of across our district. On behalf of the Board of Education, we want to thank our students, families, faculty and staff for making this a truly special year.

One of the greatest joys has been seeing our students grow not only academically but also as compassionate, capable and confident individuals. Each day, we see the 6 C's of our Portrait of a Graduate come to life: collaboration, communication, confidence, compassion, creative innovation, and critical thinking. These values are present in our classrooms, on our stages and athletic fields, and in the way our students support and uplift one another.

To our graduates, we are proud of all you have accomplished and excited to see where your journey takes you next. Whether your child is entering a new school or a new chapter, they are ready. They carry with them the skills, knowledge and character that will serve them well in all that lies ahead.

As we celebrate the close of this school year, we do so with deep gratitude and great optimism for the future. Wishing everyone a safe, joyful and well-deserved summer break.

Warm regards,  
The Herricks Board of Education

## 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!



## Center Street Celebrates Grand Opening of the “Cub Cave”

Rooted in the six competencies that make up our “Portrait of a Graduate,” this new space supports students’ well-being while fostering their academic, social and emotional growth. Inclusive of all students, it offers a variety of resources to help them relax and reset during challenging or overwhelming days. The district is proud to recognize teacher Samantha Stephens, speech therapist Juliana Miles and occupational therapist Danielle Baldwin for their instrumental roles in creating this affirming, inclusive and supportive environment where every child can thrive.

## Celebrating THREE HIGHLANDERS FOR LIFE!

*The district is proud to recognize three beloved members of our Herricks administrative team who are retiring at the end of the school year.*



**FRANCESCO FRATTO**  
Herricks Director of World Languages, ESL/ENL and Language Immersion - 10 years of service



**ANDREW FRISONE**  
Herricks High School Assistant Principal - 23 years of service



**JAMES PETRICCA**  
Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health Education and Intramurals - 22 years of service

The contribution of these three incredible educators to our students and school community cannot be understated. Each has brought their unique vision, thoughtfulness, attention to detail and exceptional pedagogical acuity to every aspect of their job. We thank them for their dedication and wish them the best in the next exciting chapter of life.

# Student Voice MATTERS



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis offers students the opportunity to have candid and constructive discussions during his monthly Student Advisory Group meetings. Students are nominated for the group by school counselors and administrators and use their time with Dr. Sinanis to discuss all aspects of the school experience.

During their final meeting of the year, members of the Class of 2025 discussed their accomplishments, the feeling of being heard and the value of student input.

Shristi Nigam: “I’ve been part of the advisory group with Dr. Sinanis since it started three years ago, and it has opened my perspective to the priorities and challenges that students face and how open communication can improve the school experience for all. I am proud to see the actions that come out of our meetings being implemented. It shows they take our input seriously. It’s nice to reflect on the evolution of this group and realize how much I’ve grown as part of this diverse, unselfish and inspiring collaboration.”

Alex Frangopoulos: “My perception coming into this group was that students didn’t have much power to elicit change. I think that’s how most students feel, not just at Herricks, but everywhere. But this group offers an honest and open forum for new ideas and to address problems in a completely nonjudgemental way. We are empowered to provide our opinions as we represent our fellow students and do our best to create positive change for all.”

Athul Santhosh: “I feel like Herricks is unique in that we have a direct connection to our administration. I feel thankful to have that opportunity, and the fact that we’re able to directly change what happens in our school. It’s a Herrick’s thing, and I think that’s just amazing!”

Domenic Cercone: “I’ve been honored to have been a part of this group and to have helped create positive change in the school community. I believe the work we have done with the support of Dr. Sinanis has made a meaningful impact on the experience of so many students. We have worked together on a wide range of issues, from school pride to facility needs and scheduling concerns, and our voices have made a difference. I hope this group can continue to be a powerful advocate for all Herricks students into the future.”



#### 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!

## ENGLISH SCHOLARS *Program Awards and Accolades*

Throughout the school year, students in the Herricks High School English Scholars Program are recognized with regional and national awards for excellence for both individual and collective works. The students participate in workshops led by published authors, providing them with thoughtful feedback and insight that puts them on a path to success. Our ESP students also have their work published in national student publications and in our very own Opus 66, the Herricks High School literary magazine.

Herricks is proud to shine a light on the accomplishments of these exceptional students. We are also grateful to ESP educators, Denise Barnard, Thomas Mattson and Alan Semerdjian, who guide and inspire the budding authors to hone their literary voice, find their creative spark and share their stories with the world.



Herricks High School's literary magazine, Opus 66, was awarded the highest distinction of FIRST CLASS from the National Council of Teachers of English Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines program. Opus 66 was one of just 125 magazines worldwide to receive the highest honor.



Sophomore Wenshu Wang was awarded the 2025 YoungArts Award with Distinction in Writing. This award recognizes student artists who demonstrate exceptional technique, a strong sense of artistry and an extraordinary commitment to developing their craft. Wenshu was invited to attend the National YoungArts

Week arts residency in Miami and will be considered for nomination to the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts Program.



Sophomore Sreya Sanyal earned second place in the 15th Annual Celebration of Suburban Diversity essay contest hosted by the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University. Sreya's prize included a \$2,000 college scholarship.

Twenty students earned Regional Scholastic Writing Awards in 2025. This is the greatest number of Herricks students who have been selected for Scholastic Writing Awards in one year, including the most Gold Key awards, the top honor. This recognition is based on skill, originality and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Students who receive a Gold Key will compete at the national level.



In March, students participated in the 16th annual ESP Conference and Retreat at Hofstra University. Six published writers conducted readings, hosted writing workshops and participated in discussion sessions with the young writers.

Five Herricks ESP students were named winners in the Nassau Reading Council's Young Authors' Contest: juniors Nikhil Aggarwal, Deepika Sadoo and Prishya Saini, sophomore Kristen Lee and freshman Maddox Pinzon.



L to R: Nikhil Aggarwal, Deepika Sadoo and Prishya Saini, sophomore Kristen Lee and freshman Maddox Pinzon.