



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Haldane Varsity Girls' Soccer

SEPTEMBER 2025

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Message from Dr. Duffy

Dear Haldane Community,

I am extremely grateful to be serving as your Superintendent of Schools. It has been a pleasure to visit each school and start to get to know our amazing school community.

The Board of Education adopted this year's District Goals and you can view them on the next page. These goals will guide our work as a community throughout the school year.

One of the District Goals for the 25/26 school year is to empower student success through the Haldane Essentials. The Haldane Essentials are a set of six skills and dispositions that we work to develop and strengthen in our students during their educational careers in Haldane. The Essentials were developed as part of the District Coherence Strategic Plan. This year, New York State launched their Portrait of a Graduate to answer the question, "What does it mean to be a graduate in New York State?" The alignment between the existing Haldane Essentials and the New York State Portrait of a Graduate will further guide our instructional and interpersonal focus for the year.

In the upcoming months, we will be celebrating where the Haldane Essentials are being prioritized and taught throughout Haldane.

Thank you for all that you do to support our children and school community.

Dr. Gail Duffy
Superintendent of Schools

THE HALDANE ESSENTIALS

Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Communication
Growth Mindset
Emotional Intelligence
Wellness



HALDANE BOARD OF EDUCATION & DISTRICT GOALS

2025-2026

1

Advance Capital Improvement Projects (carried over from 24-25)

Successfully lead the planning and execution of capital projects initiated by a bond referendum. This includes close collaboration with CSArch Architects and Palombo Construction Management to ensure the timely development and submission of all necessary plans to the New York State Education Department (NYSED), with regular updates to the community, faculty, staff, and students.

2

Develop Comprehensive PK-12 STEAM Program (carried over from 24-25)

Oversee the strategic planning and development of a district-wide PK-12 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) program, aiming for implementation by the 2026-27 school year.

3

Facilitate Grade Reconfiguration

Plan and manage the transition to a revised grade configuration, shifting from the current PreK-5 and 6-8 structure to a PreK-4 and 5-8 model, to begin in the 2026-27 school year.

4

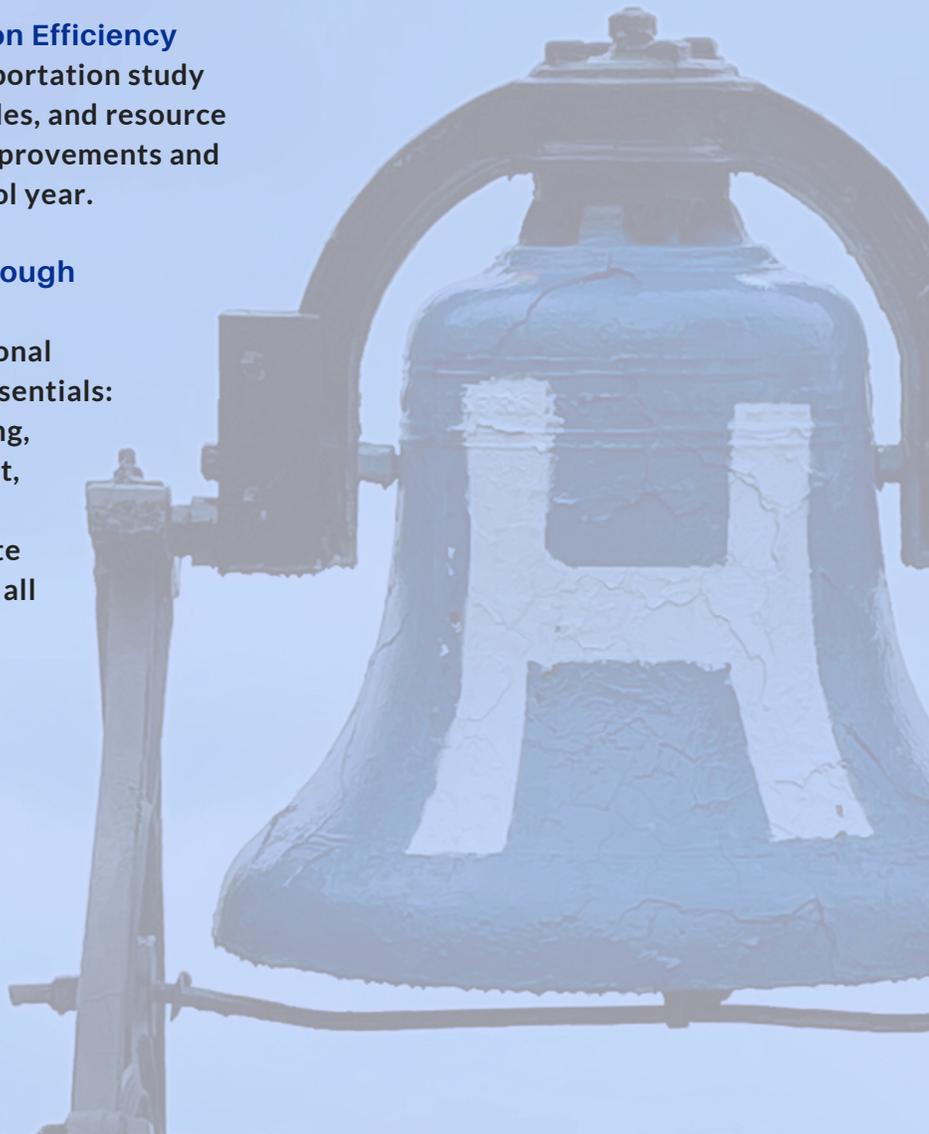
Optimize District Transportation Efficiency

Conduct a comprehensive transportation study to assess current routes, schedules, and resource utilization, in order to realize improvements and efficiencies in the 2026-27 school year.

5

Empower Student Success Through The Haldane Essentials

Continue to center our instructional practices around the Haldane Essentials: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Communication, Growth Mindset, Emotional Intelligence, and Wellness, and the New York State Portrait of a Graduate to ensure all students acquire the knowledge and skills essential to their future success.



New Faces, New Roles



GAIL DUFFY, EdD

**SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS**



LEAH HORN

**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY/
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**



ERIN PIQUET

**DIRECTOR OF
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES**



MELINDA VILCHES

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
SPANISH TEACHER**



LINDA SCHAEFER

**HIGH SCHOOL
TEACHING ASSISTANT**



REBECCA IVICIC

PSYCHOLOGIST



NICOLE ROJAS

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**



NICOLE MURPHY

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELA TEACHER**



CESARINA McGOVERN

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TEACHER AIDE**

New Faces, New Roles



SAMANTHA BADZOS

**SENIOR OFFICE ASSISTANT,
FACILITIES/TECHNOLOGY**



LINDSAY MURRAY

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TEACHER AIDE**



First Day for Haldane's First Pre-K

Haldane welcomes 18 eager faces to the new Pre-Kindergarten class.

After several years of planning and development, Haldane opened its first universal pre-kindergarten class this year. Through an early spring lottery system, students were randomly selected for a seat in the inaugural PreK class of four year olds. The class is being taught by Haldane Elementary School veteran, Katie Moeller, and will follow a shorter school day of five hours. Our new Haldane Blue Devil PreKers are off to great start of learning centers, outdoor play, small group work, and specials including music and movement, art exploration, physical education, and library.



Annual Youth-Led 9/11 Memorial



Haldane students hosted the second student-run 9/11 Memorial on the steps of the high school. History Club students filled the lawn with American flags and Haldane Junior Patrick Shields read an essay on what 9/11 means to him. He shared his father's firsthand experience to give his peers a deeper understand of the day's significance and the impact on so many lives. Patrick's essay was shared in a recent issue of [The Highlands Current](#).



Haldane Capital Project Progress

Following voter approval of the Haldane Capital Project in November 2024, the District and its partners have been hard at work fine tuning plans for new and reimagined spaces on our campus. We encourage you to watch for updates throughout this school year - we will be sharing our progress in these newsletters, on our [website](#), in videos from Dr. Duffy, faculty, and students, and at Haldane Board of Education meetings. Here's a reminder of the many exciting things in store for the Haldane community.

Safety & Sitework

Secure Vestibules
Campus Communication
ADA, Traffic, and Safety
Improvements

Infrastructure

New & Upgraded
Restrooms
Building Repairs &
Electrical Updates
Fire & Carbon Monoxide

Programming

High School

Student Center
STEAM/Art/Classrooms
Air Conditioning
Guidance & Wellness Suite

Main Building

Student Support Suite
STEAM Lab
OT/PT/RN Office
Enhancements



2025-2026 GOALS

SEPT-NOV

Plans
Under
NYS Ed
Review

DEC-JAN

Out
to
Bid

SPRING-SUMMER

Break
Ground:
High School
Addition

Follow
our
progress at
haldaneschool.org

Class of 2026

School spirit is off to a strong start this year with a huge turnout for an impromptu Senior Sunrise and a day of kayaking on the Hudson River.



Class of 2027 Day at Camp Herrlich



Class of 2029 Orientation



From Texting to Twister

New York State cell phone ban creates space for new (old) ways of connecting.

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul enacted in-school bell-to-bell restrictions on student use of internet-enabled devices beginning this school year. With the goal of creating distraction-free schools, New York school districts were required to adopt a new policy regulating the Use of Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day, and establish procedures for the collection and management of student cell phones, smart watches, and other devices. Haldane's [policy #7316](#) can be found [here](#).

While Haldane students are still able to use school-issued Chromebooks during the day, they must now hand over their phones and watches for the duration of their time in classes. High school students can reclaim their devices for use during off-campus lunch and senior free periods. The ban seems to have created space for students to connect face-to-face, and the high school staff kicked the year off with old school games to smooth the way for lunchtime connections. Students can now be found playing Twister, Jenga, and Connect Four while they talk instead of text.



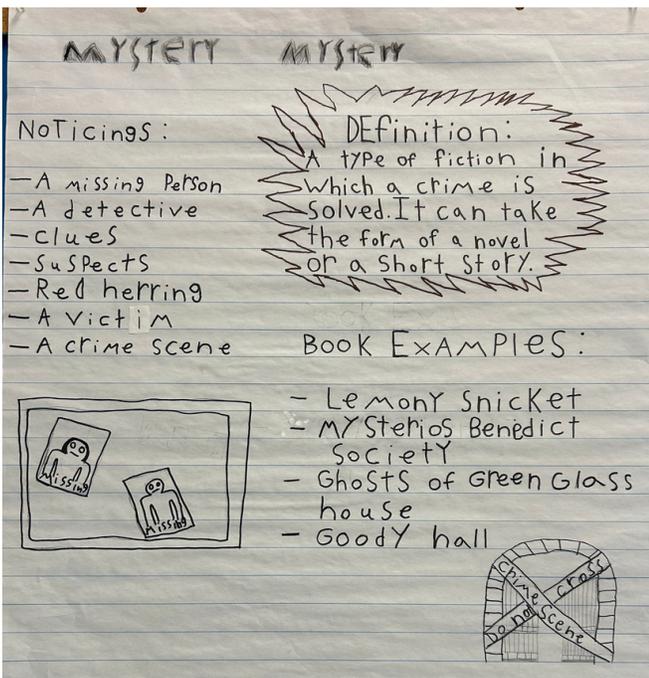
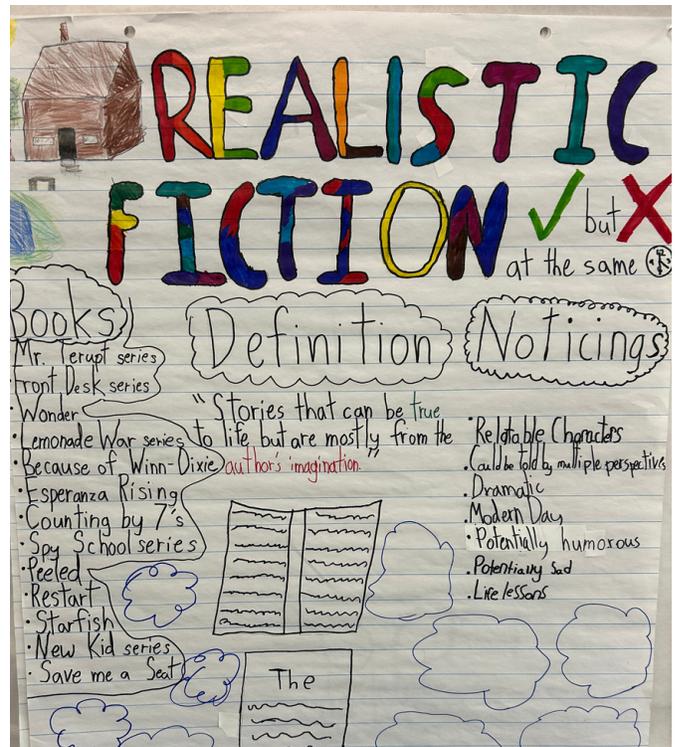
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Essential Experiences

Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.

Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Kim McCollum's 6th graders embraced **Critical Thinking** and **Communication** in their genre study. Students analyzed categories of text to recognize patterns and features. They shared their noticings with one another, enabling them all to better understand and create texts across various forms of communication.





Essential Experiences

Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.

Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Catherine Scrocca's 3rd graders teamed up with Silvia LeMon's kindergartners to showcase their reading skills and teach their reading buddies about the parts of a book. Great **Communication!**





Essential Experiences

Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.

Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness



Ms. Hocker and Ms. Quick's 1st graders highlighted their many Essential Experiences this month, including sharing stories about their names and making nature name tags, playing phonics games and learning about partnerships, spending time with their PreK reading buddies, and studying shadows by making models of the sun and creating sundials.



2025 Spirit Week and Homecoming

Haldane students and staff of all ages celebrated Homecoming with Spirit Week themes, the traditional Pep Rally, Scoop the Loop, a full sports schedule, and the return of the parade up Main Street.



2025 Spirit Week and Homecoming



HALDANE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 INDUCTEES



On Sunday, September 28, during Homecoming Weekend, the Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its eighth class of outstanding athletes and coaches at a brunch reception at Cortlandt Colonial. Read about the successes of this year's inductees on the [Haldane website](#).

Coach Nancy Belluscio
Bailey McCollum '16
Joe Virgadamo '01
Tom Virgadamo '01

Coach Dick Kiefer
Theo Henderson '16*
2000 Baseball Team
2001 Baseball Team

Thank you to the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, the Blue Devil Booster Club, the Haldane Athletic Department, and our many local sponsors.

*Inducted in 2024, celebrated in 2025

The Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Haldane athletes and coaches. Learn more about these inductees or recommend an athletic contributor for next year's class on the [Haldane website](#).

Board of Education Recognizes High School Achievers



NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

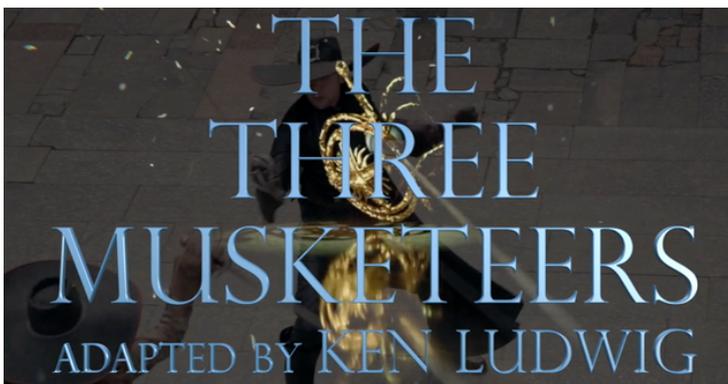
Lucius Bell: Mixed Chorus - Tenor 2

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2026 Commendations:
Henry Schimming and Owen Sullivan-Hoch

2026 Semi-Finalist:
Seth Lunin-Pack

Haldane Drama Presents...



**Mark your calendar for
December 5-6, 2025**



JCK Foundation Returns

The JCK Foundation joined Haldane again this year to talk with 8th and 9th graders. The JCK program focuses on building community, empathy, wellness, and mental health among students. Following the assembly, the group returned to do smaller push-in lessons designed to provide students with tools and strategies for talking with peers about mental health.

OCTOBER 2025

THU
2 SCHOOL CLOSED
Yom Kippur

THU Hidden in Plain Sight
9 Parent Event
6:30 PM

THU 9/10 Parent Night
23 6:00-7:45 PM

FRI Middle/High School
3 Q1 Progress Reports

FRI Freshman Retreat
10 PSAT/SAT Day
College Visits
Writers' Workshop

THU Elementary
31 Halloween Parade
1:45PM

MON Elementary School
6 Picture Day
Make-Ups

FRI Putnam County
10 Early Dismissal Drill
MS/HS 2pm, ES 2:45pm

THU Senior Class
31 Fundraiser
Trunk or Treat
3:00PM

MON High School
6 Underclassmen
Photo Retakes

MON SCHOOL CLOSED
13 Columbus Day/
Indigenous Peoples' Day

MON JCK Small Group
6 Sessions
w/ 8th Grade

TUE PTA Public Meeting
14 7:00 PM
Butterfield Library

TUE Middle School
7 Picture Day
(Rain date: Thu 10/9)

FRI Middle School
17 Picture Day
Make-Ups/Retakes

TUE BOE Business
7 Meeting 7:00pm
MS/HS Library

TUE BOE Workshop
21 Meeting 7:00pm
MS/HS Library



**Looking ahead...
School Closed:**

**Tuesday, November 4
Superintendent's
Conference Day**

**Tuesday, November 11
Veterans Day**

**Wednesday, November 26
through
Friday, November 28
Thanksgiving Recess**

Become a Haldane Partner

Please consider joining or supporting one of Haldane's partner organizations. Their contributions to academic, athletic, and artistic programming are a vital part of each school year at Haldane.

HALDANE PTA

[Learn More](#)



HALDANE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

[Learn More](#)



HALDANE ARTS ALLIANCE

[Learn More](#)



BLUE DEVIL BOOSTER CLUB

[Learn More](#)



SAVE THE DATE

Join us at Glynwood
for a special evening
celebrating 25 Years of
Giving ✨

Saturday 11.08.25
Glynwood
Cold Spring, NY

✨ Stay tuned for details
Tickets and sponsorship
opportunities coming soon!



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Catherine Platt, School Business Manager