



Herricks Dateline

FALL 2025

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL SPIRIT *Soars* AT HERRICKS HOMECOMING

Herricks High School came alive on Oct. 3 as students, families and community members packed the stadium for Homecoming.

The celebration kicked off with a lively parade featuring participants from all five district schools. Senior cheerleaders and football players then took their final Homecoming walk across the field with their proud parents.

When the Highlanders faced Plainview-Old Bethpage, the crowd erupted with cheers, chants and colorful confetti. Halftime featured an energetic Cheer Team performance and the announcement of this year's "Highlander 11," honoring seniors who contribute greatly to the school community.

It was a memorable night celebrating tradition, school spirit and the unity of the Herricks community.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SEE MORE
HOMECOMING PHOTOS!**



A MESSAGE FROM The Board of Education

Dear Herricks Family,

On behalf of the Board of Education, we are excited to welcome you to the start of a new school year! The beginning of September always brings with it a special sense of anticipation and energy as our students return to classrooms, reconnect with friends, and embark on new opportunities for growth and learning.

As a Board, we remain committed to supporting our students, teachers and staff, and to working together with families to ensure that every child thrives. Herricks has always been a community that values education, diversity and excellence, and we are proud to carry that tradition forward.

We look forward to a year filled with new experiences, meaningful accomplishments and shared celebrations. Thank you for your continued partnership, support and dedication to our schools. Together, we will make this year a successful and memorable one for all our students.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful start to the school year.

Warm regards,
Herricks Board of Education

Welcome, New Teachers and Staff!



Herricks Public Schools is proud to welcome 24 new educators to the school community for the 2025-26 school year. Each brings unique talents, experiences and a shared commitment to excellence in education.

We're grateful to have these outstanding educators join our community and look forward to all they will contribute to our students' success.

Meet Our New Administrators

Herricks Public Schools announces six administrative appointments for 2025-26.



L-R: Michael Lembo, Laura Caines, Megan Lewis, Shona Beldo and Kru Patel. Not Pictured: John Pardue.

Shona Beldo joins Center Street Elementary School as assistant principal, bringing a collaborative spirit and focus on team building. She holds master's degrees in educational leadership and childhood education, and a Bachelor of Science in sociology from Brooklyn College.

Dr. Laura Caines has been named director of world languages, language immersion and ENL. With more than 20 years of experience in Nassau County and New York City schools, she holds a doctorate in educational policy and leadership, two master's degrees in TESOL and education, and a Bachelor of Arts in education from Queens College.

Michael Lembo joins the middle school as assistant principal after nearly a decade at Brooklyn Science and Engineering Academy, where he led the math department. He earned leadership certificates from The College of Saint Rose and a master's in secondary education from Hofstra University.

Dr. Megan Lewis has been appointed middle school chairperson of special education. With two decades of experience, she specializes in supporting students with special needs. She earned her Ed.D. from Saint John's University, an MSEd from The College of New Rochelle and a B.S. from Mercy College.

John Pardue joins the high school as assistant principal for grades 9 and 11. He holds dual certification in school building and district leadership from Touro College and a master's in secondary education from Hofstra University.

Kru Patel is the new director of athletics, health and physical education. A proven leader and strategic planner, he oversees athletics, physical education and student wellness. He completed the Administration and Leadership program at The College of Saint Rose and earned master's and bachelor's degrees from SUNY Cortland.

DISTRICT GOALS:

A Look at the 2025-26 Instructional Priorities

Each year, Herricks Public Schools sets districtwide goals that reflect our dedication to high-quality teaching and meaningful learning experiences for all students. For the 2025-26 school year, we are focusing on three key instructional priorities that will support teachers, deepen student learning and build a stronger sense of community across our schools.



Herricks Public Schools *Portrait of a Graduate*



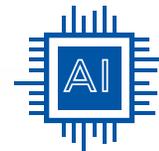
Assessment and Success Criteria

The district will continue building on prior training in learning targets to ensure a shared understanding of assessment and its purpose. Efforts will focus on refining assessments to better measure deeper learning and critical thinking.



Culturally Responsive/ Sustaining Framework

Herricks will continue to prioritize creating welcoming & affirming environments while maintaining high expectations for all students. Data from the Panorama survey will guide efforts to strengthen students' sense of belonging, and restorative practices, such as community circles, will remain a key part of supporting student well-being and growth.



Our Digital Future

Herricks is committed to thoughtful, ethical integration of AI technology to enhance instruction and learning. Teachers and students will access innovative tools, supported by the SAMR Model (Substitute, Augment, Modify, Redefine), to promote meaningful and responsible technology use in the classroom.

#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.



Scan QR code for more information on our District Goals for 2025-26.

Board of Education:

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Mrs. Maria Bono, Vice President

Trustees:

Mr. James Gounaris

Dr. Shaheda A. Quraishi

Mr. Henry R. Zanetti

Dr. Tony Sinanis

Superintendent of Schools

Visit www.herricks.org for more district news and information!



Congratulations NYSSMA All-State Student Musicians

Herricks High School proudly announces that 25 student musicians have been selected to perform at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Music Festival this December in Rochester, New York.

Selection to the All-State Festival is one of the highest honors for a school musician in New York State. Each student earned this distinction through a rigorous audition process that included a solo performance, sight-reading and scales, with only about 800 students chosen statewide from more than 6,000 auditions.

The 2025 Herricks All-State musicians are Hana Cheng, Griffin Chiu, Regina Choi, Adam Chu, Miles Cohen, Madelyn Glennon, Sarah Jeong, Julia Jusiega, Skylar Kiang, Edwin Ko, Julia Lam, Claire Lee, Isabella Liao, Angelina Liu, Isabella Marzo, Rohan Nair, Aarthi Palaniappan, Nicolas Quan, Tessa Shelley, Lawrence Song, Rebecca Song, Emma Su, Tyler Tsai, Maximus Wong and Jeremy Yu.

This impressive achievement highlights both the students' exceptional talent and the continued excellence of the Herricks music program, led by educators Catherine Birke, James Ludwig, Louise O'Hanlon and Scott Stickley.

While in Rochester, the students will rehearse and perform with nationally recognized conductors in elite ensembles, including symphonic band, wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra and mixed choir.

Spotlight on Student Voices

In this edition of Spotlight on Student Voices, we hear from students about the district's new distraction-free policy. Despite challenges, some students see the policy as a positive step in creating a focused and connected learning environment.

"Overall, I think the distraction-free policy is very good because it allows people to focus in class and learn more."
- John Nell, Grade 11

"I get that phones can be a distraction, but banning phones along with laptops, iPads and even AirPods feels restrictive and kind of redundant."
- Raisah Basith, Grade 11

"I think it's a beneficial policy. You see a lot of people being more sociable in school, and we definitely have a more close-knit community."
- Dean Singh, Grade 11

"Personally, I haven't noticed any significant changes in my academic work following the cellphone ban. It's been more of a nuisance if anything because I cannot use it to quickly snap pictures for references during art/class notes or contact my family during the day."
- Jun Guan, Grade 10