

HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **CONNECTIONS**



Roman's Remarks

Happy New Year! As we start 2026 together, I am not looking to start over with new resolutions. Instead, I want to focus on the wonderful things we have already achieved this school year. This is a perfect time to celebrate how much we've grown and to make sure every student continues to get the care, support, and tools they need to do their best. I want to say a huge thank you to every member of our school community. Your help has created a great energy in our schools! I am especially proud of two things:

- Reading Progress: We are seeing evidence of growth in how our students are learning to read.
- Better Attendance: More students are coming to school every day across all grade levels.

These successes happen because we are working together as a team. As we move forward, we will keep this momentum going. Our goal is to empower every student to be successful in our changing world.

To us, "empowering" means more than just good grades; it means helping children have a strong sense of belonging, helping them become curious and confident. In the coming months, we will stay focused on great teaching that is happening in our classes, looking after our students' well-being, and keeping our strong partnership with you. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for everything you do for our schools. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together in the months ahead.

With Hyde Park Pride,



Hyde Park Central School District

Dr. Pedro Roman
Superintendent Of Schools

(845)-229-4000 pedroroman@hpcsd.org



Hyde Park Central School District,
11 Boice Lane, Hyde Park, NY 12538

Community, Crafts and Cheer at Family Resource Center Celebration



The Hyde Park Family Resource Center hosted a festive holiday celebration for local families, featuring crafts, games, giveaways, snacks and storytime. Community Schools Facilitator Melissa Rosario, along with volunteers, planned the event.

“Our families deserve it,” Rosario said. “It’s amazing to see everyone come together.”

The Hyde Park Family Resource Center continues to support families year-round through services including a food pantry with fresh and nonperishable items and a clothing closet offering seasonal apparel. Families in need are encouraged to reach out for assistance.

The center will also host a Saturday Academy on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum will lead hands-on learning experiences, including an interactive planetarium program and a CSI-themed activity designed to introduce students to basic investigative skills. Families are encouraged to RSVP using the link shared via ParentSquare.

HYDE PARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



Come visit us!

Monday- closed

Tuesday- 10A.M.- 5P.M.

Wednesday 12P.M.-7P.M.

Thursday 10A.M.- 5P.M.

Friday 10A.M.-5P.M.

HPCSD Cuts Ribbon on Newly Renovated Haviland Auditorium

Members of the Hyde Park Central School District community gathered Dec. 11 for a ribbon cutting celebrating the newly renovated Haviland Middle School auditorium, just ahead of the Board of Education meeting. District leaders highlighted the extensive planning, collaboration and community support that brought the long-awaited project to completion.

Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman said the upgrades honor both the district's future and its history, noting that the original auditorium was built during President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration. "Franklin Delano Roosevelt believed that public works are not just expenses, but lasting community assets."

The Haviland building, originally constructed in the 1930s as part of a New Deal-era investment in public education, has long been a local landmark. Its auditorium has served generations of students for concerts, assemblies and community events. District officials said the renovation preserves the building's historic character while modernizing the space for contemporary instructional and performance needs.

Roman thanked the Board of Education, past superintendents, the Future Forward Facilities Forum and community members for their support throughout the planning process.

Board President Michael Zagorski told attendees the project reflects years of shared vision and commitment. "I'm so happy to see our community's ongoing commitment to our students," he said.

Haviland Middle School Principal Eric Shaw spoke about the building's legacy and the responsibility to protect it for future generations. "Today, we continue Roosevelt's vision," Shaw said, adding that the updated auditorium will serve as both a learning space and a reminder of the district's historical roots.

District officials said they are excited to host many student performances and school events for years to come.

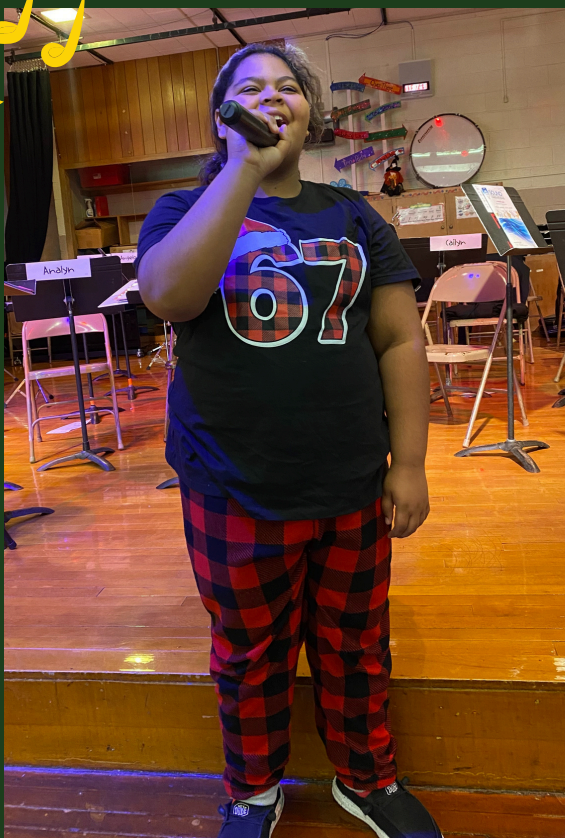


Artist and Musician of the Month

Our HMS Artist of the month is Brittany Zurita. Her teacher, Alicia Jasmin, says, "Brittany was in my sixth grade art class and I could see potential with her beautiful drawings. I'm lucky to have her in my seventh grade art class. She was chosen as our Artist of the Month because she is enthusiastic, hardworking, kind and pushes herself to try new things"

"I feel like art is another way to show who you are and your art never lies, it shows what you are inside" says Brittany.

She effortlessly works with all mediums to create art that inspires others. Congratulations Brittany Zurita!



Isabella Watkins is a multi-talented musician from Ralph R Smith in both orchestra and chorus. Isabella plays the bass in the orchestra. Ms. McCann, her orchestra director, says that Isabella, "always tries her best in rehearsal and has a great attitude as she learns new things. "

Isabella is also a talented singer. What makes her voice so special is that she is able to be creative through her voice, adding her own spin to the songs she sings. Isabella works hard, is kind to others and always does her best. Isabella says that she loves music because, "music makes you feel good."

Congratulations Isabella Watkins. Thank you for all your hard work!

FDR Student-Athletes show excellence on and off the court

This fall, every sports team at FDR High School earned scholar-athlete recognition, reflecting strong achievement in both academics and athletics. The designation is awarded to teams that maintain a high combined grade-point average. All FDR teams met the standard this season, a milestone that has not been reached in recent years.

Across boys' and girls' programs, including cross country, soccer, volleyball, tennis, golf and cheerleading, many athletes earned individual recognition for maintaining high academic averages while competing at a high level. Several teams recorded more than 20 scholar-athletes, highlighting the students' dedication and commitment.



Students at FDR High School continue to exemplify the meaning of "student-athlete" and merit recognition for this achievement. Their success extends beyond athletic competition to academic work completed in classrooms, study halls and after-school sessions following practices and games.

DECEMBER ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



Jorge Espinoza,
Varsity Boys Swim

Jorge joined the varsity team at FDR as a freshman and quickly established himself as a standout swimmer. Last season, he qualified for sectionals in the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke. This year, he again qualified in both events and is aiming for a state qualifying cut, one of his season goals. A well-rounded and talented athlete, Jorge competes in multiple events, with his strongest performances coming in the butterfly and backstroke.



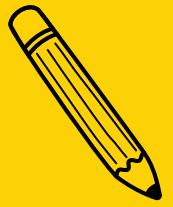
Luke Dakin
Varsity Wrestling Team

As captain of the FDR varsity wrestling team, he has placed at the Section 9 tournament every year and became the second wrestler in program history to qualify for the New York State Championships. He also excels academically, maintaining a GPA of 94 percent or higher throughout his high school career. A leader on and off the mat, Luke is widely regarded as the heartbeat of FDR wrestling. He is currently ranked first at 138 pounds in Section 9 and 10th in New York State.

Attendance Awareness: Tips for January



As students return to school following a long winter recess, reestablishing daily routines is an important step in supporting regular attendance and academic success. Your district is here to help your student get to school! Our counselors, social workers and attendance teams are ready to partner with families to address barriers such as transportation, health concerns or social-emotional needs.



Consistent habits such as setting bedtime schedules, preparing school materials the night before and allowing enough time for morning routines can help students transition smoothly back into the school day. When routines are predictable, students are more likely to arrive at school on time and ready to learn.



Regular attendance plays a key role in student achievement, social development and overall well-being. Even missing a few days can make it harder for students to keep up with classroom instruction and maintain connections with teachers and peers.



Families are encouraged to work together to build healthy routines that support attendance, especially during the winter months when shorter days and colder weather can make mornings more challenging. Establishing strong habits now helps set the tone for a successful remainder of the school year.

