

HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **CONNECTIONS**



Roman's Remarks

As we move through the heart of fall, there's a special energy in our schools. This season always reminds me of the importance of gratitude, reflection and connection.

October gave us several opportunities to celebrate the people who make our district exceptional. During Principal Appreciation Month, we recognized our incredible building leaders who work tirelessly to create safe and inspiring environments for students and staff alike. Their dedication ensures that every child is encouraged to reach their full potential.

We also marked School Board Recognition Week, honoring the commitment and leadership of our Board of Education members. Their vision and advocacy guide our shared mission and help us provide the best possible educational experience for all students.

These moments of appreciation remind us that our schools thrive because of the people within them: the educators, families and community members who show up every day with care and purpose. As the season of giving thanks continues, let's carry that same spirit forward. Together, we'll keep building a district where every student feels valued and every voice is heard.

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

HPCSD Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

From Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, our schools celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in a variety of ways! Halls and classrooms were decorated, students learned about traditions and holidays and at FDR students were treated to a special tasting of cultural foods!



Art Made Accessible: Students Attend Opera Free of Cost

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, students from the Band, Orchestra, Chorus and AP French classes attended the final dress rehearsal of "La Fille du Régiment" (The Daughter of the Regiment) by Donizetti at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

The lively French opera tells the story of Marie, a spirited young woman raised by a regiment of soldiers. In preparation for the performance, students explored the opera's history, characters and musical style using an educational guide provided by the Met.

Thanks to the Met's Access Opera program, the experience was offered free of charge, allowing students to connect their studies in music and French with a world-class live performance.

"In terms of accessible art, seeing a production at the Metropolitan Opera, one of the world's most renowned opera houses, for free is truly remarkable. When typical ticket prices run into the hundreds of dollars, this program eliminates a massive financial barrier. Providing our students with the opportunity to witness world-class music and fine arts on this grand stage is crucial. It sets a high standard, offering them something tangible to strive for in their own artistic and academic pursuits," said Katherine Rymph.

The Access Opera program enables local students and educators to attend extraordinary performances live at the Met, including final dress rehearsals before opening night. Each season, 12-15 rehearsals are offered to school groups, including several student-only events, giving attendees a unique, behind-the-scenes look at world-class opera.

Students Share Secrets to Attendance Success

Thanks to your partnership and dedication, we reduced chronic absenteeism by 5.2% last year, an incredible step forward and a true testament to what we can achieve when we work together.

Last month, we spoke to some of our attendance superstars to learn how they have achieved perfect attendance this year!

Fifth grader Tyfielli “Ty” Carney shared, “If you do everything you need to do and prepare, it’s easier to get ready and go in the morning.”

Packing and setting everything you need by the door the night before school is a great way to avoid a chaotic morning! This can be packed backpacks, shoes and jackets, homework, etc!

First grader Jack McGregor shared, “Stay healthy and eat all your vegetables and fruits so you don’t really get sick.”

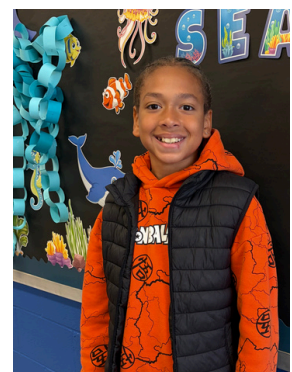
Having a colorful plate can help your child fight off sickness by providing essential vitamins, minerals and fiber. Did you know all students are eligible to receive free nutritious breakfasts and lunches at school?

Fifth grader Camilla Ortero Marrero said, “I wake up earlier than I think I need to. I don’t like to rush and it gives me time to do everything I need to.”

Studies show that waking up early is an integral part of a stress-free morning routine, allowing for a positive mindset and encouraging a productive, calm and focused day!

Our counselors, social workers and attendance teams are ready to partner with families to find solutions that work. We can also connect families with valuable community resources for housing, food and childcare, and we offer academic and emotional support to re-engage students who may feel disconnected.

Together, we can continue to make a difference one school day at a time!



Seniors Honor Mentors in “Shirt Off My Back” Tradition

Hyde Park Central School District seniors recently took part in the beloved “Shirt Off My Back” tradition, a heartfelt ceremony honoring the teachers and staff members who have made the biggest impact on them outside of athletics.

At halftime, each senior presented their chosen staff member with their own jersey and a gift bag, symbolizing gratitude for the encouragement, lessons, and support that extend far beyond the field. The program highlights that true success in sports often begins with the guidance found in the classroom and through personal connections across the district.

The tradition was introduced to Hyde Park by Mary Jane (MJ) McFarland, a teacher at John Jay High School in East Fishkill, where “Shirt Off My Back” has long been a cherished event. After experiencing the power of the ceremony firsthand, McFarland was inspired to bring it to Hyde Park.

“I remembered the impact that it had on me and my fellow colleagues and thought that Hyde Park needs to do this as well,” McFarland said. “Our inaugural ceremony in 2024 was powerful! The staff, faculty, and community fell in love with it. We were so happy to bring it back again this year and to also incorporate the senior cheerleaders.”

This year’s event was filled with memorable moments of gratitude and connection. Senior Peyton McFarland (#54) chose Carter Cole of Haviland Middle School as his honoree. Cole reflected on the experience with pride, “The best part of the night came as I was leaving the game,” Cole shared. “Several people asked which senior had chosen me, and when I said Peyton’s name, every single person smiled and said, ‘He’s such a polite, respectful young man.’ That was the perfect ending to the evening and such a proud moment, to hear others recognize the same kindness, respect and character I’ve always seen in him.”

Senior Stephen Lake (#75) honored Timothy Daniels of Violet Avenue Elementary School, who expressed his appreciation for being recognized, “I felt honored to be asked and glad I was part of his journey.”

Now in its second year, the “Shirt Off My Back” ceremony has quickly become a meaningful Hyde Park tradition, one that celebrates the enduring bonds between students and the educators who help shape their paths both on and off the field.



HPCSD's Artist and Musician of the Month

NOVEMBER, 2025

Amir Mudashiru

8th Grade, Haviland Middle School

MUSICIAN
OF THE
MONTH

Amir is an 8th grade Chorus student at HMS. He has participated diligently each class, and has grown significantly in his musical ability. His focus on completing his work on time, encouraging the successes of his classmates, and attending his lessons is an excellent demonstration of what it looks like to be a model HPCSD student. In addition, his aural and vocal skills have grown very well in his three years at HMS!

"Singing at HMS is really amazing, because even though it is really fun to be able to sing alone, and something to do when you want to pass time, being able to sing with other people makes it a lot better. You also get to improve by listening to the other people around you! Even if you aren't good at singing yet, just try your best to blend in with your peers, as you should in a chorUS, and you'll get there!"



NOVEMBER, 2025

Azariah Ramirez

5th Grade, Violet Avenue Elementary School

ARTIST
OF THE
MONTH

Azariah is an enthusiastic and passionate artist, eagerly diving into new projects and remaining engaged throughout the creative process. "I like how there are no rules to art - you can draw freely and try your best, and it's at least unique." Azariah approaches every art challenge with focus and determination. Her perseverance shines through, as she consistently puts the time and effort in to bring her ideas to life. Azariah is always willing to try new techniques and express herself creatively, bringing her unique perspective to her creative process. She creates artwork that expresses herself and is authentic. Her dedication and love for art are an inspiration to other students, making her a true example of what it means to be an artist.



Set for Success: Varsity Volleyball Advances to Sectionals

The FDR varsity volleyball team is celebrating a historic milestone this season as senior setter Kiera Bové recorded her 1,000th career assist earlier this month. This is an extraordinary accomplishment as Bové is the first setter in HPCSD history to reach this milestone.

This is only Bové's second season as the starting setter. Stepping into this role was not an easy task, but she has handled it with confidence, poise and heart, proving her exemplary leadership.

"She adjusts her sets for each player, which is such an important skill. She celebrates her teammates' success even more than her own," said Head Coach Kristi Amendola.

"I'm really proud of my team because they've helped me accomplish this," said Bové. "It really is a team sport."

Bové's ability to listen to everyone around her and accept constructive criticism makes her an incredible player to watch and have on the team.

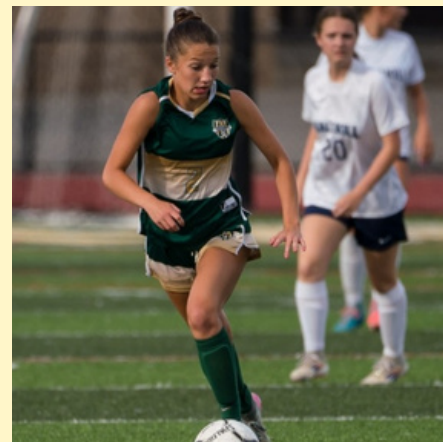
With the team composed of mostly underclassman and first-year varsity athletes, the team holds an impressive 12-4 record, eliminating any pre-season doubts about having an unsuccessful season.

"The girls who were here last year know what it takes to make it to the section finals... they also know how it feels to lose there," Amendola says. "That experience gives them the drive to take the next step this year."

As the Presidents near the end of the regular season, they wait eagerly for their seeding for sectionals, continuing to show the drive, dedication and passion that qualified them in the first place.



OCTOBER ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



Casey D'Alessandro, Varsity Girls Soccer

Freshman Casey D'Alessandro led her team with 10 goals and six assists through eight games. D'Alessandro scored a hat trick during the teams' sectional qualifying game vs Onteora. She finished the regular season with 16 goals.



Andrew Caprioli, Varsity Football

Senior Andrew Caprioli is currently the leader in tackles in all of NY State. Caprioli averages 16 tackles per game, and just recently set the FDR school record of most single tackles in a year.



Resources and Support for Families

Hyde Park Family Resource Center

The Hyde Park Family Resource Center remains committed to supporting all Hyde Park families, particularly during this time of need and the upcoming holiday season. We understand that some families may be experiencing financial hardship due to the recent government shutdown or other circumstances, and we want to remind you that assistance is available.

Hyde Park Family Resource Center Services:

Food Pantry – Access to fresh and non-perishable food items **Clothing Closet** – Access to seasonal clothing for children and families

Location: 4327 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY

Hours of Operation: – Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Wednesday: 12:00 – 7:00 PM

Free Meals

At this time, school meals will continue to be served as usual in all of our schools. Our meal programs are expected to operate without disruption, ensuring that students continue to have access to nutritious breakfasts and lunches each school day.

Other Resources

Local Food Pantry List



Community Schools Website



Information and Links





Recursos y Apoyo para las Familias

Hyde Park Family Resource Center

El Centro de Recursos Familiares de Hyde Park sigue comprometido en apoyar a todas las familias de Hyde Park, especialmente durante este momento de necesidad. Entendemos que algunas familias pueden estar enfrentando dificultades económicas debido al reciente cierre del gobierno u otras circunstancias, y queremos recordarles que la ayuda está disponible.

Servicios del Centro de Recursos Familiares de Hyde Park:

Despensa de Alimentos – Acceso a alimentos frescos y no perecederos

Ropero – Acceso a ropa de temporada para niños y familias

Ubicación: 4327 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY

Horario de atención: – Martes, Jueves & Viernes: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Miércoles: 12:00 – 7:00 PM

Comidas Gratuitas

En este momento, las comidas para nuestros estudiantes continuarán sirviéndose con normalidad en todas las escuelas. Se espera que nuestros programas de alimentos funcionen sin interrupciones, garantizando que los estudiantes sigan teniendo acceso a desayunos y almuerzos nutritivos cada día escolar.

Otros Recursos

[Lista de Despensas](#)

[Enlace de Escuelas Comunitarias](#)

[Información y Enlaces](#)

