

On May 1, seniors proudly wore their future college gear as they celebrated the next chapter of their journeys.



Herricks DateLine

SPRING 2026

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Voice in Action: From High School to Elementary Classrooms

This year, a growing emphasis on student voice has expanded across Herricks, evolving from conversations with high school and middle school students to now include elementary learners. Through small-group meetings and discussions with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis, students of all ages have been given the opportunity

to share their ideas, reflect on their experiences and help shape the future of their schools.

We are proud to spotlight a group of outstanding elementary students from across the district who took part in these forums, sharing creative and thoughtful ideas about what they would do if they were Superintendent for a Day.



CENTER STREET

“I would plan more activities for sixth graders from each elementary school so we can get to know each other before we go to middle school. It would help us feel more comfortable, be less shy and make the transition to a new school with new people easier.”

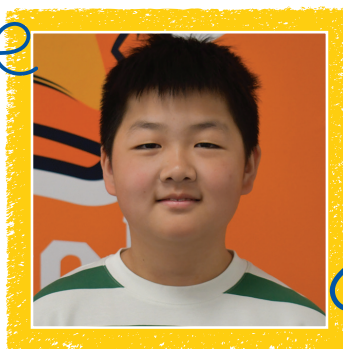
—Arya Latchminarian, fifth grade



SEARINGTOWN

“I would make sure every student is greeted when they arrive at school and again when they enter their classroom. Small things like that would help students feel more welcome and spread kindness and friendliness throughout the school.”

—Jordan Kim, fifth grade



DENTON AVENUE

“I would make sure students learn more real-world math, like budgeting, taxes and understanding debt. I also think students should learn how to recognize scams so they can avoid being taken advantage of. These are important lessons that would help everyone in the future.”

—Shi Yuan Ye, fourth grade

A MESSAGE FROM The Board of Education

Dear Herricks Family,

As we close another school year in Herricks, we do so with gratitude, pride and hope for all that lies ahead.

This year has been filled with learning, growth, creativity, achievement and moments that reminded us what makes this community so special. Our students continue to inspire us with their curiosity, resilience and compassion. Our staff members remain deeply committed to creating environments where every child feels supported and encouraged to succeed. And our families and community partners continue to show what can happen when people come together with a shared purpose.

The Board of Education remains committed to building a stronger and even more connected Herricks community where every student feels seen, valued and empowered. Together, we will continue working toward opportunities that strengthen our schools and support the success and well-being of all children.

As the school year comes to an end, we hope the summer months bring time for rest, joy, family, friendship and new memories. To our students moving on to new chapters, we congratulate you and look forward to all you will accomplish. To everyone returning in the fall, we cannot wait to welcome you back.

Thank you for being part of what makes Herricks such an extraordinary place.

Wishing you a safe, happy and healthy summer.

Sincerely,

The Herricks Board of Education



One Team. One Community. **HERRICKS UNIFIED.**

We are excited to announce the addition of Unified Bowling to our athletic lineup for the 2026-2027 school year!

This program brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities to compete side-by-side, fostering a culture of inclusion, teamwork and school spirit. We look forward to seeing our student-athletes hit the lanes and represent Herricks in this wonderful new chapter of our sports program.



Welcome
DR. BATTAGLIA

Herricks Public Schools is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Dana Battaglia as our assistant director of pupil personnel services, effective July 1.

Dr. Battaglia is a dedicated special education leader focused on building inclusive programs that support students' academic, social and emotional success. She has extensive experience guiding special education services, supporting educators and working closely with families to meet student needs. Her work reflects a strong commitment to collaboration, innovation and helping every student reach their full potential.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Battaglia to the Herricks community and look forward to the leadership and expertise she will bring to our schools.

This transition comes as Dr. Orly Gadon moves on to a new professional opportunity. We want to take this moment to thank Dr. Gadon for her dedication to our students. Her compassionate support of Herricks families has left an indelible mark on our community.



Herricks Special Education: A VISION FOR EXCELLENCE AND GROWTH

During a recent Board of Education meeting, the Special Education Leadership Team presented a comprehensive overview of the Special Education Strategic Plan. Developed by the Strategic Coherence Planning Committee, this plan is intentionally aligned with our districtwide Strategic

Plan to ensure that our specialized programming is integrated into the broader mission of the Herricks Schools.

The plan identifies four critical focus areas that will guide our initiatives and decision-making over the coming months and years.

The Special Education Strategic Plan: Our Roadmap Forward

Herricks Public Schools is embarking on a transformative journey within our special education department. With a focus on long-term sustainability

and student-centered growth, we are pleased to share the details of our new **Special Education Strategic Plan** and provide an update regarding our departmental leadership.



Professional Learning Opportunities:

We are committed to enhancing specialized training for our staff. By focusing on professional development, we empower our educators with the latest tools and evidence-based practices to drive student growth.



Communication and Collaboration:

A core priority is strengthening the partnership between the district and our families. We are working to ensure consistent, transparent communication and a culture of collaboration across all buildings.



Resource Management:

We are dedicated to strategic oversight of our resources. This includes optimizing personnel and instructional materials to ensure our programs remain high-quality and sustainable.



Continuum of Services:

The district is conducting a thorough review of our service models. Our goal is to ensure that our continuum remains flexible and robust, providing the right support for every student at every stage of their development.



STAY INFORMED

We encourage all parents and community members to scan the QR code to view the formal presentation for a deeper look at these goals.



Board of Education:

- Mrs. Juleigh Chin, President**
- 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!



Celebrating HIGHLANDERS FOR LIFE

As the academic year concludes, we celebrate the remarkable career of Anissa Arnold, our retiring director of fine and performing arts. For two decades, Ms. Arnold has been a cornerstone of the Herricks community, fostering a culture that deeply values the transformative power of the arts.

Throughout her tenure, Anissa has been a tireless advocate for our students. Her leadership was instrumental in Herricks consistently earning national recognition, including designation from the NAMM Foundation for outstanding music education. She was a driving force behind our students achieving the highest level of recognition both regionally and nationally, from All-State honors to prestigious ensemble performances.

Anissa's dedication ensured that every student had access to high-quality creative opportunities, leaving an indelible mark on our district's identity. While we will miss her guidance and passion, we are incredibly grateful for the vibrant foundation she built.

Please join us in thanking Anissa for her years of service and wishing her a joyful, well-deserved retirement!

Looking Ahead: Welcoming MARK BLIGH

To carry this vibrant legacy forward, we are proud to announce the appointment of Mark Bligh as our new Director of Fine and Performing Arts. Mr. Bligh currently serves as the 4th and 5th Grade Band Director at Denton Avenue.

We are thrilled to welcome him into this leadership role as we enter this exciting next chapter of artistic and musical excellence in Herricks!



The Unsung Heroes of Herricks: A Note of Appreciation

Behind every successful day at Herricks is a dedicated team working tirelessly to keep our schools running. From clearing snow during an unprecedented winter to ensuring our buses run safely and our campuses remain beautiful, our facilities, transportation and grounds crews are the unsung heroes of our community.

Working through early mornings and late nights, they provide a clean, safe and functional environment for our students and staff to thrive. To our hardworking professionals: Your efforts may be behind the scenes, but they never go unnoticed.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication!

