



HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HF-FM FOREFRONT

District Quarterly Newsletter

JUNE 2026

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Office of the Superintendent

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DISTRICT UPDATES

As the 2025-2026 school year comes to a close, the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District continues to focus on important work that will support students, staff, and families in the year ahead.

This spring, the district continued its work to update the Code of Conduct for the 2026-2027 school year. While several changes have been made over the past few years, the goal is to finalize a more comprehensive, age-appropriate Code of Conduct that supports student accountability, safety, and a positive school culture. More than 20 faculty members, staff members, and administrators have contributed to this process. The team met in March and held its final meeting toward the end of May. The district has also partnered with Orange-Ulster BOCES to help facilitate the process, support the work, and assist with finalizing and publishing the updated document.

Additionally, the district held an AI Governance Focus Group meeting with employees earlier this May. This meeting followed the collection of survey feedback from more than 450 students and 80 faculty and staff members. The district will use the data and feedback gathered through the survey and focus group to continue developing an AI governance framework and guidelines that support students, staff, families, and the broader school community. Superintendent McElduff will continue to engage faculty, staff, families and students in this important work, with the goal of creating an AI coalition in the fall of 2027.

In addition, Dr. Waterman, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, has worked closely over the past six months with the district's Literacy Committee and the Fort Montgomery Elementary School team to review current reading and writing practices, instructional resources, and curriculum needs. The district is now in the final stages of adopting an updated literacy curriculum that will support the needs of all students at FMES. Several professional development days have been planned for the end of June so teachers can become familiar with the curriculum and begin mapping implementation for the 2026-2027 school year.



Lead the Change, Embrace the Challenge, Inspire Excellence

Supporting Our Community and Advocating for Our Schools

This spring, Superintendent McElduff had the pleasure of participating in the opening day ceremonies at Roe Park for the Youth Baseball League. Mr. McElduff was incredibly impressed by the dedication of the community and the tremendous effort that went into bringing the field back to life. The renewed energy around the program, along with the significant increase in youth baseball enrollment, is a wonderful example of what can happen when families, volunteers, and community members come together in support of children.

In May, Mr. McElduff was also one of 13 school leaders from across the country invited to Washington, D.C. for an Impact Aid advocacy meeting. He worked alongside members of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, commonly known as NAFIS, to meet with elected officials and staff members from across the country. The purpose of these meetings was to continue advocating for increased federal funding for federally impacted school districts like Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery. Mr. McElduff continues to emphasize that Impact Aid is critical to the long-term stability of the district. Because so much of the district's land is federally owned and not taxable, the federal government has an obligation to help ensure that HFFMCS D students have access to the same opportunities as students in surrounding districts. Our students should not have fewer opportunities simply because of where they live or because of the unique impact federal land has on the local tax base.

Mr. McElduff will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the district and community. In September, he and Mrs. Lawless will return to Washington, D.C. to continue meeting with elected officials and working with NAFIS members from across the country to keep pressure on the federal government to fully fund Impact Aid and support federally impacted school districts.

HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CSD MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Schools is to provide enriching, safe and meaningful educational experiences that build a strong foundation for our diverse student body. The HFFMCS D is a school community focused on developing students as lifelong learners equipped with critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to navigate and shape the future.



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HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CSD

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **6/4** - Business Meeting / Arts Recognition
- **6/11** - Board of Education Meeting / Business Meeting
- **6/18** - Early Dismissal (PreK-8 Only, Professional Development)
- **6/19** - No School Juneteenth
- **6/23** - Half Day of Classes
- **6/24** - Half Day of Classes
- **6/25** - Half Day of Classes
- **6/26** - No School / Final Give Back Day for FMES & HFIS



Mrs. Christine McDonald, Director of CONNECT Program, presented to 2nd graders during Women's History Month.



Mrs. Ronnie Coffey, local historian, read aloud to 1st grade students in celebration of Women's History Month.

Fort Montgomery Elementary School

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Galu Literacy Interventionist



After 25 years, Mrs. Galu is retiring from her teaching career. Throughout her tenure at FMES, she has impacted the lives of hundreds of children in the community. She will be greatly missed but we send her with good wishes in this next chapter of her life.



Purple Up! Day

Our school community proudly celebrated Purple Up! Day in honor of our military-connected students and families. Students and staff wore purple as a visible sign of support, gratitude, and unity. We also held a spirited parade, where military connected students and staff marched together; classes made signs and cheered on their classmates and teachers to recognize the strength and resilience of those who serve and sacrifice.

Assemblymember Eachus visits FMES

In March, NYS Assemblymember Chris Eachus visited Ms. Carroll and Mrs. Sousa's second grade classroom in celebration of National Reading Month. Mr. Eachus read a story to the students and spent time talking to them about the importance of school and reading.



Pictured are Kindergarten students helping to care for the plants by trimming the roots.

Hydroponics

In the STREAM space at Fort Montgomery Elementary School, Ms. Magyar has been using the Lettuce Grow system to help students make meaningful connections between plants, growth, and hydroponics. As part of the experience, students participated in a taste test, where they discovered a clear favorite: butter lettuce over Red Leaf. They also explored herbs, with many noting that basil "tastes like mozzarella on a summer day," showing how flavors can connect to familiar memories and experiences. Alongside tasting, students have been closely observing the growth and transformation of their hydroponic farmstand, watching firsthand how plants develop over time. The calming sound of the pump circulating water has created a peaceful classroom atmosphere, while the system's timer highlights the importance of rest by cycling through day and night phases during the school day. Additionally, students extended this learning by writing sentences about what they enjoyed most from the taste test, blending science, sensory exploration, and literacy into one engaging project.



Highland Falls Intermediate School



Our students showcased their curiosity, creativity, and hard work at the science fair—impressive projects and bright ideas all around!



Shining on stage! Our talented students brought Willy Wonka Jr. to life with incredible energy, creativity, and teamwork—what a sweet performance!



Students were recognized for the Month of the Military Child, and we are proud to celebrate their strength, resilience, and the sacrifices their families make.



These students represented our school with pride as part of the All-County ensemble—an incredible accomplishment and a true showcase of their talent and dedication!

NYS Testing

Our students have been hard at work completing their state assessments, demonstrating their knowledge, perseverance, and growth throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of the focus and determination they showed during testing. A special thank you goes out to our teachers and staff for their support in preparing students and creating a positive testing environment, as well as to our families for encouraging their children to do their best. We look forward to celebrating our students' accomplishments and continued success!

iReady

The i-Ready competition is still going strong! Students continue to work hard and stay engaged as they compete for the exciting end-of-year prize. Grades 3 & 6, 4 & 7, and 5 & 8 are still in the race, and it's been great to see their dedication as they log more i-Ready hours each week. We encourage all students to keep up the momentum—every minute counts! We can't wait to see which team comes out on top!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6/8-6/12 - HFIS Book Fair
- 6/16 - Field Day
- 6/18 - Early Dismissal (PreK-8 Only, Professional Development)
- 6/19 - No School (Juneteenth)
- 6/22 - 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- 6/23 - Half Day of Classes
- 6/24 - Half Day of Classes
- 6/25 - Half Day of Classes/5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- 6/26 - No School/ Final Give Back Day for FMES & HFIS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Constable 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

Mrs. Constable brings a positive attitude to everything she does and consistently goes above and beyond in the many roles she takes on. She is deeply committed to her students and always puts their needs first, creating a supportive and caring environment for all. Her dedication and enthusiasm make a meaningful impact on our school community. Thank you for all that you do, Jennifer!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Henry De La Cruz 8th Grade

Henry is kind, respectful, and always willing to lend a helping hand or support his peers. Henry's positive attitude and strong character make him a valued member of our school community. Keep up the great work, Henry!





HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CSD

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6/2 - JIO POPs Concert
- 6/5 - Last day for Library book return
- 6/9 - Regents/Final Exams
- 6/10 - Regents/Final Exams
- 6/11 - Senior Chromebook buyback
- 6/16 - Senior Class Trip
- 6/16 - Last Day of classes
- 6/17 - 6/25 - Regents/Final Exams
- 6/22 - JIO Graduation Rehearsal
- 6/23 - JIO Graduation @ 7PM

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Saedi Post, 12th Grade



JIO would like to recognize Saedi who is the Class of 2026's Valedictorian.

Congratulations to Saedi Post!

Samuel Kloepper, 12th Grade



JIO would like to recognize Samuel Kloepper who is the Class of 2026's Salutatorian.

Congratulations to Samuel Kloepper!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Robin Haberman, Principal



After 30 years of dedicated service in education, Principal Robin Haberman is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to student success.

Jorma Tompuri, Teacher & Coach



Mr. Tompuri, a teacher and coach, is retiring from JIO after 27 years. His positive impact on the students he taught will live on and he will be sincerely missed. We wish him all the best in this new life chapter.

James I. O'Neill

Building Highlights

- On Thursday, May 14, 2026 JIO celebrated and recognized the top 10 students of this year's graduating class.
- Purple Up Day for the Month of the Military Child was celebrated on April 21st. During this day we recognized the services and sacrifices of the Armed Forces.



- JIO hosted its annual College Fair on Friday, April 24th. 22 colleges, universities and trades were in attendance to provide our students with guidance and materials about future plans.



Athletics



Athletics Update

- Girls and Boys Varsity Lacrosse are both poised to make a deep run into the Sectional playoffs.
- James I. O'Neill had two Boys Golfers qualify for the Section IX Individual Tournament at West Point Golf Course.
- James I. O'Neill Boys Tennis players qualify for both the singles and doubles Section IX Individual Tournament at Match Point Tennis Center in Goshen, N.Y.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2026

- June 3** - Track and Field Varsity State Qualifier
- June 4** - Section IX Scholar Athlete Breakfast
- June 10** - James I. O'Neill Varsity Recognition Ceremony

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Summer Assignments

Summer assignments will be listed on the JIO website. Please check there for assignments and due dates.



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