

# HEMPSTEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

# TIGER NEWS

JUNE 2026

2025-2026

INNOVATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

PURPOSE



## Igniting Innovation: STEAM Night 2026

Hempstead Public Schools proudly hosted its 2nd Annual District STEAM Night on May 14, 2026, at Hempstead High School, bringing together students, families, staff, and community members for an evening centered on innovation, creativity, and hands-on learning. The event showcased the impressive work and talents of students from across the district through a wide range of interactive activities and engaging exhibits.

Families explored student-led presentations, robotics demonstrations, creative arts displays, and collaborative learning stations designed to spark curiosity and excitement in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

Throughout the evening, students demonstrated strong problem-solving skills and innovative thinking while sharing their projects with the community, highlighting the district's commitment to nurturing future-ready learners.

In addition to the student showcases, attendees enjoyed performances, family-friendly activities, and helpful resources, including support with PowerSchool Parent Portal and SchoolMessenger registration to strengthen communication between schools and families. Hempstead Public Schools extends sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the event and looks forward to continuing opportunities that empower students to create, innovate, and lead.

[WWW.HEMPSTEADSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.HEMPSTEADSCHOOLS.ORG)

## Message from Superintendent Gary Rush

Hello Hempstead Families, and Community Members,

As we approach the end of the 2025-2026 school year, I would like to take a moment to thank our students, staff, families, Board of Education, and community members for your continued support and partnership.

First and foremost, thank you to our community for approving the 2026-2027 school budget and capital projects. Your support is an investment in our students, schools, and future. Because of your vote of confidence, we can continue providing high quality educational opportunities, enhancing student programs, and making important improvements to our facilities. Your vote of confidence allows us to continue being innovative in all we do.

As summer approaches, we encourage families to take advantage of the many opportunities available to our students. Registration for Summer School is now open, and we encourage eligible students to enroll early. In addition, we are excited to once again offer our Empire Program, LEAPS Program, and My Brother's Keeper Program throughout the summer months. These programs provide academic enrichment, leadership development, mentoring opportunities, and engaging activities that help students continue learning and growing outside of the traditional school year.

We are also proud to announce the completion of several facility improvements that will benefit our students and community for years to come. This June,



we will celebrate the renovation of our tennis courts and unveil our new athletic scoreboard during a special Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. These upgrades represent our continued commitment to providing students with first-class facilities that support athletics, extracurricular activities, and community pride.

As we finish the school year, I encourage everyone to attend our upcoming concerts, awards ceremonies, moving up celebrations, graduations, and year-end events. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Hempstead Union Free School District. Together, we are creating opportunities, strengthening our schools, and building a brighter future for all of our students.

Wishing you and your family a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer.  
Sincerely,

**Gary Rush**  
Superintendent of Schools



## Leading with Excellence: Celebrating Hempstead High School's Top Scholars

Hempstead High School proudly recognizes Anjali Mishra, Valedictorian, and Melva Ramirez Zavala, Salutatorian, as the top scholars of the Class of 2026. Anjali's outstanding academic achievement and dedication to excellence, along with Melva's remarkable accomplishment as a Gates Scholar, reflect the hard work, perseverance, and bright future of Hempstead's graduating class.

# District Spotlights & Community Engagement

## From Progress to Possibility

### The Time is Now

As the school year comes to a close, every moment matters. Through MTSS, targeted intervention, and Social Emotional Learning, we can help students strengthen both their academic skills and confidence for the transition ahead.

This month's 7 Mindsets theme, The Time Is Now, encourages students to focus on the present, recognize their growth, and take action toward their goals. Whether through small-group instruction, individualized support, or meaningful classroom connections, we have the opportunity to meet students where they are while maintaining high expectations.

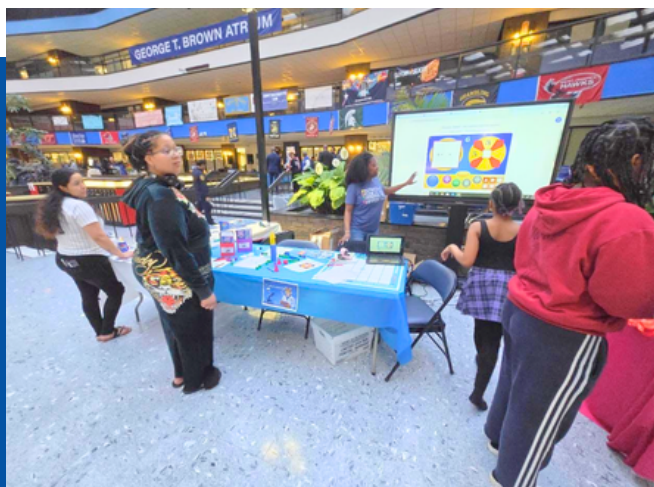
The time is now—let's ensure our students leave this year academically prepared, emotionally ready, and confident in their next steps.



## Where Math Meets Innovation

**Math is everywhere, and our students demonstrated this all year!**

At STEAM Night, students and families explored hands-on activities highlighting the role math plays in science, technology, engineering, and everyday problem-solving. During our IB Exhibitions, students applied mathematical thinking by collecting data, analyzing information, and developing solutions to real-world issues. Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce Personal Finance next year, helping students build essential money management skills. Families are also encouraged to use First In Math, a free summer program—just a few minutes each day can strengthen skills and help students stay prepared for success in the fall.



## Humanities in Action

- Kudos to Mr. Creighton, Mrs. Ranieri, and Ms. Panagos for preparing Grades 3–8 students for NYS ELA through Movement to Mastery and Leveling Up sessions.
- Shout-out to Principal Wright for inspiring confidence by reminding students of their “superpowers.”
- Appreciation to Mrs. Dubose for sharing Grade 7 prep strategies with Grade 6 teachers to support strong student growth.
- Thank you to Dr. A. Johnson and Dean Greene for aligning IB MYP practices to strengthen teaching and learning.
- Recognition to Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Castillo for engaging, inquiry-based high school instruction.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Franchino and Mrs. Larsen on their 9th Poetry SLAM—celebrating student voice and creativity!



## Young Environmental Leaders in Action

Mrs. Muhammad's fifth-grade class proudly represented Joseph A. McNeil Elementary School as a host class for the New York Power Summit, joining schools from across New York State in a collaborative celebration of environmental awareness. Students conducted in-depth research and delivered engaging presentations on topics such as conservation, recycling, and sustainability, demonstrating both their knowledge and commitment to protecting the environment. Their participation highlighted not only their academic growth, but also their ability to think critically about real-world issues and share meaningful solutions with a broader audience.



## Building Career Pathways for Lifelong Success

Hempstead Adult Education expanded its Career and Technical Education programs to include Home Health Aide, Certified Medical Assistant, Advanced Manufacturing, and Pharmacy Technician, alongside High School Equivalency opportunities. Programs support multilingual and ESL learners, as well as adults seeking career advancement. Highlights include the Enunciation workshop, strengthening workplace communication skills, and expanded hands-on, project-based learning. The program remains committed to building workforce readiness and community impact. Director Audrey Gottlieb also represented the program at the Workforce Innovation Forum, emphasizing access to meaningful career pathways.



## Language, Perseverance, and Success

The Department of Bilingual Education & World Languages proudly celebrates the growth and achievements of our multilingual learners. Students demonstrated strong progress in their language development as they participated in the NYSESLAT, beginning with Speaking and continuing through Listening, Reading, and Writing. We look forward to sharing the language growth reflected in the upcoming NYSESLAT reports. This quarter also marked the conclusion of our P.L.U.S. (Proficiency in Language and Universal Support) after-school program. We commend the scholars who remained committed to attending sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Their perseverance, dedication, and hard work have led to meaningful growth, and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments.



# Elementary Spotlights

## Prospect School



Prospect School students celebrated Multicultural Spirit Week with Olympic-style activities representing countries from around the world. Students explored global traditions, competed in events, and showcased their learning in a Multicultural Show featuring songs, dances, and poems. Centered on the theme “What Does It Mean to Be Global?”, the week highlighted diversity, cultural understanding, and global citizenship.



## Rhodes Academy

Rhodes Academy of Humanities and Arts hosted its Mother Daughter Garden Brunch, welcoming nearly 200 guests for an afternoon of connection and celebration. The gymnasium was transformed into a vibrant garden setting with elegant décor. Guests enjoyed a delicious brunch, live jazz music, poetry, and meaningful activities, creating lasting memories together. The event highlighted RAHA’s commitment to family engagement and supporting the relationships that contribute to student success.

## David Paterson School



### Rotary Club Dictionary Donation

Members of the Rotary Club of Hempstead visited David Paterson Elementary School to donate Spanish-English dictionaries to all 3rd grade students, supporting literacy and language development.

### Autism Awareness: Spread Kindness

During Autism Awareness Month, students created a colorful rock garden during the “Spread Kindness Rock and Bubble Party,” celebrating inclusion and the importance of embracing differences.

### Teacher Earns National Fellowship

Ms. Crystal Miller, a 4th grade teacher, was selected as one of only ten educators nationwide for the National Grid Energy Literacy Fellowship. This international experience in England will provide hands-on learning, site visits, and collaboration with educators from the U.S. and U.K.



# Elementary Spotlights

## Jackson Main School

Jackson Main Elementary School strengthened home-school connections through engaging events like Family Game Night and STEAM Night, highlighting collaboration, creativity, and innovation. Students demonstrated confidence and critical thinking during a Mock Trial, while Parent ELA and Math Workshops equipped families with strategies to support learning at home. Grade 5 scholars also completed the Money and Me Financial Literacy program, building essential skills for future success. Together, these experiences reflect a vibrant, collaborative learning community.



## Barack Obama School

### STEAM Club Shines at STEAM Night!

Students proudly represented their school by tackling hands-on engineering challenges that showcased creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. They designed, built, and presented innovative projects, explaining their process and solutions. Thanks to Ms. Randazzo and Mr. Cole, students had access to engaging materials and meaningful learning experiences. We are proud of their hard work, collaboration, and outstanding participation!

## Joseph McNeil School

May was filled with exciting learning, leadership, and creativity. Girls on the Run participants attended MJ: The Musical on Broadway and celebrated their season at Eisenhower Park. Mrs. Muhammad's fifth-grade class represented McNeil School at the New York Power Summit, presenting on conservation and sustainability. Our 2nd Annual Poetry Jam welcomed nearly 100 guests and featured powerful student performances, later showcased at District STEAM Night. McNeil School Band students also proudly performed at the Memorial Day Parade, honoring those who served. We are proud of our students for representing McNeil School with excellence and confidence.



## Secondary Spotlights

### Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School



At the Nassau County Supreme Court, students from ABGS Middle School participated in a middle school mock trial competition, *Sonic Gomez v. Pluto Stars*, North Shore Middle School, which ended in a tie. The case focused on a negligence lawsuit involving damages for a broken cell phone. Presiding over the competition was Honorable Eileen Joyce Goggin. Representing ABGS were 7th and 8th grade students serving as attorneys and witnesses: Xavier Ogbourne, Elsy Avelar, Jasmine Serrano, Perla Morales, Inaaya Adeel, and Sesy Canales.



## Hempstead High School

Hempstead High School continues to celebrate outstanding student achievement. Forty-five students were recognized at a special Breakfast with the Principal for maintaining a 95% GPA or higher across three marking periods. We also congratulate graduating senior and salutatorian Melva Ramirez Zavala, recipient of the prestigious Gates Scholarship. Additionally, the Hempstead Robotics Team, led by Mr. Joscher, captured first place for the fourth consecutive year at the STEP Statewide Robotics Competition at Adelphi University. These accomplishments reflect the talent, dedication, and excellence of Hempstead High School students.



## Athletics

Hempstead Athletics continued to create exciting opportunities for student-athletes this quarter. Student-athletes attended a leadership assembly featuring professional sports agent Mark Leinweaver, who spoke about character, leadership, and life beyond sports. The district also unveiled the new digital scoreboard at the high school stadium, enhancing the game-day experience for students and the community. These initiatives continue to build school pride and strengthen the culture of Hempstead Athletics.

# Hempstead Union Free School District

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- Dr. Rodney Gilmore**  
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- Mr. James Clark**  
Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
- Mr. Richard Brown**  
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**Hempstead Union Free School District**  
Hempstead, NY 11550

[www.hempsteadschools.org](http://www.hempsteadschools.org)

