



HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CSD

THE HIGHLANDER – SUMMER EDITION

AUGUST 13, 2026

Summer in Action: August Edition!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 14 - Summer Food Program Distribution to Families at HFIS
- Aug. 21- Summer Food Program Distribution to Families at HFIS
- Aug. 28- Summer Food Program Distribution to Families at HFIS



Enrollment

FMES - Total 151
Pre-Kindergarten 25
Kindergarten 44
1st Grade 43
2nd Grade 39

HFIS -Total 332
3rd Grade 55
4th Grade 48
5th Grade 66
6th Grade 46
7th Grade 57
8th Grade 60

JIO-Total 389
9th Grade 119
10th Grade 91
11th Grade 79
12th Grade 100

*Enrollment totals as of
August 13 , 2026

Happening Around Our Schools This Summer

Summer may be a break for our students, but there's no break from the important work happening across HFFMCSD! In this edition, we're highlighting the Buildings & Grounds and Business Office teams and the behind-the-scenes work they do throughout the summer to keep our district running, our schools ready, and our plans for the year ahead moving forward. From preparing our facilities and classrooms to managing the many financial and operational details that keep the district moving, there's a lot happening behind the scenes!

Fort Montgomery Elementary School

- Getting Ready for a Great Year! Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Santamaria are putting the finishing touches on class lists and schedules, with class placement information shared with families this week. Behind the scenes, Ms. Belz and Mrs. DeMarco are also preparing for the year ahead by reviewing our district safety plan, SEL lessons, and attendance procedures.
- Preparing Students & Spaces! Mrs. Moscatello is making sure our students are ready to start the year strong by updating medical records and connecting with new Pre-K and district families to collect important health documentation. Meanwhile, our incredible custodial team is keeping things moving—cleaning classrooms, preparing spaces, and helping teachers who are moving into new rooms get settled!

Highland Falls Intermediate School

- Teamwork Behind the Scenes! Mr. Femia met with Ms. Lackhan and the Student Support Team to collaborate, strategize, and prepare for a smooth and successful start to the new school year.
- Preparing for Testing Success! Mr. Femia and Ms. Lackhan are also getting a head start on state testing and proctoring protocols, making sure staff and procedures are ready to go when students return!

James I. O'Neill High School

- Getting Students Ready for Regents! Ms. Berry is hard at work preparing for the August Regents exams, taking place August 18–19. Her careful planning and preparation are helping ensure students are ready to put their best foot forward!
- Looking Ahead & Building Connections! Dr. Curtin is gearing up to attend a conference on the NYS Portrait of a Graduate alongside Mr. McElduff and Dr. Waterman. He also met with Ms. Allie Gonzalez and Mr. Alexander to plan meaningful WWII programming in social studies classes leading up to the Remembrance Bowl—connecting classroom learning with an important community tradition.

District Office: Summer Administrative Retreat: From Good to Great

The HFFMCSD Administrative Team came together for its Summer Administrative Retreat, led by Superintendent Michael McElduff and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Crystal Waterman, to reflect, collaborate, and plan for the year ahead. The team also launched a yearlong study of Jim Collins' Good to Great, exploring leadership principles that can strengthen instruction, school culture, and continuous improvement. With a focus on strategic planning and meaningful growth, district leaders are working together to turn ideas into action and improve outcomes for every student.

Lead the Change. Embrace the Challenge. Inspire Excellence. Together, we're moving from good to great!



Summer Spotlight: Behind the Scenes

Behind the scenes, summer is a busy season across HFFMCSD! In this edition, we're highlighting the Buildings & Grounds and Business Office teams and the behind-the-scenes work they do throughout the summer to keep our district running, our schools ready, and our plans for the year ahead moving forward. From preparing our facilities and classrooms to managing the many financial and operational details that keep the district moving, there's a lot happening behind the scenes!



Business Office Left to Right:
Joann DiLorenzo, Emily Kirwan,
Michele Drossos - Yorke,
Christopher Carballo



Buildings & Grounds Office Left to Right:
Tasha Leachman
Christopher Kirwan
Adeline Thomas