



HERRICKS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

HERRICKS HERALD

SUMMER EDITION

2026



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CAMP INVENTION

Herricks elementary students explore new ways of thinking and SPARK their creativity at Camp Invention.

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YMCA SUMMER RECREATION CAMP

Elementary and Middle School students remained active, learned new skills, and expressed their creativity.

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HERRICKS MUSIC BOOSTERS SUMMER PROGRAM

Young Herricks Musicians sharpened their skills and developed their talent this summer.

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HERRICKS ATHLETIC SUMMER PROGRAMS

Throughout the summer various Athletic Programs took place to allow our students to develop and grow as athletes.

CAMP INVENTION

Camp Invention is a one-week camp that takes place at Denton Avenue School. Through fun, hands-on activities, they explore new ways of thinking, spark their creativity, and make new friends along the way! This year's theme was Spark!

The day is split into four different classes, where each camper has the opportunity to develop creative problem-solving skills through hands-on challenges. The four experiences are Activate Innovative Superpowers With The Infringers, Investigate Curious Clues With Fur-ensics, Splash Into Entrepreneurship With Make Waves, and Build a DIY Space Rocket With Space Morphers.

Students entering grades 3-5 participated in hands-on STEM adventures designed to spark creativity, led by some of our very own Herricks teachers: Ms. Brillon from Center Street, Ms. Gungor from Searingtown, Mrs. Haughney from Searingtown and Mrs. Ilardo from Denton. Students entering grades 7-9 were able to attend the camp as Leaders in Training, helping campers find success within each class. High school volunteers were able to take on Leadership Intern roles, supporting teachers and students by preparing materials and helping campers bring their creative ideas to life.

Camp Invention was directed by Mrs. Kaye, Denton Avenue teacher, along with Ms. Sim, Camp Ambassador and Mr. Lavas, Assistant Director. Everyone involved had a fun week filled with collaboration and amazing work to kick off summer!



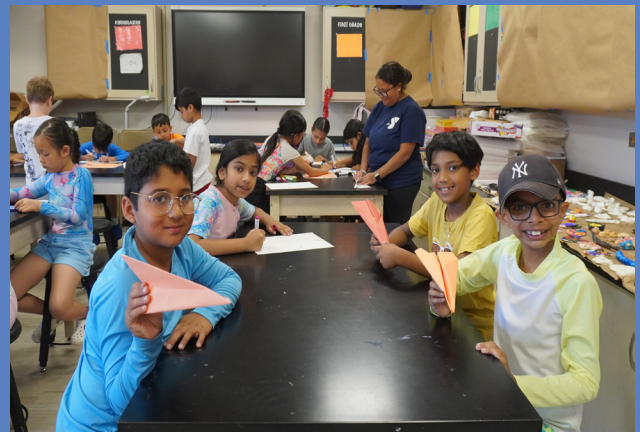
YMCA SUMMER RECREATION CAMP



The YMCA camp returned for another exciting summer at Center Street and Hericks Middle School this year, bringing with it a number of activities to keep the day fun and active. Each group has their own schedule filled with different activity stations, such as art class, yoga, hip hop, taekwondo, and more. During arts and crafts, one group learned how to fold paper airplanes and then got to race them outside, encouraging healthy and fair competition between the elementary-aged students. One camper reminded their friend, “It’s okay, this is just for fun!” when they were upset that their plane didn’t fly very far.

Each group participated in physical activities like taekwondo, hip hop and yoga. In each class, they were able to learn different techniques, from stretching in yoga and to kicking in taekwondo. Their hip hop class encouraged them to let loose and dance with one another, and there were smiles all around!

Not only does the YMCA summer camp encourage physical movement and friendly competition, but it also prompts students’ innovative minds. Each group had allotted time on their schedule for the Imagination Station, where the students read a book and used their imagination to create something related to the story. There was also recreational time for kids to simply go outside and play with chalk, run through sprinklers, and more fun activities with their friends. Whatever activity they might be doing, it definitely seems like they are having fun!



HERRICKS MUSIC BOOSTERS ANNUAL SUMMER PROGRAM



The Music Boosters Camp is a program that never fails to come back each year and inspire new generations of musicians. It runs for the duration of July, with three hour sessions each day, and concludes with highly anticipated performances that showcase the hard work, dedication, and talent of our campers, counselors, and teachers.

Throughout the program, our students not only sharpen their musical skills, but also have the opportunity to learn new instruments and explore new musical paths, including creating their own arrangements, conducting, and more. Our camp counselors are Herricks High School Tri-M volunteers, most of whom attended the program themselves in the past. They worked closely with our young musicians to help them develop their talents and provide guidance along the way. Their involvement was a strong display of leadership, as these high school students connected with the campers, served as role models, and inspired them to continue working hard and pursuing their passion for music.

They have two concerts at the end of the program: one concert in which several small groups play a song and another, more formal culminating concert, where the full orchestra and band get a chance to show off their skills. During the small-group concert on Tuesday, July 28th, almost 20 groups of around 3-5 kids played a song with their counselors. Students performed contemporary songs like “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran and “Viva La Vida” by Coldplay on flutes and violins, as well as classic theme songs from Pirates of the Caribbean and Harry Potter on various instruments. Even the ‘Sofia the First’ theme song had its time to shine, with fun props and costumes to complement the piece.

Their final performance on Friday, July 31st, tied four weeks of musical learning together in a way that demonstrated all that the students had accomplished. Not only did they perform instrumental pieces like “Polar Vortex” and “Joust” in a larger group, they also made music in other ways using instruments like the ukulele, boomwhackers, and their voices. Their chorus performance of “Counting Stars” by OneRepublic even included fun tweaks to the lyrics specific to music camp. High school counselors also got the chance to conduct on their own, showing that no matter what grade you are in, this camp still offers plenty of opportunities to experience the art of music.



HERRICKS ART BOOSTERS SUMMER PROGRAM

Herricks' Art Boosters program hosted a week-long camp where students were able to create and imagine! Throughout the week, campers explored a wide range of creative projects, including decorating canvas tote bags with fabric markers, designing personal symbols to represent themselves, sculpting clay monsters, creating abstract name art, chalk pastel neon signs, printmaking, and collaborating on a large Jen Stark-inspired installation. Each project encouraged creativity, self-expression, and artistic exploration. Our students thoroughly enjoyed exploring new creative possibilities while forming new friendships and creating lasting memories together.

Thank you so much to Ms. Morrissey, Ms. Gallo and Ms. Rodriguez for their brilliant leadership of Herricks Arts Booster's Summer Art Camp!



HERRICKS ATHLETIC SUMMER PROGRAMS



Throughout the summer, our student athletes have had a variety of opportunities to continue learning, growing, and developing their skills!

During the Herricks Cheerleading Youth Camp, future Highlanders participated in warm-up activities, learned cheers, motions, and stretches, and even had the opportunity to learn the Herricks Highlanders Band Dance!

The Herricks Flag Football team also hosted a Youth Flag Football Camp, helping to develop the next generation of athletes and continue building on the success of our Nassau County Championship program.

We are so proud of all the students who participated with such enthusiasm and determination to learn and grow. A special thank you to all of our coaches and volunteers who have worked hard throughout the summer to provide these meaningful and memorable experiences for our student athletes!



HERRICKS EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR



The Herricks Extended School Year (ESY) Program is a six-week summer program designed to help students maintain the academic skills and progress they have worked so hard to achieve throughout the school year. Through engaging, hands-on learning experiences, students continue to strengthen their academic skills while building confidence and independence.

Because it is summer, our staff works hard to make learning fun—and it's paying off. Many of our students go home calling ESY “summer camp,” which is exactly what we hope to hear. Their dedication helps make ESY a place where students feel excited to learn, grow, and participate.

Our goal is for students to stay engaged, continue learning, and create lasting memories without even realizing how much they are accomplishing along the way. We are so proud of our students and thankful to the educators who make this wonderful experience possible.

