



HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CSD

THE HIGHLANDER

AROUND THE DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

September in Review: A Great Start!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Oct. 1st-Board of Education Meeting
6:00 PM



Oct. 2nd-Jr. Homecoming Game 6:30 pm



Oct. 2nd-End of Mid-Quarter1-Grades 6-12



Oct. 3rd-SAT Exams JIO



Oct. 9th-County-Wide Early Dismissal Drill 15-minute early release



Oct. 12th-Columbus Day-No School District Closed



HFFMCSD ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

FMES • 158 | HFIS • 322
JIOHS • 383

TOTAL STUDENTS: 863



Athletic Schedule

JIO ATHLETICS SCHEDULE



Scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.gobound.com/ny/schools/jamesioneil>



Growing Together: September Highlights

September has been a wonderful start to the school year! Across our schools, students and staff have been learning, connecting, celebrating school spirit, and building a strong sense of community. We are grateful to our families, staff, and community partners for helping make the start of the 2026-27 school year such a positive one.



Fort Montgomery Elementary School

Mrs. Hansen was able to join the Reading Buddies orientation at O'Neill. It was great to connect with the high school students who will be coming to FMES to engage in reading activities with our 1st grade students.

Our Pre-K through Second grade students and staff have participated in two evacuation drills this school year. Safety is a priority at FMES, and practicing these procedures helps everyone know what to do in an emergency. Our youngest learners did a wonderful job listening to directions and moving safely with their teachers. We are proud of them and grateful to our staff for guiding them with care.



James I. O'Neill High School

JIO's Reading Buddies program is celebrating its 23rd year! More than 30 high school students participated in a training session on September 23 in preparation for visiting first-grade classrooms throughout the school year. Once a month, Reading Buddies spend time reading to and with their younger peers, building connections while encouraging a love of reading.

This year is especially meaningful, as several of our high school Reading Buddies participated in the program themselves as first graders! The club will visit FMES on October 7 to meet their new reading buddies and begin another year of this wonderful tradition.



District

Earlier this week, Superintendent Michael McElduff and Board of Education President Mrs. Lawless traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Federal Impact Aid Conference and advocate on behalf of the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District.

It was a productive several days as the HFFMCSD team collaborated with fellow Impact Aid districts from across the country to deliver a unified message to federal leaders: protect Impact Aid and increase overall federal funding for this critical program. Impact Aid plays an essential role in supporting school districts like HFFMCSD that have a significant amount of federally owned, tax-exempt property within their communities.

During their time in Washington, Superintendent McElduff and Mrs. Lawless also met with representatives from the offices of U.S. Senators Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congressman Pat Ryan. The team shared the significant role Impact Aid plays in supporting HFFMCSD students and programs, and asked our federal representatives to continue advocating for the program while pushing for substantial increases in future funding.

HFFMCSD remains committed to making sure our district's voice is heard at the state and federal levels and to advocating for the resources necessary to support our students, staff, and community.



Spotlight on Highland Falls Intermediate School

Celebrating Constitution Day!

Our 7th graders celebrated Constitution Day on Thursday with an interactive quiz and Pocket Constitutions generously provided by the American Legion. It was a fun and engaging way to learn more about our nation's founding document! Please enjoy the attached photos.



Family Movie Night!

We're excited to welcome HFIS families to Family Movie Night this Friday from 6:00-8:00 p.m.! Popcorn will be provided—thank you to Connect! We'll be watching Iron Will, so bring the family and join us for a fun evening together!

