# HALDANE HORIZONS

*A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District*




*Youth-Led 9/11 Memorial Service*

## SEPTEMBER 2026

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# *Message from Dr. Duffy*

Dear Haldane Community,

It has been my pleasure to welcome our students, teachers, and staff to the 2026/27 school year. Haldane is truly a special community and I am grateful to be serving as your Superintendent of Schools.

Our district goals were adopted by the Board of Education this month, and you can view them on the next page. These goals will guide our work as a community this year.

One of the priorities is to evaluate the 2020 Strategic Coherence Plan. We will do this by auditing district operations, gathering stakeholder feedback, and identifying curriculum and training opportunities so that we can develop our strategic direction for the years ahead.

"Watch us Grow" is the theme of our capital project. We are excited to have the work on the high school addition officially underway. You can learn more about the full scope of the project here.

The Haldane Essentials continues to be the heart of our mission to empower students to reach their full potential. We are actively refining our learning outcomes and




assessments as we align this work with updates from the NYS Board of Regents and NY Inspires. We will focus on providing students with opportunities for integrated studies and hands-on, real-world experiences.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making Haldane the amazing community it is. Let's have a fantastic year!

Dr. Gail Duffy
Superintendent of Schools

## THE HALDANE ESSENTIALS

**Critical Thinking**
**Problem Solving**
**Communication**

**Growth Mindset**
**Emotional Intelligence**
**Wellness**

# HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS 2026-2027

## 1 Strategic Plan

Evaluate the 2020 Strategic Coherence Plan by gathering data across all district operations and systems. This audit will highlight accomplishments, identify curriculum and training gaps, capture stakeholder feedback, and build an evidence-based roadmap for the district's next strategic phase.

## 2 Integrated Studies

To create engagement through the promotion of integrated studies, the district will expand opportunities for students and educators to engage in interdisciplinary teaching and learning, real-world problem-solving, innovative technology use, and future-ready pathway learning.

## 3 Capital Project

Oversee the construction phase of bond-funded capital projects by partnering with architects and builders to ensure milestones are met on schedule and within budget, while providing regular, transparent progress updates to the school community and greater Philipstown.



## 4 Fiscal Stewardship & Long-Range Planning

Continue to prioritize long-term fiscal stability and operational efficiency to maximize district resources while maintaining high-quality academic, artistic, and athletic programs.
The district will responsibly manage capital project debt service, remain within the Allowable Tax Levy (ATL), and proactively plan for facility, safety, transportation, enrollment, staffing, and curriculum demands.

# *New Faces, New Roles*



**EMILY MARSH**

HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



**LIZ WRIGHT**

HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



**ERIC DALIO**

STEAM TEACHER



**ALINA MACARIE**

7-12TH GRADE
FRENCH TEACHER



**MARY McCANN**

7TH GRADE
MATH TEACHER



**ALEXIS DEAN**

7TH GRADE
SCIENCE TEACHER



**MAUREEN SALKA**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



**CHRISTINA GOEHL**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



**CAROLINE DOUGLAS**

ART TEACHER,
LEAVE REPLACEMENT

# *New Faces, New Roles*



**RACHEL BALOGA**

**TEACHER AIDE**



**BRITTANY WORTHINGTON**

**TEACHER AIDE**



**LEA ABBATE**

**TEACHER AIDE**



**NICHOLAS PREGNO**

**ACCOUNT CLERK**



**KARINA BIELAS**

**TEACHING ASSISTANT**



**MELANIE GIORDANO**

**SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS ASSISTANT**



**KELLY RAMUNDO**

**BUS DRIVER**



**CHRISTINA DE GROH**

**BUS MONITOR**

**NOT PICTURED: GINA SWAN, TEACHER AIDE**

# *Off to a Great Start!*

***Orientations and the 1st Day of School brought enthusiam and joy back to our campus.***

Despite a little rain, we had a great start to the 2026-2027 school year. Last year's PreK students confidently marched their way into Kindergarten to make way for our second class of four-year olds to follow in their footsteps. This year, Haldane Middle School welcomed 5th graders to their (side of the) building, adding 57 students who are now part of the middle school family. Meanwhile, our high schoolers are navigating life next to a construction zone lead by the senior class who've been affectionately nicknamed The Wrecking Crew.










# *Off to a Great Start!*













# Marking 25 Years




Haldane High School hosted their third annual student-run memorial to mark the 25th anniversary of September 11th. This year, students shared their perspectives as children of current first responders.

The following week, high schoolers were given the opportunity to hear from New York Waterway Captain Rick Thornton. Captain Rick is credited with ferrying as many as 150,000 people to safety from Manhattan to New Jersey as the events of 9/11 unfolded. His message highlights the unexpected positive impacts - big or small - that we can have on those around us each day.





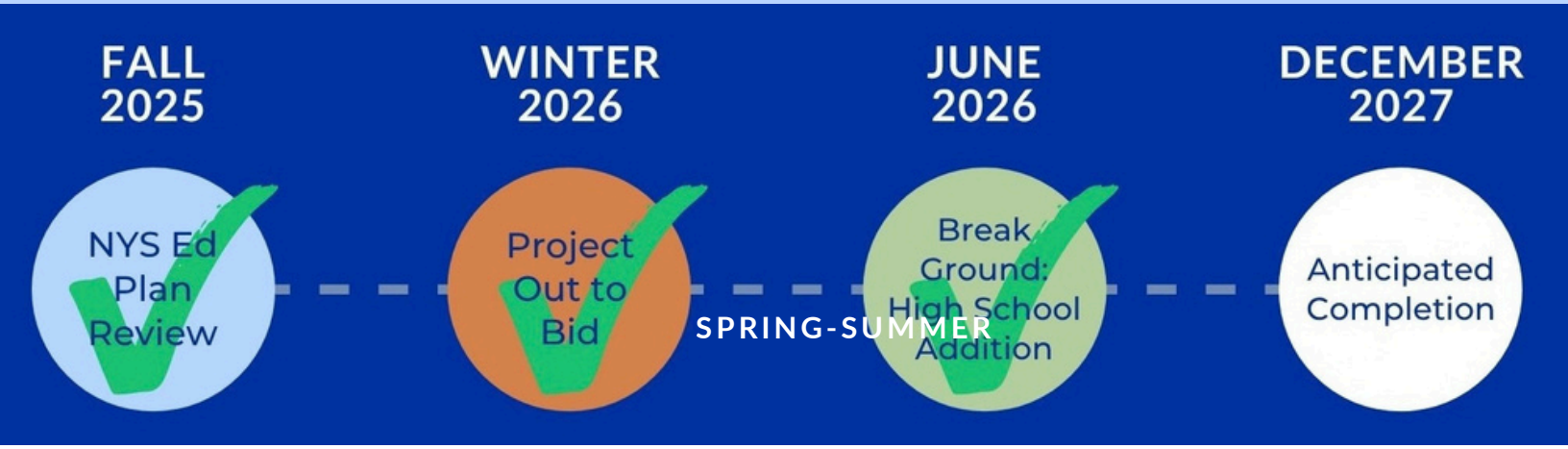
*Captain Rick was invited to Haldane by Social Studies Department Chair Jackie McGrath.*

# *Haldane Capital Project Progress*




It was a busy summer at Haldane as construction for the high school addition officially kicked off! The stairwell came down in early August and, while much of the work to date has been underground, things are happening! As the high school work continues, the district expects to go to bid in November for the Main Building components of the Capital Project. As as reminder, the Main Building will see a new Student Support Suite, including spaces for guidance and social work, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and the school nurses; a STEAM Lab; and a secure vestibule entrance.

## HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION PROGRESS



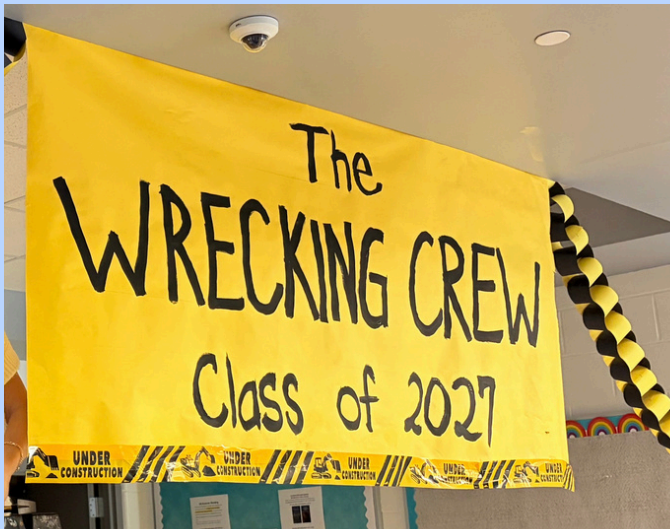

**Follow our progress at haldaneschool.org**





## *Class of 2027 Senior Kayak*





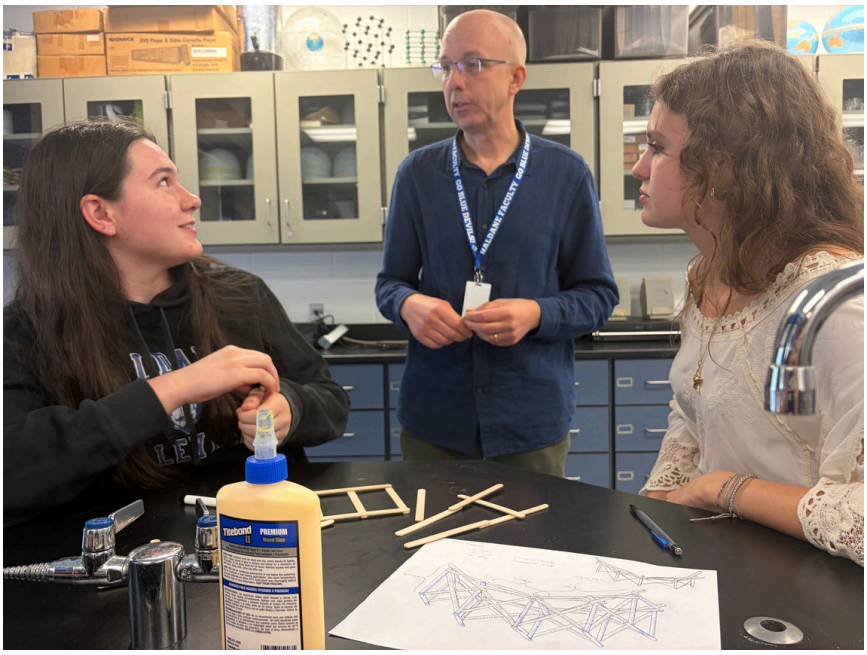
# Essential Experiences

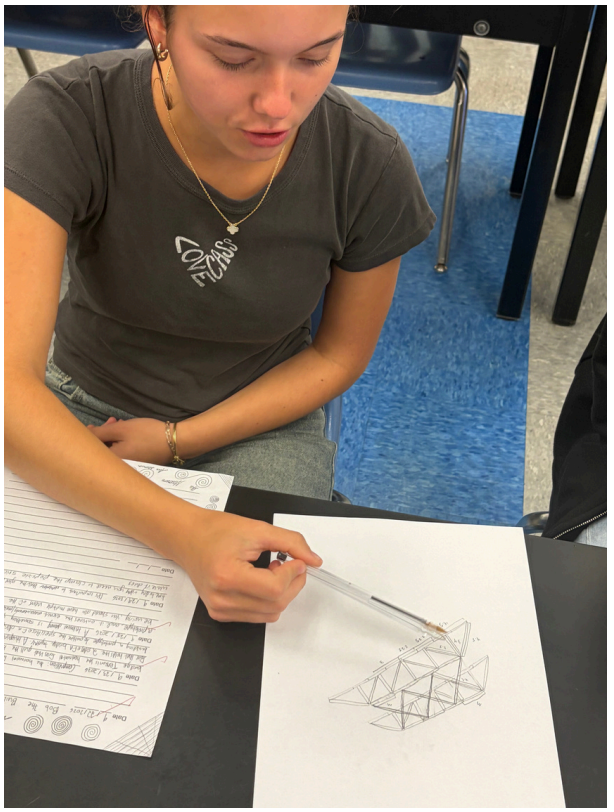
*Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.*

Critical Thinking | Problem Solving | Communication | Growth Mindset | Emotional Intelligence | Wellness

## Engineering & Design

In Mr. Dalio's high school Principles of Engineering Design course, the year began with an introduction to the engineering and design thinking processes. Using these frameworks, students started with a simple challenge: build a bridge out of one piece of paper to support as many pennies as possible. They have now moved to researching, designing, and building a bridge out of popsicle sticks to support maximum weight, while using materials as efficiently as possible. It is exciting to watch and hear what students are collaborating to construct. Up next: prototype weight tests.



At this stage, students are learning the fundamentals through freehand drawings before moving on to a CAD program.







# *Kindergarten Apple Picking*







# Essential Experiences

*Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.*

Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

## Sharing The Three Sisters Crop

Every year the 4th grade curriculum is complemented by lessons about The Three Sisters in library/garden class. In the first of several lessons, students learned about how the three crops - corn, beans, and squash - help each other grow, and also provide perfect nutrition for humans. Students explored the garden where the crops grow together and read the Haudenosaunee legend of The Three Sisters.



Mr. Sullivan's high school Foods class prepared succotash made with corn, beans, and squash and shared it with their younger peers during a beautiful day in the garden.



*Photos by sophomore Allegra Parrella.*

Later this fall, students will grind dried corn into cornmeal and learn more about the science and social history of these crops, as well as their contemporary uses - some are quite surprising! Come spring the students will plant a new Three Sisters garden for next fall's lessons.

# Board of Education Recognizes High School Achievers




**NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION**

Henry Foley-Hedlund
Delia Starr

**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

2027 Commendations:
Nicolas LeMon and Lincoln Wayland

# Leos Volunteering




The Cold Spring Lions Club expressed their appreciation for Liv, Sydney, and Taya who gave up their Saturday to bring sunshine to the annual Lions Club BBQ.

# OCTOBER'26

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 01 | 02<br>In-School PSAT/SAT<br>Freshman Retreat<br>College Visits/<br>Writer's Workshop<br><br>MS/HS Q1<br>Progress Reports | 03 |
| 05 | 06<br>Middle School<br>Picture Day<br><br>BOE Business<br>Meeting<br>7:00pm | 07<br>SPIRIT WEEK<br>See game schedule on next page! | 08 | 09<br>Pep Rally<br><br>Homecoming<br>Parade 6:15pm<br>Football Game<br>7:00pm | 10<br>Athletic<br>Hall of Fame 11am<br><br>Homecoming<br>Dance<br>6:30pm |
| 12<br>SCHOOL<br>CLOSED<br>Columbus Day/<br>Indigenous<br>Peoples' Day | 13<br>PTA Meeting<br>3:00pm<br><br>Booster Club<br>Meeting 7:00pm | 14<br>High School<br>Picture Retakes | 15<br>Elementary School<br>Picture Day | 16 | 17 |
| 19 | 20<br>BOE Workshop<br>Meeting<br>7:00pm | 21 | 22<br>9/10 Parent<br>Night 6:00pm | 23 | 24 |
| 26 | 27<br>Senior Portrait<br>Retakes | 28 | 29 | 30<br>Elementary<br>Halloween Parade<br>1:45pm<br><br>Trunk or Treat<br>3:00-5:00pm | 31<br>  |

# HOMECOMING 2026 EVENTS

## TUESDAY 10/6

5PM Varsity Tennis
*UNDER THE LIGHTS!*

## WEDNESDAY 10/7

5PM Varsity Volleyball

6:30PM Varsity Girls' Soccer
*UNDER THE LIGHTS!*

## THURSDAY 10/8

7:00PM Varsity Boys' Soccer
*UNDER THE LIGHTS!*

## FRIDAY 10/9

12:15PM HS Pep Rally

6:15PM Parade up Main Street

7:00PM Varsity Football
*UNDER THE LIGHTS!*

## SATURDAY 10/10

9:00AM XCountry @ Saratoga

11:00AM Hall of Fame Induction

6:30PM HS Homecoming Dance




Tickets still available for the 2026 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
Saturday, October 10 @ 11:00am

# Become a Haldane Partner

Please consider joining or supporting one of Haldane's partner organizations. Their contributions to academic, athletic, and artistic programming are a vital part of each school year at Haldane.

HALDANE PTA

Learn More

HALDANE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Learn More

haldane arts alliance

Learn More

HALDANE BLUE DEVIL BOOSTER CLUB

Learn More

# Please Share Feedback

Two important surveys will be send to families via email this fall:

## Digital Equity Survey

In addition to the annual NYS Education Department questions on student access to devices and the internet, this year's survey will gather input on screen time and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Haldane will use this information to plan technology integration in support of student learning.

## School Climate Survey

Parents, students, and staff will be invited to complete confidential surveys on their perceptions of school climate. The results will be used by the district to identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth.

# Looking Ahead...School Closed

**Monday 10/12**
**Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day**

**Tuesday 11/3**
**Superintendent's Conference Day**

**Wednesday 11/11**
**Veterans Day**

**Wednesday 11/25 - Friday 11/27**
**Thanksgiving Recess**


## BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Maggie Valentine, President*
*Sean McNall, Vice President*
*Ezra Clementson, Trustee*
*Michelle Kupper, PhD, Trustee*
*Adam Burgoon, Trustee*

## ADMINISTRATION

*Gail Duffy, EdD, Superintendent of Schools*
*Christine Jamin, Elementary School Principal*
*MaryAnn Seelke, EdD, Middle School Principal*
*Julia Sniffen, High School Principal*
*Erin Piquet, Director of Pupil Personnel Services*
*Tom Cunningham, Athletic Director and Dean of Students*
*Leah Horn, Director of Technology/Chief Information Officer*
*Dave Robertin, Interim Director of Facilities and Transportation*
*Catherine Platt, School Business Manager*