



THE HIGHLANDER

AROUND THE DISTRICT

OCTOBER 13, 2026



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT
20**BOE Presentation Meeting**
District Data Review and Strategic Plan
6:00 PMOCT
29**HFIS & FMES Parent/Teacher Conferences**
Afternoon: 12:30-3:00 PM
Evening: 6:00-8:00 PMOCT
30**Half Day of School for Students**
Vertical Articulation

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE

JIO ATHLETICS SCHEDULE



HFFMCSD ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

FMES • 157 | HFIS • 322
JIOHS • 382
TOTAL STUDENTS: 861

Mario Molina

Physical Chemist, Professor, and
Environmental ResearcherMEXICO
March 19, 1943 – October 7, 2020

“We have many
tough problems,
and we need everybody’s
help to solve the problems.”

- He was the first Mexican-born scientist to win the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1995.
- He laid the scientific foundation for the Montreal Protocol.
- He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.
- He co-discovered the CFC-Ozone Depletion Theory.
- He founded the Mario Molina Center in 2004.

His work continues to inspire
a cleaner, healthier planet.



Together at HFFMCSD: October News & Highlights

October is National Principals Month, and the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District would like to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate our outstanding building administrators: Dr. Michael Curtin, Mrs. Hansen, Mr. Femia, and Assistant Principal Mrs. Berry.

Our administrators work tirelessly each day to create positive, supportive, and engaging learning environments for our students. Their leadership, dedication, and commitment to our schools extend well beyond the school day, as they continually work to support our students, faculty, staff, families, and the greater school community.

We recognize that leading a school comes with many responsibilities and challenges, and we are grateful to have such a dedicated group of educational leaders who consistently put the needs of our students first.

Please join us in thanking our building administrators for their hard work, leadership, and continued commitment to helping all learners succeed!

OUR PRINCIPALS

Fort Montgomery Elementary School



FMES students are learning and celebrating together! In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, students visited the Fort Montgomery firehouse to learn about fire safety and the important work of our local firefighters. FMES is also celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with family and community members joining students for special read-alouds, including Town Historian and former Spanish teacher Mrs. Ronnie Coffey, who read to first and second graders in both English and Spanish.

Highland Falls Intermediate School



HFIS continues to prioritize family engagement, student support, and safety. This week, Mr. Femia hosted a Coffee with the Principal, providing families an opportunity to connect and discuss happenings at HFIS. The school also held its first Attendance Meeting to proactively support students and families. Looking ahead, HFIS is preparing for its first Lockdown Drill of the year, with the Emergency Response Team working closely with Sergeant Kelly to ensure the school is well-prepared.

James I. O'Neill in the Spotlight:



In a school as diverse as JIO, it is important to celebrate the many cultures represented within our school community and to provide opportunities for students to learn about people whose backgrounds and experiences may be different from their own. JIO has been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15, with daily one-minute profiles on the PA system highlighting famous Hispanic figures from history and culture. Our Spanish 5 students have been taking turns researching, writing, and presenting short biographies of notable figures ranging from Roberto Clemente to Shakira. Additionally, Ms. Rochman's Spanish 4H students have adorned JIO hallways with posters highlighting famous Hispanic Americans, including the Mario Molina poster featured in this newsletter. These activities provide students with meaningful opportunities to celebrate Hispanic heritage while learning about individuals who have made lasting contributions to our world. ¡Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana to all the Latino members of our school community! C A Hispana!



Curriculum & Instruction Highlight: New Pre-K Curriculum Implementation

The Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology is excited to highlight the implementation of the new LeapFrog DIG curriculum in our Universal Pre-Kindergarten classrooms for the 2026-2027 school year. This comprehensive, developmentally appropriate curriculum provides our youngest learners with engaging, hands-on experiences that promote early literacy, language development, foundational math skills, and social-emotional growth.

The implementation represents another important step in strengthening early childhood education and building a solid foundation for future academic success.