



Herricks Dateline

FALL 2026

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Herricks Community Comes Together for **HOMECOMING CELEBRATION**

The Herricks community turned out in force on Sept. 18 as students, families, staff and alumni gathered at Herricks High School for the district's annual homecoming celebration.

Festivities began with the traditional homecoming parade, led by the high school band and cheerleading team. Representatives from all five district schools proudly marched onto the track, creating a sea of blue and showcasing their Highlander pride.

Throughout the evening, Herricks High School clubs hosted games, activities, performances and giveaways, while senior football players and cheerleaders were recognized alongside their families before kickoff.

Halftime festivities featured performances by the cheerleaders and Herricks Dance Theatre Club, recognition of the championship boys soccer and girls flag football teams, and the introduction of the 2026 Highlander Ten, a group of seniors honored for their leadership, character and contributions to school life.

From the spirited parade to the packed



stands, homecoming brought together generations of Highlanders for an evening celebrating school pride, community and tradition.

A MESSAGE FROM The Board of Education

Dear Herricks Family,

As we kick off the 2026-2027 school year, the Herricks Board of Education extends our warmest wishes to our students, families, faculty and staff. Each new school year brings a renewed sense of excitement, opportunity and possibility, and we look forward to all that lies ahead.

Herricks has long been a district defined by academic excellence, a rich diversity of backgrounds and perspectives, and an unwavering commitment to our students. These qualities are the foundation of our success and a source of tremendous pride for our entire community.

As a Board, we are committed not only to preserving this tradition of excellence but to building upon it. Our responsibility is to ensure that every student has access to an exceptional education, meaningful opportunities and a supportive environment in which to learn, grow and thrive. We believe that success is measured not only by academic achievement, but also by the confidence, character, creativity and compassion our students develop along the way.

We recognize that the strength of Herricks lies in the partnership between our dedicated educators, supportive families, talented students and engaged community members. It is through this shared commitment that we continue to move our district forward while remaining true to the values that make Herricks so special.

As we begin this new chapter, we look forward to celebrating our students' accomplishments, embracing new opportunities, and working together to ensure that Herricks remains a place where every child feels valued, challenged and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for your continued trust, partnership and support. We wish everyone a wonderful and successful school year.

Warm Regards,

The Herricks Board of Education

Herricks High School Celebrates the 2026 Highlander Ten

In keeping with a cherished homecoming tradition, Herricks High School recently recognized 10 outstanding students as the 2026 Highlander Ten.

Selected by their peers and faculty, the Highlander Ten exemplify the character, leadership and school spirit that define the Herricks community. This year's honorees were recognized for their contributions to school life, dedication to their interests and commitment to making a positive difference both inside and outside the classroom.

Although their paths and passions differ, these 10 students share a commitment to personal growth, leadership and service. Together, they reflect the talent, curiosity, compassion and sense of community that make Herricks High School special.

Regina Choi has developed a passion for language learning and the cultural connections it fosters. She credits Ms. Poppe with inspiring her curiosity about different cultures and perspectives.

Loucas Dong has learned to view mistakes as opportunities for growth. His experiences at Herricks have strengthened his resilience and helped him develop a deeper understanding of himself.

Madelyn Glennon has found a second family through cheerleading and embraced the many opportunities Herricks has to offer. Her experience reflects the importance of finding a place to belong and thrive.

Gabriella Mathew values the lessons learned through perseverance, pursuing her passions and building meaningful friendships. For her, the relationships formed along the way are just as important as the goals achieved.

Rohan Nair has found his voice through music and performance, developing the confidence to share his talents with others. He credits English teacher Ms. Nelson with having a significant influence on his high school experience.

John Nell has combined his interests in service, engineering and innovation to make a difference. Through student government, community involvement and projects involving 3D printing, he has sought creative ways to contribute to his school and community.

Zain Quraishi has embraced opportunities to broaden his horizons, from language immersion experiences to studying abroad. His time at Herricks reflects a spirit of curiosity and a willingness to take on new challenges.

Gianna Rivera celebrates the cultural diversity that makes Herricks unique. She has also demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship through her involvement in sustainability initiatives.

Sreya Sanyal brings a perspective shaped by experiences both locally and abroad. Among the highlights of her time at Herricks are the friendships she has formed and the memorable experiences shared with her classmates.

Dean Singh has made his mark through volleyball, student government and a variety of school activities. His high school experience reflects his determination, strong work ethic and drive to continually improve.



Herricks Homegrown: Giselle Rosario Returns to Her Roots

For Giselle Rosario, Herricks has always been home. A 2016 graduate of Herricks High School and former Center Street Elementary School student, Ms. Rosario has returned to the district as a K-1 special education teacher at Denton Avenue Elementary School.

Her favorite memories as a Herricks student include elementary school Flag Day celebrations, a middle school trip to Frost Valley and her high school prom. At Herricks High School, she served as president of the Italian Club and captain of the varsity

badminton team. But it was the cooperative work experience program that helped shape her future.

Through the program, she returned to Center Street to work in an elementary classroom. "Going back to Center Street reassured me that this is what I am meant to do," she recalled. "I enjoyed supporting the students, helping my now colleagues and finding myself as a teacher."

After graduating, Ms. Rosario earned her bachelor's degree in childhood education and

master's degree in special education from St. John's University. Returning to Herricks gave her the chance to give back to the community that had given her so much.

"I wanted to return to Herricks because I hoped to be part of that same culture that had such a meaningful impact on my life," she said.

While the district's facilities have evolved, Ms. Rosario says its strong sense of community and commitment to students remain unchanged. Today, she strives to bring those same values into her classroom, emphasizing

kindness, inclusion and making every child feel supported.

"Especially as a special education teacher, I strive to give my students the same sense of belonging and support that made my own educational experience meaningful," she said.

For Ms. Rosario, the meaning of "Once a Highlander, always a Highlander" is simple: "Herricks is home. We may travel or move but Herricks is always a place where we can come back to."

HERRICKS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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GARDEN CITY, NY
PERMIT NO. 1491

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30 Herricks Students Earn *NYSSMA All-State Honors*

Thirty Herricks High School student musicians have earned recognition from the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) for the 2026 All-State Music Festival, with 17 selected as performers and 13 named alternates.

All-State selection is among the highest honors for high school musicians in New York. Each year, more than 6,000 students audition, with only a select group chosen to perform at the annual festival, held in December in Rochester.

The 17 All-State performers are Samuel Babayev, Evelyn Chou, Miles Cohen, Ava Hsiao, Shawna Huang, Grace Kang, Skylar Kiang, Aaizah Lakhani, Matthew Liu, Rohan Nair, Dianne Noh, Samaira Singh, Nathan Tan,

Claud Tung, Aashna Venkatesh, Emma Wang and Peony Wu.

The 13 alternates are Aarini Chakraborty, Theodore Chang, Griffin Chiu, Regina Choi, Naman Gupta, Evan Kim, Teagan Lau, Claire Lee, Zachary Maiman, Mia Paul, Harshil Pipwala, Ashley Simons and Christie Yang.

"We are incredibly proud of these students for reaching this remarkable milestone," said Mark Bligh, district director of fine and performing arts. "Being recognized by NYSSMA at the All-State level is a testament to their talent, discipline and commitment to excellence."

The district congratulates these outstanding musicians and their teachers, Catherine Birke, James Ludwig, Louise O'Hanlon and Scott Stickley, on this achievement.