Hempstead Public Schools

November 2026 · 2026–2027

TIGER NEWS

ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION. UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES FOR STUDENTS.



137 YEARS OF TIGER PRIDE

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MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT RUSH

Dear Hempstead Families and Community,

The first quarter has been filled with growth, achievement, and exciting opportunities for our students. The Board of Education and Central Office are proud of the outstanding work taking place throughout our schools. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, or through extracurricular activities, our students continue to shine thanks to the support of our teachers, staff, and families.

I am proud to announce that student attendance has increased from last year at this time. One of our goals for the 2026-27 school year is to continue increasing student attendance as it is essential to increasing achievement. We will be rolling out our Portrait of a Graduate to the community at our upcoming Board Meeting. It will also be discussed during parent meetings at your child's school. We are committed to expanding opportunities for our students as we have added the Refugee program at the secondary level to support our newcomer students as they transition into the district.

There are a lot of great things happening in our schools as each classroom is alive with curiosity, collaboration, and student voice. Our afterschool programs have started to extend learning opportunities for our students. We look forward to all students participating in at least one after school or Saturday program for the 2026-27 school year. This will provide additional support and exposure to students through effective use of our afterschool programs. All students are eligible for afterschool activities, and we look forward to their participation during the 2026-27 school year.

I want to thank every member of our school community for your partnership and support. Together, we are building a district that empowers every student to dream big, work hard, and feel empowered to make a difference. The future of Hempstead is bright, and we are on the path to something great.

With appreciation,

Gary Rush
Superintendent of Schools
Hempstead Union Free School District

#One Team, One Mission, Unlimited Possibilities For Students.

ATTENDANCE IS UP
Compared to this time last year

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE
Coming to our upcoming Board Meeting

AFTER SCHOOL FOR ALL
All students are eligible

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NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

FRESH FACES, SHARED PURPOSE





On August 31, the district welcomed its newest employees at the Annual New Employee Orientation, held at Rhodes Academy for the Humanities & the Arts. New hires connected with colleagues and learned more about the district as they began their journey with our school community. Board members, the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, union presidents and district administrators were on hand to greet them and share their enthusiasm for the important work ahead. The orientation came just before the Superintendent's Conference Days on September 1 and 2.

Throughout the orientation, new staff heard from representatives across the district and learned about the departments ready to support them, including Curriculum, Facilities, Technology and Human Resources. The district is excited about the experience and energy they bring to our schools, and wishes them a successful and rewarding year.

137TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING

A TIGER TRADITION, 137 YEARS STRONG







On Saturday, October 17, Hempstead celebrated its 137th Annual Homecoming, bringing generations of Tigers together for a memorable day of school spirit, unity and tradition. The festivities began with the Homecoming Parade through the Village of Hempstead, featuring our talented marching band, students, staff, alumni, athletic teams, community organizations and local leaders. The parade stepped off at 10:00 a.m., with proceeds benefiting the Hempstead High School Senior Class. We were especially honored to welcome New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, who joined us in celebrating this historic occasion and sharing in the spirit of our community.

The district also recognized its 2026 Grand Marshals, Lisa A. Smith and Village of Hempstead Chief of Police Richard Holland, for their leadership, service and commitment to the community. The Homecoming Showcase highlighted the talents and accomplishments of our students, and the excitement continued as the Tigers took the field for the annual football game. Thank you to Governor Hochul and to the students, families, alumni, staff, partners, elected officials and volunteers who made the day so special. For 137 years, Homecoming has been more than a celebration. It is a reflection of our rich history, strong community connections and unwavering Tiger Pride.

ONCE A TIGER, ALWAYS A TIGER!

NEWCOMER STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

FROM DAY ONE, YOU BELONG



"Our school is a tossed salad; every ingredient keeps its own flavor, and together we make something better."

From September 28 to October 2, the Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages and the Community Schools Office held the district's first Refugee & Immigrant Student Welcome Program Orientation. Twenty-eight newly arrived students from ABGS Middle School and Hempstead High School spent a week of afternoons getting to know their schools, their teachers and each other, while learning where to get help, how to cope with stress and how to stay safe. Each afternoon ended with dinner and a ride home, and every student left with a welcome kit.

The work continues all year. Coaches at both schools serve as dedicated contacts for new students, and the after-school P.L.U.S. Program offers language and homework help twice a week. Families also joined a Parent Workshop and Hispanic Heritage celebration at ABGS on October 14. Our next group of students begins in November.



HEMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL AND ABGS MARCHING BANDS

TWO SCHOOLS, ONE HEMPSTEAD BEAT

The Hempstead High School and Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School Marching Bands joined forces for an energetic performance at the Newsday Marching Band Festival on October 21, 2026. Led by their band directors, with the Color Guard adding its own dynamic energy, the combined bands captivated the audience with the iconic Hempstead Beat and high-energy hits from Lizzo.

More than a musical performance, the evening showed the power of unity between our middle and high school music programs. Students displayed talent, precision, creativity and teamwork, proving that together they can accomplish extraordinary things. The district congratulates its student musicians, Color Guard performers and dedicated educators for representing Hempstead with excellence and pride.



HEMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

A FEAST OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Hempstead High School closed Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant celebration that brought students, staff and the school community together through food, culture and fellowship. On the final day of the month-long observance, students and staff enjoyed a variety of traditional dishes representing the rich cultures and traditions of Hispanic and Latino communities. Hispanic Heritage Month is observed each year from September 15 to October 15.

The event highlighted the importance of cultural appreciation and gave everyone a chance to come together and learn through shared experiences. It was a fitting close to the month, honoring the contributions, history and diversity of Hispanic and Latino cultures. Through food and community, the high school showcased the pride and cultural richness that make our district so special. Families also visited the school for Meet the Teacher Night on September 24, and the high school marching band performed at the Newsday Marching Band Festival on October 21.

FOOD. CULTURE. FELLOWSHIP.

ALVERTA B. GRAY SCHULTZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURIOUS MINDS, PROUD FAMILIES



ABGS celebrated student achievement and family involvement at its Student of the Month event, honoring September students for being curious learners who ask questions, a trait the school calls being an "Inquirer." More than 60 students attended, joined by family members and staff who filled the cafeteria with support. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, students presented a poem reading, a mural and traditional music.

60+

students celebrated with families and staff

School leaders also spoke with parents about the school day, classroom culture, attendance, homework and the importance of communication between school and home. Parents had the chance to ask questions, and dinner was provided for everyone. ABGS also welcomed families for Meet the Teacher Night on September 24 and hosted a Parent Workshop and Hispanic Heritage celebration on October 14. The ABGS band joined the high school at the Newsday Marching Band Festival on October 21.



BARACK OBAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STORIES THAT TRAVEL THE WORLD

On October 20, Puerto Rican storyteller David Gonzalez led a lively Hispanic Heritage Month assembly. Students explored folk tales from the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Puerto Rico, learning about each country's cultural heritage and storytelling traditions.

With expressive character voices, animated faces and energetic movement, he brought each story to life and encouraged students to imagine, listen closely and connect with the tales. The assembly was an exciting and memorable way to celebrate Hispanic heritage and help students appreciate the diversity of cultures and traditions in our world. Families were also welcomed to the school for Meet the Teacher Night on September 22.



DAVID PATERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GAME ON FOR GREAT ATTENDANCE

The Game Day Attendance Kickoff, hosted by the school's Rapid Response Team, gave students an exciting start to the 2026–2027 school year. Through fun games, engaging activities and plenty of school spirit, students celebrated the new year and built excitement for the months ahead.

The day also carried an important reminder about being present and ready to learn. With staff showing their school pride and encouraging students, the message was clear and will guide the whole year: Every Day Counts! It is a message the whole district shares: attendance is up from this time last year, and continuing that growth is a goal for 2026–2027.



JOSEPH A. MCNEIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PINK PUMPKINS AND BIG HEARTS

Through the Seeds of Service program, students explored grief and resilience and learned how to support others through life's challenges. The experience encouraged empathy and reminded students to seek support and show kindness. Students and staff also decorated pink pumpkins for patients at the Zuckerberg Cancer Center at Northwell Hospital, bringing encouragement and a message of hope to individuals and families affected by breast cancer. The project coincided with Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

At Homecoming, a student crowned Homecoming Queen shared a special moment with Governor Kathy Hochul, whose visit added to the excitement of a day that brought students, families, educators and community members together. Together, these moments reflect McNeil's commitment to raising caring, resilient and engaged young people.



LEADERSHIP. SERVICE. GIVING BACK.

JACKSON MAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SMALL HANDS, BIG GIVING

Two Jackson Main classes attended the Nassau County Toys for Tots Kickoff Ceremony, hosted by the United States Marine Corps. Students joined community leaders and service members as the official holiday giving campaign began. Toys for Tots, run by the Marine Corps, collects toys for children in need during the holiday season.

During the ceremony, students saw a Marine Corps Major receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for dedication and service. It was a special chance to see the importance of leadership, community service and giving back to those in need.



STAY INFORMED WITH MYPOWERHUB

PROSPECT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EVERY FAMILY CONNECTED

At September's Meet the Teacher Night and October's PTO Meeting, district and school staff worked side by side with families to help them create accounts and get connected to the PowerSchool MyPowerHub app.

As the district's communication tool, MyPowerHub keeps families up to date with important school information, announcements and messages. Prospect is excited to connect even more families and to keep building strong partnerships between home and school. MyPowerHub replaced ClassDojo and Remind this year, and a parent account is needed for report cards and teacher communication.



RHODES ACADEMY FOR THE HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

STORY TIME, FAMILY STYLE

For Hispanic Heritage Month, parents and family members visited classrooms to share their love of reading. Through stories about Hispanic cultures, traditions and experiences, students celebrated diversity while strengthening their reading skills.

Rhodes is grateful to the families who took the time to inspire young readers and honor the rich contributions of Hispanic communities. Their visits made this a meaningful and memorable experience for everyone. Rhodes will also host the Social Emotional Learning event on November 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

21ST CENTURY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

WHEN THE BELL RINGS, THE FUN BEGINS





The program kicked off on September 14 for students in grades K–3 at Barack Obama, David Paterson, Joseph A. McNeil and Rhodes. Each day begins with homework help, followed by activities that spark creativity, build skills and encourage teamwork. Science and art projects, dance, soccer and basketball give students many ways to learn, stay active and explore new interests.

At ABGS, students tried flag football, explored the basics of DJing, and discovered new skills and creative outlets. They also traveled to Carnegie Hall to hear the Sphinx Virtuosi string ensemble, a wonderful chance to appreciate live music and the performing arts. On Saturday, October 24, the program also held its first Pickleball Workshop, introducing this fun sport to the Hempstead community and giving participants a chance to develop new skills, stay active and build connections. The workshop ran from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Together, these experiences help students and community members learn, grow and make lasting memories.



EMPIRE STATE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

FIND YOUR PASSION AFTER SCHOOL

Students are thriving in the Empire State After-School Program. Whether they choose sports, dance, debate, cooking, wellness or driver education, they are developing new talents while having fun in a supportive environment. All Hempstead students are eligible for after-school activities, and the district looks forward to every student taking part in at least one after-school or Saturday program this year. These programs give students extra support and new experiences beyond the school day.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

CENTER STAGE: YOUNG ARTISTS SHINE



46
students chosen for All-County music ensembles, up from 39 last year

Forty-six students were selected for the Nassau Music Educators Association All-County Ensembles. Students also performed at the Newsday Marching Band Festival on October 21, attended the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall, and took part in community events, school celebrations and programs featuring Ballet Hispánico and other professional artists. The Hispanic Heritage Month Art Showcase celebrated student creativity, and Hempstead artists earned statewide recognition in the NYSATA/NYSSBA Student Art Exhibit. Online resources such as Sora and SWANK K-12 Streaming supported learning, and teachers took part in training with arts and education organizations.

Next quarter brings All-County rehearsals and concerts, the NMEA PEAK Festival, winter performances, art exhibitions, a family night on social and emotional skills at Rhodes Academy on November 17, and planning for Music In Our Schools Month. Thank you to our students, families, staff and community partners for making the first quarter a success.



ATHLETICS

NEW COURTS, SAME TIGER SPIRIT

Hempstead proudly unveiled its renovated tennis courts and a new digital scoreboard, creating more opportunities for students and supporting physical education and health classes.

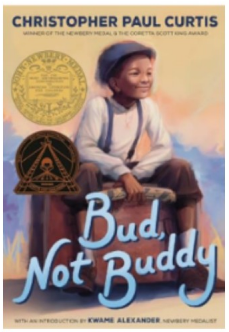
Fall highlights included Homecoming, Boys Varsity Soccer reaching the playoffs and our Student-Athlete of the Month recognition. Students and families also cheered on the Tigers at the annual Homecoming football game. Physical education and health teachers also continued their training, reinforcing our commitment to student involvement, wellness and athletic excellence.

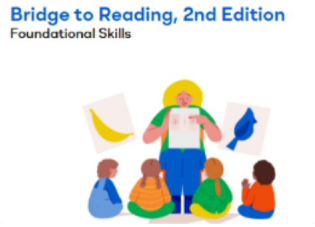
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES

TURNING THE PAGE ON A NEW YEAR

Grades K–6 began the year with the 2025 SAVVAS reading and writing program, with training for teachers. Grades K–2 are building early reading skills with Bridge to Reading 2.0, and Grade 6 students are reading full novels, starting with *Bud, Not Buddy*, the Newbery Medal-winning novel by Christopher Paul Curtis, to strengthen their understanding and build their ability to read longer works.

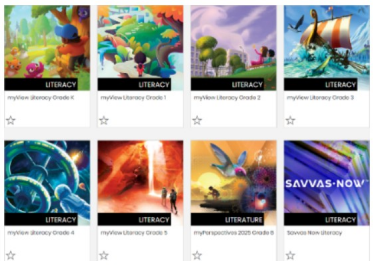
In Social Studies, students in grades K–5 use lessons and materials from Nassau BOCES. Each unit is built around big questions, with resources for teachers and materials for students that encourage curiosity, discussion and deeper understanding.











MATHEMATICS

MAKING MATH MAKE SENSE



This year brings new math programs: Eureka Math^2, HMH Algebra at the middle school and HMH Geometry at the high school. They are designed to help students understand why math works, build problem-solving skills and talk through their thinking, reflecting our commitment to engaging lessons for every student.

School teams now meet to review student progress and plan next steps. Magma Math Check-Ins also returned, giving students practice with state test-style questions and showing teachers where students need more help so they can guide class discussions and plan their lessons. Together, these steps set the foundation for a year of growth in math.



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

BUILD IT, TEST IT, DISCOVER IT

Grade 6 students at McNeil took on the Sustainable Emergency Shelter Engineering Design Challenge, planning, designing, building and testing models made to withstand severe weather, using the same step-by-step process engineers use.

At Jackson Main, Grade 5 students took part in the Secret Messages investigation, using household materials to create and reveal secret messages, observing evidence to learn the difference between physical and chemical changes. Hands-on projects like these build curiosity and problem-solving skills, and connect science to the real world.





INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

SCHOLARS WHO CODE, CREATE AND SOLVE

Hempstead Public Schools is introducing SkillStruck Computer Science across grades K–8. Through age-appropriate lessons and activities, students will learn coding basics and how technology can help them create, communicate and solve problems. Students in grades K–6 began with a digital citizenship unit in September, and computer science lessons launched in October as a weekly part of their Media and EdTech class.

As they move through the lessons, students will practice logical thinking, creativity and persistence. These skills help them take part confidently in a digital world and connect classroom learning to life in school and beyond.

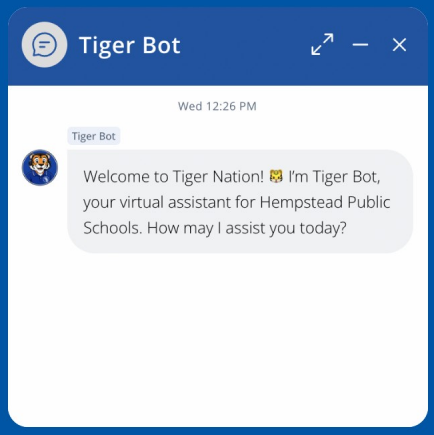


STUDENT SUPPORT

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY STRENGTH.

Every student deserves the chance to shine. Through extra help tailored to each child and regular check-ins on progress, we help students grow academically, socially and emotionally.

By partnering with teachers and families, we build confidence and celebrate progress. At David Paterson Elementary, for example, students receive focused small-group and one-on-one help.



GOT A QUESTION? ASK TIGER BOT

Meet Tiger Bot, the new AI chatbot on the district website. Tiger Bot is available in multiple languages, so more families can get help in the language they are most comfortable using.

Visit the district website, open Tiger Bot, type any question and get an answer.

www.hempsteadschools.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOW THE TIGERS

Our social media channels share the latest district news, school events and announcements, plus moments that celebrate the learning and achievements of Hempstead students and staff.

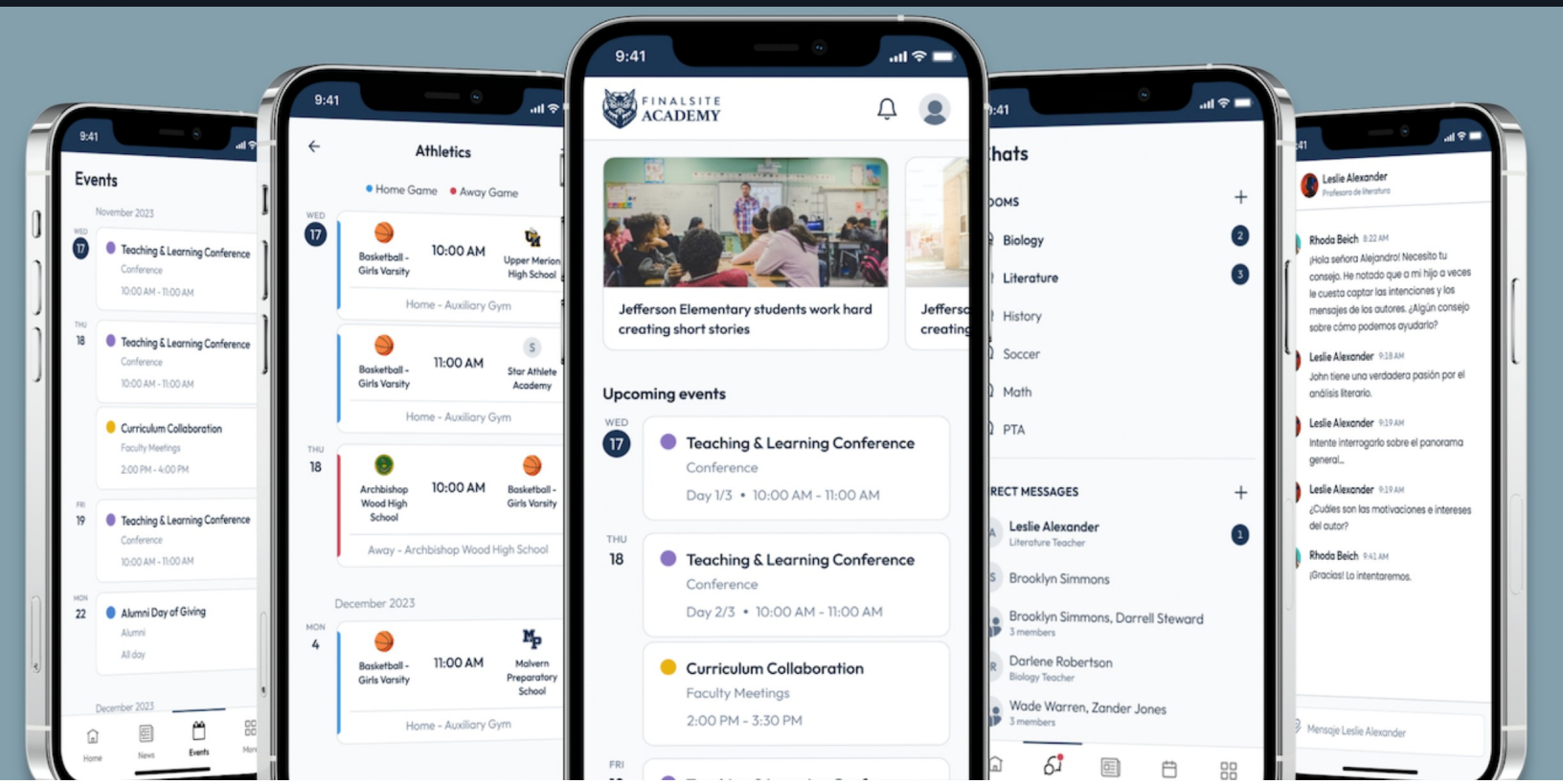
Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and LinkedIn. Follow our official accounts, then like and share posts to help spread the word.



Hempstead Public Schools
Mobile App · Aplicación Móvil

OUR SCHOOLS IN YOUR POCKET

NUESTRAS ESCUELAS EN TU BOLSILLO



EVERYTHING IN ONE PLACE · TODO EN UN SOLO LUGAR

- **District News and Announcements**
  Noticias y anuncios del distrito
- **Staff and School Directories**
  Directorios del personal y las escuelas
- **Food Service Menus**
  Menús del servicio de comidas
- **Social Media Updates**
  Novedades de las redes sociales
- **School Calendars and Events**
  Calendarios y eventos escolares
- **School Supply Lists**
  Listas de útiles escolares
- **District Resources and Information**
  Recursos e información del distrito
- **Board of Education Livestreams**
  Transmisiones en vivo de la Junta de Educación

Get alerts for school closings and delays, emergencies, announcements, events and deadlines.
Reciba alertas sobre cierres y retrasos escolares, emergencias, anuncios, eventos y fechas límite.

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD

ESCANEE PARA DESCARGAR

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Hempstead Public Schools

Noviembre de 2026 · 2026–2027

NOTICIAS DE TIGRES

UN EQUIPO. UNA MISIÓN. POSIBILIDADES ILIMITADAS PARA LOS ESTUDIANTES.



137 AÑOS DE ORGULLO TIGRE

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TAMBIÉN EN ESTA EDICIÓN

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Canchas Nuevas, el Mismo Espíritu Tigre

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Estudiantes que Programan, Crean y Resuelven

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www.hempsteadschools.org

Primary Years Programme

Middle Years Programme

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