



Congratulations, CLASS OF 2023

Herricks High School's Class of 2023 concluded a major chapter in their lives during the 64th Annual Commencement Ceremony, held on the evening of June 23. The seniors, along with members of the administration, Board of Education and high school faculty, entered the school's field to the delight of hundreds of guests that filled the bleachers.

Principal Joan Keegan opened the ceremony and invited some seniors up to the podium to continue their time-honored tradition of welcoming guests with greetings in a variety of languages spoken all over the world, representative of the diversity within our community.

Board of Education Vice President Henry Zanetti, Herricks High School PTSA president Barbara

Baur-Rizzo, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis all offered remarks, speaking with heartfelt pride, gratitude and appreciation.

Valedictorian Jeylin Lee and salutatorian Ashley Lam, also best friends, reflected together on their time at Herricks and addressed their classmates. Jeylin and Ashley expressed tremendous pride in their soon-to-be alma mater and encouraged their classmates to always remember to celebrate their uniqueness and talents, to continue to work hard and to stay true to who they are and what they believe in.

A Herricks graduation custom is the announcement of a guest speaker selected by students. This year's honoree was Herricks Middle School Chair Diane McCabe, who expressed her enthusiasm and appreciation

for the graduates by reflecting on memorable moments while wiping away tears of happiness during her remarks. McCabe, who retired at the end of the school year, talked about her experiences as both a student and educator in Herricks. Class of 2023 reflections were also shared by Herricks Student Government Executive Board President Catherine Su.

As the highlight of the ceremony, diplomas were presented by Board of Education members, and each graduate received applause and cheers from guests.

Before the evening concluded, members of the Class of 2023 took part in the "turning of the tassels," then tossed their caps in the air.



Herricks Dateline

SUMMER 2023

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Message from The Board of Education

Dear Herricks School Community,

The official start of summer marks milestones for our students, community and staff. The end of June in Herricks featured the triumphant moving up of fifth graders ascending to Herricks Middle School, of eighth graders transitioning to Herricks High School and, for our 12th grade senior class, the accomplishment of graduating with a Herricks Public Schools diploma. As you know, a graduate from Herricks has one of the most prepared young minds anywhere in the country, and colleges are aware of their knowledge and skills and cannot wait to have them on campus in the fall. Congratulations to them all!

On July 1, our newly hired superintendent, Dr. Tony Sinanis, completed his first year at the helm of the district. The Board worked collaboratively with him during the year as he met with many different stakeholders in the district. Those meetings provided wonderful insight not just for him but for the entire administrative team. The information he gathered along with the data compiled during the superintendent search have helped to craft new goals for our students, staff and our exceptional, education-based community.

The most important outcome of all our research is going to be our new “Strategic Coherence Planning” initiative. This new districtwide initiative will align with, and build on, our “Portrait of a Graduate” as we continue to look for ways to enhance our students’ learning experiences by integrating the 6 C’s. A critical aspect to supporting the learning experiences unfolding in our schools is ensuring that the physical spaces encourage collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. The summer provides the district an opportunity to continue to do much of the facility upgrades that cannot be done during the school year but are important to the successes of our students. This summer our facilities team will be upgrading classrooms throughout the district, refurbishing bathrooms in several buildings, improving athletic facilities and fully rehabilitating the tennis courts at the high school. This summer will also feature a renovation of our elementary lunchrooms, which we are excited for the children to see in September.

It is clear that our excellent schools bind our community like no other on Long Island, and we are excited for our continued growth, with the support of our administrative team, exceptional staff members and our diverse and dedicated families and students. Our district continues to boast one of the lowest average costs per student, low annual tax increases, and resilient and rising property values for our residents.

Thank you to our residents for being part of our collaborative team throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming back all our students, families and staff members to begin another year of academic excellence in September. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Regards,
The Herricks Board of Education

Welcome to Our New ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Herricks Public Schools is thrilled to announce the appointments of Melissa Blady and Daniel Salerno as assistant principals at Center Street School and Searingtown School, respectively, for the 2023-2024 school year. Special thanks to the community for their support of the budget, which led to the creation of these two positions.

Blady joined the District in 2015 as a fourth grade teacher at Searingtown Elementary School and has served as a teacher mentor and director of Camp Invention. Blady received an advanced diploma from the New York Institute of Technology in school leadership and technology. Most recently, she has worked across the three elementary schools at Herricks as the math and technology professional developer, conceiving, organizing and leading professional development initiatives and seminars across the district. Blady looks forward to encouraging students and the school community to find joy in the learning process, while continuing to foster a positive and inclusive school environment where all students feel safe, loved and supported socially, emotionally and academically.

“When students feel good about themselves, they feel good about learning,” Blady said. “Such amazing things are already happening at Center Street, and I am honored to be a member of the school community.”

Salerno joins Herricks from the Middle Country Central School District, where he served as the assistant principal for the past four years. Prior to that, he was a third, fifth and sixth grade teacher in Floral Park-Bellerose for 12 years. He holds a postgraduate degree in school district leadership from The College of Saint Rose and is a recipient of the Long Island Council for the Social Studies’ Margaret Simon Award for Excellence in Elementary Social Studies Education. Among other things, Salerno looks forward to promoting the Portrait of a Graduate for Herricks – the competencies students need to live in a world of constant change.

“Collaboration with all stakeholders is of utmost importance,” Salerno said. “Developing meaningful relationships with students, parents and staff is key in helping others discover their greatness. I’ll spend time in classrooms, join students on the fields at recess and attend PTA events, all while attempting to learn all our students’ names.”

Congratulations, and welcome to Herricks!



District Embarks on Strategic Coherence Planning Process

With the involvement of various stakeholders, the district has embarked on a strategic coherence planning process to complete a thorough, data-based review of current district practices. The goal of the process is to determine how well the district operates cohesively as a school system to ensure student success and preparedness for life, learning and work beyond graduation from Herricks.

To assist in this process, the district has formed a committee of approximately 40 participants. They include students, parents, instructional staff, noninstructional staff and administrators, representing every building and program throughout the district. The committee has met once already and will continue their work throughout the upcoming school year, with the ultimate goal of defining a pathway of progress for the district over the next three to five years.

The progression of the strategic coherence planning process is outlined below. We look forward to sharing updates on the committee’s progress in future editions of Dateline.



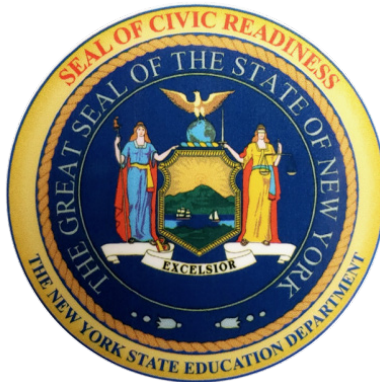
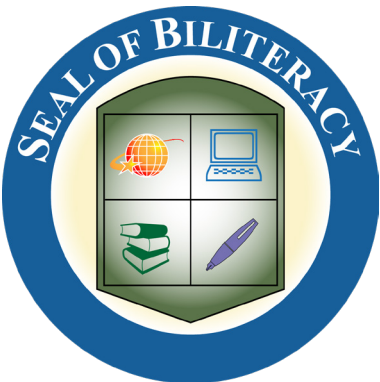
Students Thrive in Newly Adopted State Programs

The 2022-2023 school year was the second year Herricks High School students had the opportunity to achieve the New York State Seal of Biliteracy as well as the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness, both relatively new programs to the District. Sixty-two students earned the Seal of Biliteracy this year, five of them earning it in multiple languages, while 99% of students earned the Seal of Civic Readiness.

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who develop high levels of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. Students have multiple pathways to achieve this recognition by their senior year. Students can demonstrate high levels of proficiency in Chinese, French, Italian or Spanish that are offered at Herricks, or in a language that may be spoken at home. The goal is to continue to engage, excite and motivate our learners to be bilingual, biliterate and respectful of others.

The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset and civic experiences. To earn the seal, students must complete a variety of civic and service-learning projects, as well as complete several courses in social studies. The Seal of Civic Readiness signifies a commitment to democratic interpersonal and intrapersonal values, virtues, attitudes, beliefs and informed actions that promote and facilitate meaningful participation in civic life. It provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to be independent, openminded, hardworking, creative problem-solvers with strong management and critical thinking skills, all traits that are included in the District’s Profile of a Graduate.

Congratulations to the Herricks Class of 2023 students for these extraordinary achievements as well as their teachers, mentors and families who have played a vital role in shaping them and nurturing their potential.



HERRICKS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
GARDEN CITY, NY
PERMIT NO. 1491

Board of Education:

Jim Gounaris, *President*

Henry Zanetti, *Vice President*

Trustees:

Juleigh Chin

Nancy Feinstein

Brian Hassan

Dr. Tony Sinanis

Superintendent of Schools

Visit www.herricks.org for more district news and information!

Moving Upward and Onward!

Congratulations to all fifth and eighth grade students throughout the district who celebrated their moving-up ceremonies in June. Each ceremony included student reflections, inspirational words of wisdom from administrators and special guests and poignant musical selections. Concluding each ceremony, students were individually recognized to the applause of all in attendance. We wish our fifth and eighth grade students much success as they begin their next steps in Herricks!



Center Street Elementary



Denton Avenue School



Searingtown School



Herricks Middle School