



WINTER 2023

Herricks Dateline

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Achievement in Herricks Continues to Soar

Herricks School District is committed to providing a world-class education to the students in our district. We are proud of our reputation as an outstanding public school system. In fact, contrary to the recent National Assessment of Educational Progress results from across the nation for the 2021-22 school year showing decreases in scores and testing following the COVID-19 pandemic, Herricks' student performance on state assessments continues to be strong.

Scores from the 2021-22 state ELA and math assessments indicate that Herricks students outperformed both the state and county averages. In fact, Herricks students in grades 3 through 8 outperformed other districts in the region by at least 20% or higher. In addition, scores indicate that Herricks students performed as well as or better than comparable districts in our immediate region in most areas. Highlights of our recent success are spotlighted at the right.

According to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Elizabeth Guercin, a significant contributing factor to the success of

district students is due to the skill and dedication of Herricks teachers, who went above and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic by learning online platforms and gathering resources to continue delivering instruction. This not only kept students engaged in their learning, but maintained academic rigor.

"While 'how' we taught changed during this time, whether through traditional, remote or hybrid

models, 'what' was taught stayed consistent," Ms. Guercin said.

In January, the district celebrated another academic highlight, earning the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for AP Computer Science Principles, based on data from last year. This award is given to schools that have 50% or higher females in either AP Computer Science A or AP

#6
NYS Ranking
(686 school districts)
3-8 ELA

Special note: ELA Grade 4 ranked 4th in NYS

#7
NYS Ranking
(686 school districts)
3-8 MATH

Special note: Regents Grade 8 (Algebra) ranked 1st in NYS

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A Message from *The Board of Education*

Dear Residents,

We are writing to share an important update regarding a serious matter that has impacted our school district. As you may know, in 2019 New York State implemented the Child Victims Act, legislation that extends the statute of limitations for a victim of childhood sexual abuse to take legal action in connection with the alleged abuse. This law allows victims to do so regardless of when the abuse occurred.

School districts across our region have been named in lawsuits stemming from the Child Victims Act, including our own. In our cases, the alleged incidents occurred in the 1970's and 1980's and the individuals involved in the claims are not, and have not been affiliated with the school district for 30 to 40 years. The allegations against former staff are deeply disturbing, and our district continues to cooperate at every step of the process. We will continue to keep our community updated on this matter, including the possibility of funding settlements.

The district remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students through swift response to any allegations of this nature. In addition, we continue our long-standing and ongoing mandatory training with our entire staff, including how to recognize signs of potential abuse and how to report any suspicions of wrongdoing. Our students' health and safety remain our top priority.

Sincerely,
Herricks Board of Education



THREE SENIORS NAMED 2023 REGENERON SCHOLARS

Herricks High School seniors Ashley Lam, Jeylin Lee and Dheyala Simrin have been named among the top 300 scholars in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2023, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

Each of the three Herricks students committed themselves to their individual research projects for eight weeks and dedicated another eight weeks to complete the submission of their original, independent research projects, essays and recommendations.

In preparation, the aspiring scientists were fortunate to partner with mentors virtually and in person.

Ashley Lam's subject was environmental engineering/materials science, specifically focused on water purification. Ashley worked under the direction of Dr. Benjamin S. Hsiao and Jiajun Tian through the Simons Summer Research Program at Stony Brook University. Ashley's project was titled "Novel Zinc Oxide/Nanocellulose Composite as a Low-Cost Photocatalyst for Water Purification."

Jeylin Lee's subject was medical/data science, and her mentor was Dr. Tim Duong through The Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center.

Jeylin's project was titled "Diabetic Ketoacidosis Amongst COVID-19 Infected Individuals: A Retrospective Study of Incidence, Characteristics, Outcomes, and Risk Factors."

Dheyala Simrin's subject focused on behavioral and social science. Dheyala's mentor was Alexander Harris, and she did her work through New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University. Dheyala's project was titled "Characterizing Social Behaviors in Female Mice: A Novel Sex-Specific Model Using DeepLabCut and B-SOiD Unsupervised Machine Learning."

Throughout their four years at Herricks High School, the scholars have been part of the school's Science Research Program, allowing students to explore their individual passion of science at a higher level. Each have expressed a desire to pursue a career in science.

"I am incredibly proud of these students for being recognized as a top 300 scholar in this year's Regeneron Science Talent Search," said Caitlin Etri, Science Research Program coordinator for Herricks. "I am excited for what the future holds for each of them!"

To learn more about the students' individual projects in more detail, visit the district's website, www.herricks.org.

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Student Achievement in Herricks Continues to Soar

Computer Science Principles. The College Board recognizes schools like Herricks for closing the gender gap in computer science.

“While assessment scores and recognition from outside organizations are important, they are not the only measure of our students’ success,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis. “When evaluating our successes and what the district can do better, we look for feedback in a variety of ways

from our students, families and staff and incorporate this input into making decisions for the future. We aim to evaluate the whole child, and not just their performance on academic exams.”

Across the district, teachers, principals and support staff continue to work in cooperation with our students and families to assure that each Herricks graduate leaves Herricks career and college ready.

**Herricks
fourth grade
students
ranked fourth
in the state
on the ELA
assessments**

**In 2022,
of 790 AP
students,
approximately
80% scored a
3 or better on
the exam.**

District Goals for 2022-23

The district has developed a number of goals for the 2022-23 school year. In addition to priorities related to finance, facilities and human resources, several goals directly related to instruction and communication have been established. To view all goals, visit the district’s website at <https://www.herricks.org/page/14563>.

Our Collective WHY Is...

To create opportunities that encourage individuals to realize and actualize their best selves in an environment where they feel seen, safe and comfortable. Students will be empowered to become joyful, positive and productive members of society.



INSTRUCTION

Work closely with the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction to support and engage in targeted professional development with colleagues to refine current instructional practices and build capacity in new techniques and strategies to cultivate stronger vertical and horizontal alignment throughout the district. The focus will be on:

1. Learning Targets
2. Inclusive and equitable instructional practices



CULTURE & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Develop and implement a comprehensive and cohesive communication plan to increase transparency, share timely updates, spotlight district and school achievements, and thoughtfully engage members of all key stakeholder groups.

For example:

1. Launch Herricks’ Happenings Video Updates
2. Enhance email communications

HERRICKS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
999 Herricks Road
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

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!

Middle School Students Share Their Experiences With BOE



At the Dec. 8 Board of Education meeting, Herricks Middle School students shared key takeaways from three fall assemblies that focused on helping students make good decisions, learning from mistakes and being the best person possible both on-line and in-person. The students are pictured with the Board of Education and members of Herricks administration.

HERRICKS DISTRICT COUNCIL WELCOMES THE HARLEM WIZARDS!

The world famous Wizards will be playing against our own Highlanders, a team made up of teachers and staff from the Elementary, Middle and High schools.

Different ticket packages are available including an opportunity for a meet and greet with the Wizards players.

You don't want to miss out so purchase your tickets now!

Raffle tickets for sale at the event, baskets and 50/50 as well as food, snacks and Wizards Souvenirs.

All proceeds benefit the Herricks Scholarship Fund which grants awards to graduating Herricks seniors.



For Wizards tickets go to
www.harlemwizards.com
or use this QR code



For food package
presale use this
QR code

HERRICKS HIGH SCHOOL GYM
2:00PM | MARCH 4, 2023
DOORS OPEN AT 12

If you can't make the event but would still like to contribute,
please consider donating at <http://herricks-dc.square.site>.

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

DEADLINE FOR
2023-24
SCHOOL YEAR



All requests for transportation to a NONPUBLIC SCHOOL must be received no later than APRIL 1, 2023, according to state law. Applications may be obtained online at Herricks.org/transportation. For more information, please call 516-305-8950.