



Herricks Dateline

SUMMER 2018

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Graduates Celebrate their Experiences in Herricks

Herricks High School's 59th annual commencement ceremony, held on the evening of June 22, marked numerous exciting beginnings and bittersweet endings. Together, members of the Class of 2018 took in their final moments as high school students and their first as graduates. This was Interim Principal Dr. James Ruck's farewell event at the school, as Joan Keegan took the helm in July. It was also the first major gathering held on the new all-purpose synthetic turf field and the high school's first graduation as a National Blue Ribbon School.

As a continuation of a time-honored tradition in Herricks, seniors welcomed their guests by sharing greetings in a variety of languages spoken all over the world, representative of the diversity and unity that make the district and community so extraordinary.

Dr. Ruck discussed the characteristics that can make one an effective leader. Board of Education Vice President Juleigh Chin and Trustee Nancy Feinstein, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fino Celano and Herricks High School PTSA co-presidents Debbie Imperatore and

Rosemarie Polo presented remarks as well, and teacher and senior class co-adviser Liam O'Brien was selected as the 2018 faculty speaker.

"As you move forward, continue to explore the world, searching for who you are and what your life's passion may be," Dr. Celano said. "Don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone; stay confident, be brave and dream big."

Salutatorian Janet Hsu said, "When faced with a lot of choices, it is our ideas that may influence our decisions, but also, it is our ideas that spark our ingenuity," Janet said. "Our ideas are what make us all different from the other almost 8 billion people on Earth. They make us individuals, and we, as diverse

individuals, form one-of-a-kind forces and groups of change. So, don't be afraid to create and share those unique ideas."

"I have learned that in everything we do, we must have a balance and know when to stop and when to keep going," All-School Student Government President Sibin Samuel said. "We must manage our time and work to the best of our ability in all things we do. We must strive to be the best version of ourselves."

"Our next four years will be the opportune time to grow and improve ourselves using our newfound space and freedom," Valedictorian Esme Chen said. "This is the time for us to take opportunities and make them fit us, just like we did here at Herricks, but on a larger scale. This is the time to be uncertain and fail, again and again, before we even catch a glimpse of success."

The Graduation Choir Singers performed two musical numbers, followed by the presentation of diplomas and "turning of the tassels." The new graduates then threw their caps up into the future ahead.





Valedictorian Esme Chen and Salutatorian Janet Hsu Lead CLASS OF 2018



Valedictorian Esme Chen



Salutatorian Janet Hsu

Esme Chen and Janet Hsu took the prominent titles of the Class of 2018 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. The district is proud to congratulate them for well-earned recognitions, as they have both demonstrated academic excellence, involvement in their school and community and a level of effort that leads to success.

Academically, Esme was named an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Student, semifinalist in the Theodore Roosevelt Speaking Competition and national finalist for the National History Day competition. She participated in Columbia University's Science Honors Program and National Honor Society and served as editor of the Herricks Highlander, layout manager of the yearbook and founder and president of the Embracing Elders school organization. She plans to study the natural sciences in college, with some integration of computer science. Additionally, Esme is an All-Division tennis player and served as captain of the girls varsity team.

Janet was a National Honor Society member, a National Merit Commended Student, co-president of the Herricks STEM Club and captain of the Mathletes team. She represented the district in the Physics Bowl at the Annual Science Fair at Molloy College, was named a semifinalist in the Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge and has earned many

perfect scores on AP exams. With plans to major in biochemical science in pursuit of a career in medicine, Janet spent the summer prior to her senior year studying at New York Medical College's Camp Neuro and NYU Langone Medical Center's Camp Cardiac.

Both graduates have proven themselves to be accomplished and talented musicians. Esme plays the violin and was a member of the chamber orchestra. She has performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall as an associate concertmaster, was accepted into the 2018 National Orchestra Festival, the 2017 All-State Orchestra and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Janet graduated from The Juilliard School's elite, year-round, pre-college program and attended The XV International Tchaikovsky Competition in Russia in 2015. She was among only 12 violinists across the nation who were chosen to attend the Brian Lewis Young Artists Program in Ottawa, Canada, and won honorable mention and alternate titles at the Charleston Symphony National Young Artist Competition in South Carolina.

Esme and Janet are each also dedicated to helping others and have done a great deal of volunteer work outside of school, despite their busy schedules. They are now preparing to embark on their college careers — Esme will attend Dartmouth College and Janet is heading to Yale University.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND EFFORT REWARDED WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 100 awards or scholarships were provided to members of Herricks High School's graduating class during a senior awards ceremony held in June.

Sponsored by local community and school organizations, the awards were bestowed upon students based on academic achievement, community service involvement, individual character, unique accomplishments or talents, leadership, dedication to a particular subject and other noteworthy qualities and triumphs. A number of local dignitaries took the time to visit the high school and formally present the distinctions.

The full list of awards is available on the district's website, www.herricks.org.



Moving Up With Confidence!

Fifth- and eighth-graders stepped forward with fervor! Their advancement to the next level of education was celebrated with moving up ceremonies that commemorated years of growth and learning. The events provided students with inspiration and excitement for the future as they received diplomas and awards and heard encouraging remarks from featured speakers.

The eighth-graders were honored with a ceremony held at the Tilles Center, where they were addressed by Principal Joan Keegan, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fino Celano and members of the Board of Education.

Students presented "Candle in the Window," "Flashlight," "Rising to Greatness" and "A Change for Good."

The elementary schools' promotional events were held at the Herricks Community Center and also involved performances, remarks and reflections. Center Street's program included presentations of the songs "In the Arms of An Oak," "Brave" and "You've Got a Friend." Denton Avenue students entertained guests with the songs "One Wish" and "How Far I'll Go." Searingtown's graduates performed "Penny Lane," "In My Life" and "Go With a Song in Your Heart."



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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
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PERMIT NO. 1491

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Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Lisa Rutkoske, CPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business

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

Bond Update: Phase 2 Under Way

The district is excited to have launched Phase 2 of the Bond 2016 facilities improvement work, which is currently taking place and will continue throughout the summer and into the fall. This set of projects includes a new grandstand, press box and comfort station on the high school athletic field and renovations to the high school cafeteria and kitchen. It also involves site work at each elementary school; specifically, the resurfacing of parking lots. Construction on the reconfiguration and replacement of the Denton Avenue School entry loop and parking lot, which will be completed over the summer, will facilitate better traffic flow and thereby create a safer arrival and dismissal process.

Phase 1 focused on the high school track and field, as well as the installation of “smart locks” on all classroom doors throughout the district. These steps have been completed and students, staff and community members are benefiting from improved, modern, and safer facilities.

In addition to the bond work, the district has recently completed additional capital projects funded through state and county legislative grants amounting to over \$400,000. These projects include new district-wide fencing, parking lot resurfacing at the community center, renovations to the middle school athletic fields, and stage lighting and curtain replacements in the high school auditorium.



The high school track and field were completed as part of Phase I of the bond.



Renovations to the high school cafeteria and kitchen are in progress.



A rendering of the new and improved cafeteria that will be ready for the 2018-19 school year.



The renovated entry loop and parking lot at Denton Avenue School will improve traffic flow.