



# District Welcomes New Superintendent of Schools

On July 1, the district officially welcomed new Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis.

Dr. Sinanis joins Herricks with 25 years of educational experience. He has held a number of administrative roles, most recently serving as the assistant superintendent for human resources and leadership development in the Chappaqua Central School District, a position he has held since 2018. Dr. Sinanis has also served as the superintendent of schools for Hastings-on-Hudson School District, as well as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for Plainedge School District. Prior to his work in central administration, he served as a principal/lead learner in both the Jericho and Valley Stream Central school districts, as well as an assistant principal and elementary classroom teacher.

Through his various roles, Dr. Sinanis has developed a comprehensive understanding of effective instructional and organizational leadership. During his time as superintendent in Hastings-on-Hudson, he assisted in the formulation, development and implementation of a districtwide learning and teaching philosophy, as well as managed all operations with

an emphasis on professional learning, recruiting and hiring, and student performance.

During Dr. Sinanis' eight years as principal at Cantiague Elementary, the school was named a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School and a 2015 Model School. Dr. Sinanis also worked closely with the School Leadership Team to reimagine the school's vision to ensure that it reflected the voices of students, faculty and families.

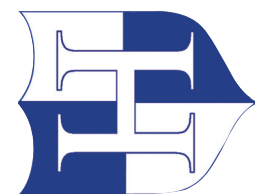
Dr. Sinanis has received numerous honors throughout his educational career, including being named the 2014 New York State Elementary School Principal of the Year, as well as the 2013 National Bammy Award Elementary School Principal of the Year. He is the co-author of three books: "The Power of Branding – Telling Your School's Story," "Principal Professional Development: Leading Learning in a Digital Age" and "Hacking Leadership."

"I am excited to officially join the Herricks school community," said Dr. Sinanis. "I spent 17 years of my educational career on Long Island, and during that time I came to know Herricks as a dynamic community that centers students and learning with a commitment to excellence. I have



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- Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Tony Sinanis

always respected and admired Herricks Public Schools from a distance and now am honored to officially be part of the team. My main goal as I begin my work with the district is to maintain the district's tradition of academic excellence, while supporting our students' social and emotional well-being."



# Herricks Dateline

SUMMER 2022

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## A Message from *The Board of Education*

Dear Residents,

The official start of summer also 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. Congratulations to them all!

June 30 also marked the final day for retiring Superintendent Dr. Fino Celano. In the past seven years, Dr. Celano guided our district, improved academic excellence in grades K-12, fostered a new era of accountability and collaboration, realigned evidence-based learning and continued to push the district forward in our quest for overall educational excellence. The Board of Education was saddened when Dr. Celano informed us of his retirement; it seemed as if it was only yesterday that he began his tenure with us. We wish him good health and happiness in his well-deserved retirement.

On July 1, our newly hired superintendent, Dr. Antony Sinanis, began his stewardship of the district. The Board worked tirelessly with District Wide Search Consultants for five months to find a new and innovative leader. Our search brought forward some of the most impressive educational minds for us to consider. The superintendent position at Herricks is not just any job, it is a “destination” for someone who can combine their years of experience and their educational talents to partner with an exceptional, education-based community. Our schools bind our community like no other on Long Island, and we are excited for our continued growth, with Tony’s leadership in collaboration with our administrative team, exceptional staff members and our diverse and inclusive families and students.

As you can see in this issue of Herricks Dateline, we are very grateful we were able to close the school year with so many wonderful celebrations and accomplishments. Thank you for being part of our collaborative team that helped ensure our students and staff remained in school throughout the year. With the upcoming new school year, we look forward to welcoming back all our students, families and staff members to begin another year of academic excellence.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Regards,  
The Herricks Board of Education

# HERRICKS HIGH SCHOOL Celebrates the

# 2022 *class* of



Herricks High School’s Class of 2022 concluded a major chapter in their lives during the 63rd Annual Commencement Ceremony, held on the evening of June 24. 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. The band performed “Pomp and Circumstance” and students led their fellow graduates and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Principal Joan Keegan opened the ceremony and invited select 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 the community.

Board of Education President Henry Zanetti and James Gounaris,

trustee and parent of a graduating student, provided remarks, as did Herricks High School PTSA president Madeline Svitak. Each of the speakers spoke with heartfelt pride as they addressed the students and expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Herricks staff and parents, too.

Following those speakers, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fino Celano started his remarks by saying, “You really have much to be proud of. This special day is set aside for you to celebrate the beginning of the next phase of your life.

“You are an extraordinary class and have excelled in so many areas,” he continued, “and you have conducted outstanding research in many fields of study. You have been published and recognized for outstanding performances and lauded for your high levels of achievement in science,

history, music, the arts, business, extracurricular activities, athletics and community service.”

Superintendent Celano said he was amazed at the students for their strength, dedication and commitment over the last two years in the face of the challenges they overcame. “Over the years, you have learned to think critically, form opinions and stand up for what you believe in,” he said. Celano encouraged the students to continue to do those things in college and in the world beyond.

Salutatorian Chloe Chang addressed her classmates, followed by comments from valedictorian Keneil Soni. Both Chang and Soni expressed tremendous pride in their soon-to-be alma mater and encouraged their classmates to continue to work hard and stay true to who they are and what they believe in. Chang closed her remarks to her peers by saying,

“Your success comes from yourself and only you.”

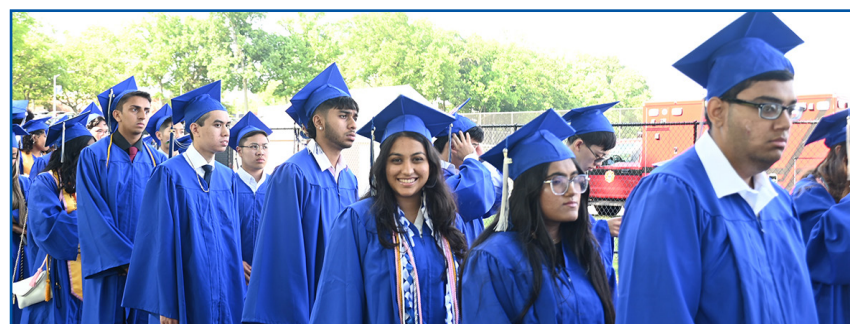
Another Herricks graduation custom is the announcement of a guest speaker selected by students. This year’s honoree was staff member Eva Eng, who expressed her enthusiasm and appreciation for the graduates by reflecting on memorable moments while wiping away tears of happiness during her remarks.

The Graduation Choir Singers performed “Omnia Sol” by Z. Randall Stroope and the school’s alma mater, followed by Principal Keegan’s presentation of the Class of 2022. 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 2022 took part in the “turning of the tassels,” then tossed their caps in the air.

## NEXT STOP: *College*

Herricks High School graduates are enrolled at colleges and universities all over the country! To view the full list of schools that our students are heading off to, please visit [www.herricks.org/Page/13314](http://www.herricks.org/Page/13314)





**Board of Education:**

**Jim Gounaris, President**

**Henry Zanetti, Vice President**

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**Juleigh Chin**

**Nancy Feinstein**

**Brian Hassan**

**Dr. Tony Sinanis**

*Superintendent of Schools*

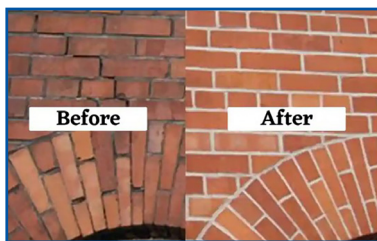
Visit [www.herricks.org](http://www.herricks.org) for more district news and information!

# Summer Highlights

Over the summer, Herricks has been keeping students engaged and preparing for the new school year ahead. Recent highlights include:

- Herricks Summer Arts Program brought students from Center Street, Denton Avenue, and Searingtown elementary schools together to immerse themselves in a one-week art extravaganza that ended on July 1. The young student artists explored various artists, mediums, and techniques throughout their time in camp.
- Herricks Summer Music Program provided a unique opportunity for 100 students entering fourth through ninth grade who have a love of music. Participants received several hours of assorted musical experiences throughout the four-week program that ended on July 29 with an amazing concert. Activities included band and orchestra ensembles, chorus groups and elective periods led by professional music educators.
- Capital Projects in progress include the replacement of a generator at Herricks High School, district-wide masonry improvements and renovation of the high school auditorium.

For more information, please visit the district website.  
We look forward to seeing you in September!



# READY FOR THE Next Step

Herricks fifth and eighth graders stepped up to the next level during ceremonies that commemorated their growth and success.

Center Street Elementary, Denton Avenue School and the Searingtown School moving-up ceremonies took place in mid-June. Each of the events involved performances, student reflections and presentations from district and building leaders as well as special guests. The ceremonies all included musical performances of the song, “What a Wonderful World.” Each event closed with a heartfelt farewell and good wishes as the students move on to middle school.

Herricks Middle School’s eighth grade graduates celebrated their advancement to high school with a Graduation Ceremony on June 22.

Following “The Star-Spangled Banner,” Principal Brian McConaghy welcomed guests with inspiring remarks. Speakers included the superintendent of schools, the president of the Board of Education and the president of the Herricks Middle School PTA. Students Rachel Ha and Ali Abdelsadek each read an Honor Essay. Addressing the student body with greetings and best wishes was Student Government President Adithya Patnam and Vice President Colin Chu. Just before the presentation of the Class of 2022, there was a choral performance by the Graduation Choir singing “Season of Love.”

As the middle school event concluded, the students marched out to “Pomp and Circumstance” as they looked forward to their next exciting chapter ahead.