



2022-2023 Herricks High School National Merit Semifinalists. Absent from photo is Orik Ehren.

CLASS OF
2023

NATIONAL MERIT HONOR

Herricks High School is excited to congratulate 11 seniors for being named National Merit Semifinalists and 37 Commended Students in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. This is a significant accomplishment for the Class of 2023, representing the students' academic excellence.

Semifinalists and Commended Students are selected based on their Preliminary SAT scores. This year's honorees were identified out of an estimated 1.5 million who entered the academic competition upon taking the exam.

Megan Cheng, Orik Ehren, Namit Kapoor, Ashley Lam, Jeylin Lee, Lauren Lui, Sanyah Nabi, Pooja Patel, Ranjan Rasquinha, Catherine Su and Lauren Tran are among approximately 16,000 semifinalists selected nationally from an estimated 1.5 million who entered the academic competition upon taking the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors.

Commended Students Jarod D. Chan, Zachary A. Chheda, Edwyn H. Choi, Kyle G. Chu, Ammar Gondal, Chen Bing Y. Huang, Ashish Jalwan, Pearl N. Joseph, Ashlee V. Katz, Brian D. Kim, Kailey Klibansky, Hailey Ko, Carolyn Y. Lau, Patrick Leu, Ryan T. Lin, Alexander J. Marcoline, Alexa A.

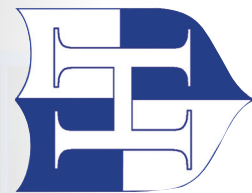
Mendez, Nicholas Pappalardo, Joshua S. Park, Katherine Park, Mahir J. Patel, Raj S. Patel, Hannah Z. Rams, Rohit A. Rasquinha, Rushil Saini, Ashay M. Shah, Kailey A. Simons, Dheyala Simrin, Tanush N. Soni, Adrianna K. Staniszewski, Liam P. Tan, Tyler Wu, Katherine H. Yee, Michael H. Zanetti, Celeste K. Zhang, Eric Zheng and Natalie Zhou placed in the top 50,000 of those who took the PSAT.

These seniors all have numerous achievements and participate in a range of programs, organizations and activities both in and outside of school.

The district is incredibly proud of these students for receiving this honor in the 2022-2023 school year!



Herricks High School National Merit Commended Students representing the Class of 2023. Absent from photo is Rushil Saini, Adrianna Staniszewski, Michael Zanetti and Celeste Zhang.



Herricks Dateline

FALL 2022

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Message from *The Board of Education*

Dear Residents,

There are so many ways to welcome autumn. You can finally get started on that long list of seasonal recipe ideas (pumpkin spice), engage in some fall craft projects or break out your favorite sweater. You can end your days with a classic book and a cup of hot tea or coffee. Talk about a dream come true. Fall is a good time for reflection, awareness and mindfulness.

The Herricks Board of Education has just completed its annual Board Retreat, which allows us to engage in self-assessments regarding our work and the trajectory of the district. This year we focused on establishing goals, not only for the district in conjunction with our new superintendent, but for ourselves as a Board to help inform our work moving forward. The mission is a relatively simple one: harvesting the bounty of brilliance in our schools and harnessing it to continue our quest for education excellence for future learners. We will also continue to grapple with a critical question: What plan can we create as a Board to ensure the continued success of our students, teachers, staff members, administrators and community for the next 5-10 years? We also reviewed our methods of communication among the Board members and with the superintendent of schools, and the rules that govern those interactions. These are all fundamental functions of the Board of Education that always need to be reviewed and will help strengthen our work moving forward as representatives of the community.

Having this retreat with our new superintendent was paramount in honoring our district’s mission statement: “The Herricks School District, a Community of Learners, through its educational programs, promotes intellectual curiosity and creative expressions, values diversity, and measures success by one’s personal development and contributions to society.”

Regards,
The Herricks Board of Education



NEW SUPERINTENDENT>>>*HITS THE GROUND LEARNING*

One of the first things new Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis did upon starting his position was develop an entry plan to support his first year in Herricks. The entry plan will allow him to approach his position as superintendent as a learner first. The plan will allow him to look, listen and learn from the Herricks community, stakeholders and students during his first few months on the job. While daily operations require him to make necessary decisions in support of organizational effectiveness, the information obtained during the entry planning process ensures that future decisions are supported by a data-driven process.

“BY DEVELOPING AN ENTRY PLAN, I AM CHALLENGING MYSELF TO ‘HIT THE GROUND LEARNING,’ INSTEAD OF HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING, BY ENGAGING WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IN A REFLECTIVE WAY.”

- DR. TONY SINANIS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

“By developing an entry plan, I am challenging myself to ‘hit the ground learning,’ instead of hitting the ground running, by engaging with various members of the community in a reflective way,” Sinanis said. “A thoughtful entry plan allows me to prioritize relationship building, which will happen through both formal and informal interactions, so I can better understand the community and its norms, priorities and values.”

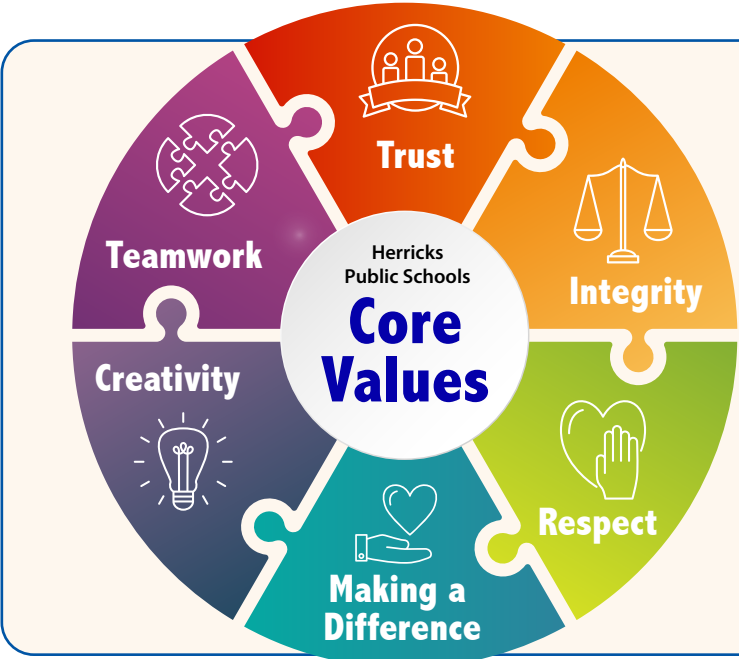
- Sinanis’ entry plan involves the following steps:**
- 1. Developing, drafting and finalizing the entry plan.
 - 2. Conducting various entry interviews, with both individuals and small groups, to collect data about Herricks schools and community.
 - 3. Analyze and make sense of the collected data.
 - 4. Enact a feedback loop, sharing findings with the community to help make sense of the data.
 - 5. Finally, these new understandings will help form an action plan moving forward.

A critical part of the entry plan is the data collection, which is gathered through entry interviews and conversations. Early in October, families had the opportunity to participate in voluntary entry interviews.

- The guiding questions for these family entry interviews were:**
- 1. What makes Herricks such an effective learning community? What is an instructional practice/ organizational structure you are proud of? Why?

- 2. What is the most important issue facing the district today?
- 3. Please tell me about the ways our district engages families. What works well?
- 4. What inspires you about our community? Schools?

The information gathered through the entry plan will help the superintendent determine where the district is now and where it wants to be in future, which will be critical in developing a vision and action plan that resonates with the community.



- District Identifies -
ITS CORE VALUES

As part of a retreat in early fall, district administrators identified a few core values that are vital to the continued success of the district. They are:

- 1. Trust
- 2. Integrity
- 3. Teamwork
- 4. Respect
- 5. Creativity
- 6. Making a Difference

The administrators’ work was inspired by the work of Elena Aguilar, a respected educational consultant who works with districts to ensure that their schools are “joyful, resilient and equitable places of learning.” As the district moves forward in developing specific goals for the future, these values will be at the core of what we do together.

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!



Students Prepare to Earn Seal of Civic Readiness

Herricks students are on their way to earning the Seal of Civic Readiness from the New York State Education Department, which signifies a commitment to democratic interpersonal and intrapersonal values, virtues, attitudes, beliefs and informed actions that promote and facilitate meaningful participation in civic life. To earn the Seal of Civic Readiness, students must complete a variety of civic and service-learning projects, as well as complete several courses in social studies.

“Students participating in the Seal of Civic Readiness have a desire to build a better future,”



Herricks Social Studies Director Anthony Cillis said. According to Cillis, “the Seal of Civic Readiness provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to be independent, open-minded, hardworking, creative problem-solvers who are effective communicators, possessing strong self-management and critical thinking skills, data sense, perseverance and resilience.” These traits are all included in the district’s profile of a Herricks graduate.