



DENTON AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED 2023 National Blue Ribbon School

Herricks School District is proud to announce that Denton Avenue Elementary School has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School for its exemplary high academic performance. The recipients of this coveted award were announced by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona on Sept. 19.

Herricks Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sinanis was thrilled to share this honor with the entire Denton Avenue community. "We are immensely

proud of Denton Avenue School for achieving the prestigious honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School," Dr. Sinanis said. "This recognition is a testament to the exceptional staff and the unwavering dedication of our students to excellence in education. We also recognize that our strong partnership with families is critical to the academic accomplishments of our students, and we celebrate this shared achievement together."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is one of the

U.S. Department of Education's longest-running recognition programs. Now in its 40th year, the goals of the program are to shine a spotlight on the best schools in the United States and to allow educators to share best practices.

To commemorate this exciting recognition, the school was honored at the Oct. 19 Board of Education meeting and presented with a proclamation on behalf of Town of North Hempstead signed by Supervisor Jennifer DeSena.



Herricks Dateline
FALL 2023
HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Message from The Board of Education

Dear Herricks School Community,

In this issue of Dateline, the District not only welcomes you back to school but provides you with some exciting features of what has transpired so far this school year. We hope you enjoy reading about recent successes such as the designation of Denton Avenue as a National Blue Ribbon School and a national recognition for middle school students in the Content Creation class. We also want to congratulate our Commended Students, Advanced Placement Scholars and our musicians receiving NYSSMA All-State music status on their incredible achievements. That is certainly not by any means a complete list in the short time since schools reopened. Our schools have opened with great success, with various new programs and orientation experiences established to welcome our students back for the new school year. Of course, we can't forget the incredible outpouring of Herricks Pride that was on display at homecoming and congratulations to the Highlanders on their big win!

We hope that you have taken full advantage of the sports and activities at the individual schools, especially Back to School nights where you have not only met your children's teachers and other staff but also received information from the terrific PTAs that serve the kids so well and the various boosters that promote our athletics, music, arts, technology and more. Please continue to interact with them, join them to support their efforts and consider working on their committees and executive boards. These support groups are also valuable contributors to the Board of Education's gathering of information about how the District is operating. We also encourage you to attend Board of Education meetings to stay informed about what we are approving at our meetings and to learn from various presentations that are made to us during the year regarding academics and other programs about which we, the Board, need to be informed or updated. Please visit the Herricks website and explore the wealth of information available there.

We wish you all a successful and happy school year. Be well!

Regards,
The Herricks Board of Education



Smooth Starts: The Reimagined Orientation Experience

With a new way of welcoming students back to Herricks High School, this year's first week of school looked and felt different.

Rather than all students rushing into the nine-period day, our school counselors hosted a series of grade-level orientations and offered students time and space to get acclimated to the new school year.

This unique "soft start" program is designed with the intention of building class spirit, deepening connections and preserving uninterrupted instructional time once classes begin.

Students were encouraged to walk the school, reconnect with friends, teachers and staff, and reorient themselves with the business of school – setting up their locker, handing in forms and picking up their ID. In addition,

students could learn about opportunities at the club fair, utilize the open gyms for basketball and badminton, or enjoy lawn games in the courtyard with friends.

Our IT team distributed Chromebooks to new students and assisted students who needed tech support with their existing devices.

It is our goal to give students as much support as possible preparing for the school year as we do throughout the year. We believe providing this time for students will set them up for success!



HERRICKS MIDDLE SCHOOL PODCASTS Recognized by NPR

Five podcasts created in Mr. Heit's Content Creations Foundation elective from the prior school year at Herricks Middle School received Honorable Mention in the 2023 NPR Student Podcast Challenge.

The eighth grade students (now ninth graders at HHS) brainstormed, planned, recorded, edited and produced podcasts of their own creation. Each student brought their own voice and authenticity to their recordings and acquired useful skills, including the basics of sound engineering and creative editing, to allow their stories to shine. Students learned how to find music and properly give credit for intellectual property to the recording artist, how to schedule interviews, and spent time coming up with descriptions, podcast titles and artwork.

Congratulations to all on this exciting national honor. We look forward to hearing more amazing audio creations coming from Herricks students in the coming months.



13 Going On COVID-19

How did the coronavirus affect two ordinary kids who just wanted to live their childhood? Hosts Alyssa and Kristen talk about school during a pandemic and how the virus affected our education system from the student point of view.



A Fortnite in Fortnite

Hosts Zain and Kunga remember the first two weeks of the pandemic and the importance of a simple thing like the video game Fortnite. Hear how a video game provided unexpected benefits and much-needed normalcy when the world turned upside down.



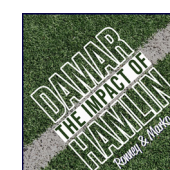
Family Style

Chinese American students Brian and Linven discuss food as it pertains to each of their families and how American fast food and traditional delicacies factor into their lives.



Hijab Pride, Hijab Hide

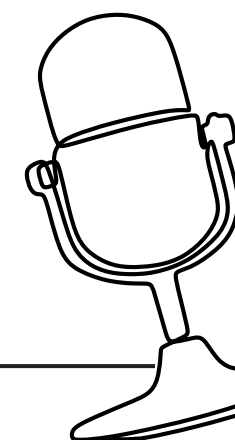
Mallak interviews a fellow student about the experience of growing up as an American Muslim and wearing a hijab. In this episode, the identity of Mallak's friend is kept a secret since it's revealed that, unbeknownst to her parents, she doesn't wear the hijab during the school day.



The Impact of Damar Hamlin

Ronney and Marko venture into a world of fear and doubt as they learn how to overcome the obstacles they face. They are joined by teacher Mr. Welsh as they discuss the impact that NFL player Damar Hamlin has on young athletes, their perspective on comfort and confidence, and the connection between sports and mental health.

To hear these and other podcasts from the Herricks Middle School students, search for "Herricks Studios" in your favorite podcasting app, including Amazon Music, Apple Music, Spotify and Stitcher.



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

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CELEBRATORY SPIRIT at Homecoming

Friday the 13th turned out to be a lucky night for Herricks Highlanders fans as they filled the high school stadium to capacity under clear skies and geared up for a high-energy homecoming parade and celebration.

The festivities included the introduction of senior football and cheer students who were joined by their parents as they walked across the field, basking in the spotlight of their final homecoming, and recognition of the Highlander 10, honoring members of the senior class who are actively

involved in the school community and nominated by peers.

The Highlanders were dominant throughout the game and the fans were with them all the way, filling the air with spirited chants and clouds of colorful confetti. During halftime, the crowd was entertained with performances by the Herricks Pep Band and Herricks varsity cheerleaders.

The end of the game was just as fulfilling as the rest of the celebration, with the Highlanders scoring a decisive 42-12 win.

