



Our Schools

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT | FALL 2019 | FARMINGDALESCHOOLS.ORG

FARMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL CREATES INSPIRING LEARNING SPACES

Farmingdale School District's initiative to create and develop 21st-century classrooms stems from a simple idea: sitting in rows doesn't help today's students learn. So instead, modern classrooms are being designed with flexible seating that focuses not only on *what* students learn, but also *how*.

Work on the classrooms began in 2016, when FHS Principal Dr. Samuel Thompson formed a Flexible Learning Spaces Committee. "Our goal was to identify key spaces in the building that could be upgraded, renovated, repurposed, and integrated to support modern learning," said Dr. Thompson. "The new spaces foster learning in a student-centered environment and encourage self-regulated learning."

"The furniture is easy to manipulate and provides students with the ability to arrange their own seating. It's responsive to the curriculum goals and designed to support high levels of engagement and teamwork," said Assistant Superintendent Dr. William Brennan. He led the committee in facilitating a design that would provide a more forward-thinking, collegiate atmosphere and encourage students to be excited about their future.



A number of traditional classrooms are now in use as flexible spaces, including the humanities, business, and marketing classrooms; the STEAM Lab; and the newly developed LAUNCH Lab [Learners Access Unique New Channels (for) Help]. Located in the reimaged second floor library, LAUNCH Lab is the centerpiece of the initiative, and a space where students can get real-time support from core subject teachers throughout the day.

"LAUNCH expanded on the successes of the POWER time model, which provided informal help for students after school," said LAUNCH Lab coordinating teacher Diana Rossi. "Now, quite inspiringly, transformative teacher-pupil and peer-to-peer connections are being cultivated. We see students building helpful, positive relationships with their peers. The opportunity for such supportive interaction wasn't always possible in a conventional classroom setting."

"Our flexible learning spaces are designed to respond to the ever-changing needs of our students and teachers," says Superintendent Paul Defendini. "21st-century learning is about asking questions, being creative, and building critical thinking skills, and Farmingdale School District is leading the way."

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

Albany Avenue Elementary School

Students at Albany Avenue Elementary School wore gold every Friday in September in support of Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month and the “Heart of Gold” program. Gold hearts were distributed to students and staff members, who were asked to decorate the hearts with their names, and/or messages of hope, and return it to the school with a donation of their choice. The hearts were then proudly displayed in the halls, and the donations were forwarded to fund pediatric cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

Two books—*All Are Welcome* and *The Day You Begin*—were chosen for Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School’s character education initiative this year. Both books share common themes of celebrating diversity and inclusion. This year, the initiative was combined with an art project in art teacher Laura Capone’s class, where every student in the school created a self-portrait. Each grade was assigned one color, and the end result was a composite mural of over 500 portraits arranged in the colors of a rainbow.



Northside Elementary School

Northside Elementary School kicked off the school year with grade-level assemblies on the school’s core initiative, *The Five Keys to Success*. Now entering its third year, the program encourages young students to incorporate Kindness, Honesty, Perseverance, Respect, and Responsibility into their daily lives. Principal Michael Febbraro and Assistant Principal Christopher Peterson met with each grade in the cafeteria to teach them about the five keys. Younger students were introduced to the concept, and the older grades were encouraged to pick which key was most important to them, then talk about why.



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

Beloved children’s author Trudy Ludwig made a stop at Woodward Parkway Elementary School this fall. Ms. Ludwig is the author of many books, including *The Invisible Boy*, *Confessions of a Former Bully*, and *My Secret Bully*. She presented three assemblies—each designed for different grade levels—to give children real-life suggestions on how to face a bully. Trudy’s books are widely used in elementary schools to supplement social-emotional learning, character education, and bullying prevention.



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Weldon E. Howitt Middle School



During the last week of September, students at Weldon E. Howitt Middle School participated in *Start With Hello!*, a program developed by Sandy Hook Promise to create a culture of inclusion. Together with students from across the nation, the middle schoolers were encouraged to make small, but powerful actions to promote connectedness and inclusion. “All the children were very receptive to the idea and had a really good time,” said social worker Christine Cappellino, who lent her support to the program.

Farmingdale High School

Randi Weingarten—President of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO—paid a momentous visit to Farmingdale High School this past September. Her trip was inspired by Cordelia Anthony, a science teacher and president of the Farmingdale Federation of Teachers. Ms. Weingarten spent two hours touring the high school, making stops into various classes and encouraging students to be fully engaged in their education. Ms. Weingarten was very impressed by the variety and abundance of courses offered by the district and told Superintendent Defendini, “What you are doing here is everything you want high school to be!”



CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR FARMINGDALE WALL OF FAME!

Farmingdale High School is seeking nominations for their 23rd annual Wall of Fame Induction. The Wall of Fame—located in the FHS lobby was established to honor distinguished Farmingdale High School alumni. It displays plaques of all honorees for future generations to admire and reflect.

Candidates for the Wall of Fame must have graduated from Farmingdale High School at least ten years ago and must have achieved a unique level of accomplishment in a particular field or career—recognized by his/her peers in that area for distinction. They must also be role models for our current students, as evidenced by their achievements.

A nomination form may be obtained from the district website, www.farmingdaleschools.org, or picked up in the main office of any Farmingdale school. The form is also available at the Farmingdale Public Library.

All nominations must be received by December 20, 2019 and should be sent to the attention of Farmingdale High School Assistant Principal Jed Herman. Anyone interested in serving on the Wall of Fame Committee can contact Mr. Herman at 516-434-5210. The Induction Ceremony will be held on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Thomas W. Guilford Lecture Hall at Farmingdale High School.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FARMINGDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION

On behalf of all of us on the Farmingdale School District Board of Education, we would like to welcome everyone back for what we anticipate will be an inspiring and education-packed school year. We look forward to celebrating all your achievements in the coming months. We invite you to join us at our monthly board of education meetings—held the first Wednesday of each month. The agenda is posted on the district’s website—www.farmingdaleschools.org.

Best wishes for a successful and rewarding year!

Very truly yours,

The Farmingdale Board of Education

President Michael Goldberg, Vice President Suzanne D’Amico, Trustees Mario Espinosa, Anthony Giordano, Kathy Lively, Ralph Vincent Morales, and Arlene Soete.



WELCOME OUR NEWEST EDUCATORS!



Jason Baris
Howitt Middle School - Math



Regina Bates
Northside - Grade 5



Zerine Bay
Howitt Middle School - English



Alexandria Becker
Saltzman East Memorial -
English as a New Language



Melissa Biscardi
Saltzman East Memorial - Grade 1



Christina Boschetti
Saltzman East Memorial - Special Education



Anita Cheng
Districtwide Elementary Counselor



Brittany DeMaio
FHS - Special Education



Jeannine DiFiore
FHS - Special Education



Michael Donato
FHS - Living Environment and
Physical Forensics



Emily Figueroa
Howitt Middle School -
Home and Careers



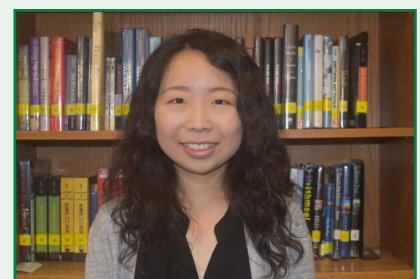
Abigail Hesselton
Districtwide Music



Sarah Hund
Albany Avenue - Grade 5



Stephanie Kennedy
FHS - Earth Science



Becky Kim
FHS - Special Education



Katherine Legato
Howitt Middle School -
English as a New Language



Jillian Lutz
Saltzman East Memorial - Grade 5



Kellie McNamee
FHS - Math



Veronica Miller
Howitt Middle School - Math



Carli Palladino
Saltzman East Memorial - Grade 1



Nancy Pavlic
FHS - Special Education



Melanie Raso
Saltzman East Memorial - Grade 5



Courtney Reynolds
FHS - English



Victoria Ross
FHS - English as a New Language



Jacklyn Scheel
Howitt Middle School - English



Patricia Smirnotis
FHS - Special Education



Kaitlin Sparacino
Saltzman East Memorial - Grade 1



Alyssa Sudmann
Albany Avenue - Grade 4



Kyle Verspoor
FHS - Physics



Amanda Whorlow
Howitt Middle School - Social Studies
and English - Language Arts



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DALERS WIN HOMECOMING GAME

The Farmingdale High School stands were packed with fans in green and white, cheering the Dalers on to victory at their Homecoming game on September 27, 2019. The Dalers beat the Uniondale Knights by a score of 35-7. As usual, the halftime show, courtesy of the Farmingdale High School Marching Band, the cheerleaders, and the Dalerettes, was nothing short of spectacular. Seniors [redacted] and [redacted] were crowned Homecoming King & Queen. Pre-game festivities included a pep rally inside the gym, with Farmingdale High School Principal Dr. Samuel Thompson kicking it off with Dale, the beloved lion mascot. This year, two students are sharing mascot duties. With the pep band and drum line pounding away, members of the football team were announced. Performances by the junior and varsity cheerleaders, the Dalerettes, and the Step-n-Dalers immediately followed.



HOWITT MS ATHLETIC FIELD RIBBON CUTTING



On Friday, October 4, 2019, a spirited pep rally and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new athletic field complex at Weldon E. Howitt Middle School. Superintendent Paul Defendini gave remarks, and was presented with a plaque by Director of Athletics Jeanne Berkoski to commemorate the occasion. Farmingdale Board of Education President Michael Goldberg and Trustees Kathy Lively and Arlene Soete were on hand to officiate the ribbon cutting amid cheers from the Dalerettes, the Farmingdale PAL Kickline, and all the fans in the stands. Once the ceremony was over, the middle school football team took the field to play their first game of the season against Baldwin. They won by a score of 31-13.