



## Academics

*Farmingdale offers students the best education with outstanding programs and academic rigor.*



Farmingdale High School offers students the opportunity to earn as many as 30 college credits through Advanced Placement (AP) and college courses. We are recognized as an AP School of Distinction, meaning students who take the courses typically score an impressive 3.5 or higher on AP tests.

Farmingdale's outstanding academic opportunities include exciting programs such as the Science Bowl and the Robotics Team (our award-winning "Robodalers"). In addition, Farmingdale launched one of its most anticipated new technology programs, the One-to-World Learning Initiative. Every student in grades 6 through 12 will have his or her own Chromebook for personalized learning. This will transform the process of teaching and learning, accelerating the academic achievement of all students in the District.

## Athletics

*Dalerg athletes achieve great success—on the field of play and in the classroom.*

As of spring 2017, all Farmingdale varsity athletic teams have tallied an incredible 23 consecutive seasons as Scholar-Athlete Teams. Every varsity team over that time period had a cumulative GPA of 90 or higher. Student-athletes are students first, and the Scholar-Athlete Team streak demonstrates that our students understand their priorities and possess incredible resolve and discipline.



### New York State Championships

- Boys Bowling ..... 2012
- Football ..... 1971, 1972, 1978
- Boys Lacrosse ..... 2011
- Girls Lacrosse ..... 2009, 2010, 2013
- Boys Track & Field ..... 2012

## Fine Arts

*Farmingdale is one of the best school districts for the Arts in New York.*



The Farmingdale School District continues its advancement of Arts and Music education through the adaptation of its curriculum to account for the emergence of technology in classrooms. Classroom innovations range from document cameras in Art classes—allowing students to replay and look back on first-hand arts demonstrations—to online composition software for music classes that enables students to independently develop important skills and help understand concepts.

On several occasions, the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation has named Farmingdale as one the *Best Communities for Music Education*. In 2017, Farmingdale sent 122 students to the Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County Music Festival. Students were hand-selected by teachers to perform in band, orchestra, chorus, vocal and jazz band. Farmingdale hosted the New York State School Music Association Solo Festival, which featured approximately 1,600 students from across New York for solo and ensemble auditions.

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Farmingdale Union  
Free School District

## Every Child, One Voice

*The Parent Teacher Association's  
Commitment to Farmingdale*

Parent Teacher Associations across the country work tirelessly to improve and advance public education, school programs and support resources for all students, and Farmingdale's PTA is no exception. The PTA has a strong relationship with the Farmingdale School District and the Farmingdale community with a shared commitment to put the children of the schools and community first. As a result, our PTA takes pride in its presence at the local, state and national levels.

Farmingdale's PTA includes community members from all walks of life—mothers, fathers, guardians, businesspeople, engineers, police officers, educators, lawyers, and accountants. They all come together to fundraise and advocate for the school and our children, as well as educate fellow parents and community members on the ever-changing policies, systems, and technologies that are shaping the Farmingdale School District.

Every year, the Farmingdale PTA raises tens of thousands of dollars for teacher grants and Arts in Education programs that enhance the learning experience of every student. The PTA raises money to recognize high school seniors for their academic, community and/or volunteer achievements. It also spearheads District-wide activities including wellness programs and the blood drive.

*The Farmingdale PTA works hard to ensure  
all students have a voice in their school,  
and that all children have a voice  
in the Farmingdale community.*

## Tech Students Build a Better Community

The finished wood walls upon which hang recognition of some of Farmingdale High School's greatest achievements is an achievement in its own right. Farmingdale High School's Technology Honors Society, Carpentry Club, and general technology classes have all contributed to the halls, providing a striking showcase of some of the school's proudest moments, greatest successes and most distinguished alumni. But perhaps one of technology's greatest achievements is its long-time collaboration with Long Island State Parks.

Collaboration between Farmingdale High School and Jones Beach National Park began in 1994 when the mother of a former Farmingdale technology teacher was speaking to a friend of hers at the National Parks Department about the need for help after budget cuts stalled construction projects at the beach. Since then, Farmingdale technology students have dedicated class time to serving the greater Long Island community. By extending boardwalks, and building new lifeguard shacks, benches and planters, Farmingdale High School Tech Honor Society has made Jones Beach safe and beautiful.

### FARMINGDALE DIRECTORY

- Farmingdale High School ..... (516) 434-5210
- Weldon E. Howitt Middle School ..... (516) 434-5410
- Albany Avenue ..... (516) 434-5510
- Northside ..... (516) 434-5610
- Saltzman East Memorial ..... (516) 434-5710
- Woodward Parkway ..... (516) 434-5810



**FARMINGDALE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*A Century of Tradition*



For more than a century now, the Farmingdale School District has had one overarching goal: to educate the young people of the Farmingdale community and encourage them toward a lifetime of success, fulfillment and happiness. It's our greatest tradition. In 1913, when the high school opened its doors for the very first time, it had the following mission: "Educate our students to become independent thinkers and problem solvers." While we've tweaked and expanded this mission over the decades, the fundamental spirit remains the same.

This special newsletter commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first graduating class of Farmingdale High School. It takes us through a quick history of our area, gives us a glimpse of what life was like 100 years ago, and stops briefly to listen to the voices and admire the images of years gone by. Come take a trip down memory lane with us, and look forward to what the next century will bring.

**Celebrating #100YearsofDalers**

## Who We Are

Farmingdale's appeal lies in its friendly suburban character. Children play safely on our streets, neighbors know and care about each other, and local businesses that line our award-winning Main Street offer a wonderful, small-town environment.

Farmingdale Schools—a major attraction to prospective residents—reflect the community's character. All the residents of the Farmingdale School District share a common bond of similar values, including a commitment to excellence in the education of their children.

*The goal of the Farmingdale Public Schools is to establish ourselves as a high achieving school district as evidenced by high levels of student performance in all areas.*

*"...the schools belong to everybody who lives in the community."*

— Farmingdale Schools Tri-fold from 1990s

## Daler Spotlight: Past, Present, Future.

**VICTOR NELSON**  
Class of 1942



*"Farmingdale was a great prelude to the rest of my life. My teacher, Mrs. Hartz, made me the history buff I am today."*

**TORI YENZER**  
Class of 2013



*"I miss Farmingdale a lot. I miss the teachers the most. They are incredible people and I still talk to many of them to this day."*

**SHANNON KELLEHER**  
Class of 2021



*"Everyone's positive and it's a supportive environment. There are so many opportunities and activities for everyone."*

# From Hardscrabble to Farmingdale: A History of Our District and Town

In 1695 Englishman Thomas Powell purchased 15 square miles from the Massapequa Indians for 140 pounds. Powell divided the land and allocated sections among his family for agricultural purposes. The land started to prosper, and the hamlet of Hardscrabble was born.

More than a century later in 1814, the town of Norwich, along with a few other towns, created the first school district in the area and called it "The Sixteenth Hardscrabble District." The District comprised grades 1 - 8, all in a one-room building. It was the first public school in the area. In 1838, real estate speculator Ambrose George stumbled upon Hardscrabble and, charmed with the area, bought many acres. There was one catch: he disliked the name Hardscrabble. George took note of the land's fertility, and settled on the perfect name, "Farmingdale."

Farmingdale prospered. It underwent intense industrialization and created a name for itself. The railroad came to Farmingdale in October 1841, allowing access for more people to travel to the hamlet. In 1850, the school District grew to a two-story wooden building; in 1864, Farmingdale became part of the Joint School District No. 22, leaving Norwich; and in 1892, Farmingdale became the Union Free Joint School District No. 8. Two years later, when the eighth grade graduation took place in the Music Hall, only four students graduated. In 1904, more than 200 years since Thomas Powell made his deal with the Massapequa Indians, the village of Farmingdale incorporated.



The Powell Farm, Farmingdale

The school house on Main Street was replaced by a brick building in 1912, paving the way for the District to expand. A year later, the District grew to include grades 9-12. Four years later in 1917, the first graduating class—all of two students—of Farmingdale High School received their diplomas.

Most of the farms in the District were bought out after World War I as industrial prospects, causing the population to double by the 1930s. This population expanded to the school District as well. By 1937, Farmingdale High School graduated 82 students. There were more than 800 students in primary school and 500 in high school. Around this time, land was bought by aircraft companies—mainly the Republic Aviation Company. They were a huge asset to Farmingdale, as the industry employed about 25,000 people during WWII. Farmingdale continued to prosper.

The District was growing rapidly. In the 1950s, the District expanded and enrollment in the schools more than tripled. By 1961, the school District had nine buildings: six elementary schools (Albany Avenue, Northside, East Memorial, Woodward Parkway, Main Street, and Parkway Oaks), two middle schools (Weldon E. Howitt and Mill Lane), and Farmingdale High School. In 1966, the last new school building opened: The West Building of the Weldon E. Howitt Middle School. By the 1980s, Main Street, Parkway Oaks and the original Mill Lane schools closed, leaving the six District schools still in use today.

