



Our Schools

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT | FALL 2020 | FARMINGDALESCHOOLS.ORG

ACADEMIC SUCCESSES ABOUND AT FHS

The many challenges of the 2019-2020 school year did not deter our students from continuing their incredible academic accomplishments. Francis Vereline was Farmingdale High School's first student to receive the College Board's Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma. Francis was distinguished by the successful completion of the AP Capstone Research Program and obtained scores of 3 or higher on at least four other AP exams. Additionally, nine students received AP Seminar and Research Certificates from the program for their hard work and success within the program. The National AP Scholar Award was awarded to Philip Cassidy, Lily Coffin, and Zachary Suwalski, members of the Class of 2020, all of whom received an average score of at least a 4 on all their AP exams and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more AP exams. Additionally, the College Board has recognized over 100 Farmingdale High School students for the exceptional results these students maintained on their AP exams.



CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR FARMINGDALE WALL OF FAME!

Farmingdale High School is seeking nominations for their 24th 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. The form is also available at the Farmingdale Public Library.

All nominations must be received by December 22, 2020 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 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Thomas W. Guilford Lecture Hall at Farmingdale High School.

WINNERS AND ACHIEVERS

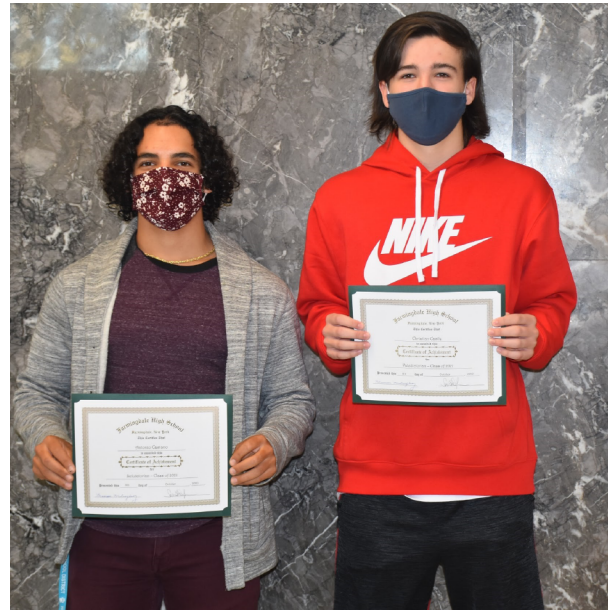
Class Acts: Farmingdale High School Announces Class of 2021 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The scores are in and the valedictorian and salutatorian for Farmingdale High School Class of 2021 have been announced. Christian Castle and Antonio Castano are valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Christian's cumulative GPA, which afforded him the title of class valedictorian, totaled 102.83. Antonio's cumulative GPA that placed him as class salutatorian is 102.57.

"I'd like to congratulate Christian and Antonio on being named Farmingdale High School Class of 2021 valedictorian and salutatorian," said Superintendent Paul Defendini. "Their years of hard work and dedication have paid off in a major way, and the entire Farmingdale family could not be more proud of their success."

In addition to maintaining a rigorous academic schedule, both Christian and Antonio participated—and excelled—in their extracurricular pursuits. An AP scholar, Christian is a member of the National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Key Club, Business Honor Society, and DECA. Additionally, Christian plays on Farmingdale's JV/varsity baseball team and participated as a PAL flag football player and referee and basketball player and referee.

Also an AP scholar, Antonio is a member of the Farmingdale High School symphony orchestra as a viola player as well as the pit orchestra for play productions. He is also a member of the Italian Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, JV/varsity football team, varsity track and field, and serves as an individual tutor. Antonio was recently named a National Merit PSAT/NMSQT Commended Student, and is a PSAT 10 National Hispanic Scholar.



From left to right: Antonio Castano, Class of 2021 Salutatorian and Christian Castle, Class of 2021 valedictorian

A MESSAGE FROM THE FARMINGDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION

We'd like to personally welcome each of you back for another exciting and eventful year in the Farmingdale School District. This will be a vital year for our district, as we continue to learn and adapt to the ever-changing issues presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. If there is one constant about the pandemic, it is that nothing is certain; indeed by the time you read this, everything about this school year could have changed again. We ask that you remain patient and understanding as we work through this year together.

As always, we invite you to join us at our monthly board of education meetings— which will be held virtually on Wednesdays. The dates and agendas can be found on the calendars tab on the website— www.farmingdaleschools.org. Best wishes for a successful and rewarding year!

Very truly yours,

The Farmingdale Board of Education



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

Albany Avenue Elementary School

You're Never too Young to Be Published!
*Farmingdale School District 5th Grader
Becomes a Published Author*

There's no shortage of talented students in the Farmingdale School District. Case in point: Katerina Bernius, a 10-year-old **Albany Avenue Elementary School** 5th grader, is now a published author! Katerina's book, *The Magical Flower*, tells the story of three best friends who planted flowers in their garden. To their excitement and awe, one of them begins to glow—a magical flower. The book is the story of these three friends and their journey through the winter as they wait for their magical flower to appear once more in the spring.



Katerina submitted *The Magical Flower* to Mascot Books for review for publication several months ago. The illustrations for the children's book were done by Ingrid Lefebvre. *The Magical Flower* was released in mid-October.

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

SEM Students Choose a Word to Shape Their Year

Since the new school year started, **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** students have chosen specific words that will shape their 2020-2021 school year. The positive culture program began with students reading *One Word for Kids: A Great Way to Have Your Best Year Ever* by Dan Britton, Jimmy Page, and Jon Gordon, a fable that inspires children to assign one word to which their year can aspire. *Learn, Believe, Brave, Fun*—the word can be almost anything at all. The lesson had a creative element as well, as students created word art images in their art classes to visualize their goals.



SEM Students are encouraged to apply their chosen word to their school year, in the hopes that this would make the best of a difficult year. Even with new circumstances, SEM is hopeful that the students' words will empower them to succeed in their classrooms.

Northside Elementary School

Northside Alum Returns to Renovate Courtyard

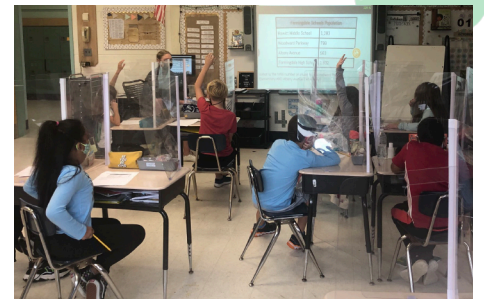
Eagle Scout Matthew Borgia exceeded expectations with his Eagle project! Matthew, a former **Northside Elementary School** student, recently renovated the school's courtyard for his culminating Eagle project, giving a facelift to the well-used area. The former student unveiled his project for the 2020-2021 school year, just in time for students and staff to enjoy. To complete his Eagle project, Matthew painted four new picnic tables, built six benches, built and painted new shed doors, and made five planters utilizing recycled tires. He used his creativity and skill to complete this project for students and staff at Northside Elementary School as the need for outdoor space increased.



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

Math in Focus at Woodward Parkway

Math is a fundamental part of an elementary school education, and at classes all over **Woodward Parkway Elementary School**, students are engaging in vital and thoughtful math programs. In Ms. Chalker's class, students are using math manipulatives to discover what makes a number an even number or an odd number. In Ms. Sudmann's third grade class, students are doing data analysis by practicing estimation, adding and subtracting. And Woodward Parkway fourth graders are even getting an introduction to physics by discussing potential and kinetic energy!



Ms. Sudmann's class at Woodward Parkway Elementary School during a recent math lesson.

Weldon E. Howitt Middle School

Howitt Middle School is Thriving After School Once Again!

Many clubs started the last week of October. Students can meet in-person while practicing social distancing, or remotely with their classmates if they prefer. Some examples

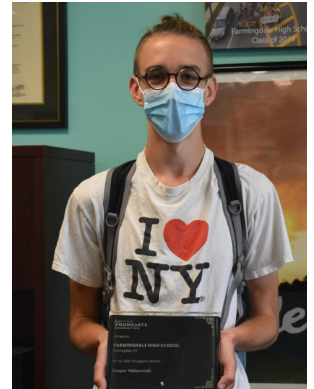


of our clubs are the Robotics Club, Howitt Players, Garden Club, Daler Buddies and many more. In addition, after school intramurals are beginning for all Howitt students in-person, outdoors for both our in-person learners and our remote learners. We have badminton, football, basketball, soccer and swim intramurals starting up again for any interested students in grades 6 - 8. We have also started our extra help with homework virtually for all students from 4 - 5 p.m. through Google Meets.

Farmingdale High School

Toot Your Own Horn: Farmingdale High School Student Awarded For Musical Talents

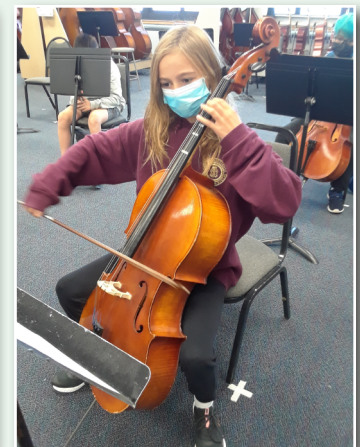
Farmingdale High School recently announced that Cooper Malanowski, one of the school's top musicians, has been named a winner of the 2020 YoungArts national competition. Cooper was selected as one of 686 winners from a pool of over 7,000 submissions from across the United States. Winners of the YoungArts award are provided with several opportunities to showcase and hone their skill including the chance to participate in National YoungArts Week or in regional programs in Miami, Los Angeles and New York.



Cooper also had the honor of being selected as a trombonist for both the All-State Jazz Band and the All-State Wind Ensemble. At Farmingdale High school, he is a member of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, and Jazz Band.

MUSIC AND ARTS NEWS

MUSIC HAS NOT GONE OUT OF TUNE AT HOWITT



The **Howitt Middle School** music department has kept music alive as students are able to adapt amidst the pandemic and continue to play while adhering to safety protocols. Students are able to play in the orchestra in-person and remotely, allowing for all students to participate in music. At Howitt, the music department wants students to be able to participate in the activity they love and enjoy, even under difficult circumstances.

Students are required to use hand sanitizer at the door, wear masks, and keep a safe six foot distance from each other while playing. Remote students are invited to join using Google Meet and can record themselves as they practice in their homes. This system has allowed students to engage in a normal activity, and each of us greatly appreciates their return. Welcome back, Howitt music students!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST EDUCATORS!



Geetal Benson Ph.D.
Districtwide -
School Psychology



Lauren Betz
Saltzman East Memorial -
School Social Worker



Melissa Ciuffo
Northside - Grades K-6



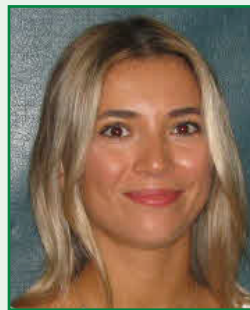
Sean Clark
Howitt Middle School -
Social Studies 7-12



Cynthea Conway
FHS - Special Education



Thomas Eustaquio
Districtwide Music



Kristen Frisenda
WWP - Grades K-6



Samantha Gaffney
FHS - Health



Alexandra Gallo
Howitt Middle School -
Foreign Language 7-12



Kelly Grzinic
WWP - Grades K-6



Lindsey Hanes
Howitt Middle School -
Math 7-12



Renee Heinrich
Howitt Middle School -
Special Education



Abigail Hesselton
Districtwide Music



Lauren Kanfer
Howitt Middle School -
Special Education



Aliya Ladha
FHS - Remedial Reading



Dani Maloney
Howitt Middle School -
Science



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WELCOME OUR NEWEST EDUCATORS!



Dominic Minichiello
Howitt Middle
School - Art



Carli Palladino
Saltzman East Memorial
- Grades K-6



Anastasia Pavlatos
WWP - Grades K-6



Paul Phelan
FHS - Social Studies 7-12



Marissa Puleo
Howitt Middle School -
Math 7-12



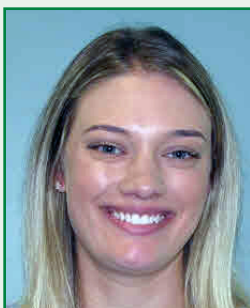
Melissa Romano
WWP - Remedial
Reading



Philip Scanze
Albany Avenue - Music



Nyquasha Smith
FHS - Guidance



Alyssa Sudmann
WWP - Grades K-6



Jaclyn Tannazzo
FHS - Business



Melanie Viskoc
Howitt Middle School -
FACS



Nicole Wozny
Northside - Art