



Our Schools

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT | SPRING 2021 | FARMINGDALESCHOOLS.ORG

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

This time last spring, the halls of our schools were devoid of the laughter and sounds of students making their way to class side-by-side with their peers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the last year, Farmingdale School District has made impressive strides in bringing a sense of normalcy to our Dalers. While students continue to learn on a variety of education platforms—remote or in-person—this spring will be punctuated by the return of some of the most important events of the school year!

We must continue to persevere so that we may end the 2020-2021 school year the same way it began: united and strong. In recognition of our students' continued efforts and success throughout the year, we are excited to be holding moving up and graduation ceremonies! Farmingdale High School Graduation will be held at Hofstra University's Shuart Stadium and graduates are welcome to bring four guests to help in celebrating this milestone in their academic careers. Our Weldon E. Howitt Middle School and our four elementary schools' moving up ceremonies will be held at Howitt Middle School's Athletic Complex-Main Stadium Field. Students will be allowed two guests to accompany them to the day's festivities. The Farmingdale School District is steadfast in its commitment to bringing a sense of normalcy to our students' daily lives while also providing them with the best education possible!



A SPRING RECESS PICK-ME-UP

Throughout the entire school year, provisions across every facet of the education system have been reworked to best meet the needs of our Dalers. Whether it be the creation of a diverse set of instructional models to promote continued learning or the provision of meals—one of our most basic yet essential needs—the Farmingdale School District continues to put in the work to ensure our community members are looked after during these times.

As spring recess was fast approaching, our Food Services Department—along with social workers, security, and aides—have doubled down in their mission of providing meals for students and their families to have on hand while school was not in session. Through the deployment of a meal request form throughout the District, students and families alike were kept informed of the 4,500 breakfasts and lunches being prepared, which comes out to over 300 meal kits being provided to our valued families during spring recess! Farmingdale High School served as a hub for distribution, and the sense of community and support was palpable in the air as community members banded together to support one another through this time. With assistance from the Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association, meal kits were filled to the brim with

shelf-stable items to ensure the food being provided would last for the entirety of spring recess. The honorable work of Farmingdale School District Food Services has been a crucial part of a comprehensive support system that was implemented at the start of the pandemic, providing a sense of stability and camaraderie in a time where it's needed most.

The need for meal kits exceeds the weeklong spring recess, and so does the work being done in the District to create programs and initiatives that meet the academic, emotional, and physical needs of our student body. In accordance with Farmingdale's commitment to its students, several programs have been designed to provide nutritious meals to all students including implementing a remote student meal pick-up at every building and allowing for parents to pick up breakfast and lunch for their remote students. The District also implemented grab and go meals for hybrid students and is also launching a remote student delivery program. Farmingdale is also sponsoring another summer of feeding, wherein meals will be available all summer for children 18 and under. We will continue to get through these trying times by supporting one another with full hearts and full stomachs!

DALERS CONTINUE TO SHOOT FOR THE MOON!

Our Dalers have always aimed for the moon with ambitious goals and unparalleled work ethic, and this school year was no different! No matter which school you take a look at, evidence of students' hard work can be seen in the extracurricular activities they're a part of!

Two dozen of Farmingdale High School's brightest made the District proud at Hofstra University's annual Model United Nations, conducted virtually this year to ensure participant safety. Farmingdale's History Club was one of ten schools that took part in this time-honored event, with two students, Ramita Chowdhury and Ehsan Elminabawy, receiving honorable mentions. Ramita and Ehsan, along with the rest of the teams and their members, were put through their paces during the two-day event which took place on February 27 and 28. Students served as delegates for various countries and regions. It was in these roles that they were asked to navigate issues of international importance using negotiation techniques, analytical skills, and observance of meticulous procedures for interaction, which encourage collaborative problem solving. Ramita's strong oration skills and ability to work with other participants afforded her an honorable mention for her work on the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), where she represented the Republic of India. For her display of knowledge and collaboration, Ehsan received an honorable mention for her work on the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), where she was tasked with solving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Both young women are a testament to the incredible work that can be done when we work together to bridge gaps between cultures and find paths to peace!



In an entirely different, but no less impressive, feat from our District students, two seniors have been recognized by the Nassau Zone of New York State for meeting the required Physical Education Outstanding Student criteria for achievement. Farmingdale High School's Zoe Leung and Stephen Kessler were amongst the mix of students from across Nassau County who have been bestowed with this award. Students from across Nassau County are bestowed with this award for their demonstration of hard work and deep understanding of the New York State Learning Standards for Health and Physical Education.



Through a consistent display of responsible social and personal behavior, leadership, healthy lifestyle habits, and exhibiting exceptional achievement in Physical Education classes and approved fitness tests, Zoe and Stephen earned their spots amongst this year's honorees. These two driven individuals embody some of the finest qualities the District seeks to impress upon our Dalers everyday through daily lessons and extracurricular activities!

If this year has taught us anything, it is that communication and collaboration are two key ingredients to traversing such unprecedented times. It is moments and events such as these that provide students with an opportunity to communicate not just with their classmates, but with peers from all over the state, allowing students to build a foundation for strong interpersonal relationships and effective communication skills!

DROPPING IN ON OUR SCHOOLS!

Albany Avenue Elementary School

Turn the volume up at Albany Avenue! This past March, students, staff, and faculty at Albany Avenue Elementary School celebrated Music in Our Schools Month. By producing several videos showcasing their musical talents, our young musicians brought the beat to YouTube for the community to enjoy over and over again! With the music pumping in their veins, Albany Avenue showed their collective love of music by donning their dancing shoes and participating in a schoolwide dance off. Now *that's* how you celebrate Music in Our Schools Month!



Northside Elementary School

Jean-Michel Basquiat famously said “art is how we decorate our space.” Northside Elementary School student-artists have taken that saying to heart. Under the direction of Ms. Wozny, a team of creative young minds banded together after school to bring the walls of our school to life! With every brush stroke and addition of a new color, third grader Rafaella Zandbaf, fourth grader Sophia Arias, and fifth grader Ashley Stroud showed off their artistic abilities for all to enjoy. These three talented painters haven’t just been busy creating masterpieces for Northside to enjoy; all three were also selected for the All-County Artist Exhibit where even more people have the chance to behold their technicolor art. We can’t wait to see what these paragons of art will create next!



Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

We’ve got some “Mathletes” roaming the halls of Saltzman East Memorial! Congratulations to Mrs. Gaghan, Mrs. Gangi, and Mr. Gaghan and their students for performing so intelligently at this year’s virtual SUMDOG math contest. Our fourth-grade Dalers put their minds to work while also having the opportunity to engage with other classes and schools participating in the day’s events. The three classes placed first, fifteenth, and twentieth during the national competition. Let us count the ways in which our Dalers continue to shine!



Woodward Parkway Elementary School

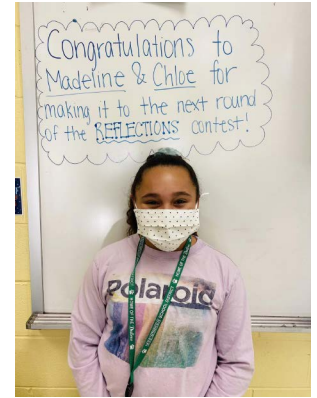
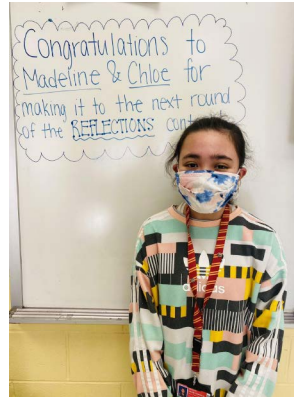
What happens when science meets nature? Look no further than Ms. Breuer’s Woodward Parkway Elementary School third-grade class for answers. Students have been hard at work setting up a hydroponic tower garden and their efforts are in full bloom! Hydroponics is a form of horticulture that encourages plant growth without the use of soil. Through careful monitoring of water and pH levels, students use their scientific knowledge to support the growth of their hydroponic greenhouses. But the science doesn’t end there! Students had the opportunity to get their hands dirty by setting up the water pump and lighting timers to ensure their tower gardens receive the nutrients they need to flourish. Now that’s one impressive “green thumb!”



DROPPING IN ON OUR SCHOOLS!

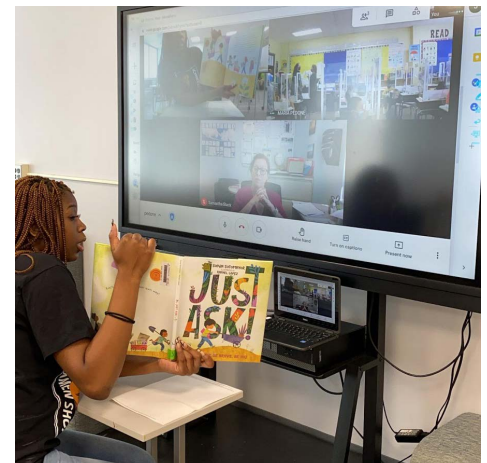
Weldon E. Howitt Middle School

They say that art is a window into the soul. At Howitt Middle School, several young artists took the opportunity to show why they matter through a variety of artistic mediums during the annual national PTA competition, Reflections. This year's theme, "I matter because..", allowed students to create works that represented who they are and why they matter. Whether it was through film, literature, photography, or other visual methods, the students' works afforded those who viewed them access to some of the most talented young artists in the country! Among those artists include Howitt's very own Madeline Ortiz and Chloe Corrigan, who submitted works in the photography and visual category, respectively. Both entries have been selected by the national PTA to be assessed at the state level! Through their incredible works of self-expression, our Howitt artists continue to remind us all why art matters and why we all matter!



Farmingdale High School

Reading represents limitless potential for diversity and representation. This year, Farmingdale High School students in the R.E.A.L. Harmony club have been busy sharing these pillars of community with their youngest peers at Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School through hand-picked books selected by our District's librarians! Through these empowering works of literature, our high school Dalers have the opportunity to inspire those who look up to them most by visiting the elementary classrooms as guest speakers. It is during these visits that R.E.A.L. Harmony members read books that feature the lives and stories of children from diverse cultural backgrounds, providing the students in attendance with the chance to gain a better understanding of the importance of diverse experiences. What a harmonious way to combine a love of reading with the importance of community!



PUT A LITTLE PEP IN YOUR STEP

Farmingdale has school spirit, yes we do! Farmingdale has school spirit, how about you? On Friday, April 9, students, staff, and faculty safely convened for the time-honored pep rally which took place this year at Farmingdale High School. The school came together to celebrate the incredible school year the community has had, despite all the odds. Whether students were decked out in the Farmingdale colors or in their sports or cheerleading attire, the school spirit that filled that auditorium was palpable!

Students in attendance at the 2021 pep rally enjoyed the music stylings of the Farmingdale High School band, displays of athleticism from the cheerleaders and Dalerettes, and the rhythmic movements of the Steppin' Dalers. From start to finish, the event was jam packed with feel-good moments that had us cheering, clapping, and singing! With all that this school year has brought with it, the pep rally served as an important reminder that it's always a good time to come together to show off our school spirit and Daler pride!



A SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Farmingdale's sports teams never fail to impress. However, this incredible display of camaraderie and discipline took place *off* the field.

Farmingdale's Athletic Department is proud to announce that all varsity winter and fall teams have achieved Scholar Athlete Team status this year! This recognition is reserved for teams in which 75 percent or more of the athletes have maintained a 90 percent or higher grade-point average throughout the duration of their sports season. The hard work, focus, and dedication that is evident on these sports teams translates to the hours our student-athletes spend poring over their studies each day. To be a part of an incredible roster of sports teams is, in and of itself, no easy feat; to be equally as dedicated and successful in your academics makes the attainment of Scholar Athlete Status all the more impressive. Well done to all our teams and athletes!



A MIRACLE AT THE 30 YARD LINE

This past March, the actions of two incredible athletic trainers, one being Farmingdale athletic trainer Phil Fandale, helped save the life of a Farmingdale alumnus. What could have been an unimaginably tragic event turned into one of hope and unity!

During the Saturday morning football game in which Farmingdale went head to head with East Meadow, Nassau County high school football official Phil LoNigro collapsed during the second quarter of the game. Phil Fandale and East Meadow athletic trainer, Dan DeSimone, rushed to Mr. LoNigro's aid on the field where Mr. DeSimone began chest compressions right away and Mr. Fandale deployed the use of a defibrillator to provide the life-saving shock to Mr. LoNigro. The quick-thinking and calm response of Mr. Fandale and Mr. DeSimone is the epitome of what a quality education affords students throughout their lives!

In recognition of the heroic actions that took place that fateful day, Mr. Fandale received accolades and praise from news outlets across Long Island. And, in April after Farmingdale High School's highly anticipated pep rally, he was presented with an Accommodation Award Ceremony by Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino and his colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board! Sharing in this incredible honor were the other members who were instrumental in saving Mr. LoNigro's life, including East Meadow High School Trainer Dan DeSimone, Farmingdale High School Team Doctor Matthew Heller, and Nurse Lisa Schwartz. The combined efforts of these incredible individuals is an example to us all of what can be accomplished when we work together!





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IT'S SHOWTIME!

Dim the lights and raise the curtains because the show is about to begin! This past spring, the theaters of the District came back to life as guests safely came together to watch as our young actors took to the stage to bring music and entertainment to those in the audience with Farmingdale High School Playcrafters' performance of *Beauty and the Beast* in February and *12 Angry Jurors* in April and the Howitt Middle School Players' rendition of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in March. On the virtual stage, six of Farmingdale High School's most talented orators performed in this year's Monologue Competition. The six performers presented monologues from a variety of works. For their efforts, several of Farmingdale's participants took home top honors! These incredible shows and performances are sure to have left a smile on every audience member's face by the end of the performance! Each year, the Farmingdale community looks forward to filling the seats of the school theaters, eager to see our students bring the characters of these fantastical stories to life. While this year presented numerous challenges, the Playcrafters and Players were determined and brought new meaning to the phrase "the show must go on!" The members of the thespian groups took all necessary health and safety precautions to make these shows visual and auditory pieces of magic. When showtime finally arrived, the hours of rehearsal translated into performances that brought a much-welcomed sense of normalcy back to the community.



THE HALLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The halls of Farmingdale High School continue to echo with the sweet musical notes played by the talented musicians within. Whether it be the sounds of the string section, or the percussive notes of the drums, or the lilting vocal stylings of our choruses, one thing is certain: Farmingdale is home to some incredible talents, and the District isn't the only one who took notice. Several of our student-musicians have been recognized for their ability to create such stirring pieces of auditory magic!

Three stand-out seniors have been selected for the prestigious All-Eastern Music Honors Ensembles. Selectees include



Aidan Kelly, Cooper Malanowski, and Gabriella Sferlazza. Cooper Malanowski was selected to perform with the Jazz Band, Aidan Kelly was chosen as a vocalist with the Mixed Chorus, and Gabriella Sferlazza with the Treble Chorus. All three musicians continuously exhibit their talents for us all to enjoy and have had the opportunity to perform with other quality high school musicians all along the Northeast coast throughout their musical careers. This well-deserved recognition of hours of hard work and practice is the latest in what we are sure will be bright futures. Play on Aidan, Cooper, and Gabriella—we can't wait to hear what you do next!