



Students in the Spotlight



Harborfields High School students Ishaan Lohia, Casandra Moisanu, Mia Santomauro, Greta Browne, Jacob Chalif, and Connor Stewart have been recognized as semifinalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are pictured with Principal Timothy Russo (Connor Stewart is not pictured). These scholars have been chosen out of approximately 1.6 million students in more than 22,000 high schools and will continue to compete to become finalists. This is the highest number of semifinalists from Harborfields High School since early 2000.



Twelve music students at Harborfields High School hit a high note this fall by being selected to perform in the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education All-County Music Festival. Five of them will also represent the district at the All-State Festival of the 2016 New York State School Music Association Winter Conference. All-County students are Hannah Bartfield, Melanie Bautista, Jay Best, Jacob Chalif, Janie Kowalchuk, Emma Magnus, Jillian McGuire, Audrey Lenahan, Gianna Masi, Emily Nehls, Samantha Schapero and Donovan Snyder. All-State musicians are Melanie Bautista, Jay Best, Audrey Lenahan, Gianna Masi and Samantha Schapero. The students are pictured with Principal Timothy Russo and music teachers Nicholas Rinaldi, Clare Jackson, and Alan Walter.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

HARBORFIELDS HS NAMED National Blue Ribbon School



U.S. Secretary of Education, John B. King, Jr., announced that Harborfields High School has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School.

Schools are nominated for the award by the State Department of Education, and then complete a comprehensive application about school practices. Harborfields High School was recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School — among the top schools in New York State.

“I am extremely proud and congratulate Harborfields High School’s students, staff, and administrators for being awarded the ‘Blue Ribbon School of Excellence’ designation by the U.S. Department of Education,” said Diana Todaro, superintendent of Harborfields Central School District.

Harborfields High School joins Oldfield Middle School and Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School as winners of the National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Award.

“We are so proud of the work of our students, teachers, support staff, administrators, school board members and parents as we continue to earn recognition

on the local, state and national level,” said Dr. Rory Manning, former high school principal. “Our students thrive in our rigorous academic environment with guidance from our outstanding faculty and our supportive community. The strong home-school relationship that exists in the Harborfields Central School District creates a nurturing environment where our students can be at their best each day.

Dr. Rory Manning, assistant superintendent for administration and human resources, Timothy Russo, high school principal, and Dr. Francesco Ianni, deputy superintendent, will represent Harborfields High School at a two-day awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. to celebrate this prestigious recognition.

Harborfields High School’s faculty, staff and students were recognized for this honor at a school board meeting on Oct. 19. Regent Tilles will formally recognize Harborfields High School for this distinction during the Dec. 14 board of education meeting.

For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Schools program, please visit <http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>.

WHAT IS
Your Favorite
THING ABOUT
Kindergarten?

“Reading books!”
– Isabella



“Learning the letters like b... bat.” – William



“Coloring and drawing pictures! I love to make rainbows.” – Asuka



HARBORFIELDS WELCOMES THE Class of 2029

The 2016-17 school year began with anticipation and excitement at Washington Drive Primary School on Sept. 6 as Principal Maureen Kelly, faculty and administrators waited for the first full-day kindergarten students to arrive.

The full-day program, which was approved by the Board of Education last year for the 2016-17 budget, would not have come to fruition without the help of the community and its drive to give students the best possible education.

With the announcement made last spring, plans were quickly initiated to create the curriculum for students. Teachers worked diligently over the spring and summer months to prepare for the Class of 2029.

“I would like to thank Principal Maureen Kelly, Assistant Principal Tara Falasco and our kindergarten teachers for all their preparation in planning for the full-day kindergarten program, which helped to further ensure a

successful opening,” said Superintendent of Schools Diana Todaro. “I would also like to thank our community for supporting this new program, in addition to the Harborfields Board of Education for supporting this inclusion into the budget.”

In previous years, the district’s kindergarten students would spend only a few hours in the classroom. The full-day program now allows students to learn more in the school setting and does not limit teachers as to which lessons should be prioritized over others. Washington Drive Primary School currently has nine kindergarten classes that instruct students in English language arts, math, science, social studies and character education. Reading also plays a significant role in the classroom. The students still participate in reading groups like they did in the past, but with the full-day program, teachers are now able to get to know the students

on a deeper level and better identify academic strengths and weaknesses.

“The students are doing great,” said Kelly. “They fell into the school routine right away.”

In addition to teaching the fundamental subjects, the full-day program allows students to explore more topics through fun activities outside of the classroom, including field trips and assemblies that the school has planned for the year. One assembly was a visit from the Centerpoint Fire Department in October, which taught the kindergarteners about fire safety and prevention in an engaging way.

The full-day kindergarteners are ready to continue their enriching year, as teachers will be incorporating seasons and holidays into their lessons. The district thanks the community for supporting this wonderful program, as well as Principal Kelly, administrators and the staff for giving their absolute best to these students.



“Playing outside.” – Jayden

“Being the meteorologist and telling the class what the weather is like for the day.” – Sofia



“I like reading all of the different stories.” – Nicholas



Class of 2029 at a Glance
189 : 20-22 : 100%
of Kindergartners : # of Students Per Class : Percentage of students bound for endless possibilities!



The new playground at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School.



The renovated choral room at Harborfields High School.



A path was added at Harborfields High School to the athletic fields, now making them more accessible to those with disabilities.



Athletic fields at Oldfield Middle School (pictured) and Harborfields High School were also renovated over the summer.

UPDATE ON Capital Improvement Projects



This past summer, a number of capital improvement projects were completed as part of the bond referendum approved by community residents last fall.

Numerous projects were undertaken at Harborfields High School to benefit the student body. Damaged classroom doors, corridor flooring and four tennis courts were replaced, visitor bleachers at the main stadium field were added, and the junior varsity boys lacrosse, hockey, varsity soccer and girls lacrosse fields were renovated. The school also saw an extension of the parking area by the athletic fields and expansion of the Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant access paths nearby. The choral room also underwent a transformation, with reconfiguration and modernization of the space giving music students a classroom to enjoy. The school’s varsity baseball and softball fields are in the process of renovation and are expected to be completed within the fall season.

At Washington Drive Primary School, the parking area at the rear of the building was expanded to create more space for visitors and faculty members.

The gymnasium at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School was improved with a new synthetic floor and replacement of the padding on its walls. Capital projects also included renovating the west parking area, refinishing the school’s aluminum façade, constructing new sidewalks and replacing the old playground with a new one for students to enjoy.

Oldfield Middle School had its outdoor space transformed with the replacement of four tennis courts. In addition, the lacrosse and football fields were irrigated and the baseball and softball fields were renovated.

All of these projects were included as part of Phase I of the district’s capital bond. Other renovation projects will be completed within Phases II and III, which are scheduled for late spring, early summer 2017 and are expected to be finished by fall 2017.

“We are very pleased with the work completed to date,” said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Francesco Ianni. “The fields and facility projects will have a positive impact on the experiences of our students, staff and community.”

A MESSAGE FROM Diana Todaro, *Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Harborfields School
Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Harborfields' school community for a successful opening of the school year. Our children are led and supported by a dedicated staff, who continually go above and beyond to guide our students to achieve their individual and collaborative success, in addition to their ongoing commitment to Harborfields.

Within the past several months, although we are proud of numerous significant accomplishments, I would like to acknowledge and thank Washington Drive Primary School Principal Ms. Kelly, Assistant Principal Ms. Falasco, and our kindergarten teachers for their extensive preparation in planning for the full-day kindergarten program. I would also like to thank our community for supporting this new program, in addition to the Harborfields' Board of Education for including full-day kindergarten in the budget. Upon visiting WDPS, it is evident that our students have positively adjusted to their new learning environment.

In October 2015, the community supported a Capital Bond project, and this past summer and fall, Phase I of this project was completed. As you visit our schools, please take note of the numerous projects, including the new parking area at Washington Drive Primary School, new playground at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, renovation to the choral room at

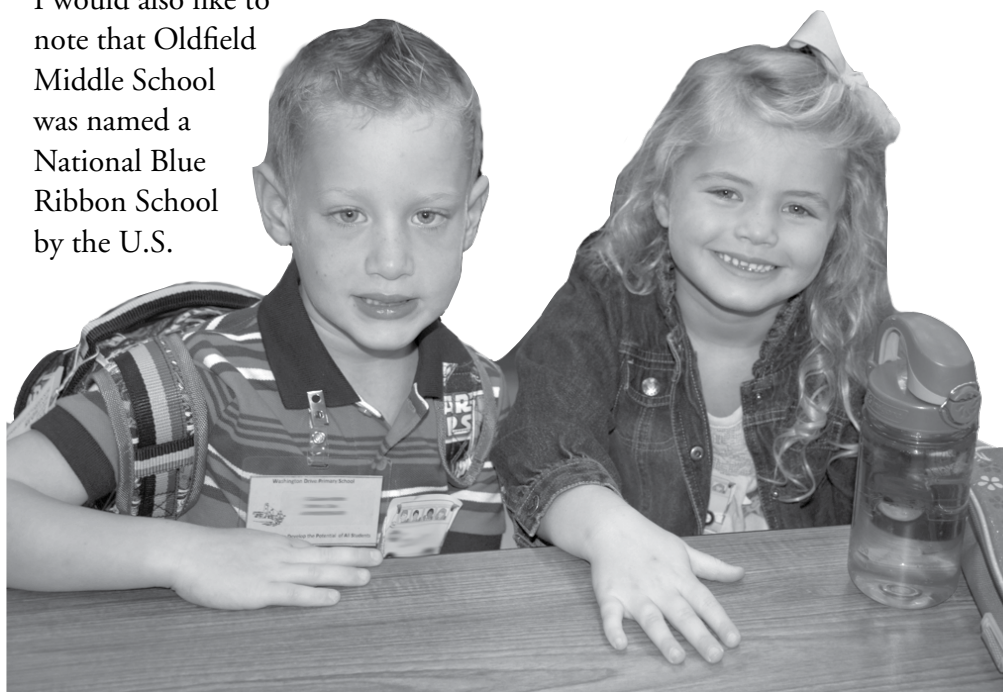
Harborfields High School, as well as extensive renovations to athletic fields at Oldfield Middle School and Harborfields High School. The district is currently in the process of finalizing plans for Phases II and III of the Capital Bond project which includes numerous renovations to the interior of our schools. A complete list of projects, by school, is posted on the district's website on the Capital Improvement Bond Referendum page, located in the District News section.

Another significant accomplishment for the District is the 'Blue Ribbon School of Excellence' distinction, awarded to Harborfields High School by the U.S. Department of Education. I am extremely proud of our students, staff, and administrators for earning such a prestigious award. This exceptional achievement is the result of the dedication and commitment of our districtwide staff, in addition to the support of our community.

I would also like to note that Oldfield Middle School was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S.

Department of Education in 2011, and Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School received the honor in 1996.

Throughout my career in Harborfields, I have always been proud of the accomplishments of our talented students and dedicated staff, as well as in the community that provides us with overwhelming support. On a personal note, it has been my distinct honor to be superintendent of Harborfields Central School District and to now conclude my career in one of the most outstanding districts in the state and nation. I will always have many fond memories of my years in Harborfields, which have truly been the highlight of my career. So, since this is my final message to the community, I would like to conclude with my sincerest gratitude and one final note: This is Diana Todaro, Superintendent of Harborfields Central School District, wishing you all my best for continued success in the future and forever!



Nicholas P. Giuliano, *President*
David Steinberg, *Vice President*
Hansen Lee
Suzie Lustig
Donald W. Mastroianni
Thomas McDonagh
Colleen Wolcott
Diana Todaro, *Superintendent of Schools*

Community Shows Their Spirit

Students, families, faculty and administrators celebrated homecoming 2016 with a parade and football game against the Rocky Point Eagles on Oct. 8.

Superintendent of Schools Diana Todaro took part in the parade festivities with Deputy Superintendent Dr. Francesco Ianni before heading to the high school for the football game. This would be the final homecoming for Todaro before her retirement this January. "I have such heartfelt memories of all the years that I've been here," she said.

"Today it brought tears to my eyes to think that it is my last one but I know that the tradition will continue here in Harborfields."

After the parade, the community packed the stands at James T. Brennan Memorial Field for the homecoming game. During halftime, the varsity cheerleaders entertained with their spirited routine, the marching band performed with the kickline and students from the various



grades competed in a dance competition.

While the game ended with a loss for the Harborfields Tornados, it did not dampen the spirit of the day which was filled with laughs, cheers and support from the community.

Senior Art Student Makes Her Mark

Harborfields High School has a rising star in the art department. Senior Katelyn Maher has taken her passion for graphic design and landed an exciting opportunity with the Bronx Zoo. When Katelyn was only a sophomore, she enrolled in a computer art class with teacher Elizabeth DeVaney and was assigned a final project in which she created her own T-shirt design. She made a geometric animal themed shirt and wore it to school the next day. Not only did her classmates compliment her design, but DeVaney was so impressed that she told Katelyn the shirt could be sold in zoos.



Katelyn decided to give the idea a chance and reached out to the Bronx Zoo a few weeks later. She was invited to a meeting to discuss the possibility of having the T-shirt sold at the zoo. The zoo was particularly looking for a design of a fennec fox

and Katelyn ran with it. She created a fox design and the zoo loved it. Katelyn founded KMaher Designs, created an LLC, found a T-shirt distributor and a printing warehouse. She even delivered the shirts herself to the New York Wildlife Conservation. Her design is currently being sold on children's T-shirts at stores in both the Bronx Zoo and Central Park Zoo.

The shirts were available to purchase this past June and when it was time to view the final product in the store, Katelyn was thrilled. The shirts were showcased in a window display and had their own set up in the zoo store. "It was cool walking in and seeing someone buy my shirt," she said. "It was a very surreal feeling."

The student is no stranger to designing. She created the sophomore and senior class shirts for this year's homecoming day and plans to take her passion further by majoring in graphic design in college.