



Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

Learning in Action



Oldfield seventh graders in social studies class wrote mock speeches for a debate on constitutional issues.



TJL fourth graders used technology in the school's makerspace to make their Iroquois longhouse projects interactive.



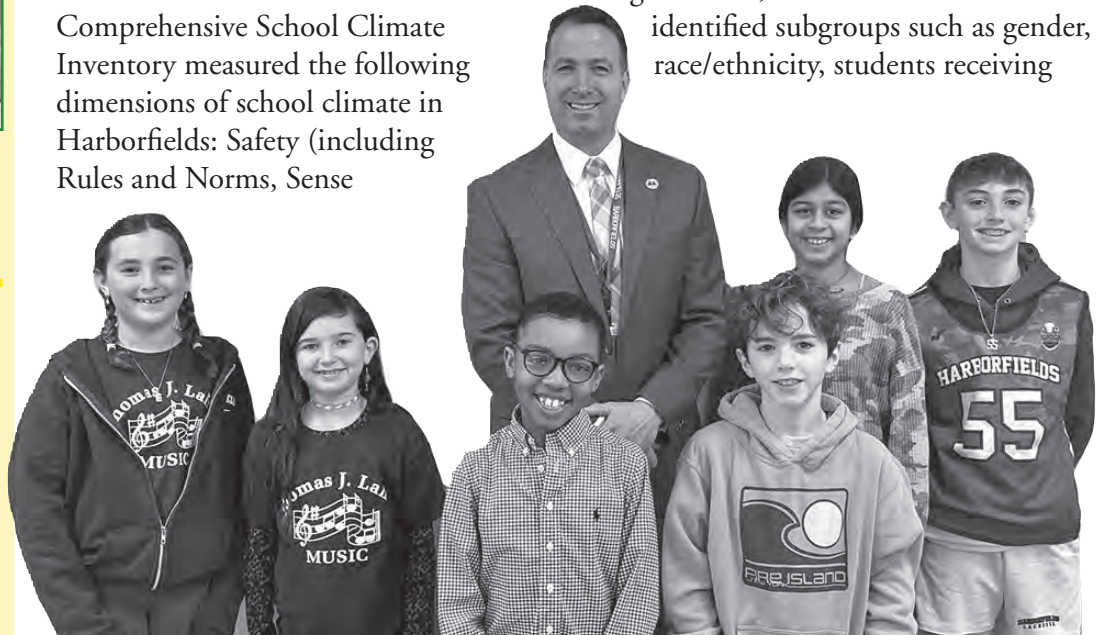
Oldfield students shared their joy of reading with Washington Drive to jointly celebrate Read Across America.

EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICE AT HARBORFIELDS

The driving vision behind the development of the Harborfields Strategic Plan was to include the voices of the students, staff, and community in determining the future direction of the district. One of the initial action steps was to implement a survey to obtain a baseline understanding of the school climate, and then use the survey data to inform the development of programs designed to meet the needs and interests of the district's students.

Harborfields' very first climate survey took place this past October, implemented via the National School Climate Center. The NSCC's Comprehensive School Climate Inventory measured the following dimensions of school climate in Harborfields: Safety (including Rules and Norms, Sense

of Physical Security and Sense of Social-Emotional Security), Teaching and Learning (including Support for Learning and Social and Civic Learning), Leadership and Professional Relationships (for staff only), Interpersonal Relationships (including Respect for Diversity, Social Support – Adults and Social Support – Students), Institutional Environment, School Connectedness and Engagement, Physical Surroundings, Social Inclusion and Social Media. The data were analyzed and evaluated at the districtwide level, building level and grade level, and in terms of self-identified subgroups such as gender, race/ethnicity, students receiving



To gain feedback directly from students, Dr. Manning met with representatives from TJL, OMS and HHS. Here, Dr. Manning is pictured with students from TJL.

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A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,

We are excited to share the great work that has been underway throughout the district in this edition of the Harborfields Highlights. We have been fortunate to witness many celebrations in our school community as our students continue to amaze us with their talents and commitment to excellence. The support of our teachers, staff, and families provides our students with every opportunity to reach their full potential, and it has been a great pleasure of mine to witness the growth of our students throughout the year. Our community should be so proud of our collective efforts to come together in support of our students and our schools.

You see the work of the Harborfields 5-Year Strategic Plan embedded throughout this newsletter. The climate survey and the resulting Superintendent Roundtable meetings demonstrate our commitment to include student and staff voices in the school improvement process. I commend our staff for their commitment and desire to explore new and creative ways to meet the needs and interests of our students. One of many examples of this can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. Creating opportunities for career exploration and real-world learning experiences through internships has been so beneficial for our students. Our teachers are truly exceptional!

The development of the 2023-2024 school budget is well underway. The community is encouraged to participate in the process by attending our Board of Education meetings, where monthly budget presentations are provided. In addition, be sure to visit our website to view the most up-to-date information on the budget development process.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our school and community events as we enter the final months of the school year. Coming together to celebrate the significant accomplishments of our students and staff is a cornerstone of the proud traditions of our Harborfields community!

Sincerely,

Rory Manning, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICE AT HARBORFIELDS

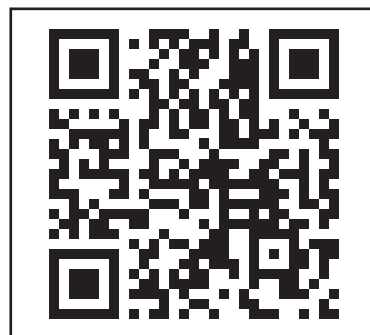
special education services, home language other than English and extracurricular participation.

“The idea of a climate survey was born out of the strategic plan, because we heard from our community that the student perspective of their daily experiences in school is truly important, and we believe that as well,” Superintendent Dr. Rory Manning said. “The next time we initiate a climate survey, whether it’s a year from now or two years from now, we should see different results based upon our work to respond to student needs.”

Once the survey results were obtained, it was time for Dr. Manning to go back to the students and have a dialogue about things that the district could do differently or better in the future, gaining useful insights for academic programming and next year’s budget, among other topics. In recent months, Dr. Manning held nine Superintendent Roundtable discussions throughout the district’s four schools, meeting with students at different grade levels to hear the story behind the climate survey numbers to help determine the future direction of the district.

“The students provided great insight into their daily experiences,” Dr. Manning said. “The overall theme, in talking to students from third grade all the way up to 12th grade, was that what they really want to see us build are more opportunities for them to work together. The students want to get to know each other on a deeper level and build a better sense of community. We are excited about the work ahead!”

Use this QR code to view a video of Dr. Manning discussing the climate survey and Superintendent Roundtable meetings.



Harborfields Creates Career Pathway for Future Teachers

Last fall, the Harborfields High School Business, and Career Education Department introduced a new career and technical education (CTE) pathway in education for students interested in exploring future teaching careers. Students participating in the education pathway receive instruction while earning credit for completing the Career Exploration Internship Program – Education (CEIP-E) at Thomas J. Lahey and Washington Drive Primary School. After completing the required coursework and internships, students can earn industry credentials and certification in child development. By completing these requirements, students receive an additional CTE diploma endorsement recognized by New York State and an honor cord at graduation.

CTE Education Pathway students also have the opportunity to earn college credit through a partnership between Harborfields and Long Island University. “This certification is looked at very favorably,” Business Department Coordinator Dr. Alison Matthews said. “In the eyes of New York State, it holds the same weight as an Advanced Regents diploma. The industry credentials and college credits students can earn set them on a path to college and career success.”

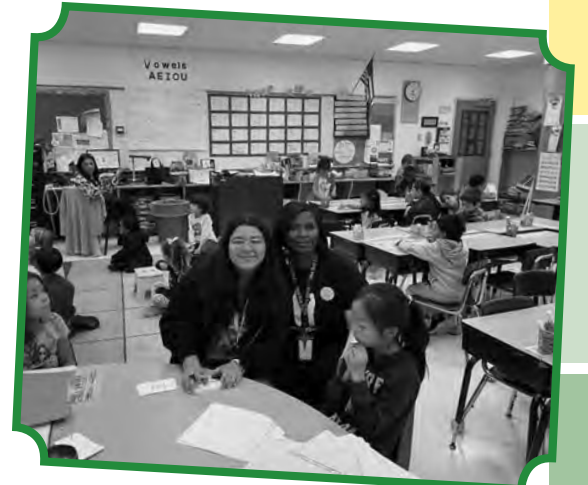
Harborfields has been working on this new CTE pathway for the past year, following the success of the district’s established CTE pathway in business & entrepreneurship. This CTE pathway features three new classes. The first class focuses on child development, with students working with children from birth to second grade. The second class focuses on family and community partnerships, where students learn about interacting with parents and planning community events. The third class is an

introduction to secondary education, where students will learn what it’s like to be a middle school or high school teacher. Students will participate in observations at the high school and Oldfield Middle School. The ability to interact with teachers, administrators, and parents in these classes provides students with terrific opportunities to explore possible future careers in education.

Students began the CEIP program in the fall semester. Students were placed at both Washington Drive and TJL. All of the students loved this experience so much that they signed up again to continue it in the spring. Elementary school teachers mentor the students. Students learn about creating lesson plans and activities, classroom management, and following a daily schedule for different subjects and specials. The students most enjoyed creating their own lesson and teaching it to the students.

While not part of the CTE pathway, Harborfields also introduced Medical Career Education Internship Program (CEIP-M) this year. The enrolled students participate in an internship at a local hospital. Three students began last fall, with two liking the program so much that they repeated it in the spring semester. “The students wear scrubs and can observe and interact with various hospital staff,” Matthews said. “The students enrolled in this program are gaining experience typically reserved for college students.”

The new pathways and internship programs at Harborfields allow students to start exploring potential career paths during high school. Interested students can see their guidance counselor or Dr. Matthews for more information.



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Shining STUDENTS

Harborfields High School seniors Daniel Panettieri, Darien Schultz and Maxmillian Stratton, who had previously been recognized as Semifinalists, have now advanced to Finalist status in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.



The Harborfields High School girls varsity tennis team captured the first county championship in school history. Coached by Jimmy Delevante, the Tornados finished their undefeated season with an impressive 18-0 record.



Exceptional Harborfields High School student-musicians Breckyn Beechey (orchestra), Peter Hoss (jazz band) and Christopher Hummel (orchestra) were selected to the National Association for Music Education's All-Eastern Honor Ensembles. The three will perform at NAFME's Eastern Division Conference, held April 13-16 in Rochester.



Oldfield Middle School eighth grader Brynn Gerde was named the Eastern Region runner-up for Optimum's annual Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest, cosponsored by TelevisaUnivision. Gerde was presented with an iPad prize by Optimum representatives.

