



# Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

*The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District*

## Learning in Action



*Washington Drive students designed and created models of their very own "Most Magnificent Thing."*



*TJL third and fifth graders partnered to socialize and share their information writing books and Women in History posters.*



*Oldfield science classes concluded their introduction to the study of cell biology by building and eating candy plant "cells."*

## CELEBRATING OUR HARBORFIELDS High Achievers

Harborfields is proud to celebrate the recent accomplishments – both large and small – of our terrific students at all four school buildings. From outstanding musicians, engineers, and athletes, to high achievers in areas ranging from business and language arts to leadership and community

service, our students are shining, and we congratulate each and every one of them on their many deserved accolades. We hope you enjoy this issue's in-depth look at some of these Harborfields success stories which are just a few of the many things our district has to celebrate.

## Saluting Sophisticated Ladies

HHS Jazz Band and The Tornado News Team recently unveiled their latest joint project, a captivating 30-minute feature documentary honoring the influential women who have shaped the band. Divided into two parts, this video showcases the remarkable journey behind a newly commissioned arrangement of Duke Ellington's timeless piece, "Sophisticated Lady." Renowned low-brass specialist Jennifer Wharton composed the arrangement, while senior trombonist Alexa Best delivered a remarkable performance.

Dan Bilawsky contacted alumni from his 15-year tenure, fostering profound conversations and gathering individual perspectives. The documentary took shape with the invaluable support of Harborfields' esteemed media journalism program and adviser, Vincent Ambrosio. This collaboration had previously resulted in the well-received 2021 documentary "The Wedding," prompting both organizations to unite again and craft this compelling narrative that sheds light on the significance of sophisticated ladies within the jazz realm, both in Harborfields and beyond. To experience this thought-provoking documentary, please visit <https://hftornadonews.org/sophisticatedlady>.

The documentary goes beyond the music, giving voice to the unspoken sisterhood of countless female members of the HHS Jazz Band, past and present. Jazz Band Director



# STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT


Harborfields CSD



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Harborfields High School students Breckyn Beechey (cello, Symphony Orchestra), Alexa Best (trombone, alternate, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble), Peter Hoss (tenor saxophone, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble, and oboe, Symphonic Band), Christopher Hummel (violin, Symphony Orchestra), Kam Johansen (trumpet, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble) and Ethan Rosenthal (snare drum, alternate, Band, and drum set, alternate, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble) earned NYSSMA All-State designations, the highest music honor in the state.

Harborfields CSD



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Harborfields High School senior Alexandra Ebanks placed fourth in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair.

Harborfields CSD



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Harborfields High School students Hunter Droskoski, Olivia Eusano, Charlotte Hasher, Jasmine Jimenez, Nahrahel Louis, Ivie Mergille, Isabella Panzavecchia and Adam Vahling were named winners at the Huntington Young Professionals Chamber of Commerce's 20th annual Emerging Leaders business competition in November.

Harborfields CSD



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Harborfields High School senior soccer player Nahrahel Louis was recognized as a School Winner in the 2023 Heisman High School Scholarship program, earning this designation for being a leader, for excelling in the classroom and on the field, and for his work in the community.

Harborfields CSD



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Harborfields High School's DECA Club members Jayden Asuncion, Ariana Ballard-Medrano, Maddie Barbaccia, Gavin Crawford, Sophia De Meo, Daniel DiCesare, Olivia Eusano, Natalie Greco, Charlotte Hasher, Megan Hickey, Nabeeha Ilyas, Nahrahel Louis, Isaiah Martin, Christopher Palermo, Zoe Sbarra-Vaughan and Lauren Trainor earned regional finalist and honorable mention designation at the annual Regional DECA Competition in December.


Harborfields CSD



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Harborfields High School field hockey players Alexis Huntington and Margaret Keys were named to the High School Senior Impact Team by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association.

Harborfields CSD



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Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School fifth grader Lia Davila earned a perfect score of 20 in the difficult Blue Division during the first of three meets in this year's WordMasters Challenge, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students annually. Nationally, only 55 fifth graders achieved this result.

Harborfields CSD



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Oldfield Middle School student Olivia Rochlin collected 400 pounds of uniforms, cleats, socks, shin guards and other athletic equipment for HELP International Uganda. After collecting the items, Olivia then organized the collection with an inventory list and placed the items in suitcases weighing just under 50 pounds for transport.

Harborfields CSD



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Four talented Harborfields High School AP student artists - seniors Sarah Ahlsen and Nora Sweeney-Gladen and juniors Giada LoPorto and Liza McPherson - were selected to participate in the 16th annual Go APE Advanced Placement Exhibition at the Art League of Long Island.

Harborfields CSD



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Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School music students Amalia Sepulveda Aponte, Victoria Galeas, Erin Newman, Payten Perry and Raphael St. Vil were selected to participate in the SCMEA Day of Recorder.

Harborfields CSD



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Harborfields High School's annual student publication, Zephyr, led by Editor-in-Chief Emma Byrom, was recently awarded the rank of Excellent by the National Council of Teachers of English in the 2022 Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines contest.

Harborfields CSD



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The Harborfields High School Jazz Band participated in the Suffolk County Music Association's annual Day of Educators' Association and was selected as one of five finalists in the 2023 MADD Battle of the High School Jazz Bands.

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Rory Manning, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

# A Message Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,

I would like to congratulate our school community on its hard work and success this year. It seems that time is moving faster than ever, and it is difficult to comprehend that we are quickly approaching the end of the school year. Our students continue to shine on all levels, and they remain a point of pride for our entire community.

Since assuming the role of superintendent, I have held regular Deskside Chat meetings hosted by our PTA units to hear directly from our community and to keep our families informed on issues related to the operation of our schools and the budget development process. This home-school partnership is an essential component of our success, and I would like to acknowledge and thank our PTA membership for their support of our schools and our efforts to enhance district communication. The voice of our students, staff, and community were integral to informing the development of the 2023-2024 budget. I want to thank our entire community for its participation in that process.

I continue to be inspired by the daily accomplishments of our students and staff. Most recently, our district was recognized as a Best Community for Music for the fourth consecutive year by the NAMM Foundation. This recognition speaks to our community's

value of the arts in the education of our children. The Board of Education recently spotlighted our theater and marching band program in recognition of Music In Our Schools month where our students displayed their talents for our entire community. You can read about this and all the other amazing accomplishments of our students and staff on our website. The Harborfields Central School District has the best students supported by the best staff and the unwavering support of our wonderful families. This recipe for success has enabled us to keep our Tradition of Excellence alive and well. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the graduating seniors of the Class of 2023. You have worked hard, and we are all in awe of your talents and accomplishments. Thank you for making Harborfields a great place to learn, live and work.

I would like to thank everyone for their support of our schools as we work together to care for Each Child, Each Day, as One Harborfields Family.

Wishing you and your family continued good health and happiness, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Rory Manning, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools