



Learning in Action



Students at Washington Drive had a virtual "Character Counts" assembly with students from Oldfield Middle School, learning firsthand how older students within the district how important it is to always be kind to others.



Two fifth-grade classes at Thomas J. Lahey devoted their efforts towards reforestation from September to April. Teachers Karen Kunkle and Augustino Rettino purchased baby white pine trees for their students, using the money raised throughout the school year, and students were excited to help preserve the planet!



To inform more middle school students about local volunteering opportunities, the National Junior Honor Society partnered with OMS' Character Education committee to put on their first volunteer fair during the month of March.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

Bond Improvements and How They've Changed

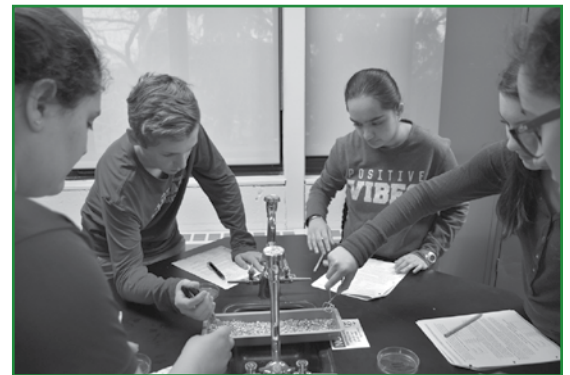
The Harborfields Experience

In a world that's increasing in complexity by the minute, having book knowledge is not the only important thing for our children as they traverse their time in education. What students are able to do with the information they learn in the classroom makes all the difference.

Thanks to the capital improvements approved by the 2015 bond referendum, the district has been able to focus on equipping students with knowledge and hands-on experience – providing new spaces and state-of-the-art equipment to promote student success, achievement and engagement. These improvements also help motivate students to give more attention to the work being done. In particular, the improvements have positively affected middle and high school science classes, as well as media classes and the physical education department at the high school.

SCIENCE

As many parents are aware, a large emphasis is placed on schools excelling in the areas of STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – because the skills learned in these areas are important for the future of our ever-evolving world. At the beginning of 2018, over two million STEM-related jobs were vacant, and to prepare our young people for a future they



can contribute to, we're prioritizing creating opportunities for them to grow and learn in this area of study.

"The skills students learn in science are useful in most other subject areas," said Oldfield Middle School science teacher Chris Murphy. "In science, they learn the importance of accuracy, whether in using a piece of technology or in building and defending an argument; they also learn a process that can be used to investigate the world around them, no matter what situation they find themselves in."

The bond update has changed the landscape of classrooms, both in the middle and high school. The updated space helps set the tone for classes. The new labs have been designed to provide access and use of sinks, lab safety equipment and the space in general. Functionality and safety have been

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A MESSAGE FROM Dr. Francesco Ianni, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,

This school year is flying by! I would first like to thank you for participating in the budget vote and supporting our programs. We are grateful to be able to maintain all courses, opportunities and experiences that students benefit from each year. Now, we are excited to finally welcome spring and with it, the successes and celebrations that have become tradition throughout our district.

I am extremely proud to share several recent examples of Harborfields schools shining in the national spotlight. A high school student earned two national medals – a gold and a silver – in Scholastic’s 2018 Art & Writing Awards Contest, and fourth- and fifth-graders placed fourth and eighth in the country in a WordMasters Challenge meet. Finally, all of our buildings have joined the ranks of those throughout the United States designated as “No Place for Hate” schools by the Anti-Defamation League. This results from each of our schools earning Gold Star status in the program through demonstrating a commitment to provide a safe and inclusive environment for students and staff.

Speaking of safety, we appreciate the feedback of community members who attended our Security Forum in April. Another forum is scheduled for June 20 at Oldfield Middle School, from 6:45-7:45 PM, to further discuss security systems in our schools, and welcome your attendance.

We are approaching the final phase of our bond project, which you will read more about in this publication, and anticipate a productive summer that will bring completion of all pending work. In the meantime, I hope you will join us in enjoying the awards ceremonies, graduations, performances and other events that are coming up fast and will bring our community together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Francesco Ianni
Superintendent of Schools

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Bond Improvements and How They’ve Changed *The Harborfields Experience*

improved, resulting in increased opportunities for exploring many different instructional approaches.

“With the added functionality to these basic utilities, teachers can expand the scope and breadth of activities they plan for their students, and spend less time managing things like access to electricity and cleanup procedures,” said Oldfield Middle School science teacher Mike Hopkins.

Additionally, the improved function and organization of each new room has helped reduce distractions during class, and students and teachers alike have been finding it easier to stay focused throughout each class.

It should be noted that familiarity and comfort with higher-quality resources and opportunities gives students the confidence needed to enter and compete in environments, such as college and the workplace, with similar resources.

“New classrooms, in partnership with the steady implementation of the recently adopted New York State Science Learning Standards, puts our schools on the right path,” Mr. Hopkins said. “We’re giving our students a desire to dive deeper into science and the perfect place in which to explore it.”

MEDIA LAB

Children are now being exposed to all kinds of media at very young ages. Teaching media literacy and proficiency in our schools helps students understand and engage successfully with the media that surrounds them on a regular basis.

Media classes offer the opportunity for real-world, project-based learning through which

the students acquire a wealth of knowledge and skills that will propel them toward success in college and beyond. Students in the media program at HHS are required to publish content over several different platforms and learn to use an array of technological tools. Students learn how to pitch, research and write articles that result from interviews and how to conduct formal research online - skills that are essential for college success.

Each day in Broadcast Journalism, a staff of 10 students work on the morning show, incorporating components such as scripts they’ve written, a teleprompter, graphic editing, video switch editing, on-air personality and more.

“Having the adjacent computer classroom has increased communication between the broadcast show crew, the reporters and video editors,” said Tornado News Team Production Advisor Vincent Ambrosio. “For example, when the current events editor has an interesting story to publish online, we can quickly and easily promote it on our morning show.”

Having this media lab enables students to engage more deeply with broadcast journalism as a whole, and students are acutely aware of this change.

“Being able to be on air has been amazing, and the new room and equipment has made the creative process so much easier,” said student Jack Blich. “Also, it’s helped me have a glimpse into what my professional life may look like in the future.”

WELLNESS CENTER

Since the wellness center’s completion in

“The multiyear bond project has provided many enhancements for all Harborfields students. We are proud of the work that has been done, and look forward to the completion of the last phase of the bond project this summer.”

– Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Human Resources Dr. Rory Manning



COMMUNITY FORUM ON SECURITY

June 20, 2018 • 6:45-7:45 PM
OMS Auditorium

If you are unable to attend the forum but would like to send us your input, you may email us at SecurityConcerns@harborfieldscsd.org.

November, the athletic department has seen an increase in student participation – both from athletes and in the general student population. As a result of the new wellness center, boasting approximately 3,600 square feet, the physical education teachers have been able to create an entire unit around the equipment. New equipment includes cardiovascular machines, a TRX functional fitness area and more. Once the room was completed, physical education teachers spent time taking each class around the new space, teaching students how to safely utilize each new apparatus.

Within the center are three stations – functional fitness, cardio and weight training. And while it is necessary to sign up for time slots in the space, it can accommodate almost 100 students at any given time.

“The students really appreciate this space,” said physical education teacher Stefan Serie, “and having both space [and] equipment that’s at the forefront really gets kids invested in taking care of their bodies.”

Overall, the district is proud of the improvements made and the positive impact they’ve had upon both teachers and students.

“The multiyear bond project has provided many enhancements for all Harborfields



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Francesco Ianni, Ed.D. *Superintendent of Schools*

Shining Students



The high school Robotics Club competed in the FIRST Robotics Long Island championship finals and advanced to the Eastern Regional finals in Scranton, Pennsylvania, competing against 72 other teams during the month of March, achieving its greatest success since the Robotics Club began four years ago!



High school senior Julia Spande recently received two national awards in Scholastic's 2018 Art & Writing Awards contest, placing her in the top 1 percent of art and writing submissions nationwide. Julia received medals in two separate categories – a gold medal for her poem "Magpie" and a silver medal for her critical essay, "What 'Finsta' Culture Says About Modern Teenagers."



Nigella Trinidad, an eighth-grader at Oldfield Middle School, was named a first-place winner in the Long Island Family and Consumer Sciences Challenge. She won a \$100 check from the Long Island FACS Professionals and had her work displayed in the OMS library.



Washington Drive second-grader Noah Bradford won the nationwide Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. He was chosen over 280,000 students. Noah received a \$500 check, a medal, a trophy and a \$1,000 coupon for the school to purchase Zaner-Bloser school supplies.