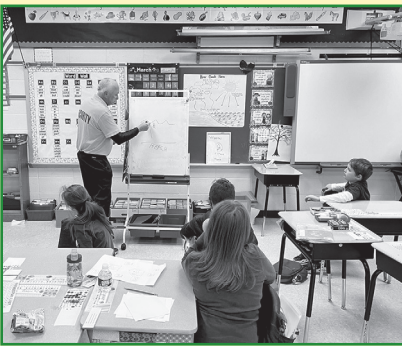




## Learning in Action



TJL security guard and 9/11 hero Greg Woods told his story to students.



Oldfield Middle School students in Taylor Soete's class examined Egyptian paintings with hieroglyphics.



University of Miami's Stamps Jazz Quintet and Frost Septet jammed with the high school's band students.

# Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

*The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District*

## Harborfields High School Earns Spot in

# TOP-Ranked U.S. Schools

Harborfields High School was recently named one of the 1,000 finest high schools in the United States as noted in the recently released U.S. News & World Report annual "Best High Schools" list. Harborfields came in at No. 564, ranking among the best schools in the country alongside only 18 other Long Island high schools and among only five in Suffolk County.

Close to 18,000 public high schools at the national, state and local level were ranked for the 2022 "Best High Schools" edition, using a methodology focusing on college readiness, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates.

"I am extremely proud of our staff and our community

for their collective support of our students, who continue to astonish us with their grit and determination to be at their best each day, and serve as a source of inspiration for our community," Superintendent Dr. Rory Manning said. "I would like to congratulate our entire Harborfields family on this recognition of your hard work and commitment to excellence."





## A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,

We are pleased to present this spring edition of the Harborfields Highlights to share some of the amazing accomplishments of our students and staff. I would like to congratulate our entire school community on their hard work and success this year. This school year wasn't without its own unique challenges, but we remain ever proud of all of our talented students and dedicated staff.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to gain input from our students, staff and community in the development of our 2022-2023 budget and our five-year strategic plan. I would like to thank the thousands of respondents to our surveys and those who have provided input during my regular Deskside Chat meetings with the community hosted by the Harborfields Council of PTAs, and at our Board of Education meetings. The input of our community on the future direction of the district is highly valued and critical to our future success. We will continue to garner input through surveys and in-person meetings as we move forward with the implementation of the district's strategic plan. This home-school partnership is an essential component of our tradition of excellence that we all aspire to achieve for "Each Child, Each Day, as One Harborfields Family."

As you will read in this newsletter, our students continue to shine in all academic areas, the arts and athletics. They have received accolades on the local, regional and national levels, resulting in a tremendous sense of Harborfields Pride! Our schools were once again rated highly in national rankings due to the caliber of our students, and we are so thankful for the unwavering support of our wonderful families. I am sure I join the community in celebrating the achievements of the Harborfields High School Class of 2022! We look forward to recognizing them at their upcoming commencement ceremony in June.

I would like to thank everyone for their support of our schools. I wish you and your family continued good health and happiness, now and in the future.

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

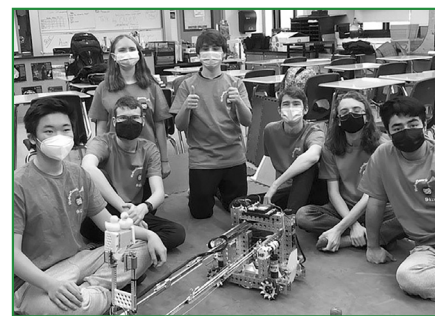
# SPOTLIGHT on Our Schools

## A Successful Season for ROBOTICS TEAM

Another successful season is in the books for Harborfields High School's senior robotics team, Hydrofluoric Robotics. Coached by Michael Pinto, the seven-person team consists of seniors Christopher Costa, Justin Paredes-Catalan and Guantian Tao; sophomores Alexander Braunstein, McKenzie Coleman and Joseph Costa; and junior Maxmillian Stratton.

The team competed in a qualifying competition in February, where they won first place in the Design Award for best overall planning of the layout of the robot, third place in the Connect Award for best programming in the autonomous and teleop periods, and third place in the Inspire Award for most unique approach to competing and earning points.

This excellent performance qualified Hydrofluoric Robotics for the Long Island championship, where they competed against the top 20 teams on Long Island.



Congratulations to the entire Harborfields robotics program on another successful year!

## HHS TEAMS PROVE Winners at Envirothon

Harborfields High School's Envirothon teams placed first and second in Suffolk County at the Long Island Regional Envirothon, held on April 27 at Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts in Wheatley Heights. The Envirothon is an annual environmental studies program and competition for high school students in Nassau and Suffolk counties, based on five subject areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a rotating current issue, which for this year was waste management. Teams were required to take tests in each subject area as well as make an oral presentation on a plan to address waste management issues.

The two Harborfields teams – Chad Berlent, Michael Considine, Isha Dave, Nicole Feibel, Anya Glass, Aidan Katz, Sophia Knutson, Chris Qi, Alison Ryan, Liam Storm, Ashley Xie and Luke Zhang – won medals, Yeti mugs and \$500 college scholarships.



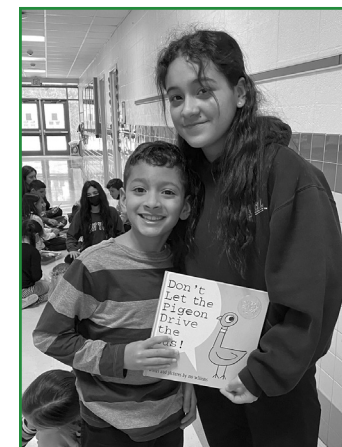
## Coding Night Gets Young Minds Thinking

Harborfields students from TJL and Washington Drive recently came together for a fun Coding Night. Age-appropriate lessons and activities centered around coding were created for the students, who were able to participate in an "unplugged" Harborfields Coding Bracelet activity to get their minds thinking about patterns and repeating blocks. The high school robotics team was also on hand to conduct a demonstration with each grade level,

which culminated in a question-and-answer session with the students and parents at the end of the program. All students were provided with a Google Classroom code to gain entry into the coding activities, which enabled them to extend their coding at home.

"We want our students to see that coding is a social activity that includes problem-solving, collaboration and creativity," said Jennifer Washington, the district's Director of Technology and Security Systems.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA



Fostering connection and literacy, Washington Drive Primary School recently debuted a Read Across America event in which students from Oldfield Middle School visited Washington Drive to read to the younger students. The middle schoolers chose their favorite children's books to share with small groups of kindergartners, first graders and second graders. The older students discussed their journeys as readers, prepared questions about the books they shared and helped the elementary students to color bookmarks they gave them as gifts.

"As a district, we work hard to build school-community connections, and the opportunity to have middle schoolers share their love of reading with our primary school students was a perfect way to do just that," Washington Drive Principal Kathryn McNally said.



## A Fabulous First Year for the Unified Bowling Team

The Harborfields athletic department introduced Unified Bowling this year as an after-school pilot program for the student body, joining three other Suffolk County schools to participate in the program. Coached by Harborfields High School special education teacher Rhonda Lebit, the students were partnered with volunteer teammates from the high school's Athletes Helping Athletes program and varsity bowling team.

Unified Sports, a partnership between the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Special Olympics New York, combines athletes

with and without special needs to create inclusive athletic teams for training and competition, serving to break down stereotypes, foster relationships and provide students with leadership roles. Every player is given an opportunity to contribute to the success of their team through their unique skills.

"Our students with special needs were able to represent our school community in a competitive yet fun environment against other schools while partnering with their peers," Harborfields Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Rob Franco said. "It was an amazing

experience to see our students who might not have an opportunity to participate in a traditional individual or team sport practice, compete and continue to grow each week."





Suzie Lustig, *President*  
Christopher Kelly, *Vice President*  
Susan Broderick  
Hansen Lee  
Eve Meltzer-Krief, M.D.  
David Steinberg  
Colleen Wolcott  
Rory Manning, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

# Shining STUDENTS

## Alison Ryan and Jacob Siegel Named National Merit Finalists

Harborfields High School seniors Alison Ryan and Jacob Siegel were named finalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program, making them eligible for National Merit Scholarship consideration.

“We are so incredibly proud of Jacob and Ali,” Principal Timothy Russo said. “Being recognized as a National Merit Finalist is an amazing accomplishment. Over 1.5 million students took the PSAT in 2020 and became eligible for National Merit

recognition. Jacob and Ali are two of 15,000 finalists, placing them in the top 1% of more than one and a half million students. They truly stand out as some of the very best and brightest young scholars in our nation. This is a tremendous honor, but most importantly, it is a well-deserved recognition of the many years of hard work, dedication and commitment to their academic studies on Jacob and Ali’s part.”



## Senior Diver Alex Zhang Finishes Fifth at States

Harborfields High School senior diver Alex Zhang finished fifth overall in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association’s 2022 Boys Swimming and Diving Championships, held at Ithaca College on March 4-5. Zhang, who was named an All-American diver and won a third consecutive Suffolk County diving championship last year, will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point this fall.

“Alex has had an incredible career and we are so proud of all of his accomplishments,” said Robert Franco, the district’s director of health, physical education and athletics.