



Learning in Action



Students at Washington Drive Primary School on their first day.



Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School welcomed students back to school.



Oldfield Middle School students were welcomed back to school on opening day.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

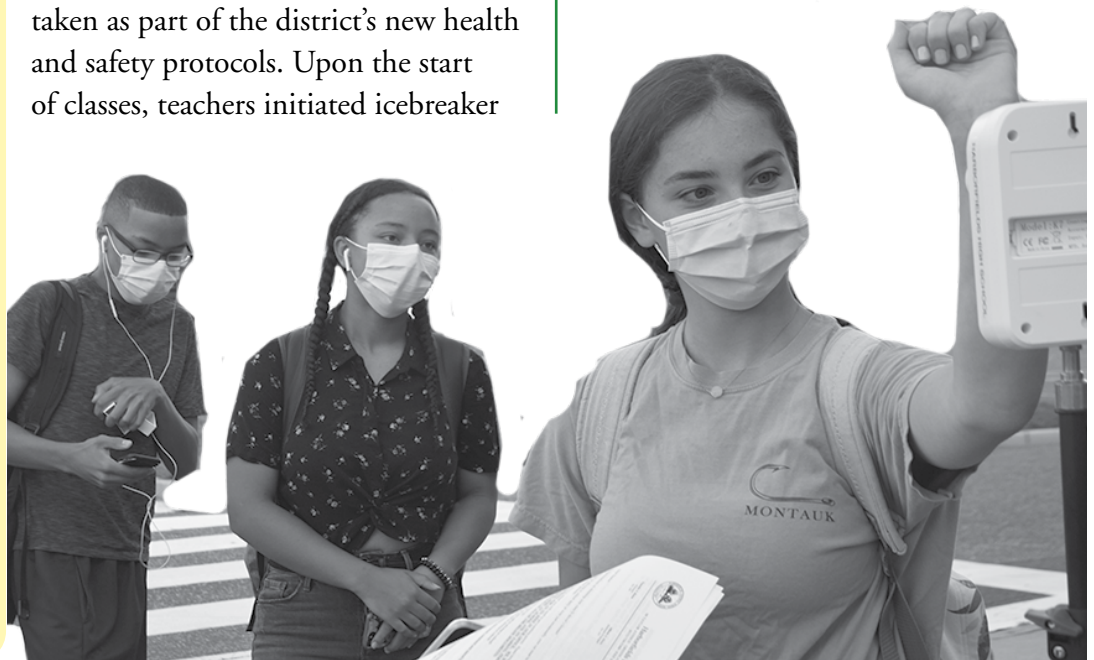
A SAFE Reopening

Students, teachers and staff at Harborfields Central School District walked into a new school year in September unsure of the challenges that awaited. However, each member of the Harborfields family has taken each hurdle in stride. Together, teachers, staff, students, administrators and community members have embraced our new normal and worked diligently to ensure a safe reopening for our district.

On the first day of school, students were met with smiling faces as they approached the entrances to their schools, where their temperatures were taken as part of the district's new health and safety protocols. Upon the start of classes, teachers initiated icebreaker

activities and introduced students to their new learning environments. Both in-person and remote students had opportunities to safely interact with their peers, make new friends and reconnect with old ones.

Through it all, our students have shown tremendous strength, resiliency and compassion, and they're not taking anything for granted this year. Remote and in-person learners shared some thoughts about the new school year, recognizing the hard work and dedication of all of those responsible for the safe reopening of our schools.



A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,

I hope you had a terrific start of the 2020-2021 school year. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the entire school community for its patience, dedication and understanding as we reopened our buildings. Members of the HF Ready Task Force including administrators, staff, community members and health professionals worked tirelessly over the summer to formulate our reopening plan – a plan that speaks to our students' academic and social-emotional needs, as well as one that follows all health and safety protocols outlined by New York State.

Our teachers have adapted to new methods of instruction and are creatively thinking "outside the box." Our buildings and grounds staff have shown true dedication in keeping our facilities meticulously clean. Overall, our entire support staff and administrators are doing whatever possible to make sure our students learn in a safe and educationally sound environment.

I also want to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to our students and parents. This "new normal" has been a huge adjustment for everyone, and I thank our parents for their continued support. Whether your child is attending school in person or virtually, our students have shown great resilience and, for the most part, have adapted well to the new protocols we have put into place.

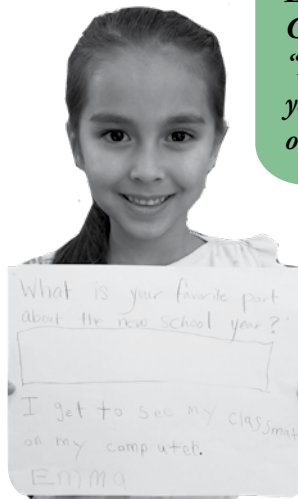
Our community should rest assured that we are constantly evaluating our plan and continue to make adjustments as needed, based on feedback from our teachers, parents and students. We are taking things "one day at a time" and reflect on each day to see what is working well and what we can do better.

The 2020-2021 school year is a different one on the outside but on the inside our mission remains the same. We are working tirelessly to provide our students with a world-class education one child at a time. I know deep in our hearts that we have the best community, best students and an amazing staff to accomplish our goal. The key to our success this year is to remain laser-focused and follow what Theodore Roosevelt once wrote: "Keep your eyes on the stars, but remember to keep your feet on the ground."

Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Francesco Ianni, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Emma C. – WDPS – Grade 1 – Virtual
"My favorite part of the school year is I get to see my classmates on the computer."

Penny T. – WDPS – Kindergarten – In-person
"My favorite part is playing on the playground."



Jacob L. – OMS – Grade 6 – Hybrid
"My favorite part about the new school year is the way the teachers at OMS are able to properly teach kids both online and in person simultaneously. Online or in person, I feel like my teachers are paying attention to my questions."



Lucy M. – TJL – Grade 5 – In-person
"I think since I didn't get to see my friends since the middle of March, my favorite part is seeing my friends in school."

Brynn G. – OMS – Grade 6 – Virtual
"My favorite thing about the new school year is that I get to have the experience of being in school virtually. It is not as fun as being there in person, but it is still really cool!"



**Sacchi S. – WDPS
– Kindergarten – In-
person**
“I like recess and writing
with Mrs. Triolo.”



Melina S. – HHS – Grade 12 – In-person
“Definitely seeing all my teachers again. We left so abruptly last year that I never got to thank any of my teachers who really made me enjoy coming to school. I’m glad that we are back so I can interact with them and form connections, because that is really important to me.”



**Pierce L. – TJL –
Grade 5 – In-person**
“Definitely science, math and
recess because science is fun
and I am good at math!”



**Nishtha A. – HHS –
Grade 11 – Hybrid**
“I like the hybrid model. The best part is coming into the building and having the opportunity to see people we haven’t seen in a while and reconnect with friends. On virtual days it allows us to stay home and attend live classes, and we can see some of our classmates who are also home without their masks.”

“What is your favorite part of the new school year?”

**Angelique H. – HHS –
Grade 11 – Hybrid**
“All my teachers have been available to answer any questions I have in person, through email or Google Meets.”



Chase A. – OMS – Grade 6 – Hybrid
“This school year is so different from any others I’ve experienced, not only because of COVID-19, but because I’m new to the HFCSD. One of the things I love about OMS is that they make you feel so welcomed and comfortable with the school environment! The teachers are very supportive and lovely to each and every student. The flexibility of the hybrid schedule allows me to socialize and make friends, so we don’t have to social distance every day.”



**Bryce I. G. – TJL – Grade 3 –
Virtual**
“I am enjoying gym and art because I like art a lot, and I am going to be an artist and engineer when I grow up. I am also enjoying math and spelling.”

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Shining STUDENTS



Maya Bielawski



Ty Ellenbogen



Jacky Xie

National Merit Honors

Congratulations to Harborfields High School seniors Maya Bielawski, Ty Ellenbogen and Jacky Xie for being selected as semifinalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students are three of approximately 16,000 academically talented seniors nationwide to earn the prestigious distinction. Semifinalists will continue in the competition for chances to win some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million next spring.

The district extends

additional congratulations to seniors Evan Ackerman, Mia Kushner, Gavin Storch, Dylan Topolovec and Kaitlyn Waring, who were recently named commended students in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The seniors were selected for earning top scores on a Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test last year. Approximately 1.5 million students take the test each year.

Congratulations to our National Merit semifinalists and commended students!

WELCOME *New Teachers!*

The Harborfields Central School District was pleased to welcome nine new teachers at its annual New Staff Orientation program last month. The new hires were virtually introduced to district administrators and learned the tools to be successful both in and out of the classroom. Each are dedicated to the district's vision "to provide a world-class education, one child at a time."

WASHINGTON DRIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Charles Fellmeth, *Elementary*
Ian Schneider,
Physical Education

THOMAS J. LAHEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Erin Tyrie, *Reading*

OLDFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Nayara DeMarco, *ELL*
Courtney Schukoske,
Special Education

HARBORFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL:

Harman Kaur, *Business*
Rhonda Lebit,
Special Education
Catherine Meehan, *English*
Christopher Moore,
Social Studies

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