



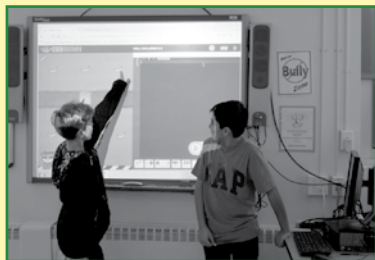
Learning in Action



At the beginning of the school year, students at Washington Drive Primary School attended their first "Character Counts" assembly of the year. Leading the assembly was Assistant Principal Tara Falasco, who encouraged students that "we all have something special that only we can share."



Fifth-graders at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School wrote letters to World War II and Korean War veterans participating in the Honor Flight. T.J.L principal Susan Kenny set this project into motion to help students understand the importance of showing veterans appreciation for their sacrifice and bravery.



Sixth-graders at OMS are learning valuable 21st-century skills in the newly introduced coding class. Students learn about variables, loops and functions, and get to put their knowledge to use during daily assignments and homework.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District



EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

Harborfields Central School District's mission is to provide students with a world-class education while preparing them to be successful 21st-century world citizens. Technology 2.0, the district's technology program implemented at the start of the 2017-18 school year, goes hand in hand with that mission — created to keep up with our ever-changing world and to bring all aspects of the district's use of technology to the

next level.

The ultimate objective is for every high school student to have his or her own Chromebook by 2021. For this school year, classrooms are using and implementing the newly purchased devices on a regular basis.

The district's ability to purchase new Chromebooks came from the reallocation of district resources. Additionally, the Harborfields Alumni

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EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

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and Community Educational Foundation provided a \$50,000 grant in support of the school's technology initiative.

"We understand how important it is for school districts to keep up with ever-changing technology and the latest in curriculum to help keep our students as current as possible in today's college and career

marketplace," said the foundation's vice president, Karin Fey.

To ensure the devices would be used to their highest potential, teachers first had to be trained. Last school year, 28 teachers signed up for the pilot program, which prepared them for integrating Google and Chromebooks into their daily lessons. Based on last year's success, more than

50 teachers signed up for the program this year. During this program, teachers will continue to engage in professional development, explore software to amplify their teaching experience and learn from the pilot program pioneers.

"Technology in the hands of our teachers has been transformational," said Executive Director for Instructional Services, Jordan Cox. It has been inspiring to work alongside our teachers, leveraging technology to enhance teaching and learning."

With the proper technology, teachers can focus on teaching children skills that are becoming increasingly more in demand in our world. At Oldfield Middle School, a new sixth-grade coding class has been introduced into the curriculum, giving students a basic understanding of coding and the benefits of computational thinking.

"Knowing how to use computers and how to code can make our lives a whole lot easier," said coding teacher Drew Lockwood.

Another area that's been enhanced within the district is the multimedia department. As a result of the bond that was approved by the community two years ago, a multimedia studio has been built for the high school's journalism classes. Not only are students learning about all the different facets of journalism — multimedia publishing, uses of

different software, how to properly inform the community — but they're also learning skills that will prepare them for the future, like how to establish workflow, project management, accepting constructive criticism and collaboration with others — all while using the available technology, such as video cameras and video editing software.

"With a dedicated space for these classes and the proper tools to create excellent content, this program finally has a home," teacher Vin Ambrosio remarked, "and it has room to grow — which, based on how many students have become interested in it, it needs."

As for the everyday use of technology in the classroom, teachers across all schools have been able to use the Google Suite as the available platform for students to access classwork. To keep students on task and engaged, the district mainly uses two types of software: GoGuardian, which filters websites both in class and at home, and Nearpod, an interactive presentation and assessment platform.

To enhance their lessons and engage students, teachers can create presentations that contain quizzes, polls, videos, drawing boards and more, and students are able to interact with the media as the lesson progresses. The lesson can also be set to let students work at their own pace,

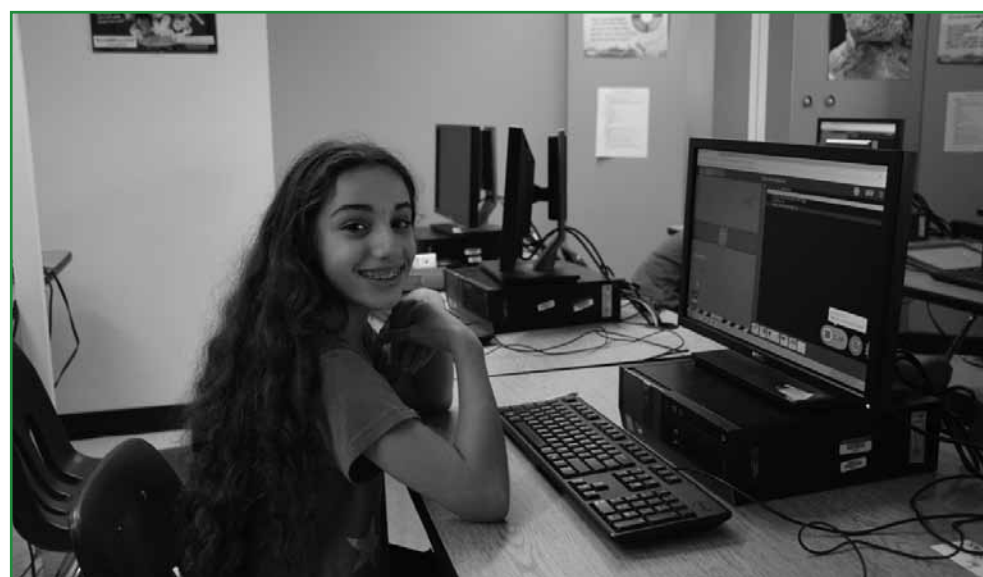


which is critical for those who may move at a slightly slower pace than others. Teachers also can assess quiz results in real time, enabling them to address topics that may be confusing or hard to understand for the class as a whole.

Whether students in a science class are using their Chromebooks to illustrate the concept of the atom, or English students researching theories

about the ending of a novel they just read, the ways in which teachers can teach and engage students with the available technology has been multiplied greatly. The district looks forward to the ongoing success of Technology 2.0 and are excited to see our students, both now and in the future, benefit from the incredible tools and opportunities they've been given.

"We understand how important it is for school districts to keep up with ever-changing technology and the latest in curriculum to help keep our students as current as possible in today's college and career marketplace."



STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

At the start of the 2017-18 school year, senior Emma Johnston was named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Johnston took the Preliminary SAT last October, and her score placed her within the top 16,000 students nationwide — a tremendous accomplishment! To compete for one of the final 7,500 National Merit Scholarships, she must score well on the upcoming SAT and continue her dedication to academic excellence.

“I’m so honored to qualify for this opportunity,” Johnston said. “I think it’s a testament to the great education I’ve had the privilege of receiving. I’ve had some fantastic teachers over the years, and I’m so grateful for their support.”

Commended Students, who did not qualify for the program but showed outstanding academic ability, include Catherine Andreadis, Christopher Burney, Samuel Edelstein, Katelyn Haas, Justin Minerva, Rachel Scheff, Julia Spande, Quinn Theobald and Ryan Topolovec.



SCHOLAR-ARTISTS

Earlier this fall, Harborfields High School students Janie Kowalchuk and Jamie McArthur were selected as Long Island Scholar-Artists and recognized as Merit Award winners by the Long Island Arts Alliance Committee.

To apply, students were first nominated by a school administrator. Nominees then submitted an essay along with material showcasing their dedication to the arts.

Kowalchuk and McArthur were two of 20 recipients of this prestigious award throughout Long Island and are commended for their outstanding success in the arts and their ability to excel academically across all subjects.



ALL-COUNTY AND ALL-STATE

This year, 13 students have been selected for the NYSCAME All-County Music Festival. Out of those students, seven have also been selected for the NYSSMA All-State Festival.

Both NYSCAME All-County and NYSSMA All-State are extremely selective, choosing only those 11th- and 12th-grade musicians ranked highest across the county and state, respectively.

“These students are the best of the best. They are extraordinarily disciplined and they’re incredibly deserving of this recognition,” Music Department Coordinator Daniel Bilawsky said. “Their achievements are a testament to their hard work and the guidance they receive from their music teachers.”



A MESSAGE FROM Dr. Francesco Ianni, *Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Harborfields School Community,

I would like to thank all district students, staff members and families for a smooth opening to the 2017-18 school year. While we are only a few months into the new year, our students are already immersed in hands-on learning throughout the different curricular areas. When I visit the schools, I witness firsthand the comprehensive education that our students are receiving, thanks to the strong partnership that exists between the district, parents and greater community. In addition to exposing our students to a rigorous curriculum, we also provide them with opportunities to participate in the arts, gain rich experience in using technology and celebrate diverse cultures.

Our vision for the academic year continues to be “Success for our HF Family, giving our students a world-class education one child at a time.” This success is dependent upon working with one another – parents working in conjunction with teachers, teachers working with administrators, and our community working together as a whole to make a difference in our children’s lives. Working together, we can bring our school to the next level and continue to make Harborfields a special place to live, work and learn. With this said, I encourage your involvement in our school district. Your dedication and commitment help make our schools stronger, and for that, I thank you.

For this school year, the Board of Education has developed three goals to guide the district, focused on innovation, curriculum and finance. In

the area of innovation, we are excited to continue the district’s Technology 2.0 initiative, which you will read more about in this issue. To date, we have approximately 1,700 Chromebooks districtwide, which have greatly enhanced our students’ educational experience. We will also continue to examine the district’s curriculum in grades K-12 to ensure that our programs are aligned and that students are provided with the opportunity to succeed at every level. In the area of finance, our Board and administrators will continue to examine the reallocation of resources moving into budget season so that the district can continue to fund all needed programs and services within the constraints of the property tax cap.

In closing, as I near the completion of my first year as superintendent, it has truly been rewarding to see our students immersed in learning on a daily basis. As you can see in the pictures to the right, I have been given the opportunity to talk with students at all levels and learn more about their goals and challenges. I look forward to continuing this level of involvement with our schools and community throughout the school year. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Francesco Ianni
Superintendent of Schools



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Update on Capital Improvement Projects

This past summer, the district was able to complete a number of capital improvements approved by the community through the 2015 bond referendum.

At Harborfields High School, numerous classroom and wellness projects were undertaken to enhance students' learning experiences and to benefit the student body as a whole. Three science classrooms were renovated and updated, a multimedia production computer lab and studio were created, and the gymnasium was given a makeover, with new floors and bleachers. The new wellness center and wrestling room are still in progress and are expected to be completed soon.

At Oldfield Middle School,

and bleachers.

Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School's multipurpose room was renovated, the floors were refinished, curtains were replaced and new risers were added.

This iteration of improvements was part of Phase 2 of the district's capital bond. Phase 3 is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2018 and includes renovations to restrooms at TJL, the high school orchestra room and the high school auditorium.

"We thank the community again for its support of the bond," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni. "It has been rewarding to see the hands-on lessons that students have had the opportunity to engage in thanks to the renovation of certain facilities. We look forward to what Phase 3 will bring!"



A multimedia production studio was created for journalism students at HHS, allowing them to experience hands-on training.



Several science classrooms were renovated this past summer at both the middle school and high school.



New bleachers and flooring were installed at both HHS and OMS.