

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## New and Improved

### FOR THE START OF SCHOOL

Several building improvements were completed in time for the opening of the 2018-19 school year. In alignment with the district's mission to synergize programs (instruction/curriculum), people (human resources) and plant (facilities/finance), these projects resulted in improved core facilities that will benefit students and student programs, as well as the physical state of the district's schools, while making them safer for all.

"Thanks to the guidance and support of our community, months of planning by our project leaders and numerous hours of rigorous work by our contractors and maintenance staff, our collective vision for our schools is coming to fruition," said Superintendent of Schools Marianne Litzman. "Current and future generations of Hicksville students can enjoy a state-of-the-art environment where they can thrive in all aspects of their learning, within a more modern infrastructure that continually emphasizes safety."

#### NEW ROOFS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Phase I of the capital bond work approved by voters last November

has been completed. Roofs were replaced at Lee Avenue, Old Country Road and Woodland elementary schools during the summer. These roofs had neared the end of their lifespans.

#### NEW MAKERSPACE, TRACK AND FIELD, GYM AND MORE AT HMS

Through the 2017-18 capital reserve initiative, approved by voters in May 2017, a new makerspace has been created at the middle school. The new state-of-the-art space will serve as a DIY center for students to create, design, share ideas and develop innovative projects using high-tech tools and/or more conventional materials while applying critical thinking and their knowledge of STEM. A variety of resources are being added to the space, including laptops, a 3D printer, a smartboard and flat-panel televisions for student collaboration.

Additionally, the middle school track has been resurfaced and a new turf field has been installed. The gymnasium has also received a significant makeover, with new bleachers, new wall padding and a new floor.

Student restrooms have also been

*(continued on page 2)*



*The new makerspace at HMS.*



*A new turf field and track were installed at HMS.*

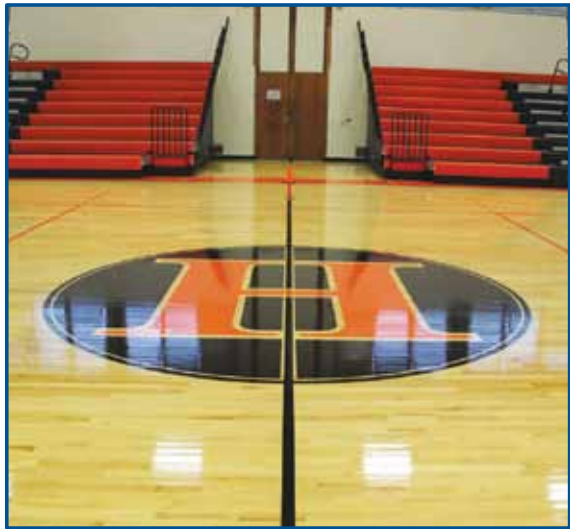
*"Current and future generations of Hicksville students can enjoy a state-of-the-art environment where they can thrive in all aspects of their learning, within a more modern infrastructure that continually emphasizes safety."*

– Marianne Litzman,  
Superintendent of Schools

# New and Improved

## FOR THE START OF SCHOOL

*(continued from page 1)*



*New bleachers, flooring and wall padding were installed at the HMS gymnasium.*

renovated at the middle school and new floor tiles have been installed throughout the building.

### **A RENOVATED GIRLS LOCKER ROOM AT HHS**

The district gave the girls locker room a makeover with new paint throughout, flooring, lighting and bathroom fixtures using funds from the annual maintenance budget. Last year, the boys locker room received a similar makeover. New gymnasium bleachers are also being installed at the high school this fall via the 2017-18 capital reserve.

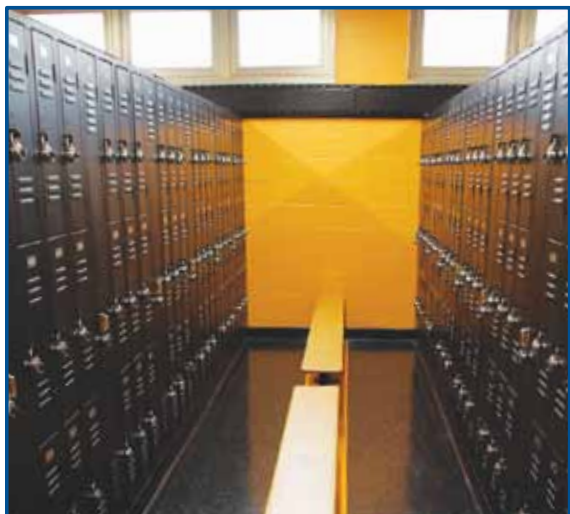


*Looking in at the new security vestibule at East Street School.*

### **ENHANCED SECURITY AT ALL SCHOOLS**

The safety and security of students, staff and all visitors to the Hicksville Public Schools remains the district's top priority. The 2018-19 capital reserve initiative addresses this focus by funding multiple facilities upgrades and technology innovations to make buildings more secure while strengthening surveillance and improving visitor procedures.

The focal piece of this effort is the construction of security vestibules, commonly referred to as "mantraps," at the main entrance of each school. These small rooms provide visitors with an enclosed waiting area upon entering the building while security personnel conduct thorough screens. The vestibules lock out the visitor until cleared and also have the ability to lock in an individual within the enclosed waiting area in the interest of safety. Construction is underway and all vestibules are scheduled for completion later this fall.



*The newly renovated girls locker room at HHS.*

Video surveillance camera additions and system upgrades, new door-access controls and door swipes, door hardening and upgrades to attendance software and visitor management systems are ongoing projects that will further enhance security at every school. Each building maintains a prominent security staff presence as well.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

This fall the Wi-Fi network for all elementary schools will be upgraded through the 2018-19 capital reserve. Phase II capital bond projects are also in the planning stages, with most undergoing review by the New York State Education Department. Phase II represents the majority of the approved bond work and includes the creation/renovation of library media centers at Burns Avenue, Dutch Lane, Fork Lane and Old Country Road elementary schools; reconfiguration of the middle school entryway to accommodate the security vestibule and the renovation of the nurse's office; auditorium, cafeteria and kitchen renovations and roof replacement at the high school; the construction of a districtwide aquatic center; and upgrades to electrical service and heating, ventilation and air conditioning units throughout the district.

Phase III of the bond includes library media centers at East Street, Lee Avenue and Woodland elementary schools and a new music suite and renovated technology room and main office at the high school. Design work for these projects will begin next year.

# Welcome

This fall the district welcomed several new administrators to the Hicksville Public Schools' family. One is a familiar face to Hicksville, and they all bring a wealth of experience to their new positions. Please join us in welcoming them.



## **Anthony Lubrano: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

The district is pleased to welcome Anthony Lubrano as the new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, filling the vacancy created by the appointment of Marianne Litzman as superintendent of schools last spring.

Mr. Lubrano served as the principal of Hicksville's Old Country Road Elementary School for the past 12 years. He led a team that incorporated new ELA and math standards into the curriculum while advocating for a balanced approach to educating the whole child. Mr. Lubrano also served on several district committees, including curriculum, policy, safety and site-based.

"I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence in Hicksville and getting to know the many teachers and staff who work to meet the academic and social needs of our students," said Mr. Lubrano.



## **John Comer, Ed.D.: Principal of Burns Avenue School**

Dr. Comer has worked in education for 22 years, including the last 13 as an assistant principal in the East Meadow Union Free School District at McVey Elementary and Woodland Middle Schools. He began his career in the New York City School System as a sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade social studies teacher and then as dean of discipline. He also spent two years as a building level administrator for New York City Schools.

"I was attracted to Hicksville and Burns Avenue because their values align with my core belief that all students deserve a top-notch education that effectively meets their emotional and academic needs," said Dr. Comer, who is most proud that he has made a difference in the lives of his students.



## **Laura McConnell: Principal of Old Country Road School**

Ms. McConnell has 26 years of experience in education, including the last 13 as an assistant principal at both Lockhart and McKenna elementary schools in Massapequa. She also worked in the Oyster Bay School District for 13 years teaching grades one, two, four and five at both Vernon and Roosevelt schools. She prides herself on her work in the areas of balanced literacy and character education.

"I look forward to working with the amazing administrators and staff at Hicksville and making connections, while sharing my passion for literacy with the entire community," Ms. McConnell said.



## **Janine Rossi: Principal of Dutch Lane School**

Ms. Rossi has worked for the past 22 years in the Baldwin School District, including the last 13 years as an assistant principal at both Plaza and Meadow elementary schools in Baldwin. She began her career as a teaching assistant in Lynbrook before beginning her first assignment in Baldwin as a fifth-grade teacher at Meadow. She was later named director of community services for the district.

"Hicksville is known for having an extremely dedicated staff and an involved community," said Ms. Rossi. "I look forward to collaborating with our incredible team of parents, teachers and administrators to assist our children in reaching their individual goals."



## **Beth Swanson: Principal of Woodland School**

Ms. Swanson has worked the majority of her 18 years in education on Long Island, most recently as assistant principal at Abbey Lane and East Broadway elementary schools in Levittown. She also taught first and fourth grades at Bosti School in the Connetquot School District. Ms. Swanson began her teaching career in New York City, teaching sixth grade at P.S. 201 in Flushing. She is most proud of the connections made with each and every student, and making them feel a part of a team.

"I'm excited to make new connections with everyone at Woodland and the Hicksville community," said Ms. Swanson. "And I am looking forward to building upon the good work that is already being done."

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Administration Building  
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Hicksville, NY 11801

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# Parent Center Happenings

The Hicksville Community Parent Center provides support, resources, information, programs and workshops for children, students and parents in the community. Here are some workshops happening this fall:

**Mom and Me:** Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. (*Arts, crafts, music, free play – all ages*)  
**Teen Talk:** Tuesdays, Nov. 13 & Dec. 11 at 3:30 p.m. (*Middle School students only*)  
Thursdays, Nov. 15 & Dec. 13 at 3:30 p.m. (*High School students only*)

**Parent Discussion Night:** Wednesdays, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Nov. 28, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. (*Children welcome*)  
**Family Arts and Crafts:** Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

**Family Game Night:** Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Movie Night:** Wednesdays, Nov. 14, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

The Parent Center is located in the district administration building (adjacent to the high school) and is open Tuesday through Thursday. For more information, call (516) 733-2379 or refer to the district website, [www.hicksvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hicksvillepublicschools.org), through the Parents tab.

# ALUMNISPOTLIGHT

## ALAINA MATTIS Hicksville High School Class of 2010

My name is Alaina Mattis and I graduated from Hicksville High School in 2010. I work for Great Neck School District and I am pursuing my master's in education at New York University. Since graduation, I have received my bachelor's in English from Stony Brook University. During college, I studied abroad in Italy and Turkey to write and report on political and social issues. Mr. Paranandi was my guidance counselor in high school and he helped me get through my high school years from my first day as a freshman until graduation. He was an amazing listener, counselor and friend who had a way of making every student feel like their dreams were possible, and he made me excited for life after high school. My favorite classes were Italian with Ms. Iovine and science with Mrs. Leahy. However, the greatest foundation the high school provided me were the friendships I made. I met my best friends through kickline and we still remain close today. Thank you, Mr. Paranandi, for many amazing memories at HHS.



## KENNETH GOUBRAN Hicksville High School Class of 2017

My name is Kenny Goubran and I graduated from Hicksville High School in 2017. I am studying acting at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts at the New Studio on Broadway. Film Appreciation was by far the best and most helpful class I took while at Hicksville. Mr. Biondi has been one of my biggest inspirations in learning more about the crafts of writing and filmmaking. Both his English class and his Film Appreciation class have helped me tremendously with my current studies at NYU and my work ethic and approach to art in general. My future goal is to become a successful stage and screen actor. I have already been involved in some amazing projects in New York City, including working on NYU dance faculty showcases and the beginning stages of two brand new musicals, working as an assistant music director and dancer, respectively. I would not be where I am today without my experiences at Hicksville schools, and for this I am extremely grateful.

