

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD



*Newly renovated library media centers were unveiled at four elementary schools, including Burns Avenue.*



*New elementary library media centers, like this one at Fork Lane, provide updated resources, technology and flexible furniture for student collaboration.*



*Hicksville High School students dine in their newly renovated cafeteria.*

## SCHOOL BUILDING REVITALIZATION *Continues*

Hicksville Public Schools continues to improve its learning environment through renovation projects. The vast majority of projects scheduled as part of phase II of the district's bond initiative have been or will be completed this year. In addition, the district continues to upgrade facilities through strategic use of the existing funds in the capital reserve as well as carefully thought-out allocations in the annual capital budget.

"Modernizing core learning, recreational and service facilities for students has been at the heart of the effort," Superintendent of Schools Marianne Litzman said. "As we progress through our school revitalization, our kids are taking full advantage of the new spaces and resources available to them."

### NEW ELEMENTARY LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

New, state-of-the-art library media centers were created at Burns Avenue, Dutch Lane, Fork Lane and Old Country Road elementary schools during the summer of 2019. The balance of the elementary schools will receive new libraries in

the 2020-21 school year. The new centers are equipped with leading instructional technology resources and are designed with a built-in flexibility better suited for student collaboration.

### CAFETERIA RENOVATION

The Hicksville High School student cafeteria has been completely renovated. New lighting, new furniture and flooring, and a modernized serving area and new kitchen make for a more enjoyable dining experience. Additionally, the Hicksville Middle School cafeteria floor was replaced over the summer.

### NEW PERFORMING ARTS, AQUATIC CENTER ON THE WAY

Hicksville High School will be the recipient of a new, state-of-the-art performance center. The existing auditorium has been gutted and construction for the new facility is well underway, with the grand reopening scheduled for midwinter 2020. The music room at East Street School has also been relocated and renovated.

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# SCHOOL BUILDING REVITALIZATION *Continues*



*New tennis courts were installed at the high school.*



*Security vestibules have been created at every school.*



*Site work to repair sidewalks and curbing, among other infrastructure, was performed at various schools.*

This month, the district will break ground on a new aquatic center at the high school. The center will consist of a six-lane, 25-meter indoor pool with new locker facilities for student athletes and a large lobby area for guests and community use. It will offer open swim to senior citizens.

New tennis courts have also been installed at the high school to enhance the playing experience for student-athletes and the community.

## **HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY ALWAYS A PRIORITY**

This past summer, the finishing touches were made to security vestibules at all schools – the cornerstone of a new visitor management system to strengthen security throughout the district. Various site work projects have also been completed to repair sidewalks and other areas along the exterior of schools. The main office at East Street School has also been relocated.

With the new security vestibule at the middle school came a reconfiguration of the entryway and a relocation and renovation of the nurse's office, which provides a more modern and efficient space. New, energy-efficient LED lighting has also been installed at the middle school.

Electrical service has been upgraded districtwide to

accommodate new, upgraded heating, ventilation and cooling systems.

## **FOR THE FUTURE**

Students will benefit from additional future projects planned for phase III of the bond initiative. Work is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2020. This includes a new music and technology suite at the high school as well as an upgraded main office. East Street, Lee Avenue and Woodland will also receive new library media centers.

All projects funded through the 2017 bond and capital reserve initiatives were funded using either existing funds or through the replacement of retiring debt. As a result, these projects did not require additional tax dollars. The district continually assesses its facilities to address aging building components and provide enhanced learning environments whenever possible through the most cost-effective avenues.

“These projects are the result of a collective effort between parents and other community members, staff and school leadership to identify areas that would most benefit students today and in the future,” Ms. Litzman added. “We thank our community for its ongoing support. We will continue to look for ways to make our schools better, for the benefit of our students and in the interest of all Hicksville residents.”

# Designed for Collaborative Learning

As the district places the finishing touches on new library media centers at four elementary schools (the balance of which will be built next summer), students are taking advantage of a new style of library where they can decide how they want to learn and where collaboration flows more freely.

“Learning has become more collaborative and engaging, and in many ways more rewarding,” said Superintendent of Schools Marianne Litzman. “We are redesigning spaces with this in mind. Through the transformation of our elementary library media centers, we are ensuring our students experience this from the moment they arrive at our doorsteps.”

When walking into the new centers, students notice the new circulation desks, shelving and cabinetry. The furniture is flexible, allowing them to move their chairs and desks more freely. About two-thirds of each new library is dedicated to circulation, books and modern furniture, and at each end of every library hangs an interactive SMART Board. The other third of the space is occupied by a technology lab, equipped with five 55-inch flat panel HD screens. Chromebook carts are present for students to connect to the network and work individually or with classmates on shared projects. They can interact with the SMART Boards and share and send work to teachers – all with the help of Google Jamboard.

“The new library media centers give our young students a flavor of the traditional library – that tactile experience of holding a book and turning pages – while at the same time providing a digital learning environment that so many of them are already comfortable with,” said Supervisor of English, Reading and Libraries Dr. Thomas Moss. “We are also introducing them to new tools that will prepare them for a lifetime of interactive learning.”

Even the traditional library book checkout system has been modernized with an automated checkout system that allows students to scan in books on their own. The district



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Supervisor of English, Reading and Libraries  
Dr. Thomas Moss

is also researching e-books that can be downloaded onto their devices.

As library media specialists, teachers and students become accustomed to the centers and all they have to offer, new curriculum will be developed to maximize the technology and the spaces.

“So far there has been a lot of positive feedback from students and staff,” Dr. Moss added. “Students are delving into the technology and doing things they couldn’t before.”

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# Parent Center Happenings

The Hicksville Community Parent Center is located in the district administration building (adjacent to the high school) and is open Tuesday through Thursday.

The center was created to help the academic, social and emotional development of students and continues to provide support, resources, information, programs and workshops for children, students and parents. Topics focus on positive parenting, health and safety issues, academics, and social and emotional well-being for a diverse audience.

Numerous events will take place this fall and winter, including regular “Mommy and Me” and family arts and crafts events. For a complete listing, please refer to its webpage at [https://www.hicksvillepublicschools.org/parents/parent\\_center](https://www.hicksvillepublicschools.org/parents/parent_center) where you can find the latest newsletters and calendar of events. For more information, please call (516) 733-2379.

## ALUMNI Spotlight

### BRIAN FRIERES

**Hicksville High School**  
**Class of 2009**

I am currently the manager at PwC, bringing data science to accounting and the business world. Hicksville High School prepared me for where I am today by showing me the true meaning behind the fact that no one succeeds alone.

Throughout my time at the school I participated in many different clubs, activities and sports teams, all of which had teachers, coaches and even other students teaching me valuable character skills for success. I learned how to work hard and exercise discipline in the classroom, and I also discovered the importance of teamwork and overcoming adversity on the sports fields. Teachers always respected me, coaches constantly vouched for me and students easily became lifelong friends (one of which I have the pleasure of marrying soon).

This encouraging atmosphere at the school helped me realize that no matter where I go in life, as long as I have supportive people around me to learn from and lean on then I can achieve any goal I set. My future goals include starting a family and possibly building up a data analytics consulting practice here on Long Island.



### LORIN KRUYNSKI

**Hicksville High School**  
**Class of 2013**

After graduating from Hicksville High School I attended St. John’s University. I would not have applied if it weren’t for my guidance counselor, a St. John’s alum who motivated me to visit the campus.

I graduated in 2017 with a bachelor’s in marketing. As a member of the Ozanam Scholars Program, which focuses heavily on social justice issues, I traveled the world and completed numerous hours of community service. This sparked my interest to work for a nonprofit in the future. I later returned to St. John’s to pursue an MBA in management. When I am not at school or working I volunteer with Make-A-Wish Foundation.

My parents and my involvement at high school has shaped who I am today. During freshman year I joined Natural Helpers and eventually became president. It was there I learned how important it is to stop and listen to others and not worry only about yourself. I was also involved with Thespians, working on stage crew and as stage manager. I realized there how much I enjoy working behind the scenes. I may not know exactly what I want to do for the rest of my life, but I know I’m going somewhere, and I know how I’ll get there.

