Spring 2017

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

Music MASTERY

BEST Communities for MUSIC EDUCATION

Brought to you by The NAMM Foundation

The district was again named a Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants and the University of Kansas. This prestigious distinction is earned by school districts that exhibit outstanding efforts and commitment toward maintaining music education as part of the schools' core curriculum, and excel in their instruction of music and extensive array of programs.

"To be recognized again with this honor truly is a testament to the dedication of our music students and their teachers," said Chad Wyman, Hicksville High School coordinator of music and drama, and band director. "This is a community-based distinction, awarded to districts with music programs that mirror the support our outstanding students receive at home. We cannot give enough thanks for the hours, and in many cases the years, of efforts that their parents put in to allow their children to work toward performing at the highest level."

This year, 77 Hicksville music students were selected to participate in the Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County Music ensembles, and an additional 10 students were selected to participate in the Long Island String Music Festival select ensembles and concerts. The district continues to expand and support student enrichment in various ways, and provide them with extensive platforms to showcase their talents.

"Being a part of the Hicksville music program means so much to me. Going into this program has been one of the best decisions I have made, and it has made such an impact on my life. It has shown me how inspiring music can be, and I have been inspired to continue to study music in college for a future career."
- Samantha Melish, junior

"Music is the melodious sound you hear and enjoy. Having been given the privilege to be a part of a group of talented musicians, the Hicksville High School music program has shaped me into a finer violinist; I wouldn't be where I am [without it]."
- Simran Kohli, sophomore

"Being a student in Hicksville's music program has been a huge part of my life. Music has always been something I love, and our music program has allowed me to advance in what I have a passion for. Ever since I became a student in Hicksville's music program, I was always motivated to continue to be a part of it, and will continue to be a part of it until I graduate."
-Meghan Goparaju, sophomore

ALTRUISTIC *Achievement*

The high school's student government presented the third annual Talent for the Troops fundraiser to benefit wounded veterans, and raised more than $14,000. The show, attended by students, staff, elected officials and residents of the Hicksville community, was comprised of various acts and showcases of talent by staff members across the district, including a "Lip Sync Battle" among all schools and musical performances. The tradition, which has raised more than $20,000 in the two years prior, was donated to the Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior Program and the Fischer House.

SCHOLARLY SUCCESS

Students at the high school flexed their academic muscles en route to reaching remarkable levels of success. One hundred and forty-four current and former students earned the prestigious designation of Advanced Placement Scholar from the College Board due to their outstanding achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement exams. In addition, seniors Shana Mathew and Jakub Tarlowski were named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship program. Both Mathew and Tarlowski achieved this prestigious distinction following their outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last October.

Students earn AP Scholar distinction based on the College Board's recognition of several levels of achievement based on their performances on AP exams.

National AP Scholars

Six students qualified for the National AP Scholar award by receiving an average of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight of more of these exams. These students are Matthew Cimino, Rujuta Desai, Jaineel Doshi, Kasper Dworzanczyk, Abdullah Khalid and Stanley Lim.

AP Scholars with Distinction

Thirty-eight students received AP Scholar with Distinction awards by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are David Adames,* Adil Ansari,* Harrison Chan,* Andy Chen,* Shiv Chopra, Olias Christie,* Matthew Cimino, Bhavika Darji, Rujuta Desai, Ron Dias, Jaineel Doshi, Kasper Dworzanczyk, Dakota Filigenzi,* Danielle Grey-Stewart,* Mankirat Gulati, Johnson Jiang,* Nevin John, Abdulah Khalid, Stanley Lim, Rhea Manjrekar,* Shana Mathew,* Jayda Melnitsky, Nolan Mingst,* Fatemah Mukadum,* Joseph Neubauer, Dawn Nguyen, Iffat Nur, Adam Peretzman, Alexander Pierce,* Mil Rajput,* Pallak Sharma, Jacob Spychalsky, Sailesh Srinivas,* William Swiss, Emaad Syed, Jakub Tarlowski,* Kartik Tyagi and Christina Zhao.*

AP Scholars with Honor

Twenty-five students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Maram Abdelhamid,* Emely Balaguera, Jasdeep Braich,* Jake Britton,* Awaiss Butt,* Nabil Chowdhury,** Louis Clarke, Aamir Dave,* Robert Fellows,* Jeevan George,** Walter Grebe,* Gulam Haider, Jaskirat Kaur,* Sabri Khanyousafzai,* Sonali Malhotra,** Alyssa Martin, Yra Mercado, Monit Patel,** Priyansh Raval,** Leoder Sanchez, Daniel Sullivan,* Luna Thapa, Kristen Van Alken, Jason Yang* and Haejung Yoon achieved this distinction.

AP Scholars

Seventy-five students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. These students are Kaylee Agostinello, Antonio Aguirre, Jarif Ahmed,* Adithya Ajith,** Dana Aljada, Elizabeth Antonira,** Ansh Arora, Neeloy Bose,** Matthew Brehman, Molly Brennan, Arsal Butt,* Jennifer Castelan, Shifali Chambers, Nathaniel Chen, Medjie Chery,** Justin Chupungco, Lauren Colwell, Thomas Digregorio, Michael Fernandes, Cecilia Funk,* Noel George, Avik Gomes,** Jorge Gomez,* Caroline Hoang,** Jerry Hsiao, David Haynh,* Sandra John,* Pallavi Kalla, Russel Kamal, Gurjot Kaur,* Richvinder Kaur, Stephen Ketelsen,* Neil Khilwani,** Jacob Kinnaman,* Chandrika Kumari, Taylor Labrador, Raymond Llang,* Navneet Lingala,** Jeremy Lopez, Gabriella Madden, Saim Mahmood,* Searra Mascaro,* Nabban Maswood, Christine Mathew, Imari McKenzie, Miranda Mohabir, Kyle Montera, Salaiha Mughal,** Nitya Mulani, Hersh Nagpal,* Robert Nash, Gabriela Niculescu,** Adam Patel, Krish Patel,** Pujan Patel, Noah Peretzman, Patrick Rilling,* Rashha Sahibzada, Hosnia Samadi, Gifty Samson,* Rebecca Samuel, Amber Sanchez,** Adam Sanfilippo,** Winnie Shen, Farzeen Siddiquee,** Kyle Singh,* Yashodban Singh, Melissa Soto, Mark Sullivan,** Mana Sura, Srishti Tyagi,** Rashi Vashishta, Bhargawi Vutukuri,** Terence Wong* and Gabriella Yao.

*current senior
**current junior

Nasari Goes National

High School freshman Alaha Nasari earned first place in New York State for the Voice of Democracy audio essay contest hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and traveled to Washington D.C. on an all-expense paid trip to compete at the national level.

A student in Heather Stavrinadis' Pre-AP World History class, Nasari competed nationally for an opportunity to earn a $30,000 scholarship. She began her quest for the national award by first competing at the regional level, where she also earned first place.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in the future generation. Nasari was sponsored by the William M. Gouse Jr. VFW Post 3211 in Hicksville.

Elementary *Excellence*

As part of an annual tradition, the district Board of Education honored exceptional members of its seven elementary schools' communities in two special Primary Student and Staff Recognition ceremonies held at Hicksville High School. Students were recognized for their outstanding achievements in contests and competitions across a wide array of subject areas. A certificate presentation to celebrate the students was led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso, members of the Board of Education, building principals, teachers and department supervisors.

ROBOTICS *and Respect*

The middle school's Robotics team — the Meteorites —earned the Gracious Professionalism Award at the First Lego Regional Qualifiers under the leadership of advisors Catherine Temps and Carol Anne Brucato. The Gracious Professionalism Award recognizes a team whose members understand that both friendly competition and mutual gain are possible on and off the playing field, and show each other and competing teams respect at all times.

The theme for the competition was Animal Allies, and students were judged on the performance of their robots with specified tasks, their project presentations and their core value presentations.

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Administration Building
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Capitalizing on Upgrades

This summer, the district will undertake a variety of capital projects to ensure that its buildings maintain the highest level of safety and provide students and staff with advanced teaching and learning opportunities in state-of-the-art facilities.

In addition to renovations and repairs throughout the primary and secondary level schools, a brand-new Parent Center will be unveiled at the district administration building. This center will serve several purposes that are aligned with a mission to provide parents and families with education, information and the support they may need to raise students who are safe and confident in school and beyond. It will be a resource to support students' academic, social and emotional needs, increase parent engagement, involvement and communication, and strengthen the district's collaboration with parents and community-based organizations.

Secondary Building Upgrades:

- **High School**: new bleachers, press box, turf softball and baseball infields and a new roof over the boys' gymnasium.
- **Middle School**: reconstruction of the track and field, replacement of yankee gutters on the girls' gym side.

Primary Building Upgrades:

- **Burns**: New roof and Phase II of the gas conversion project
- **Dutch**: Phase II of the gas conversion project
- **East**: Masonry repair and replacement of univents
- **Fork**: Asphalting
- **Lee**: Asphalting
- **Old Country Road**: Phase II of the gas conversion project and asphalting
- **Woodland**: Interior Doors

Capital project status updates and photos will be routinely posted to the district website at www.hicksvillepublicschools.org.