



Horizons

HAUPPAUGE SCHOOL DISTRICT • OCTOBER 2015

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAYS

While students were enjoying the waning days of their summer vacation, Hauppauge School District teachers were learning about new and creative ways to bring the world-renowned Columbia University Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) into their classrooms at September's Superintendent's Conference Days.

This year, Hauppauge's K-5 teachers received special training in the Teachers College Reading Units of Study, while 6th grade teachers received training in the Writing Units of Study. The TCRWP is designed to help young people become avid and skilled readers, writers and inquirers.

The program features state-of-the-art tools and methods for teaching reading and writing, for using performance assessments and learning progressions to accelerate progress, and for literacy-rich content-area instruction. TCRWP trainers will continue to work with Hauppauge teachers in their classrooms, and the teachers will attend workshops at Teachers College throughout the academic year.



ANNA DEAVERE SMITH TO HEADLINE HAUPPAUGE SCHOOLS' STAGE THE CHANGE PROGRAM



Anna Deavere Smith will headline Hauppauge School District's *Third Annual Stage the Change, Theatre as a Social Voice Conference*, which will be held on Friday, November 6, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post. Ms. Smith is an Obie and Drama Desk Award winning playwright, actor and professor best

known for crafting one-woman, multi-character plays about American social issues. Interviewing real people from all walks of

life, Ms. Smith turns their words into scripts, transforming herself into an astonishing number of characters. The MacArthur Foundation honored Ms. Smith with the "Genius" Fellowship for creating "a new form of theatre – a blend of theatrical art, social commentary, journalism and intimate reverie."

Stage the Change is an inspirational day of learning and collaboration designed to help our students become global citizens through creativity and performance. To register for *Stage the Change, Theatre as a Social Voice*, visit www.stagethechange.org or contact Ruthie Pincus at rpincus@stagethechange.org or call 516-375-3532. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for students. *Stage the Change* is registered with Nassau and Suffolk County BOCES Arts in Education Services. The Conference is Common Core and APPR compliant and aligns with the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA).

Here's to a Great Year!

Superintendent's Message

It is a pleasure to welcome our students and staff to the 2015-2016 school year.

The administration, clerical staff and buildings and grounds department have been working diligently throughout the summer to prepare our classrooms and facilities for the start of a wonderful school year. In addition to regular cleaning and maintenance, our facilities now boast a new physics lab at the High School, which completes the restoration process for all High School science labs began five years ago. Additionally, we have created a lab site for our new cosmetology program. We were successful in designing the classroom using equipment from BOCES, and the class will be taught by a BOCES instructor. Offering this class in Hauppauge will be a cost-saving measure, as students will be educated "in-house" rather than transported to BOCES on a daily basis for half day. Many of our parking lots and sidewalks have been repaired and our grounds continue to be beautified.

In the area of curriculum, we are excited to be using Columbia Teachers College, units of study in reading, Grades K-6. This will be combined with the Teachers College units of writing, which we currently utilize. Our teachers have received professional development in this research-based approach to reading and will continue to receive support throughout the school year. Our Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) initiative, which we began last year in Grade 6, will now move to Grades 7 and 8 as well. As per new State Education Department requirements, we will be expanding the services we provide to those students who come to us as native speakers of languages other than English. We also will continue to strengthen our mathematics program, as we continue our efforts to align it to the Common Core. We additionally completed extensive curriculum writing/revision during the summer in preparation for our High School courses.

As we begin the new school year, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Hauppauge community for the support which they provide to the district and to me. I am exceedingly proud to be a part of the Hauppauge school community!

To all our students and their families, my sincere best wishes for a fabulous school year.

Cordially,

Patricia Sullivan-Kriss
Superintendent of Schools



COSMETOLOGY

New for 2015-2016, the Hauppauge School District was successful in designing a new cosmetology classroom at the High School using equipment from BOCES. The class is being taught by a BOCES instructor. Offering this class in Hauppauge is a cost-saving measure, as students are being educated "in-house" rather than being transported to BOCES on a daily basis.

WELCOME BACK TO



WELCOME NEW TEACHERS

Hauppauge School District is pleased to welcome Donald Murphy as the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction as well as ten new teachers and three leave replacements.

The educators attended a New Teacher Orientation program where they were warmly greeted by Superintendent of Schools Patricia Sullivan-Kriss, Assistant Superintendent Joe Tasman and several other Hauppauge School District colleagues. The new teachers additionally received instruction in district-wide programs, procedures, goals, resources, technology and more.

Please join us in welcoming the following new members of the Hauppauge School District community:

TEACHERS

Caitlin Classey – Forest Brook, Elementary Special Education
Lauren Donnelly – High School, Secondary ESL
Daniela Esposito – Bretton Woods/Forest Brook/Pines, Elementary ESL
Brian Ferrara – Middle School, Math
Elia Figari – Bretton Woods, Elementary Special Education



Alexandria Hiam – Middle School/High School, Library
Kristin Huber – Forest Brook, Elementary Special Education
Leslie Marino – Bretton Woods/Middle School/High School, LOTE
Gina Romuno – High School, Reading
Enrico Schettini – High School, Social Studies

LEAVE REPLACEMENTS

Brittany Bach – Middle School, English
Alyssa De Pinto – High School, Science
Sheilah Schumann – Middle School, Science and ELA

STUDENTS AND STAFF

Message from David Barshay

On behalf of the Board of Education it is my pleasure to welcome you back to school. I hope you had a restful and rejuvenating summer.

As the 2015-2016 school year begins, I know that we will be faced with continuing challenges, the most critical of which, unfortunately, come from within our own State. Albany's misguided attack on public education poses a real and present threat to our district's ability to determine for our self what is best for our Hauppauge students. Please know that the Board is well aware of this unwarranted encroachment and will continue to do everything within its authority to maintain and foster local control of our district. To be sure, it is the Board's conviction that you, our teachers and educators, recognize the needs of your students much more clearly than bureaucrats pursuing their own agendas; for this, the education and shaping of our most precious resource and future, is your art and expertise.

Know that the Board stands with you, ready to fight against the omnipresent misconception that our schools are failing. We will continue to reject artificial assessments of our district and the flawed one-size-fits-all tools used to give these false, pre-determined results trumpeted by those who have no real stake in our district's success. In this regard, over the past two years, the Board passed a detailed resolution opposing high stakes testing and the State's APPR regulations, and condemned Albany's most recent efforts at "education reform" and the coupling of such reforms to the release of school aid. The Board also unanimously passed a Resolution withdrawing the district from participation in Race to the Top, and we returned money associated with that program. The district also has repeatedly informed the State that our students will not participate in field-testing in the Middle and Elementary Schools. Finally, the Board voted unanimously to have the Board President and Superintendent sign-on to a letter from The Alliance to Save Public Education urging our legislators to refrain from enacting the Governor's education reform proposals without meaningful debate and discussion thereof.

Please know that despite the efforts to artificially quantify, vilify and scapegoat your profession, the Board appreciates and honors your refusal to lie down and play dead for your critics. For it is in this fight and overcoming these struggles that your true dedication to your craft and the students in your charge shines through. Hauppauge is not failing; our students are not failing; and you are not failing. Keep your head high, be proud of your profession, and know that the Board believes in you and is grateful for your hard work and faithful dedication to the children of our district.

*"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers,
not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart
of the educational system."*

– Sidney Hook

*"Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us.
Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives."*

– Andy Rooney

Thank you so much for all that you do. Let's have a great year!!! As always, I remain,

Very truly yours,

David M. Barshay, Esquire
President, Hauppauge School District Board of Education

DEBORAH SURIAN WINS PRESTIGIOUS TEACHING AWARD

High School Economics Teacher Deborah Surian was a recipient of the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Teaching Champion Award, which is sponsored by the Council for Economic Education (CEE). Ms. Surian received financial remuneration and a scholarship to attend CEE's Annual Financial Literacy and Economic Education Conference, which was held in St. Petersburg, Florida. Hauppauge High School additionally received \$2,500 to support its economics and financial education program.

"Deborah Surian's dedication to economics education led her to be a recipient of the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Teaching Championship Award," described Doreen Gordon, Hauppauge School District's director of Social Studies and Business. "She is a reflective practitioner, who continually searches for ways to improve and engage her students. She attends conferences and takes professional development courses, is excited to share her knowledge and expertise with her colleagues, and also is a strong advocate for her students and economics."

All Hauppauge High School students are required to take a course in Economics and Personal Finance. Superintendent of Schools Patricia Sullivan-Kriss initially advocated for this course three years ago. The concept was readily embraced by the Social Studies Department and by the Board of Education as a requirement for graduation.

SUPERINTENDENT TO SERVE IN TWO NEW YORK STATE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Hauppauge Superintendent of Schools Patricia Sullivan-Kriss has been elected to serve as President-Elect of The New York State Council of School Superintendents (The Council). The Council is a professional and advocacy organization with more than a century of service to school superintendents, and recently assistant superintendents, in New York State. The Council of School Superintendents provides its more than 800 members with numerous professional development opportunities, publications and personal services, while advocating for public education and the superintendency.

Mrs. Sullivan-Kriss also was selected to serve as a member of the New York State Blue Ribbon Commission on the Arts. The New York State Board of Regents has tasked the Commission, co-chaired by Regent Roger Tilles and Carolyn Adams, with examining how other states are providing pathways to graduation in the arts, determining the role of assessment in an arts pathway and evaluating assessments used to measure student achievement in the arts.

In January 2015, the New York State Board of Regents approved regulations establishing multiple, comparable rigorous assessment pathways to graduation for all students. The regulations recognize the importance of engaging students' interests in rigorous and relevant academic programs in the Arts; Languages other than English (LOTE)/Biliteracy; Career and Technical Education (CTE); Humanities; and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) by allowing students to pass an approved pathway assessment to meet graduation requirements.

"It is an honor to serve as President-Elect of The New York State Council of School Superintendents and on the NYS Blue Ribbon Commission on the Arts," stated Mrs. Sullivan-Kriss. "These are extremely challenging times in academia, and I look forward to having the opportunity to assist and to advocate on behalf of Hauppauge, the children of our district and New York State, and for my colleagues in the education profession."

FACILITIES UPDATE

A number of capital improvements were done to Hauppauge schools during summer 2015 – improving safety and saving money by preventing potential damage. Capital improvement projects included:

- A physics science lab was reconstructed at Hauppauge High School.
- A cosmetology classroom was created at the High School.
- Technology wiring, including wireless access points, were installed at Bretton Woods, Forest Brook and the Pines Elementary Schools.
- Parking lots, including curbs and sidewalks, were repaired and repaved.
- Vinyl asbestos tiles were removed from classrooms throughout the District.

Improvements this fall include:

- Technology wiring, including wireless access points, will be installed at Hauppauge Middle School.
- Inefficient, 52-year-old windows will be replaced in the front two wings of Whiporwil.

HAUPPAUGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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REAH VASILAKOPOULOS NAMED SEMIFINALIST IN 61ST ANNUAL NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



Hauppauge School District is pleased to announce that High School Senior Reah Vasilakopoulos was named a Semifinalist in the 61st Annual National Merit Scholarship Competition. Ms. Vasilakopoulos will now have an opportunity to continue in the competition to qualify for about 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring. A National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay and earn SAT scores that confirm their earlier performance on the qualifying test. In addition, Mary Festa, Eric Jon, Sarah Meirs and Elise Zhao were named National Merit Competition Commended Students.

To advance to the finals, Ms. Vasilakopoulos and Hauppauge High School must submit a detailed scholarship application in which they provide information about her academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received. The National Merit Scholarship Competition Finalists will be announced in February 2016.

The Competition began with about 1.5 million juniors in about 22,000 high schools nationwide who took the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Those who scored the highest on the test advanced to the semifinals. This comes out to less than one percent of those who entered the contest.

“The entire Hauppauge School District community is honored to congratulate Reah Vasilakopoulos on being named a National Merit Scholarship Competition Semifinalist and Mary Festa, Eric Jon, Sarah Meirs and Elise Zhao on being named Commended Students,” stated Hauppauge High School Principal Christine O’Connor.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO HAUPPAUGE RESIDENTS

In order to quickly and efficiently communicate with community members regarding registered sex offenders who have recently moved within the Hauppauge School District boundaries, the district now will send notifications to the community using Email Blast and the district website. Community members will be directed to the Parents for Megan’s Law website and the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services website for specific information regarding the registered offenders. Therefore, be sure to subscribe to the district Email Blast located on the home page of the website and also to register for automatic updates at www.parentsformeganslaw.org and <http://criminaljustice.ny.gov>

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 21	Board of Education Business Meeting
October 22	Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction and Recital
October 23-24	High School Drama Production
October 30	Bretton Woods, Forest Brook and Pines Halloween Parades, Middle School Halloween Dance
October 31	High School Safe Halloween
November 3	Board of Education Community Meeting
November 5	Community University
November 6	Stage the Change at Tilles Center, LIU Post
November 10	Early Dismissal Drill, All Schools Dismiss 15 Minutes Early
November 11	Veterans Day, Schools Closed
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Recess, Schools Closed