



An Environment for Effective Teaching & Learning - Volume 2, Issue 2 - 9/14/18

WELCOME FRESHMEN!

It's September and that means our students are back to school and getting into routines. For our new high school Freshmen, however, a whole new world has opened up before them. Already, Freshmen at Hauppauge have had a lot to juggle. They have made their class selections with an eye towards the future and seriously setting their sights on college. They have and continue to explore extracurricular activities they might join. They have worked to manage some social challenges and social pressures that come with leaving middle school and entering a new school building and a larger school community. And, they are thinking critically about how they are going to invest their energies, how they are going to take specific steps to grow, and the ways in which they will achieve success. In many ways and for many reasons, 9th grade is a pivotal step in the journey to shape a student's life trajectory. Teachers and leaders at Hauppauge High School deeply understand this.

After teaching and leading high schools for over a decade, new Hauppauge High School Principal, Christopher Cook, also knows the importance of the Freshmen year. He stated, "Freshmen year was an extraordinarily pivotal year for me. I had finished middle school in a tough place, and beginning freshmen year I did not take my education as seriously as I needed to. After the first few months, I realized that was a mistake and, after taking the advice of teachers and mentors, I turned things around a bit. That transition experience is a big reason I became an educator and now principal.



Christopher Cook
Principal
Hauppauge High School

Principal Cook also said, "In recent years, I have observed that students can really define who they are and where they want to go. Students who may have struggled in middle school can find new habits to cause success, and students who may have been shy and/or outgoing in middle school can blossom in whatever way they want to. The key is to take seriously each and every day, focusing on getting better in all the things you do."

In addition to our educators' experiences in working with 9th graders, research has shown that ninth-grade may be the most important year in a student's high school career. According to research published in the journal *Education*, 9th graders have the lowest grade point average, the most missed classes, the majority of failing grades and more misbehavior referrals than any other high school grade level. Further, a lengthy, detailed guide from the *National High School Center* describes that telltale signs for student success or struggle can be detected as early as the first semester of high school. The guide states, "Student attendance is huge. The biggest risk factor [for any student] is the number of absences during the first 30 days of school. Missing more than 3 days of the first 30 days is a cause for concern."

In another article entitled, "Why is Ninth Grade a Critical Time for Students? A Researcher Explains," Elaine Alensworth, Director of University of Chicago Consortium on School Research wrote "School transitions bring considerable change for students. One particular tension is the increase in responsibility that happens when students go to high school, combined with less supervision and less support. Students can easily confuse having the responsibility for getting to class and getting work done on their own with having the freedom of choice of whether to do it or not."

Ms. Allensworth also said with regard to students falling behind due to class absences, “They often get embarrassed or frustrated and start withdrawing further. That begins a downward spiral, until they fall too far behind to catch up. It is important for students to establish effective strategies for managing high school, and ninth grade is the time when they figure out how to do that.” Ms. Allensworth also stated “If students have a successful ninth grade year, they know that they can succeed and that they belong in high school, and those positive mindsets will help them face the challenges they face later on.”

We asked some of our Hauppauge Administrators to share some of their tips for Freshmen for being successful in ninth grade and some of their Freshmen year memories. Kristen Reingold, Principal of Forest Brook Elementary School said “My recommendation is for Freshmen to get involved in extra-curricular clubs and/or sports. It’s a great way to meet people with common interests and helps you to stay connected to the school.”

Joseph Wieckhorst, the Assistant Principal at Hauppauge High School provided a great list of tips for Freshmen:

1. Join at least one club and/or one sports team. Getting involved in the school outside of your classes makes a huge difference!
2. Keep some kind of planner to track assignment due dates, meetings, etc. All smart phones have reminder and calendar apps built in, so use them!
3. Pace yourself through big projects and papers. Trying to do these last-minute creates more stress than you need.
4. Make sure to get to know your counselor, teachers, and administrators.
5. Be kind to all staff members. You never know who can help you and when you’ll need help!
6. Limit negative interactions on social media. Issues on these apps can quickly spiral out of control.
7. If you ever need help with a situation, contact your counselor or an administrator.

Mr. Wieckhorst also shared a memory from his Freshman year. “I remember being overwhelmed by the size of the building and all of the new responsibilities that came along with being in high school. The courses were more challenging and the work load was exponentially higher. What stands out in my memory is all of the help my teachers provided me and my getting involved in the school in a variety of ways.” Mr. Wieckhorst added, “If you can think of a way to improve the school, let us know!”



Dr. Donald Murphy, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, shared this tip: “Think of every HS teacher and administrator as a resource to you. Don’t be shy about asking for help in the classroom, hallway, cafeteria or anywhere on campus. Administrators and teachers are there not only to help you with your academics, but they can act as tour guides, advocates, and mentors. Enjoy this year and the three years that follow, as you will blink and wake up a graduate of Hauppauge High School!”

We wish our Hauppauge Freshmen a successful 2018-2019 school year and look forward to their achievements in their high school career in the coming four years.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT SHARES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE RECOGNIZED!

There is a lot to be proud of in the Fine and Performing Arts Department! Dr. Laura Landor, Director of Fine and Performing Arts in the Hauppauge Public Schools shared the following wonderful accomplishments of our students and staff.

First, five Hauppauge High School students were selected to represent Hauppauge at the 2018 NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester, NY taking place November 29th thru December 2nd. Thousands of students from across New York State auditioned for this opportunity last Spring and Dr. Landor said, "It will be a great honor to have the following musicians represent Hauppauge at this prestigious festival:"

Patrick Silk, Mixed Chorus

Rose Recce, Mixed Chorus

Patrick Caffrey, Mixed Chorus

Alexander Amirhamzeh, Symphony Orchestra

Rene Kozlowski, Mixed Chorus

In addition, the following students were chosen as Alternates and may be selected to attend the festival if the need arises. They are: *Chris Arcoleo, Gabriella Cavallaro, Kyla Drum, Sophie Epstein, Caroline Fortmeyer, Christine Master and Angelica Zara.*

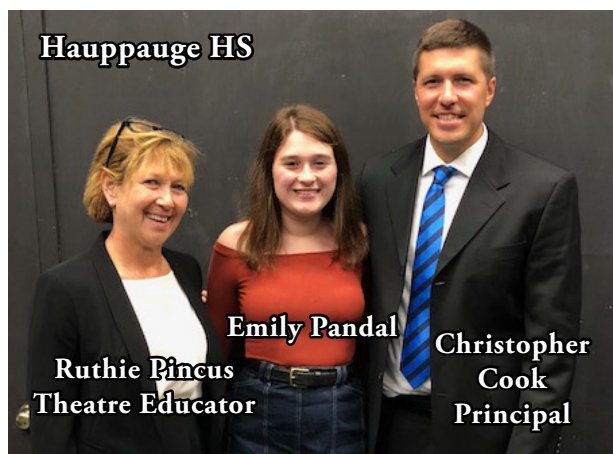
Secondly, Hauppauge High School Senior, Emily Pandal, was selected as a Long Island Scholar Artist of Merit for her achievement in academics and theatre. Each year, the Long Island Scholar-Artist program, sponsored by the Long Island Arts Alliance, recognizes students who excel academically and in the arts. Emily was recognized at a kickoff event at The Tilles Center on Wednesday, September 12th and had her photo taken for a feature in *Newsday*!

Lastly, Hauppauge High School Theatre Educator, Ruthie Pincus, was selected to receive the NYSTEA 2018 Rod Marriott Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is NYSTEA's highest means of recognition and is presented to one recipient each year for lifetime achievement in educational theatre.

Congratulations to all the honorees and their teachers!



Pictured back row: Dr. Laura Landor, Mr. Andrew Monson, Patrick Caffrey, Patrick Silk, Alexander Amirhamzeh, Christopher Arcoleo, Mr. Mark Kimes
Pictured front row: Gabriella Cavallaro, Angelica Zara, Kyla Drum, Christine Master, Caroline Fortmeyer, Rose Recce, Rene Kozlowski, Sophie Epstein, Mrs. Leah Pease



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS ARE ANNOUNCED

THREE HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE RECOGNIZED

Three Hauppauge High School Seniors have been selected this year as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists! They are Alyson Jayne, Michael Harrison and Danielle Gerardi.



Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, on Wednesday, announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the "64th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program." These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million dollars. These will be offered next Spring. As explained in the September 12th Announcement, "To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title."

Over 1.6 million high school juniors in about 22,000 high schools entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level. They will be notified of their designation in February 2019. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

Congratulations to our students, Alyson Jayne, Michael Harrison and Danielle Gerardi as we look forward to their further accomplishments in this program!

2018 - 2019
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