



# Horizons

*An Environment for Effective Teaching & Learning Volume 3, Issue 1 9/6/19*

## THE 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AND IT WILL BE OUR BEST ONE YET!

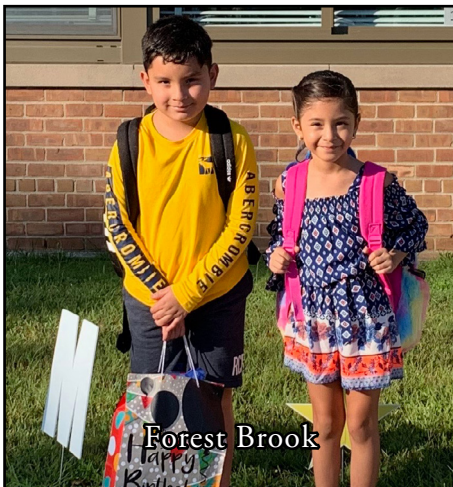
The 2019/2020 school year has begun! From our youngest learners in Kindergarten to our seasoned pros in their senior year, our students are settling into their new routines and getting prepared for an outstanding year. They are ready to explore, seek and find answers on their new avenues of learning.

Open school nights at Forest Brook, Bretton Woods and Pines Elementary Schools, and the Middle and High Schools help to welcome families and share information about exciting educational and social happenings which children will enjoy in the upcoming school year.

Parents are happy to see the wonderfully decorated hallways filled with student artwork.

We wish our students well in this upcoming year. We will keep you updated and informed on all the terrific achievements and happenings in our school district through the weekly "Horizons" newsletter which is available to you each Friday on the parent portal email and on our website, Facebook page and Twitter page. Also, be sure to check our District calendar and website frequently to keep informed about all that is happening in the Hauppauge School District.

Enjoy these photos of our students on their first day of school!



More photos on next page...





Chris Cook  
HS Principal

High School  
Opening Day



Dr. Dennis O'Hara  
Superintendent  
Chris Cook  
HS Principal



Karen Karpowicz  
Pines Interim  
Principal



Kristen  
Reingold  
Principal

Forest Brook



Dr. Dennis O'Hara  
Superintendent  
Michael Caulin  
MS Assistant  
Principal

Christine  
O'Connor  
MS Principal



George Gagliardi  
Principal  
Bretton Woods

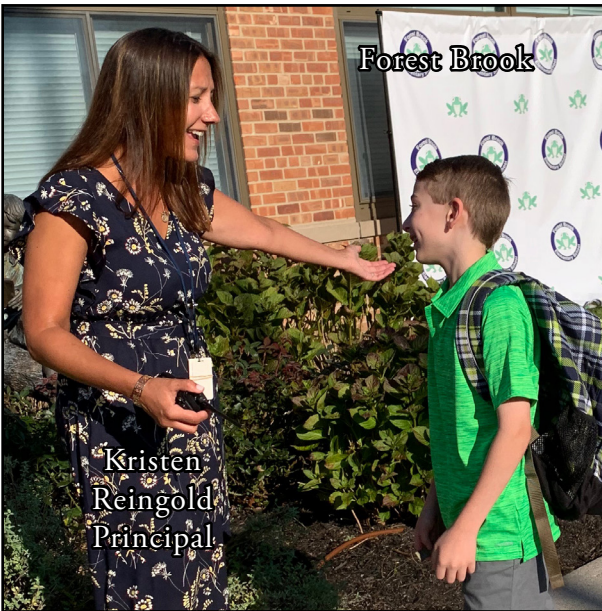




Dr. Dennis O'Hara  
Superintendent

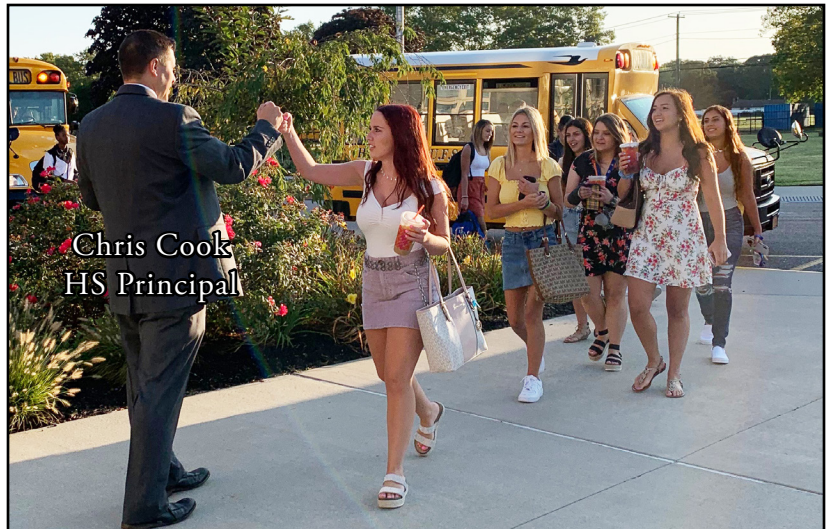


Bretton Woods



Forest Brook

Kristen  
Reingold  
Principal



Chris Cook  
HS Principall



Middle School



Bretton Woods



Middle School



Bretton Woods



# HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND, COLOR GUARD AND KICKLINE ARE SURE TO PLEASE THIS SEASON

During the week of August 12th, the High School Marching Band spent a full week honing their skills at Marching Band Camp. Under the direction of Band Teacher, Andrew Monsen, these musicians, as well as the Color Guard and Kickline, worked hard to get their music on point and their moves down pat. From the looks of it, the band is doing great and it proves to be an awesome season for them!



Hauppauge High School Marching Band

While everyone on the field played music and maneuvered through their routines, Mr. Monsen sat atop the bleachers in the press box and got an aerial view of the action. With microphone in hand, he guided the students in helping them fine-tune their routines.

The Marching Band, Color Guard and Kickline are comprised of approximately 130 students in grades 9-12. In addition to home football games, the band also performs at Homecoming which will take place on Saturday, October 12th. The Marching Band also participates in the Newsday Marching Band Festival which will take place this year on Wednesday, October 16th. This year, the Marching Band's music is based around hit songs that came out of popular films. Some of the songs are from "The Greatest Showman" and "Moana."

Mr. Monsen has been teaching at Hauppauge High School for six years. He said, "This is an incredibly hard-working and dedicated group of students. They really understand working as a team toward a common goal, in our case, the best performance possible." Mr. Monsen also said, "They really have such a positive attitude and a great work ethic that makes it a joy to work with them."

We look forward to seeing the Marching Band at upcoming home football games and performances!



More photos on next page ...







## “TALKING TO COMPUTERS” IS WHAT OUR CODING STUDENTS ARE LEARNING, AND DOING

The world of coding is like a mystery to those of us who didn't grow up in this new world of technology that surrounds us today. But, coding is definitely not a mystery to our students and they are embracing the offerings that our District is supplying and the list is only going to grow from here.

First, what is coding? The definition of coding is “A precise set of instructions a computer can understand.” Basically, all lines of code will tell a computer what to do. A document full of lines of code is called a script and each script is designed to carry out a job. Computers speak different languages; Python, C++, Perl and Visual Basic are just a few. Coding is basic literacy in the digital age and it is important for students to be able to work with it and understand the technology that is around them. Having children learn coding, even at a young age, prepares them for the future.

Coding has been deemed a helpful tool to students with other areas of their learning. It helps with communication, creativity, math, writing and lastly confidence. Coding is also a great prerequisite if a student wants to continue into a career in the world of technology. Some jobs that are available to a technology student are Software Application Developer, Web Developer, Computer Systems Engineer, Computer Systems Analyst, among many others.

Frank Hufnagel is a teacher at the high school. He has taught Web Design for 17 years. Last year was his first time teaching Python. Among courses in marketing and business, Mr. Hufnagel teaches Coding classes. His classes include HTML CSS Web Development (1/2 year), Python (1/2 year), and Coding 2 which is all Python and in which students learn game design. Students can start these classes in 9th grade and they are prerequisites for the IB Computer Science Course which is taught by Briana Becker and Dennis Petercsak. Mr. Hufnagel said that before he started teaching coding classes, students would enter IB Computer Science with no coding skills and they had to be taught them in that class. Mr. Hufnagel also teaches a summer bridge class for students who are entering IB Computer Science in the Fall.

Mr. Hufnagel said that Python is primarily a popular coding language and that YouTube is written with Python. The final project in his Coding 2 class on game design is to design a “brick breaker” game. The students also work on text-based games, 20 question games and the beginnings of AI (artificial intelligence).

High school students also work on obtaining “badges.” These are proof of a skill that is acquired in coding. After a student graduates high school, they will have been able to have built a portfolio showing proof of what they have done and the skills they have learned. When a student completes or solves a challenge, they earn a badge. Mr. Hufnagel said that colleges and employers are now using badges as credentials.

Mr. Hufnagel shared that on the first day of school, he shows his coding students a YouTube video that he finds important. It is titled “Coding is Easy and Why You Should Learn Coding.” The video features Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and other successful people who all started with coding. [Click here](#) to view this inspiring and informative video.

Elementary and Middle School students also are gaining exposure to coding with classes. We will bring you information on coding in these schools in future issues.

Thank you, Mr. Hufnagel, for an informative article!



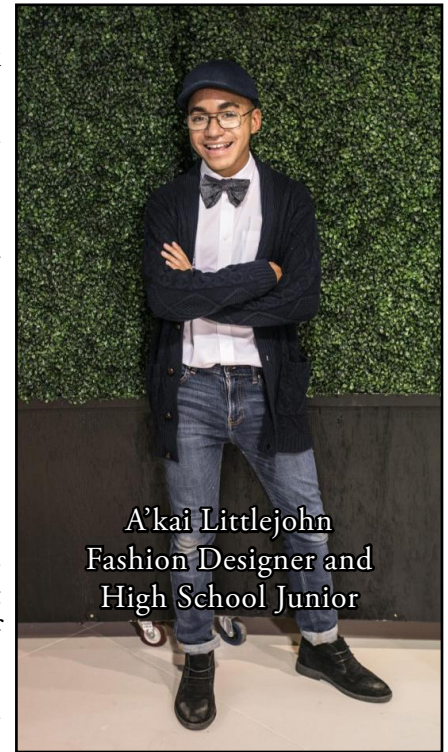


# HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR, A'KAI LITTLEJOHN, DEBUTS SOLO NEW YORK FASHION WEEK SHOW ON SATURDAY

A'Kai Littlejohn knew from a very young age that he had a passion for designing women's fashion. This passion has now taken him all the way to New York Fashion Week where he will debut his solo show for his anticipated Spring/Summer 2020 collection on Saturday, September 7th at the Hotel 50 Bowery located at 50 Bowery Street in NYC.

A'Kai is a luxury women's wear designer. As a toddler A'Kai displayed a confident love for design and women's fashion. His interest was ever prevalent on a daily basis. A'Kai had wonder and excitement in his eyes when he would touch materials and sketch his illustrations. His passion and drive was undeniably noticed by all that crossed his path. With his sketch book in hand, he was ready to ignite the world with his exuberant energy and his vision for his future.

A'Kai was determined to bring his designs to life. He had displayed trained techniques like the art of draping. He began to teach himself skills. A'Kai interned at the age of 9 for the couture house of Geracci Condello. He learned technical aspects of Fashion Design. A'Kai caught the eye of the critically acclaimed Project Runway with his hard work and dedication. He landed a spot on Project Runway Jr., Season 2. He was the youngest contestant to be cast in the history of the show at the age of 13. After filming, he privately showed his first collection, Spring/Summer 2017. A'Kai has since launched 3 collections and has showcased in New York Fashion Week.



A'kai Littlejohn  
Fashion Designer and  
High School Junior



A'Kai is the Creative Director for A'KAI Littlejohn, LLC., creators of luxurious women's wear. A'KAI, the brand was founded in 2016 and is an all-American brand that takes pride in having all production based in the United States. The brand features classic silhouettes with a modern edge.

A'Kai is excited for his new collection to be shown on Saturday. He said, "My Spring/Summer 2020 Collection is going to feature more silhouettes and colors than my three previous collections." He went on to say, "I used more techniques and a variety of luxurious fabrics where utilized to make my vision a reality. Yes indeed, this will be my biggest and best show yet."

Tickets are available to order if you would like to attend this Fashion Week event. [Click here](#) to view A'KAI's website to obtain tickets or to learn more about A'Kai.





# HIGH SCHOOL FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS ARE ACHIEVING GREAT THINGS

Dr. Laura Landor, Director of Fine and Performing Arts, has great news! First, it was announced in August that Angelina Mercurio has been named a Long Island Scholar Artist for Theatre and Rose Recce earned an Award of Merit for Music. Each year, the “Long Island Scholar Artist Program”, which is sponsored by the Long Island Arts Alliance, recognizes students who excel academically, and in the areas of either music, visual arts, dance, theater or media arts. Angelina and Rose will be honored at a Scholar-Artist Induction Ceremony to take place at the Tilles Center which is located on the campus of LIU-Post, on Wednesday, September 11th.

Secondly, Dr. Landor was thrilled to announce in late August that the following students were selected as All-State participants for the 2019 NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester, NY:

Luca Iallonardi – Mixed Chorus  
 Sophie Epstein – String Orchestra  
 Aidan Lobenstein – String Orchestra  
 Emily Michels – Treble Chorus  
 Rose Recce – Treble Chorus



Rose Recce  
Award of Merit  
Music

Angelina Mercurio  
LI Scholar Artist  
Theatre



Emily Michels  
Treble Chorus

Luca  
Iallonardi  
Mixed  
Chorus

Rose Recce  
Treble Chorus



Leah Paese  
HS Orchestra  
Teacher

Sophie  
Epstein  
String  
Orchestra

Aidan  
Lobenstein  
String  
Orchestra

Dr. Landor said, “This is a huge honor and I couldn’t be more proud! The Hauppauge Music Department has a history of always being represented at the NYSSMA Conference. This is a testament to our hardworking students, supportive families and outstanding music educators from Kindergarten through High School.”

Congratulations to all of these accomplished Fine Arts students!





2019 - 2020  
Board of Education

David Barshay, Esq.  
President

Rob Scarito  
Vice President

Michael Buscarino  
Dr. Lawrence Crafa  
Gary Fortmeyer  
James Kiley  
Stacey Weisberg

Lori DeGeorge  
District Clerk



Central Office

Dr. Dennis P. O'Hara  
Superintendent of Schools

Jacqueline I. Pirro  
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Dr. Donald B. Murphy  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,  
Instruction and Technology

Joseph C. Tasman  
Assistant Superintendent for Personnel  
and Administration

Dr. Carolyn J. Probst  
Assistant to the Superintendent for Educational Services and  
Student Outcomes