



Horizons

Volume 4, Issue 8 - November 12, 2021

HAUPPAUGE SCHOOLS WELCOME NEW STAFF

Our new school year began with not only returning students, but also with new staff. Hauppauge Public Schools welcomed a new high school principal, teachers, social workers, and nurses.

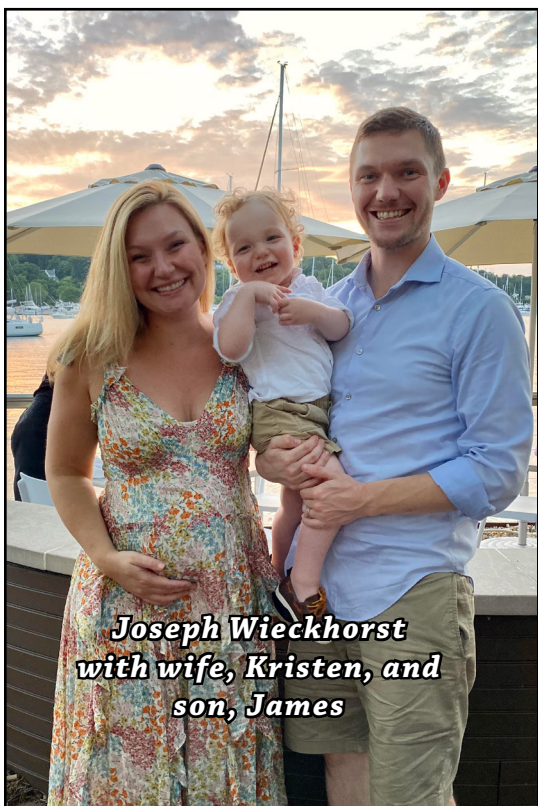
Joseph Wieckhorst is the newly named Principal of the high school. Joseph previously served as one of the high school's Assistant Principals for the past four years.

Joseph grew up in Levittown, NY and graduated from Division Avenue High School there. After getting married, he lived in Port Washington for a couple of years and then he and his wife, Kristen, bought their home in Huntington, NY in 2016 and have been there ever since. Joseph and Kristen, have a son, James, a dog, Indiana, and a daughter on the way!

Joseph went to college at St. John's University and earned his Bachelor's Degree. He then went on to Stony Brook University to earn his Master's Degree and after that to the College of St. Rose for his Administration Certification.



Joseph Wieckhorst
High School Principal



Joseph Wieckhorst
with wife, Kristen, and
son, James

Prior to becoming Principal, Joseph was a Math teacher at Louis Pasteur Middle School in Little Neck Queens. He also served as Math Department Coach for two years before getting the job as Assistant Principal at Lawrence Middle School. After he moved to Huntington in 2016, he got the job as Assistant Principal at Hauppauge High School.

In his spare time, Joseph loves to travel. Prior to COVID, he traveled frequently. He has been to Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Scotland, Czech Republic and many other countries. He has also studied abroad in Italy, France and Spain. He loves to spend time with his family and friends and is a very big fan of the Yankees, Jets, Islanders and Knicks.

When asked why he chose Hauppauge, Joseph said, "When I moved out to Suffolk County, I was looking for a long-term home to grow and help students. Hauppauge's mission and values closely align to what I value, so I went for the position because I saw myself here for a very long time. I also saw growth potential. I was so impressed by the people and the students. The academics, arts, and athletic programs here are second to none. I love everything about our schools and community."

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NEW TEACHER AND STAFF WELCOME

Gary Campanelli is the new Director of Guidance and Student Outcomes. He previously worked in the Half Hollow Hills School District at Half Hollow Hills High School East for 7+ years. He was a school counselor and also had the opportunity to serve as the interim assistant principal within the high school for a short period of time.

Gary grew up in Elmont, and moved to Plainview where he graduated from high school. He presently lives in Commack, NY. In his spare time, Gary loves to be outdoors and working on different projects. He said, "During the pandemic I built my two children a play area, and I have created new planting areas all over our property. I especially love to decorate for any holiday I can convince my wife our house needs lights for."

When asked why he chose Hauppauge School District, Gary said, "Growing up in Plainview, and now living in Commack, I was never too far from Hauppauge and applied here knowing that if I was fortunate enough to be offered the position that I would be coming into a true com-



Gary Campanelli



munity. In all my time in education, the students and families have always been bright spots and I didn't want to lose that contact with families when my career path changed. I knew with Hauppauge I could take a leap to push myself with more responsibility, but also knew that I would still be able to have those bright spots as a part of my everyday routine. Hauppauge just checked off all the boxes I was looking for when sitting with my family, and I was fortunate enough to be offered a spot in this great community."

teacher. She was a Special Education Teacher Leader for the eighth-grade team for two years. Jessica is from Sayville, NY. In her spare time she loves taking her adorable Mini-Australian Shepard, Callie, for walks. She also likes to play beach volleyball over the summer and going to concerts to see her favorite bands play. Jessica said that she chose Hauppauge "because of the overwhelming sense of family and community that this district has. I wanted to find a school and district that I could call home and I think I've found that here at Hauppauge!"

Jessica White is a new Special Education teacher at the high school. For the last eight years, she worked in New York City at "The Scholars' Academy" in Rockaway Park, Queens. She has previously taught everything from sixth-grade math to Precalculus as both a general education teacher and special education



Jessica White and her dog, Callie

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NEW TEACHER AND STAFF WELCOME



Toni-Ann Kushner

Toni-Ann Kushner is a Reading teacher who divides her work day between the Middle School and Bretton Woods Elementary School. She has previously worked in the Levittown and West Hempstead school districts. She has held the titles of Teaching Assistant, Permanent Substitute, CSR Math Instructor and Reading Teacher.

Toni-Ann grew up in Wantagh, NY and currently lives in Plainedge. In her spare time she likes to play softball which is something she has been doing for the past 35 years. She also helps coach her six year old daughter's T-ball team. Toni-Ann also loves to watch and attend Yankee games with her family and friends, and likes to read and go to concerts. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Toni-Ann said, "I chose Hauppauge be-

cause I love how the district consistently maintains its reputation for outstanding academic, athletic and artistic achievements. All areas that make for a well-rounded student. The teachers are constantly given various opportunities to expand our knowledge to implement new ideas in the classroom. The administrators go above and beyond to make sure that we are well equipped with whatever we may need to ensure our teaching is up to date with the latest technology. My colleagues have quickly turned into friends in the short amount of time that I have known them. They are always willing to help out and share their ideas to help drive my instruction."

Cheri Campisi is a school nurse at Bretton Woods. She attended Suffolk Community College and St. Joseph's College and has been a nurse for 22 years. She worked for Catholic Health System in the hospital for 20 of those years. Her background includes working on medical surgical units, the Emergency Room for 4 years and the Recovery Room for 10 years. She left that position for a position at Stony Brook in the outpatient setting in 2019 and when the pandemic broke out, she was floated to the COVID unit for several months. She also works part time in the recovery room of a local surgery center.

Here is where her story gets better! Cheri said, "I was called to



Cheri Campisi with Isabel Joy and RJ



Isabel Joy



Megan Gersbeck

foster a premature baby in the NICU. In May of 2020 I brought that baby home, and have had Isabel Joy ever since. The adoption is just about finalized, and we couldn't be happier. I also have an amazing 12 year old son, who is loving his baby sister!!"

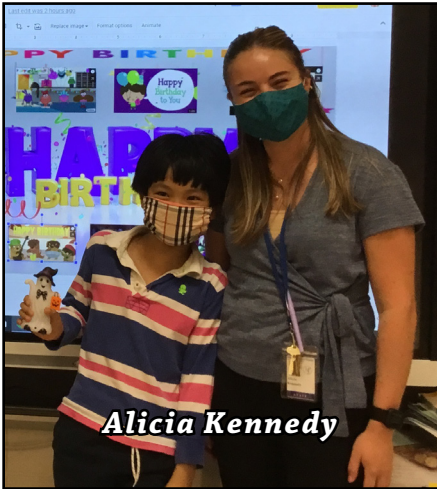
When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Cheri said, "I'm a Hauppauge alumni, and so is my mother!. She graduated before the high school was built! Her high school was what is now the middle school. My parents still reside in the Smithtown Pines, and we live in Nesconset. In my spare time, I love to garden and take care of our 6 chickens."

Megan Gersbeck a Social Worker at the high school. She has previously worked at the "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Institute" at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts and at "Family Service League" on Long Island. She has held the title of "Licensed Master Social Worker" at her previous positions.

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NEW TEACHER AND STAFF WELCOME

Megan is from Wading River, NY. In her spare time Megan enjoys coaching lacrosse for a local travel team. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Megan said, "I chose the Hauppauge School District because of its strong community feel. Go Eagles!"



Alicia Kennedy

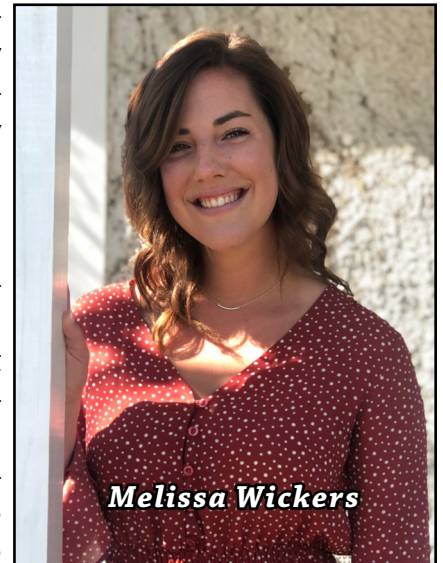
Alicia Kennedy is an ENL teacher at the Middle School. She previously worked at the Pierson Middle/High School in Sag Harbor. Alicia is from Patchogue, NY. In her spare time she likes to play with her puppy, Mac. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Alicia said, "I chose to work in the Hauppauge School District because of the amazing sense of community. When I was a student teacher in the middle school, I could tell the teachers and administrators genuinely cared about their students, and those are the type of people I wanted to surround myself with."

Melissa Wickers is a Special Education teacher at Bretton Woods. She previously taught second grade in Miller Place School District and was a Kindergarten Specialist for the New York City Department of Education.

Melissa is from Holtsville, NY and in her spare time she likes to exercise, spend time with family and friends, and travel. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, she said, "I chose to work at Hauppauge because I love the tight knit community Hauppauge embodies and how welcoming everyone is!"

Cassandra Block is a teacher at The Pines. She has previously worked in childcare with children ages birth to four years old. She has also worked in the William Floyd School District as a Teacher's Assistant. After student teaching at The Pines, she became a permanent substitute. She then completed a leave replacement in the Wantagh School District and then worked in the Summer Jump Start Program here in Hauppauge before being appointed to her permanent role.

Cassandra is from Lake Grove, NY. In her spare time she loves taking walks, practicing yoga, biking, crocheting, cooking, spending time with her family and watching Netflix! When asked why she chose



Melissa Wickers



Cassandra Block



Kaitlyn Scharrenbroich

Hauppauge, Cassandra said, "I chose Hauppauge because beginning as a student teacher, I loved coming to work at the Pines everyday. Not only are students excited to be here, but I work with and am supported by an equally excited and enthusiastic staff! I am so proud to work somewhere that is clearly devoted to the growth of children, not only academically, but socially, emotionally, and physically. I am so fortunate to work somewhere and with people I love. Being a teacher in Hauppauge has really been a dream come true."

Kaitlyn Scharrenbroich is a Reading Specialist at Forest Brook. She previously worked at the A.P. Willits Elementary School in the Syosset School District as a Special Education consultant teacher for third and

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NEW TEACHER AND STAFF WELCOME

fifth grade. She is from Stony Brook and hopes to purchase a home there in the near future.

In her spare time, Kaitlyn enjoys being outdoors running, walking her dog, hiking and going to the beach. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, baking and traveling to new places. She also loves to read thriller/mystery books, but "Harry Potter" is her all-time favorite series. She is having fun planning her wedding for next Fall.

When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Kaitlyn said, "I am so happy and proud to be a part of the Hauppauge School District. I love that Hauppauge is a tight-knit community, where we all come together to support one another and work as a team to cultivate an environment that encourages students to discover their fullest potential. There is no greater gift than this! I look forward to working with and learning from all the wonderful teachers in the district. I am very excited to work with the incredible Hauppauge team and to share my passion for reading with my amazing students.



***Anne Pesqueira with
her children***

Victoria Goodfellow is an elementary teacher at Bretton Woods. She previously worked in the Bronx at a charter school for three and one-half years. She worked as a third-grade teacher, as well as a second grade teacher. She also has been a substitute at Connetquot School District and a Teachers Assistant at Brentwood East Middle School.

Victoria grew up in Hauppauge and went to Bretton Woods! She also attended the middle school and graduated from the high school in 2009.

In her spare time, Victoria likes to spend time with her nieces and nephews. She also loves to read, dance and travel. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Victoria said, "It has always been a dream of mine to teach in Hauppauge ever since I was a student here. I have always loved the schools and the community. It is so great to be back!

Anne Pesqueira is an ENL and Social Studies teacher at the middle school. She worked in Patchogue/Medford School District for two years, and for the New York City Department of Education before she had her children. She taught Social Studies in both middle and high school. This is her first year teaching ENL and Social Studies.

Anne is from Garden City, NY. In her spare time she likes to spend time playing with her three children! When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Anne said, "I chose the Hauppauge School District because of its extensive diversity, but small town, community feel."



***Victoria
Goodfellow***

NEW TEACHER AND STAFF WELCOME



Joan Longo

Joan Longo is a new Science teacher at the high school. Joan has previously worked in Rhode Island, New York City and two other schools on Long Island. She has been a Lasallian Volunteer, Chemistry and Physics teacher, as well as Science Department Chair.

Joan is originally from New Jersey, but she said "the nice part!" In her spare time, Joan likes to hang out with her kids, her husband and her dog. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Joan said, "I chose Hauppauge because I like the school and this area, and I felt that my job would be both a good fit for the school and for me."

Danielle Hillier is a Special Education teacher at the high school. She previously worked at Syosset High School as a leave replacement and Assistant Teacher. She is from West Islip. In her spare time, Danielle likes to read, cycle, bake and spend time with

family and friends. She said the following when asked why she chose Hauppauge, "I chose Hauppauge High School because it seemed like a great community to become a part of. During my interview process, each faculty member was genuinely nice, supportive, and made me feel welcomed from the start! At Hauppauge, you can truly see how much the staff truly cares for their students."

Thank you to all of our new staff that responded for this article! We hope to feature more new staff in the near future!



Danielle Hillier



SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF "VOICES OF DEMOCRACY ESSAY COMPETITION"

The Social Studies Department is proud to announce the results of the "Voices of Democracy Essay Competition" hosted by VFW Post 10870. Students in AP Government and Politics and IB History II classes participated in the local competition. Students from Hauppauge, Smithtown East and Smithtown West High Schools participated.

This year's theme was "America - Where do we go from here?" We are happy to announce that Vaishnavi Ravichandar has placed first in the "Veterans of Foreign War Voices of Democracy Essay Competition" and she will move onto the Long Island competition. Additionally, Gabriella Misciagna placed second in the competition. The following students, Isabella Calvao (Mr. Shehigian), Gabriella Misciagna (Mr. Shehigian), Vaishnavi Ravichandar (Mr. Reiff), and Jessica Sconzo (Mr. Shehigian) were selected to move forward from Hauppauge.

Vaishnavi will read her essay on Veterans Day at the Smithtown Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11 at Veterans Plaza. Please join the social studies department in congratulating these students.

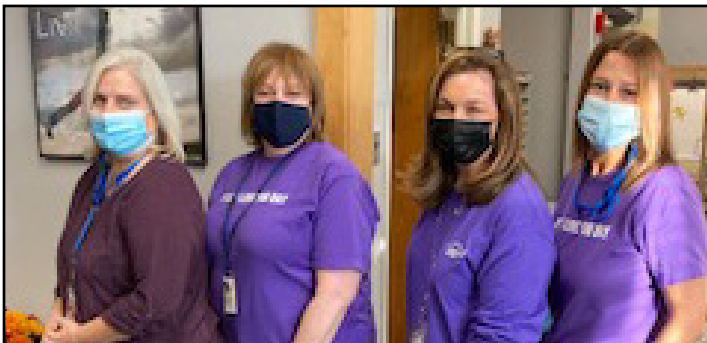
If you would like to read Vaishnavi's winning essay, [click here](#).



FOREST BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES "WORLD KINDNESS DAY"

Forest Brook students recently celebrated "World Kindness Day" which is an international observance introduced in 1998 by the "World Kindness Movement." It is observed in many countries including Canada, Australia, and Nigeria among others. The purpose of the observance is "to help everyone understand that compassion for others is what binds us together. This understanding has the power to bridge the gap between nations."

Forest Brook students wore purple! Here are some photos from their day!



BRETTON WOODS STUDENTS GO "BLUE" FOR WORLD DIABETES DAY

In support of "World Diabetes Day" which is Sunday, November 14th, Bretton Woods students and staff wore BLUE this past Friday to help raise awareness for the fight against Type 1 Diabetes.

This is a cause that is close to the heart of fourth-grade teacher, Danielle Sukoff, whose youngest daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Danielle sent a special letter to the parents which said, "This is a cause truly close to my heart and I wanted to take this time to share a personal part of my life with you all. On November 9th, 2015, my world was changed forever. My youngest daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. My world was turned upside-down when I heard the news. For the past few years, I have been immersed in educating myself about diabetes in order to keep my daughter safe and healthy. It has been very overwhelming, but I am committed to finding a cure. Type 1 is an autoimmune disorder where the body turns on itself and destroys the pancreas's ability to produce insulin and there is no cure. My daughter now has to finger prick to test her blood a few times daily, wears a pump to inject insulin into her system and also a CGM to monitor her blood glucose levels alerting us of highs or lows, so that we can keep her safe. Every day is a new learning experience and we are always faced with different obstacles but I could not be prouder of my hero and how maturely and bravely she has handled this challenge in her life."

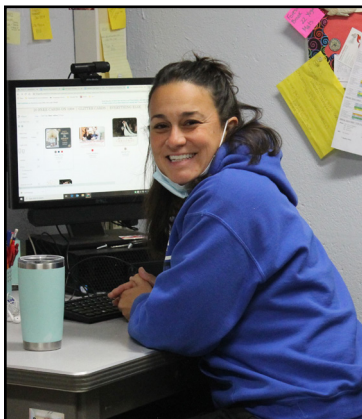
Danielle also said, "I thought it would be nice for all the students to wear blue on November 5th in support of this cause and to help fight Type 1 Diabetes. I thank you for your time and commitment to help stop diabetes!! I am forever grateful for your support."

The Bretton Woods students and staff did not disappoint and they came out in their BLUE to support Danielle and "World Diabetes Day." Here are some photos from the day.



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BRETTON WOODS - WORLD DIABETES DAY



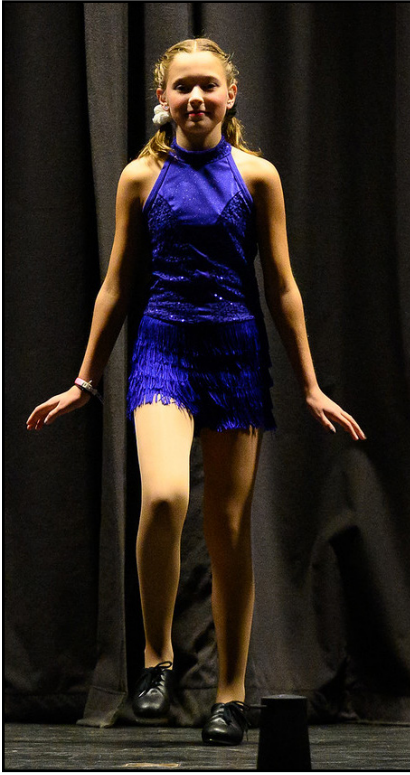
MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLDS TALENT SHOW AND OUR STUDENTS PROVE THAT “HAUPPAUGE’S GOT TALENT !”

The Middle School recently held their Talent Show! The student acts delighted all those who attended. What a great show! Here are some photos of the students in action courtesy of Frank Bayer!



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MIDDLE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW



Annual Fall

Craft & Gift

FAIR

NOV 20 & 21

INDOORS

10am-4pm

Hauppauge HS

500 Lincoln Blvd

Hauppauge NY 11788



To Benefit Hauppauge HS PTSA

MASKS REQUIRED

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