



Horizons

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HAUPPAUGE STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL WITH BIG SMILES AND A WARM WELCOME

Students arrived for their first day of school for the 2021/2022 school year on September 1st. The halls of our five schools; Bretton Woods, Forest Brook, Pines, Hauppauge Middle School and Hauppauge High School were once again bustling with the excitement of a new school year!

The administration and staff of each of the schools were on hand when the buses arrived to personally greet the students and anxious faces soon wore big smiles. Many students feel their school is like a second home. These positive and welcoming attitudes help ease students into a new school year where great things will be accomplished.

Each building was immaculate as the students entered. The custodial staff worked hard all summer to get the hallways and classrooms in pristine condition. The secretarial staff also worked hard all summer to make the opening day run smoothly and efficiently. The grounds crew completed the picture with manicured lawns.

We are very fortunate at Hauppauge to welcome our new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Donald B. Murphy, to his first "new" school year as our leader. Dr. Murphy recently sent a letter to our community prior



***Superintendent of Schools,
Dr. Donald B. Murphy,
with Middle School Students***

to school opening and said, "It is with great excitement that I write to you as we embark on another school year. Our number one goal has been to have all Hauppauge students back on school grounds, to learn, participate in sports and activities, and socially connect with their friends and classmates again. That goal will be reached starting Wednesday, September 1st, when our students walk through the school doors, down the hallways, to their classrooms." If you would like to view Dr. Murphy's letter, [click here](#). To view the Hauppauge Public School Reopening Plan, [click here](#).

Dr. Murphy invites all parents and community members to join us at throughout the year at special events and meetings listed on our District Calendar, including those of our Board of Education. Be sure to contact our school principals to learn about building ac-

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tivities and volunteer opportunities. Additional partnership opportunities are available through our PTA's, SEPTA, HEF, and other organizations. If you would like to view the District Calendar, [click here](#).

Some of our school principals shared their thoughts on the reopening of school. George Gagliardi, Principal of Bretton Woods Elementary School said, "All signs point to another incredible and productive school year at Bretton Woods. The entire Bretton Woods Faculty and Staff is so delighted to be a part of our amazing learning community. Our skilled and devoted staff has welcomed our students with open arms, building relationships right from the start! Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility for our return. And, our much-appreciated PTA is gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. Students, faculty and staff have already enjoyed two Spirit Days - Blue and White Day to celebrate our return to school and Red,



**Bretton Woods Principal,
George Gagliardi, with students**



**Forest Brook Principal,
Dr. Kristen Reingold,
with students**

White and Blue Day in memory of 9/11. We are indeed a School of Champions!!"

Dr. Kristen Reingold, Principal of Forest Brook Elementary School said, "The staff at Forest Brook Elementary School was excited to welcome back all of our students on September 1st. It's been wonderful welcoming our kindergarten students and the many new entrants to our school into our Forest Brook family. We had a very smooth opening despite the gloomy weather. Students were excited and energized when they entered our school building. This year we are looking forward to returning to so many of our traditional activities and procedures. A sincere thank you to the Forest Brook school community for your commitment and support. Together we are going to make this school year one of the best ones yet."

Chris Cook, Principal of Hauppauge High School had this to say about the high school's reopening, "At the High School, the year has begun without much fanfare. Our HS Administration stands out front each morning greeting students. Students say hello, they go to their classes and they engage in live teaching and learning. We have deeply appreciated our students cooperative approach, and we are so excited to see them flourishing in co-curricular, artistic and athletic activities! This year, despite some challenges, has been productive and will remain productive."

A warm welcome to both our new and returning students and staff! Let's make the 2021/2022 school year one of our best ever!



**High School Principal,
Chris Cook, greeting students**

"THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ROUND AND ROUND!" OUR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT KEEPS IT MOVING

Handling the transportation for over 3,500 Hauppauge students who attend public, private and parochial schools is no small task, but Gerry Kinsley, School Transportation Supervisor for the Hauppauge School District, makes it happen! Mr. Kinsley handles a variety of tasks in his position, with each one being as important as the other.

Mr. Kinsley wanted parents to know that bus information is available on the parent portal, regarding pick-up and drop-off times, bus route, bus number and bus stop location.

Mr. Kinsley said "Each year our school bus drivers take a refresher course. They also take a 19A Road Test, undergo additional training and a medical exam to be ready for September."

In August, the Transportation Department began working on their September listing of routes and balancing the loads of students on buses to avoid overcrowding. The District uses 30 large school buses and approximately 30 small school buses to transport all of their 3,500 students to the public, private and parochial schools they attend. Letters and bus schedules were mailed home to parents about two weeks before school began. Each letter contained the student's bus stop and route.

The Hauppauge School District is modernizing bus schedules with an app called "Here Comes the Bus." This was piloted in June of 2018 at Forest Brook Elementary School and is now used by all of our schools. How does this work? With GPS (Global Positioning System) standard on most school buses, "Here Comes the Bus" takes that information and translates it into an easy to follow program and map that works on a computer, tablet or smartphone. It allows you to see where the bus is and how close it is to your home. Your child's pick-up/dropoff location shows on the map as a red dot, with a circled radius around this dot. When the bus enters the radius (which is two minutes from the pick-up/drop-off), the parent gets a notification. When the bus reaches the pick-up/drop-off location and the bus door opens, the red dot turns green to let the parent know the bus is there for pick-up or if the student is off the bus for drop-off. Parents will receive information on how to download the app. They then will enter their child's student ID#, preceded by "HP." The reason for the "HP" to precede their ID# is that other Suffolk County school districts are utilizing "Here Comes the Bus" as well, and you want to distinguish that this is your child by putting "HP" before their student ID# representing the Hauppauge School District. [Click here](#) to view an informational sheet on "Here Comes the Bus."

Mr. Kinsley said with regard to younger students being dropped off at bus stops, "We do not drop off Kindergarten and First Grade students unless there is a parent at the bus stop. These younger students are never left unattended. If a parent is not at the bus stop, the student is kept on the bus and the bus driver radios for the school to contact the parent. If the parent is reached and makes it to the bus



***The Transportation Office
at Whiporwil District Office***



Here Comes the Bus

stop before the bus is finished with the route, the student is dropped off then. If the parent cannot be reached by the end of the bus route, the student is brought to the Transportation Office at the Whiporwil District Office on Hoffman Lane until their parent is able to pick them up.”

With regard to bus safety rules, Mr. Kinsley said that the bus drivers talk to students on every bus, every September. They are made aware that the bus has seat belts. Although it is not mandatory for students to wear a seatbelt on the bus, it is suggested to them to use the seat belts. Students are told that there is no standing, no screaming and no eating or drinking on the bus. One of the main reasons students are not allowed to eat on the bus is that there may be a student nearby them with a food allergy.

If your child ever reports a problem on the bus to you, please let the bus driver, classroom teacher or main office know so that the school may address the issue in a timely manner. The safety and well-being of every child is of the utmost importance.

Mr. Kinsley comes to the Hauppauge School District after retiring from the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) after 33 years. At the MTA, Mr. Kinsley began as a bus driver and retired as Assistant Chief Transportation Officer. He also worked at Suffolk Transportation after his retirement, and before joining Hauppauge Schools three years ago.

Running the Hauppauge Public School’s Transportation Office is a very important job. Mr. Kinsley and his fleet of drivers do a great job with the importance of our children’s safety always at the forefront.



STUDENTS GET TO KNOW THEIR SURROUNDINGS BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

Before the school year begins, events take place for students to get to know their surroundings before they begin on the first day. Recently, middle school sixth-grade students attended an orientation to meet their principal, Christine O'Connor, and to get a first look at the building.

High School Freshmen also had an orientation to introduce them to the high school building and some of their fellow students. "Ignition Club" is an interactive leadership development program designed to make the transition from Middle School to High School a positive experience. The club description reads, "The club connects freshman with one another as well as the entire school community by challenging them to break out of old cliques and build new relationships. It trains upperclassmen to act as mentors helping to establish relationships that will continue throughout the entire freshman year."

The High School Drama Club also held a "mixer" for the Freshmen.

Here are some great photos of the orientations courtesy of Frank Bayer of Frank Bayer Photography! We thank you him so much!



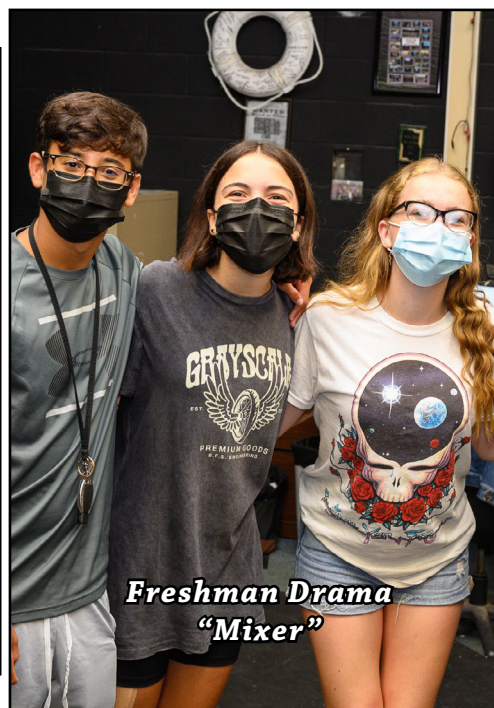
*Middle School Principal, Christine O'Connor,
with her new sixth-grade students*



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Freshmen Orientation

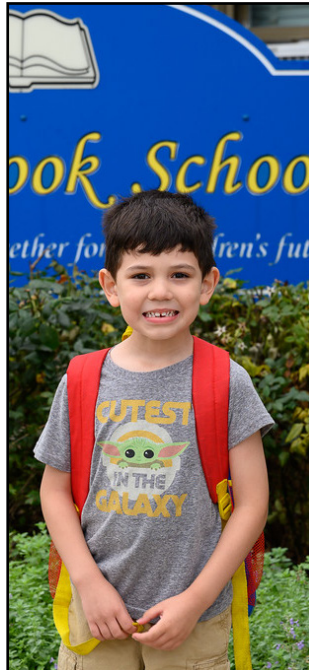


***Freshman Drama
"Mixer"***

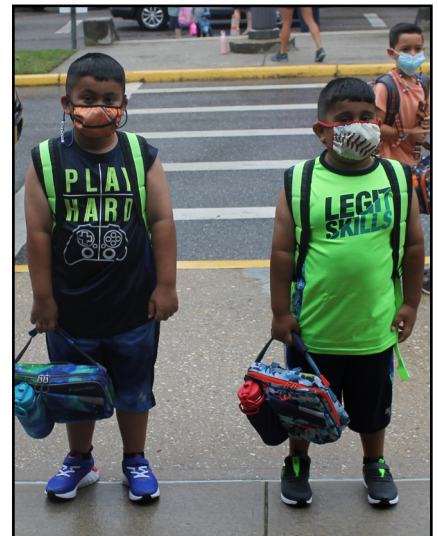


A GREAT START TO THE YEAR!

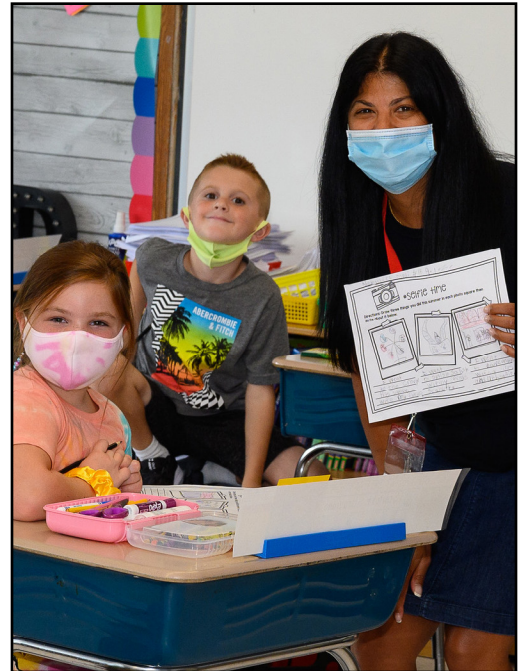
Enjoy this wonderful gallery of photos from around our District Schools. We had a great start to the year!



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