



Horizons

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow 

Volume 6, Issue 3- September 22, 2023

HAUPPAUGE SCHOOLS WELCOME NEW STAFF

A new school year has begun, and while we welcome our students back, we also welcome our new staff members. Hauppauge has many new faces in their school buildings.

Kevin Trentowski is the new Assistant Principal at the Middle School. Kevin grew up in Holbrook and attended Sachem High School. He received his Undergraduate Degree from SUNY Cortland, and his Masters Degree from Hofstra University. Kevin lives in Wading River with his wife, Tracey, and their three children. He has previously worked as a middle school/junior high school Health and Physical Education teacher, and was a volleyball and softball coach. He was also a K-12 Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics.

Kevin enjoys spending time relaxing, and traveling with his family, as well as supporting his children at their games and special events. He also likes to stay active by running, mountain biking and kayaking. When asked why he chose Hauppauge, Kevin said, "The opportunity to be the Assistant Principal at Hauppauge Middle School interested me because I really enjoy working with students during these important and formative years. Additionally, Hauppauge's strong reputation for educating the "whole child" felt like a good match for the skills I've learned over my career. I am enjoying the chance to meet the students and staff at the middle school during these opening weeks. I feel Hauppauge is a special place!"



Kevin Trentowski
Middle School
Assistant Principal



Natalie
Terrone

Natalie Terrone is a new Reading teacher splitting her time between the High School and Pines Elementary. Natalie is from Dix Hills and still lives there. She was previously employed as a first-grade Literacy AIS teacher, a third-grade Intervention Assistant, and a permanent substitute. In her spare time, Natalie enjoys reading, working out, shopping, and spending time with her friends and family. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Natalie said, "I chose the Hauppauge School District for the balance between academics and athletics. I love how the community revolves around the school district!"

Brooke Decker is a new Social Studies teacher at the High School. She is originally from Melville, but currently lives in Huntington. She has previously taught Social Studies in the Herricks, and Plainview-Old Bethpage school districts. In her spare time, Brooke likes to write, listen to Taylor Swift, play The Sims, and cook. She said the following about choosing Hauppauge, "Hauppauge has such a wonderful reputation across the island. It was clear even from the outside that this is a caring and close-knit community that I wanted to be a part of!"

Raquel Wilson is a new Special Education teacher at Pines Elementary. Raquel is from Dix Hills and still resides there. She previously taught Kindergarten, third, and fifth grades. In her spare time Raquel says you can find her on the beach reading a book, hiking upstate, or coaching the Hauppauge Middle School Cheeleleading team. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Raquel said, "I love Hauppauge's close-knit community and I am eager to get involved."

Welcome New Hauppauge Schools Staff



**Brooke
Decker**

Meg Catapano is a new Art teacher at both Pines and Forest Brook Elementary Schools. She was born and raised in Stony Brook and currently lives in Setauket with her husband, Joe, and their two sons, Brooks and Owen. Prior to joining the Hauppauge team, Meg worked in the Three Village School District. She is new to the education field and spent most of her previous career working in the corporate world executing events for tech companies. During her spare time she is an avid runner and loves spending time with her friends and family at the beach, and out on the water. On why she chose Hauppauge, Meg said, “I am so happy to be a part of the Hauppauge team. The values that Hauppauge has are very closely aligned with my own; respect for family, friends and community which made choosing this district an easy decision! I look forward to working with all of you and am grateful for the warm welcome.”



**Raquel
Wilson**

Brian Dellacave is a new English teacher at the Middle School. Brian is from Medford and still currently lives there with his family. He was previously employed at the Longwood School District as a full year leave replacement. Brian loves sports and his favorite team is the Knicks. He also loves being an English teacher and loves to read and write. Brian said he chose Hauppauge because of the people. He said, “Everyone I met along the hiring process, could not have been any nicer, and I truly felt like I was walking into a new family.”



**Meg
Catapano**

Jessica Merenda is a new teacher at Bretton Woods Elementary. She grew up on Long Island, graduated from Hicksville High School, and currently lives in Babylon. Jessica was previously a Special Education teacher in the New York City Department of Education for five years. In her spare time, Jessica likes to travel, read books, and hang out with her dog, Miles. Jessica said the following about choosing Hauppauge, “I chose Hauppauge School District as my future due to the extreme sense of community. Every person in Hauppauge is welcoming, warm-hearted, and happy to serve the school community. I am excited to have been able to join such an amazing district!”



**Brian
Dellacave**

Rebecca Gulino is an ENL teacher at the High School. She is from Commack and now lives in Hauppauge. Rebecca was most recently an English and ENL teacher at Forest Hills High School, and an ENL teacher at Locust Valley High School. In her spare time, Rebecca likes to see Broadway shows, watch football, and spend time with her family. Rebecca said the following about choosing Hauppauge, “I chose to work in the Hauppauge community because I wanted to contribute to the same community that I chose to raise my son, Austin, and grow my own family.”

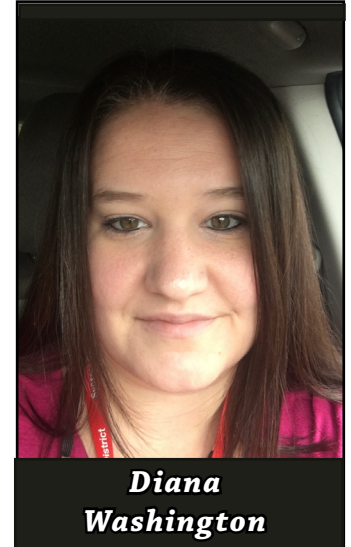
Jillian McFadzen is a new Special Education/Social Studies teacher at the High School. She was born and raised in Commack and still lives there. She has taught in the Hamptons and was the Assistant Varsity Softball Coach there for two years. Jillian loves going to Lake Wallenpaupack in PA, walking outdoors, and spending time with her family and friends. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Jillian said, “I chose Hauppauge because I love the sense of community the school brings. I love how involved the community is especially with the “Kicks for Cancer” soccer games. Everyone is so welcoming and it was a very easy transition. The staff here is always willing to help and answer any questions which is incredibly helpful especially as a new teacher (because we have a lot of them)! After hearing Dr. Murphy’s graduation speech this past year, I turned and said, ‘I would love to work for him.’ About a week later, my position opened up and here I am, thankful every day that I have the opportunity to work here at Hauppauge High School!”

Welcome New Hauppauge Schools Staff



Diana DiGangi is a district-wide social worker who is currently working in all of the elementary schools. She grew up in Brooklyn and moved to Long Island after getting married twelve years ago. She currently lives in Dix Hills. Diana was previously a social worker for sixteen years, working with diverse populations, including Social Services, private practice, and also in a BOCES school to address mental health barriers and improve the overall functioning of those she worked with.

In her spare time, Diana likes to spend time with her husband and two young boys, ages eight and six, playing ball or doing art projects. She also enjoys jogging, swimming, going to concerts, and going out to eat. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Diana said, "I chose the Hauppauge School District because the district understands the importance of supporting the social-emotional needs of each student so that they can do well academically, and in all areas of their lives."



Diana Washington teaches English/Reading at the Middle School. She grew up in South Huntington and resides in Melville now. Diana taught middle school English and Reading for the last thirteen years in Syosset. In her spare time she enjoys reading and coaching her daughter's softball team. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Diana said, "I chose the Hauppauge School District because it is a tight-knit community that promotes a connection between school and home."

Jennifer Bizzaro is a new Special Education teacher at Bretton Woods. She grew up in Nesconset and still lives there with her family. Jennifer's teaching experience has been here at Hauppauge. In her last semester of her undergraduate program at St. Joseph's University, Jennifer had the pleasure of student teaching at Bretton Woods where she remained as a substitute teacher and said that substituting gave her the opportunity to learn how to be a Hauppauge teacher through various leave replacements. She is happy to be teaching now across the hall from a classroom where she student taught in.

In her spare time, Jennifer loves to read, paint, or stay active by playing tennis or walking. She is an advocate for reading and supporting public libraries. As a former library employee, she thinks it is important to utilize all of the great local resources our libraries have to offer. She read eleven books this summer which helped her to reach her goal of reading 30 books this year!

When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Jennifer said, "I chose the Hauppauge School District because in all of my time here, between student teaching and substitute teaching, I have seen that Hauppauge is such an amazing community to be a part of. I feel so privileged to be involved in the Hauppauge community through teaching, and I am so excited to continue to grow my relationships with my colleagues and students."



Welcome New Hauppauge Schools Staff

Ashley Firestone is a new Elementary teacher at Forest Brook. She is from Kings Park and currently lives there. She was previously a second and third grade teacher. In her spare time, Ashley loves to spend time with her family. She has four nieces and one nephew whom she adores. She also loves to go to the beach and shop. Ashley said the following, "I chose the Hauppauge School District because when I completed my student teaching in the district I loved it and had an incredible experience! The staff is amazing and so is the community. I am so excited to be a part of an amazing district like Hauppauge!"

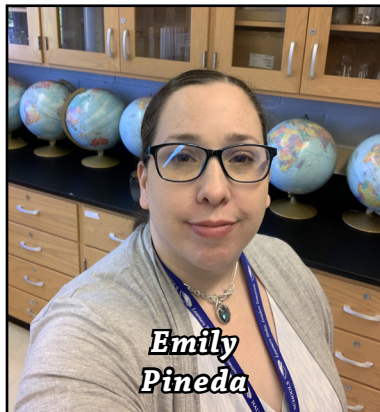
Anjalee Ramsaran is a Special Education teacher at Pines Elementary. She grew up in Deer Park and still currently lives there. Anjalee previously worked at "The Learning Experience" as Lead Teacher. She then taught in the Half Hollow Hills School District. After she graduated from St. Joseph's University, Anjalee became a permanent substitute teacher at the Pines. She also worked in the "Jump Start" program here in Hauppauge for the past two summers, before being hired for her permanent position.

Anjalee loves taking walks, playing board games, baking, traveling to new places, and spending time with her family watching "Netflix." Anjalee said this about choosing Hauppauge, "I am so happy and proud to be a part of the Hauppauge School District. I love that Hauppauge is a tight-knit community and how welcoming everyone is! At Hauppauge, you can truly see how much the staff truly cares for their students. I look forward to working with and learning from all the wonderful teachers in the district."

Nicole Miller is a new Special Education teacher at Pines Elementary. Nicole grew up in Smithtown and now lives in Nesconset. She started as a substitute teacher at Pines, and later became a leave replacement in one of the self-contained classrooms. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys being outside whenever she can. She loves to relax at the beach with a good book in the Summer, hike and explore new trails in the Fall, go skiing in the Winter, and do anything that keeps her active in the Spring. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Nicole said, "From the moment that I walked through the doors at Pines, I was met with such kindness from everyone that I met. There is such a sense of family and community throughout the entire district. Everyone is always ready and willing to help when they can. It is really remarkable and something I do not take for granted."

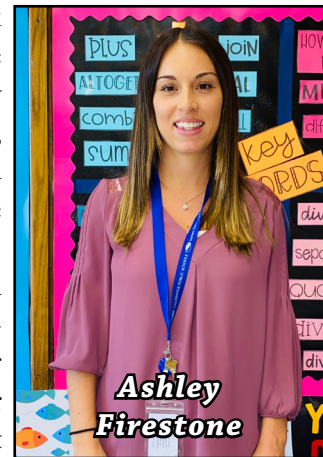
Emily Pineda is a new Science teacher at the High School. Emily is from Ronkonkoma, and still resides there. She has previously worked in the Comsewogue School District as an Earth Science teacher.

In her spare time which she says is "rare because she has four children and just started teaching so life is very full," Emily loves to read and travel. She has previously traveled to Ireland and Canada for vacations, and Jamaica, Australia, and Madagascar for science research. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Emily said, "I chose Hauppauge because I did my student teaching here last fall with Mr. Yablon and thought it was such a nice place to work! When the spot opened up, I was thrilled!"



**Emily
Pineda**

Julia Conlon is excited to be a new Special Education/Reading teacher dividing her time between the middle school and high school. She is from Bayport where she currently resides. Julia has previously worked as a fourth and sixth grade teacher and is looking forward to this new opportunity to teach middle and high school students. In her spare time, Julia enjoys reading, which makes sense to her as she is a reading teacher. She said, "It is my mission to help each of my students find the joy and magic that reading a novel provides. I am so grateful and excited to be a part of the Hauppauge School District where learners



**Ashley
Firestone**



**Anjalee
Ramsaran**



**Nicole
Miller**



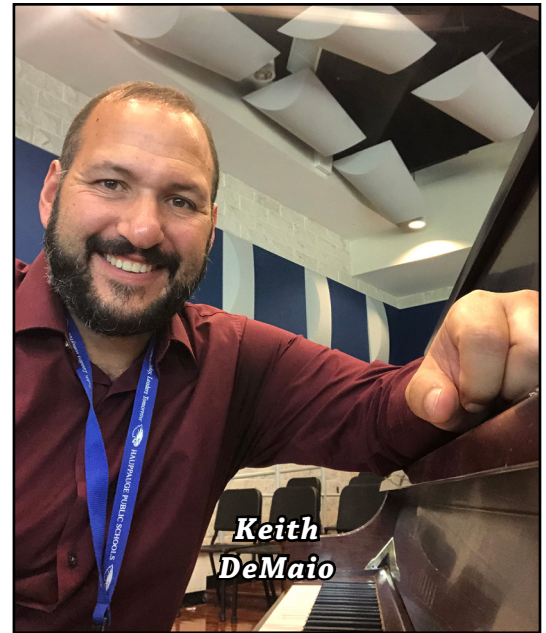
**Julia
Conlon**

Welcome New Hauppauge Schools Staff

are challenged everyday in a supportive environment to create our future leaders. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!”

Keith DeMaio is a new Music teacher at the middle school. He is originally from Islip Terrace, but currently lives in Islandia. Keith began as a substitute in the Hauppauge School District in November of 2020. Since March of 2001, he has been self-employed as a piano teacher servicing Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Although he started his new position at the middle school, he still teaches private lessons to 30+ students a week.

In his spare time, Keith likes to play hockey, cook, and enjoys being active outdoors. He also plays keyboard and sings at his church in East Northport. When asked why he chose Hauppauge, Keith said, “I chose Hauppauge because of the feeling of family I see and experience here every day.”



**Keith
DeMaio**

Katherine Fredriksen is a new Special Education teacher at Forest Brook. Katherine is from Bethesda, Maryland, and currently lives in Smithtown. She previously has taught Pre-Kindergarten through fifth-grade in General Education and Special Education. During her spare time, Katherine likes to spend time with her husband and two children, travel, do crafts, read, and play board games. When asked why she chose Hauppauge, Katherine said, “My husband is a Hauppauge alum and has always spoken such wonderful things about the district and community.”

Casey Shimborske is a new Special Education/Math teacher at the high school. She is from Farmingdale and still resides there. Prior to joining Hauppauge, Casey was a Special Education ELA/Social Studies leave replacement in Malverne, and a Math leave replacement in Seaford.

In her spare time, Casey coaches a varsity girls’ soccer team, and spends time with her two dogs. She likes to stay active any way she can. Casey said the following when asked why she chose Hauppauge, “I chose the Hauppauge school district because it seemed like a great community to be a part of, and environment to work in.”

Thank you to all of the new staff who participated in this article! We are happy to get to know you! Welcome to the Hauppauge School District!



**Katherine
Fredriksen**



**Casey
Shimborske**



Welcome!

FOREST BROOK KINDERGARTNER IS A “NEWSDAY” COVER GIRL

We have a celebrity in the house!!! Forest Brook Kindergartener, Ella Jimenez, won the front cover of “Newsday’s Fall Fun Book 2023!” Ella’s mom, Melody, a 2011 Hauppauge HS graduate, entered her daughter’s picture and it was chosen out of thousands of entries!

Congratulations to Ella and her family! Here are the photos of the Fun Book and Ella!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS UPDATE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

At the Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd, our three elementary school principals; George Gagliardi of Bretton Woods, Michael Caulin of Forest Brook, and Dr. Claudine DiMuzio of Pines, updated the Board on the start of the school year. The principals have all reported that they are off to a fantastic start and that the students, teachers and staff in their schools are all looking forward to a great school year!

Here is a photo of them with our Superintendent, Dr. Donald Murphy, at the BOE meeting on Tuesday.

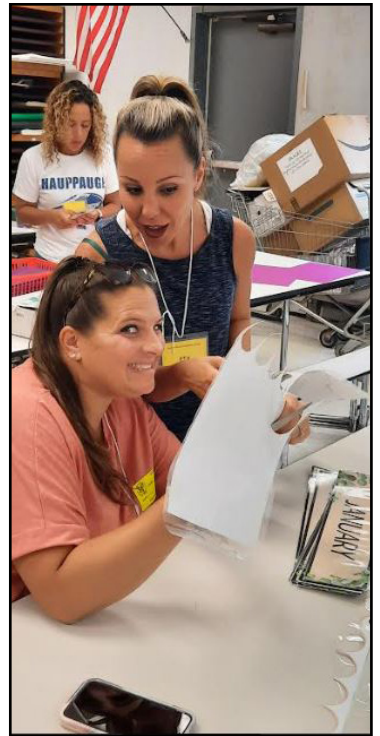
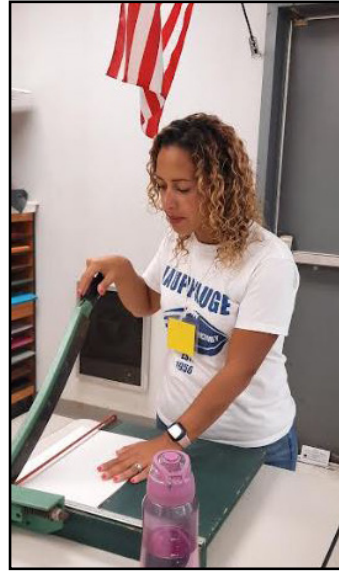
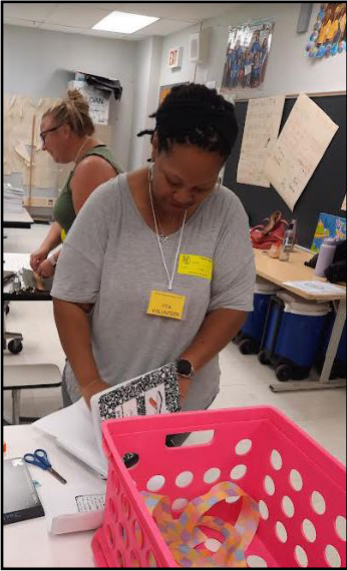


***Dr. Donald Murphy, Superintendent, with Elementary Principals,
Dr. Claudine DiMuzio, Michael Caulin, and George Gagliardi***

BRETTON WOODS PTA MEMBERS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO ASSIST TEACHERS AND STAFF TO START OFF THE YEAR

On Friday, September 8th, our wonderful PTA members came to Bretton Woods to volunteer their time and help teachers and staff with anything and everything they needed to get their school year off to a good start! They also brought the staff bagels, coffee, juice, fruit, granola and yogurt to show their appreciation for them. It was a great day!

Thank you to the Bretton Woods PTA! You are very much appreciated. Here are some photos from this special day of help.





HAUPPAUGE SOCCER

KICKS FOR CANCER

IN MEMORY OF COURTNEY TOMKIN



**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER
3RD, 2023**

**RAFFLES- \$5 OR
5 FOR \$20**

WINNERS WILL BE PULLED
BETWEEN GAMES

GAME #1- 4:00 PM

HAUPPAUGE BOYS
VARSITY SOCCER VS.
WESTHAMPTON

GAME #2- 6:00 PM

HAUPPAUGE GIRLS VARSITY
SOCCER VS. EASTPORT-
SOUTH MANOR

HHS TURF FIELD

T-SHIRTS- \$15
LONG SLEEVES- \$15
HOODIES- \$30
SUNGLASSES- \$3
BRACELETS- \$3
SHOELACES- \$3

LANYARDS- \$3
BLANKETS- \$25
BUCKET HATS- \$30
BASEBALL CAPS- \$25
OBSTACLE COURSE
BRACELET- \$10

**GAMES,
FOOD &
FUN FOR
A GREAT
CAUSE!**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:



**making
headway
foundation**

**COURTNEY TOMKIN
SCHOLARSHIP**



**LOCAL
FAMILIES IN
NEED**

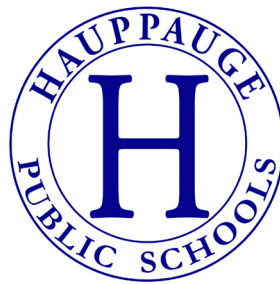
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