



# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## IMPROVING AND ENHANCING Our Facilities

Hicksville continues to focus on improving its educational facilities while enhancing and updating the program needs of 21st-century learners to ensure and encourage student success.

Most recent capital projects completed at the high school and middle school include HVAC air quality upgrades, a renovated art room, new turf field and, coming this summer, a new running track.

As part of a multiyear project rollout, 35 new univents have been installed in student classrooms and instructional spaces to improve indoor air quality. Approximately 71 additional units will be upgraded in the months ahead funded with Federal Stimulus money.

The first phase of the high school art classroom renovations has been completed and includes improved lighting, new tables, chairs, wall cabinets and window treatments. Renovation to an additional art room and art prep room will begin this summer at the high school.

The district celebrated the installation and replacement of the high school's turf field last fall. The running track will be replaced in the summer of 2023. The upgraded field and track will comply with NCAA standards.

The district continues to take great pride in providing our students with the means to reach their fullest potential, and thanks the community for its continued support.

*The Hicksville Comets are happy with the newly replaced turf at Hicksville High School. The running track will be replaced this summer.*



*The renovated art room at the high school inspires student to be creative.*



*HVAC improvements relating to air quality have been welcome additions throughout the district.*



# SUPPORTING STUDENTS FOR *Literacy Success*

Literacy is a priority for Hicksville Public Schools. This year the district's staff development focus for kindergarten through second grade teachers includes training that provides students with new phonics and reading programs to build a strong foundation in literacy. Foundations and Fountas & Pinnell Classroom are examples of new support resources that have been incorporated into everyday learning to enhance and develop an understanding of letters, sounds, words and books.

Through this balanced literacy approach, our young learners can utilize a variety of tools, materials, resources and strategies through an integration of all content areas. Students have multiple opportunities throughout the day to engage with language and build their reading skills. Engaging students in authentic texts and using a variety of instructional approaches, such as interactive

read-aloud, shared reading and guided reading, help to instill a love of reading and foster a positive attitude toward learning.

Teachers provide explicit instruction and meet students at their individual reading levels during guided reading to ensure that each student receives the support they need to make progress in their reading abilities.

During Foundations work students can be seen in a whole class lesson in which students use a multi-sensory approach to learning sounds of the alphabet and words. Students use dry erase boards, picture cue cards, magnetic letters and more to work on sounds, letters and their combination into words, phrases and sentences.

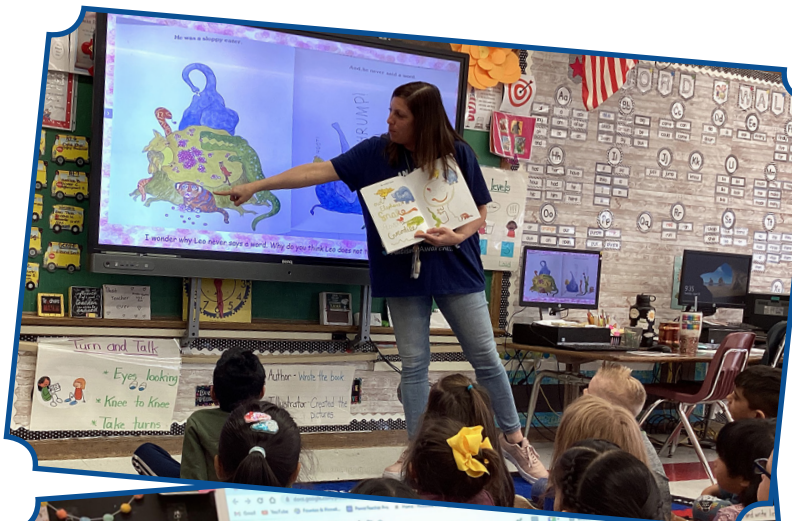
For the interactive read aloud students listen to the selected text while viewing the illustrations. The teacher stops at various points in the text to discuss what is happening in the story and helps students make

connections to what they are hearing and seeing.

During the shared reading the teacher and students read aloud a large version of a text which is usually above the students reading level and is read multiple times. This helps provide early experiences with print and promote the development of the reading process.

In guided reading small groups of students read teacher-selected text. This is when the teacher provides specific teaching and support for reading increasingly challenging texts. The teacher is responsive to individual student strengths and needs.

Next year, the district will be implementing this balanced approach throughout the third, fourth and fifth grades. Our goal is to dedicate time and resources toward enhancing literacy for all our students.



# STUDENTS IN THE Spotlight

## *Hicksville High School Jazz Ensemble Performs at NYCB Theatre*

The Hicksville High School Jazz Ensemble performed at MADD's (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Battle of the High School Jazz Bands competition held at the NYCB Theatre in Westbury in early March.

This is the second year MADD has coordinated the event, and the first time the Hicksville Jazz Ensemble has auditioned to take part in the competition. For consideration, groups were required to submit a five-minute audition piece judged by former music educators across Long Island. The Hicksville Jazz Ensemble submitted a recording of Stevie Wonder's "Sir Duke" for their audition. Initially selected as an alternate, weeks later it was announced the Hicksville students would have the opportunity to perform at the Battle of the High School Jazz Bands.

The competition featured five top ensembles from high schools across Long Island: East Meadow, Harborfields, Hicksville, Uniondale and Ward Melville. The grand prize for winning the event was \$1,000 and the opportunity to perform at Jones Beach Theatre in June.

The night of the event, the atmosphere at NYCB Theatre was electric, and the Hicksville Jazz Ensemble kicked off the evening by first performing their audition piece, "Sir Duke," followed by a Dixieland/Funk arrangement of "When the Saints Go Marching In."

"The Hicksville Ensemble performed the best they had all year, and it showed at the end of the night," Hicksville Supervisor of Fine Arts Chad Wyman said. "All the bands that performed were truly fantastic."

Hicksville students were in awe as they watched each succeeding band perform better than the next. At the end of the night, the Hicksville High School Jazz Ensemble placed third, and the group's lead tenor player Nisarg Shah received the Top Soloist Award.

The students were excited to be recognized as one of the top ensembles on Long Island after this experience. "It was a truly exhilarating experience for everyone involved in this evening and all for a very worthy and good cause," Wyman said.



## *Hicksville's Robotics Team Wins Regional Competition*

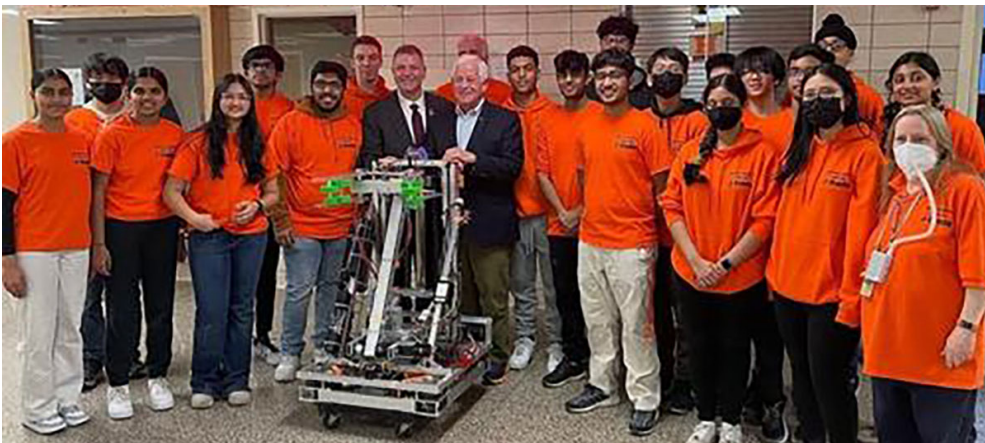
Hicksville High School's Robotics Team 1468, the J-Birds, recently won the FIRST Long Island Regional #1 and the Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors in Regional #2 that was held in late March at Hofstra University. Winning the regional competition gave them the opportunity to advance to the 2023 FIRST World

Championship in Houston on April 19-22.

At the Hofstra event, the J-Birds were one of 45 teams from around the world who competed in the 24th Annual Long Island Regional Robotics Competition held by FIRST Long Island. Throughout the competition, three teams worked together placing game pieces, including a cone and a Sphube (a

unique circular sphere). Teams are allotted 2 minutes and 30 seconds each match, including a 15 second autonomous period, where a robot runs exclusively through preprogrammed inputs. At the end of each match, teams must balance all three robots on a seesaw like station that requires extreme precision. As part of a FIRST team, members demonstrated to a panel of judges FIRST's core motto of "More than Just Robots" by presenting how their team has shown outreach to their community for the prestigious FIRST Impact Award.

FIRST Long Island, formerly School-Business Partnerships of Long Island Inc. (SBPLI), was founded in 1984. Its vision is to create partnerships between schools, businesses and community organizations to embrace school curriculum that inspires students to pursue careers in technology, engineering and science.



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**HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
IS NOW MOBILE**



The district has launched a new mobile app, available on the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app features push notifications, directory and contact information, calendars, lunch menus and information on late buses, extra help and more – all at your fingertips.

# ALUMNI *Spotlight*

## MICHAEL PAGANO

### *Hicksville High School Class of 2010*

#### **Former Hicksville Student Shares Personal Journey to Happiness**

After graduating Hicksville High School in 2010, Michael Pagano utilized his love of comedy and his skill set of writing and founded a performing arts company that specialized in writing, filming, directing and producing all original works. In total he has put on 12 original shows. Since then, he has met wonderful individuals along the way who also share his passion for the arts. Some other highlights of his career have included interviewing comedians Stephen Colbert and Dr. Patch Adams.

Pagano returned to his high school alma mater on various occasions to speak to students about careers and a fulfilling future. Pagano, an actor, comedian and writer, is happy to share his journey which incorporates his love of writing and

performing into dealing with the challenges of life and the many ways to seek success other than traditional routes of college after high school. When speaking to students, he is open and honest, and shares some of his own life obstacles that included a learning disability and overcoming addiction. He embraces his life and uses everything in it as a tool for his passion for arts and theater.

He is always honored for the opportunity to give back and share his personal story. Through his writing, he continues to channel his thoughts, emotions and feelings into a medium that entertains. This is a primary focus of what he shares with students. He encourages them to stay positive, find their personal influences and reminds them that regardless of life's obstacles, it's possible to make your own road to happiness.

