

SCHOOL

A Special Supplement to the Sullivan County Democrat

A look at activities
in The Wayne Highlands
School District

SCENE



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Subscribing to the 'Wayne Highlands Way'

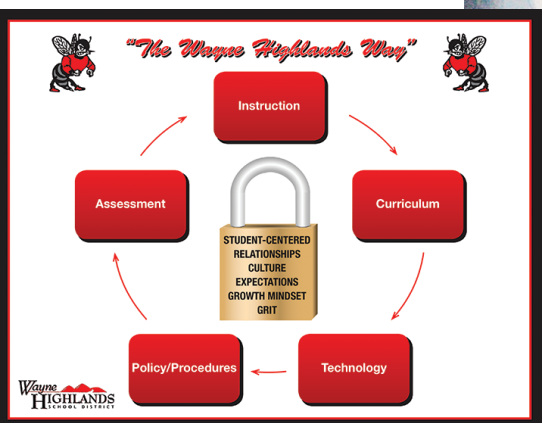
STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEREK KIRK

As the school year continues on within the Wayne Highlands School District (WHSD), the promise to follow the "Wayne Highlands Way" remains a constant as the home of the Hornets undergoes positive changes regarding personnel, equipment, and the signature locations within the high school hive.

Superintendent of the Wayne Highlands School District, Gregory Frigoletto, is welcoming in the annual change of the new



Above: Students of Honesdale High School are held to a high standard of excellence.



Left: The Wayne Highlands Way!

Right: Wayne Highlands School District Superintendent Gregory Frigoletto.



student-centered relationships, culture, high expectations, a mindset locked on growth, with a handful of grit and determination.

Instruction, assessments, curriculum, policies, technology and many other aspects of life are always changing and are reflected in the era in which students live and learn within the walls of the six schools. These things change, but the core remains the same.

Improvements are also in the works with new programs intended to serve students throughout the district.

"At the primary level, the WHSD will launch a new curricular offering, Wit & Wisdom, which will focus on literacy. This addition will complement the literacy curriculum that launched in grades 3-8 in the 18-19 school year," Frigoletto said.

"Wit & Wisdom is a comprehensive K-8 English language arts curriculum crafted to help students build the knowledge and skills they need to be successful readers, exceptional writers, and effective communicators. Wit & Wisdom students engage with complex, grade-level books, from the classics to newer works of literature," Frigoletto said.

"The growth of literacy skills, coupled with building a knowledge base, will set WHSD students up for learning success in their future."

year with the district's unwavering commitment to excellence, safety, and the "Wayne Highlands Way."

"Wayne Highlands has a long history of unmatched high academic achievement. So much of that has to do with great people doing miraculous things on a daily basis," Frigoletto said. "Every level of faculty and staff is included in that process..."

teachers, support staff, administration, administrative assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers... everyone. Everyone subscribing to the Wayne Highlands Way."

Although many things are subject to change, alter, and grow as time continues on within the district, Frigoletto and the entirety of Wayne Highlands ensures that at the core of the Wayne Highlands Way remains

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Honesdale School Scene

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**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY DEREK KIRK**

With the new school year also comes new features to the nest!

Honesdale High School has received some new upgrades to various parts around the building, including redesigns of the original 1959 bathrooms, revamping necessities in the kitchen area, and the continuing reconstruction of the theater that has staged many student-lead performances throughout the years.

The projects in total cost approximately \$7.596 million.

The bidded project acquired the use of Highland Associates for architecture and engineering and Quandel Construction for Construction Management. It also employed the work of D&M Construction as the General Contractor, L.H. Reed & Sons for Plumbing, Scranton Electric for Heating and Cooling, and Everon Electrical.

Going into a new school year really heats things up in the kitchen as students spend their lunches in the cafeteria, but with the replacement of the walk-in freezer



Above: The original 1959 bathrooms received a brand new redesign, lined in Hornet colors - black and red.

Right: The hope for the home for Honesdale High School's performing arts is to display an updated stage but retain that nostalgic feel of the original auditorium.

Below: The kitchens at the high school are better equipped to serve students with a new overhead vent, refrigerator, and walk-in freezer!



and refrigerator, fresh food is kept in peak condition for hungry students.

The bathrooms also received a new make-over with red and black tiles, sleek white flooring, and brand new utilities. These restrooms were the original workings from 1959, and had seen many generations of students in and out of their doors. Now, the Honesdale Hornets will be able to enjoy the brand new redesign for even more years to come.

In addition to these new upgrades, the Honesdale High School performing arts theater has been under construction in

anticipation of a brand new home for the school's theatrically and musically inclined student population.

Although uncertain of the exact reveal date, Honesdale High School Principal Dr. Peter Jordan anticipates the theater to be opened and operational by November of this year.

In addition to these projects, the future air quality in the high school is looking to rise with replacement of classroom's units, which also hailed back to the original 1959 era. This upgrade was fully funded by the ESSER grants.

Once a Hornet...



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dustin Roberts, Mathematics teacher at Preston Elementary/Middle School.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY DEREK KIRK

Many faces who have recently joined the Wayne Highlands School District team have circled back to their home nest as Honesdale High School Alumni and proud members of the community.

In the classroom, teachers both new and returning bring with them the familiarity of HHS into their craft. These teachers include Dustin Roberts, Marisa Avery, and Gretchen Finney.

Roberts is a well-traveled 2007 Alum of Honesdale who has found a position in his home community alongside his family. Roberts is a Mathematics teacher at Preston Elementary and Middle School.

"I came back because I felt like Honesdale gave so much to me when I was a kid...I always wanted to come back and give back," Roberts said.

Avery is a Biodiversity teacher at Honesdale High School, and is an experienced educator with seven years of teaching under her belt



Marisa Avery, Biodiversity educator at Honesdale High School.



A steadfast constant at Honesdale High School, Carla Swendsen, is tasked with numerous behind-the-scenes responsibilities, as well as overseeing student scholarships, organizing important events like Graduation, and keeping the financials in check.

within the Delaware Valley School District. Avery graduated from Honesdale in 2011.

"Growing up here, I always knew that I wanted to come back because of the impact that many of the teachers had on me," Avery said. "My family still lives here...I want my kids to grow up in a similar environment that I did."

Returning as an educator in the classroom after a four-year hiatus is Gretchen Finney, a Family and Consumer Science teacher at the Wayne Highlands Middle School.

Finney said that her biggest reason for coming back is that it is what she is meant to do.

"Deep down, I knew I was always coming back, it was just when was I going to come back," Finney recalled.

A Friendly and Fresh Front Desk

Wayne Highlands welcomed new members of their team not only in just the classroom, but in the Middle School's Front Office as well. Greeting Middle School students with a fresh smile are Principal's Administrative Assistants, Amanda Griffenkrantz and Karen Worzel.

Griffenkrantz is entering her second year with Wayne Highlands and is a graduate of Delaware Valley School District.

Griffenkrantz formerly worked at Woodloch Resort as a banquet coordinator.

"This year is a fresh start,"

Griffenkrantz said with an optimistic outlook in moving forward into the new school year.

Worzel, who also previously worked at Woodloch Resort as a reservation/sales agent, joined the hive for the first time in June.

"I was looking for a change for myself," Worzel said, going on to say that the best part of this change is assisting students in their every day lives.

Honesdale's heroes

With every new undertaking comes its bumps and bruises, but all will be well as the new School Nurse at the high school, Lacey Utegg RN, has taken over for the previous School Nurse, Dorothy Rickard.

Utegg is a 2005 Honesdale graduate.

"Being a graduate of this school and district, I knew how well they had prepared me to succeed in life," Utegg said, adding that she is excited to offer that same preparedness in kind to students who may have chronic illnesses, mental health issues, and other challenges.

Honesdale High School has seen a great number of changes, but one constant that has remained as a flagship to steer the district in a positive path. That constant is Carla Swendsen, who is tasked with many responsibilities including managing scholarship programs, coordinating Graduation and other major events, and keeping the finances



The Wayne Highlands Middle School is seeing an increase in subscribers to the "Wayne Highlands Way" with (L-R) Administrative Assistants Karen Worzel, Amanda Griffenkrantz, and returning Family and Consumer Science teacher Gretchen Finney.

for the schools organized. "Wayne Highlands is known for their Wayne Highlands family. We always try to take care of each other," Swendsen said. "If someone has a need [or] a crisis...I can say that Wayne Highlands...comes to the rescue, and we do whatever we can to support our colleague."

It takes a Hive...
Wayne Highlands School District Superintendent, Gregory Frigoletto, held a positive view on all those who have recently joined the Wayne Highlands team, as well as those who have served the

district for many years. "It's all about people, and I can't stress that enough," Frigoletto said.

"The people that we have are part of the 'Wayne Highlands Way'," Frigoletto said with the inclusion of teachers, administration, janitorial and food service, bus drivers, and the many other departments and groups who put Wayne Highlands at the forefront of their mind.

"...you can't remove one of those groups and have those Wayne Highlands systems be the same."

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