

SCHOOL

A Special Supplement to the Sullivan County Democrat

A look at activities
in The Wayne Highlands
School District

SCENE

SECTION F
SEPTEMBER 8
CALLICOON, NY



Taking pride in high academic achievement

BY ALEX KIELAR

As they begin their 64th year, Honesdale High School continues to pride itself on being ranked among the top schools in the nation as far as academics go. The Pittsburgh Business Times recently announced their academic rankings for Pennsylvania, and Honesdale was the 69th-ranked school out of 500 districts in the state.

Honesdale High School is also ranked in the top 15 percent in the nation and will receive a certificate for being among the best high schools in America.

Honesdale was also awarded the distinction of being a "U.S. News Best High School" for 2023 by the U.S. News and World Report. U.S. News ranks over 24,000 high schools nationwide using academic performance and post high school preparation factors.

"It takes consistency and hard work from everyone involved in the process of schooling," Honesdale High School Principal, Dr. Peter Jordan said. "I would put our teachers up against anybody. But it also takes a combination of them, the families, and the students themselves to make sure all

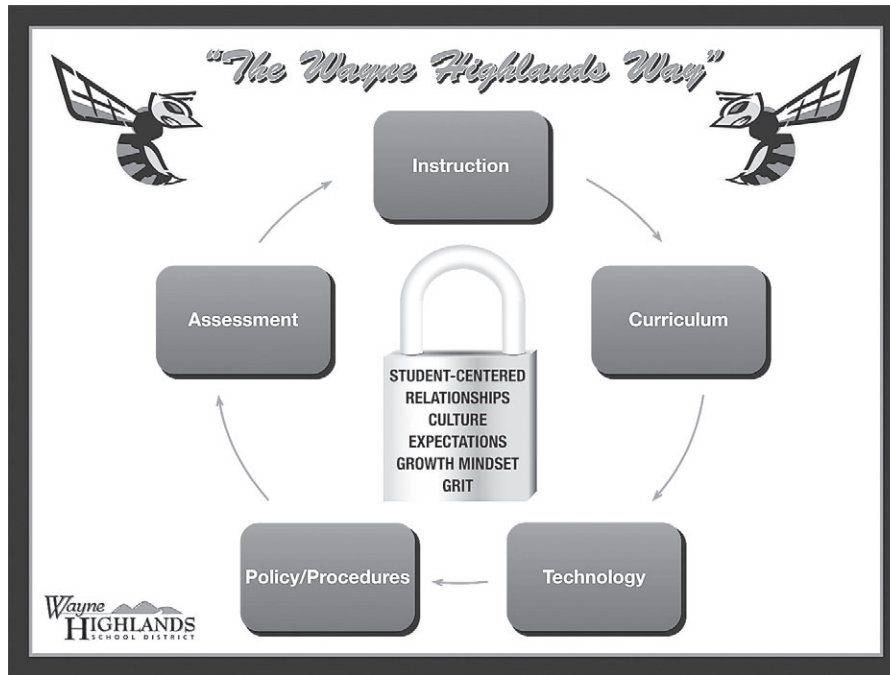
the hard work pays off. We have a very strong community of people here."

The expectations remain the same throughout Wayne Highlands School District to academically achieve at the highest level possible while also exuberating excellent behavior. Superintendent Greg Frigoletto talked about their "Wayne Highlands Way" and how everyone in the district from top to bottom subscribes to this idea. While many things in school and in life in general are always subject to change, the core of the Wayne Highlands Way remains constant.

"Everyone has a story," Frigoletto said. "You don't know what someone else is going through in their life outside of school and that goes for students and administration."

At the core of the Wayne Highlands Way remains a student-centered approach to relationships, strong culture, high expectations, a mindset always focused on growth, with a side of grit and determination.

"We are always striving to move forward in a positive way, no matter how much things change"



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

The Wayne Highlands Way Poster -- Remaining one of the top schools in Pennsylvania and the nation doesn't come easy. For Wayne Highlands School District, it comes by sticking to their values of the Wayne Highlands Way!

Frigoletto said.

Instruction, curriculum, assessment, technology, policy and procedures are some of the aspects that are constantly changing in student life, while the core remains the same.

New Programs

While improvements to facilities like the high school auditorium and athletic fields have ramped up, new academic programs and initiatives are also being instituted. That also includes expansion of current initiatives, says Dr. Jordan. One such program is a new mentorship program that

will have senior students helping eighth graders at the middle school as they make the transition to the high school as freshmen.

The school district is also implementing new science standards next year, STEELS standards, which stands for Science, Technology & Engineering, and Environmental Literacy & Sustainability. The STEELS standards, "guide the study of the natural and human-made world through inquiry, problem solving, critical thinking, and authentic exploration," according to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

School Scene

'A Look Inside the Wayne Highlands School District'

Published by
Catskill-Delaware Publications, Inc.

Publishers of the
SULLIVAN COUNTY
Democrat

(845) 887-5200

Callicoon, NY 12723

September 8, 2023 • Vol. CXXXIII, No. 27

Proud Member of



- Publisher: Fred W. Stabbert III
- Editor: Derek Kirk
- Sports Editor: Anthony Morgano
- Editorial Assistants: Nicole Birgler, Alex Kielar, Jeanne Sager, Autumn Schanil, Kathy Daley
- Senior Director, Advertising Sales: Barbara Matos
- Advertising Representative: Susan Panella
- Production Manager: Petra Duffy
- Business Manager: Sara Wendell
- Assistant Business Manager: Patricia Biedinger
- Telemarketing Coordinator: Michelle Reynolds
- Telemarketing Assistant: Jessica McKeon
- Classified Manager: Janet Will
- Production Associates: Elizabeth Finnegan, Nyssa Calkin, Rosalie Mycka, Ruth Huggler, Justin Mednick, Kristina Peric, Debra Thomas
- Circulation Manager: Debra Thomas
- Circulation and Distribution: John Fischer, Phil Grisafe, McKenzie Roberts



Thompson Sanitation

Waste Management and Recycling Services Since 1986

845-796-1032

KEEP IT LOCAL!

- Sullivan County's #1 Garbage & Recycle for Over 30 Years, Same Owner/Operator
- Competitive Pricing & Superior Service
- Servicing Local Communities throughout ALL of Sullivan County
- Keeping Jobs and Money in Sullivan County
- Residential Program... Roll-Offs... Commercial... Special Clean-Ups



www.thompsonsantiation.net

Don't Get Left On the Curb! Call Thompson Sanitation TODAY!

New brand, same expectations

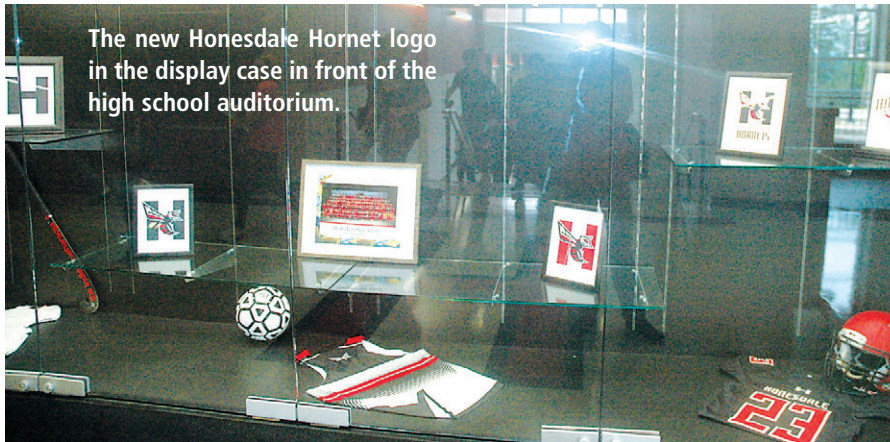
BY ALEX KIELAR

Another initiative which Wayne Highlands School District undertook this year was rebranding their Honesdale Hornets logo. Superintendent Greg Frigoletto said that the goal was for “evolution, not revolution” to their brand.

They wanted to add more consistency and have the same logo throughout all their merchandise, gear and schools. The red and black was always consistent throughout, but Frigoletto said there were great inconsistencies in their branding otherwise.

“We wanted to carry forward familiar elements from past logos,” Frigoletto said. “It’s a new logo but is symbolic to the history here.”

Frigoletto said that while working on deciding how the new logo would look, he and Assistant



Superintendent Tim Morgan reminisced on an old logo that they remember from when they were students.

“We wanted to give the logo a familiar look but not exactly what we saw in the past,” Frigoletto said.

He also highlighted that while it’s a new logo and brand, the school district still has the same expectations for tip-top academic achievement and behavior.

The new logo features a few different variations, but keeps the same basic idea. The primary logo includes a new look black and red hornet under the words Honesdale - in red lettering - and Hornets in black lettering. Two other variations include either a black or red letter “H” with a red and black hornet in the middle to serve as the line that connects the two sides of the “H” together.

Starting on the right track

The expectations throughout the district for academic achievement

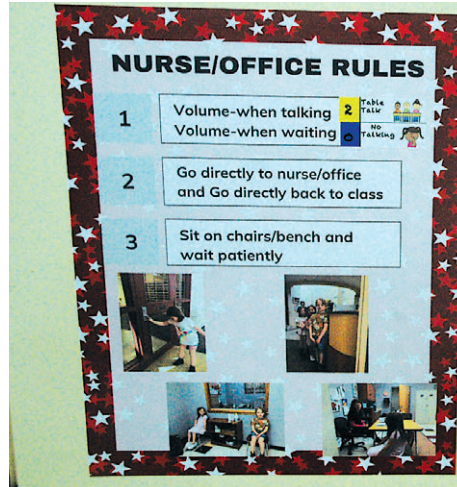
with some revisions. Students who demonstrate good behavior and citizenship are able to participate in monthly blowouts, which are activities they enjoy such as extra recess, fun games, movies and more.

“It’s all about recognizing and rewarding kids for making good choices,” Pietraszewski said.

Throughout the school, there are also different stations with posters that show how kids should behave in those areas. There is also the “quiet path” in the hallways, which



The “quiet path” urges students to walk in a single file line while staying quiet when moving in the hallways.



There are seven different stations throughout Stourbridge where students are expected to learn the proper behavior. Each area has a poster showing how kids should be conducting themselves.

and behavior begin at Stourbridge Primary Center. Stourbridge is the Kindergarten through grade 2 elementary school in the Wayne Highlands School District.

“Getting the year off to a great start is really important here,” said Stourbridge Principal Christopher Pietraszewski. “For the kindergartners who are starting their school careers, we want to get them to love school and to love learning.”

Pietraszewski explained how the first few days of school included students going outside for chalk drawing, bubbles and other exciting activities to make them feel happy to be there.

One program at Stourbridge that gets the young students off to a great start is the positive behavior support program (PBS). It is a program that has been at the school for years, says the principal, but was recently reinstated

has students walking in a single file line while not talking.

The principal also gives “boosters” throughout the year, in which he reviews the expectations of conduct on the morning announcements.

“We had a great committee of teachers to work on the PBS program,” Pietraszewski said. “It was a wide variety of teachers who all did a phenomenal job.”

He also said that kids who show exemplary citizenship are rewarded with a positive phone call home. Every week, teachers give the names of three students who had a great week in three separate categories - one who showed exemplary behavior, one who showed academic improvement and one who improved their conduct.

Any student who has perfect attention for a month will also receive a certificate and a prize.

ARTS FOR HIM

TUXEDOS **A** FOR HIM EST. 1948

COMFORTABLE & DURABLE
CLOTHING & SHOES

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S CLOTHING, SHOES
& TUXEDO RENTALS**

WE DO DRY CLEANING

Main Street Honesdale • 570-253-3080 • 1-800-272-5361

www.artsforhimandhertoo.com

Mon. - Wed. 9-6 • Thurs. - Fri. 9-7 • Sun. 12-4

99678



JOIN US ON CAMPUS & ENJOY THE FULL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE.

- No SAT/ACT/Min. GPA Requirements
- Career Coaching
- On-campus Dorms
- Virtual Admissions Counseling
- Transfer Pathways
- Free In-Person & Virtual Tutoring (1-on-1; Groups)
- Free Personal Counseling
- Intercollegiate & Intramural Athletics (including Esports!)
- Student Clubs & Activities
- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- No COVID-19 vaccine requirement*

**with the exception of Nursing and Respiratory Care students in clinicals*

Visit sunysullivan.edu to learn more.

845-434-5750 x 4287 | admissions@sunysullivan.edu



SULLIVAN
Promise Scholarship
FREE TUITION & FEES

for 2023 Sullivan County high school grads**



TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE!

***including GED students & homeschoolers; restrictions/conditions apply*

Fall Express classes start Sept. 27!
Virtual course options available

115883

Home turf

New dual-sport turf project in works

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ALEX KIELAR

After renovating the Honesdale High School Auditorium last year, the new and improved space was completed by the Spring, allowing the Class of 2023 to have their commencement ceremony on the more modernized stage. Now, Wayne Highlands School District has undertaken another big maintenance project — renovating the high school's football field.

Superintendent Greg Frigoletto said that they, as a district, never want to completely rebuild Honesdale High School. The district continues to make renovations to keep the buildings and facilities in tip-top shape. As well

as the auditorium, several other renovation projects took place last year - including student restrooms, public restrooms at the auditorium and the high school kitchen renovation.

"We use a preventative maintenance plan," Frigoletto said. "Making upgrades as they are needed."

One of those upgrades currently in the process of being completed is a new dual-sport turf at Hornet Stadium, home of the Honesdale Hornets football team.

The new turf will evolve the current athletic facilities and include football, soccer, field hockey, baseball and softball fields. Both Frigoletto and Honesdale High School Principal, Dr. Peter Jordan, said the hope is that the turf project will be completed by September



Hornet Stadium in Honesdale is currently under construction for a brand new multi-sport turf, which district administration hopes will be completed by Homecoming on September 22.

22, which is when Homecoming is scheduled for this year.

"It would be great to have the inaugural football game on the new

turf at Homecoming," Frigoletto said.

The superintendent also said that this upgrade will vastly help

Fishing for something different?

Stop in for a
huge selection of
freshwater fish and
aquarium supplies



FINS AND FEATHERS

222 Willow Avenue, Honesdale
(570)253-3132
www.finsandfeatherspa.com

73911

60037

Learning & Growing Child Care Center
Play, Learn and Grow Together



Tammy Haass
Melanie Jay

60 Milanville Road
P.O. Box 137
Beach Lake, PA 18405
570-729-7853
email learnandgrowccc@gmail.com
NEW HOURS: 6:30am - 5:30pm



42153

WAYNE COUNTY READY MIX, INC.

CONCRETE COMPANY



CONCRETE • MASONRY SUPPLIES
Retaining Wall Blocks • Concrete Pump Services

379 Grimms Road, Honesdale, PA 18431 | 570.253.4341 | Fax: 570.253.3450 | waynecoready@hotmail.com

Henderson-Biedekapp

FUNERAL CHAPEL

Jade M. Parise, *Owner/Director*

Hancock, N.Y.

607-637-2581 WWW.HBFUNERALCHAPEL.COM

85003



The new turf will include fields for football, baseball, softball, soccer and field hockey.

out the field hockey team, which is usually one of the more competitive teams for Honesdale. He said that the field hockey team was never able to host a playoff game in the past, because it is more standard to play key playoff games on turf. Jordan said that turf is a better quality field than

natural grass and much easier to maintain.

“Maintaining turf is less time consuming than a grass field,” Jordan said. “Our crew won’t have to do as much to get the field ready for a game in any sport. There won’t have to be any painting of lines as they will already be



The new turf will allow the field hockey team to be able to host playoff games, which are usually played on turf.

there.”

Jordan also said that they will make sure student athletes and athletic coaches adhere to strict rules to help make sure the turf can be kept in pristine condition. That means no athletes can wear metal cleats on the turf or spit sunflower seeds and public access

will be restricted. He also said that the current real grass fields that are in place will still be kept as secondary fields and back-ups if needed.

Any scheduled home games for the football team will be played elsewhere until the new field is completed.

DIRLAM BROS. LUMBER CO., INC.

250 Sunrise Ave., Honesdale, PA - 570-253-3540
Rt 739, Lords Valley, PA - 570-775-0598 • Oak St., Narrowsburg, NY - 845-252-3955

BOOM TRUCK & FORK LIFT SERVICE

Shaffers Hardware
229 Mt. Cobb Hwy, Hamlin, PA 18427 - 570-689-4071
Greentown Agway
Rt. 507 & BrinkHill Rd., Greentown, PA - 570-676-9860

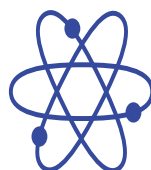
PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE



Designer Kitchens
1 Commercial Street, Honesdale, PA - 570-253-6600
www.dirlams.com



115370



TOWN & COUNTRY ENERGY CORP.

- PROPANE
- PROPANE SERVICE
- Our Specialty!

- FUEL OIL
- DIESEL
- AUTOMATIC DELIVERY
- CERTIFIED SERVICE TECHNICIANS

439 Rutledgedale Rd.
Equinunk, PA 18417
Phone: 570-224-6777
570-253-9370
800-382-4763
Fax: 570-224-4307

A local company, family owned and operated for over 32 years

Live Without Limits



1095 Texas Palmyra Hwy., Suite 1 • Honesdale, PA 18431
P: (570) 616-0665 F: (570) 616-0669
www.murraypt.com



SCHOOLHOUSE Restaurant

OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER
CLOSED SUNDAYS

CALL FOR OUR DAILY SPECIALS | GREAT FOOD AT GREAT PRICES
Our specials make it worth the trip

WELCOME STUDENTS... TAKE A SHORT DRIVE INTO THE COUNTRY & TREAT YOURSELF TO A GOOD MEAL AT THE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

CATERING (On and Off Premises) | GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
PRIVATE PARTIES

Corner of 670 & 247, North of Honesdale, 1732 Bethany Turnpike, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453

570-448-2130 • www.theredschoolhouse.com

94271

91382



We're Transporting the Most Precious Cargo

Our drivers go above and beyond when it comes to our passengers' safety.

Rolling V drivers are responsible for the safe and reliable transportation of more than 7,000 school children annually. School is back in session, so please remember to drive carefully – it could be your child, a loved one or a neighbor on a bus nearby!

To learn more about our commitment to providing safe transportation for the children in our community, visit rolling.com/parent-portal

To join our winning team, visit rolling.com/recruitment

105243