

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

Elementary FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING GROWS

The district's emphasis on foreign language instruction at the elementary level continues to grow. This year the Foreign Language at Elementary School Program was expanded to the fourth grade, following a rewarding year of FLES instruction in Spanish for third graders during the 2018-19 school year. Those students are now building on the foundation they learned last year and taking their language skills to new heights.

Every third and fourth grade student now receives FLES instruction on a weekly basis. Beginning in third grade, students learn world language themes that they will encounter later in middle school, regardless of what language they choose to pursue. They are engaged in conversations about everyday topics

such as the weather, the calendar and holidays. Third graders also begin utilizing graphic organizers to help them visualize the concepts they are discussing. In the fourth grade, their vocabulary skills increase and they develop numeric awareness and stronger organizational skills. They also delve more into the culture and use the language in a more meaningful way.

"Students are expressing themselves more naturally and taking more ownership of their learning by the fourth grade," said Supervisor for English as a New Language, World Languages and Activities Lisa Estrada. "Spanish speakers and English speakers are learning from each other. Since we

have such a diverse community with so many different languages, it's great that children can learn to communicate in another language early on."

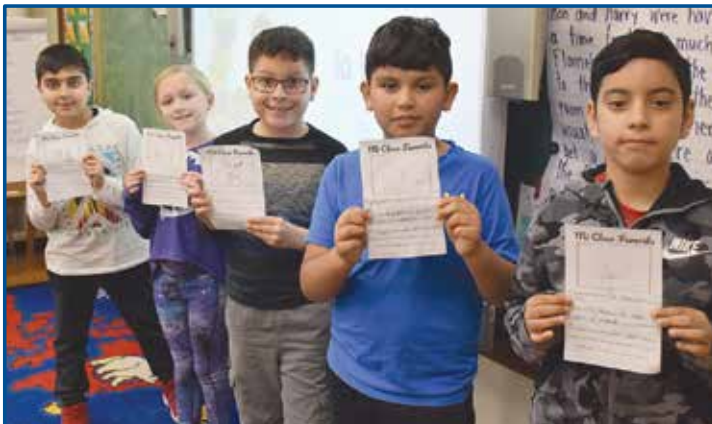
Simultaneously, FLES is helping students reinforce the core curriculum subjects. Ms. Estrada said it will serve as a



Third graders in Brianna Ruda's FLES class at Burns Avenue School enjoy a game of "Piggies," which helps them learn about days of the week.

nice complement to fifth grade social studies. It also nurtures their higher order/critical thinking skills.

A proposal is under consideration to expand FLES to the fifth grade next year and ensure a seamless instruction in a foreign language leading into the middle school. In addition to Spanish, the sixth grade Foreign Language Exploratory program offers American Sign Language, French, Italian and Spanish.



Fourth graders in Christina Turcinovic's FLES class at East Street School share their class favorites through words and illustrations.

"Since we have such a diverse community with so many different languages, it's great that children can learn to communicate in another language early on."

LISA ESTRADA,
Supervisor for English as a New Language,
World Languages and Activities

AP Capstone *Takes Research to a* HIGHER LEVEL

Hicksville High School students enrolled in AP Capstone courses are thriving and delving into important topics to become problem-solvers of issues prevalent in society.

Now in its second year at Hicksville High School, AP Capstone is a two-year program, developed by The College Board, which engages students in college-style research. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, the program develops students' skills in analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing and presenting. A key component of the program is learning how to identify valid sources for research. Students who complete the program successfully earn an AP Capstone endorsement on their diploma, which is becoming increasingly valued by American colleges and universities. Over 320 now recognize the program.

During the first-year course, AP Seminar, student researchers complete two major research projects, the first as a group and the second individually. Students prepare a group multimedia presentation, with each member taking on a different "lens" to analyze a particular issue. Lenses range in their emphasis from economic and social factors to history and ethics, politics, and environmental concerns. Each student also prepares a research paper on their area of emphasis as it relates to the problem or issue being addressed.

"I like the independence of this," said junior Sneha Gouli, who is enrolled in AP Seminar. "You follow your own pace and come to realize that whatever you do know can be applied to the real world."

The work intensifies in the second-year course, AP Research. Every student completes a yearlong project on their own, with the option of taking their research from AP Seminar to another level or of tackling an entirely new topic. Their task includes writing a research paper of 4,000-5,000 words and making a 20-minute presentation of their findings to a panel of educators. Each presentation is followed by a series of oral defense questions from their teachers to justify

their research.

Senior Katarina Kobetitsch speaks frequently with her older sister in college to gain a sense of the rigor involved in writing college papers. She is intrigued but not intimidated by the thoroughness required in collecting data and the speed in which it all must come together.

"This course has definitely helped me so that when I have to do this in college I can work faster and devote more time to my projects," Katarina said. Her current project, "The Relationship Between a Drive for Male Muscularity and Self-Esteem in Emerging Adult Males," explores societal pressures as well as the impact social media might have on young adult males seeking a specific body type. In her project, she points out that much of the research to date has focused on females and adolescent males.

Students are taking on several important issues for their projects, including the environment, standardized testing, government regulation and race inequality.

"The better students prepare, the more they can internalize the skills that they learn here, the better off they will be in college and beyond," said Supervisor

for English, Reading and Libraries Dr. Thomas Moss.

Students are not the only ones subjected to the rigors of the course. Anyone wishing to teach the course must undergo five days of training, with a follow-up online training. AP Capstone teachers must pass annual tests in which they evaluate sample presentations in order to be able to evaluate their students' work.

All of the hard work is paying off. In the 2018-2019 school year, 95% of Hicksville High School students enrolled in AP Seminar passed the course. Several seniors even took the course despite graduation preventing them from completing the second year and earning the endorsement. Fifty-one of last year's passing juniors are enrolled in AP Research in year two as juniors and seniors, the largest participation of any school district in Nassau County.

"This program takes research to a whole different level for our students," Moss added. "They are engaging deeply with meaningful and purposeful work. They are growing intellectually into young adults."



Juniors enrolled in the AP Seminar course work as a group to solve a problem, with each taking on a different "lens."



Congratulations to the 142 Hicksville High School students (Class of 2019 and 2020) who have been identified by the College Board as AP (Advanced Placement) Scholars. Among this fine group, 63 have been named AP Scholars by earning scores of 3 or higher on at least three AP exams taken. In addition, 34 students received the AP Scholar with Honor designation with an average score of 3.25 while earning a 3 or higher on at least four of the exams. Thirty-five students were named AP Scholars with Distinction with an average score of 3.5 while scoring 3 or higher on at least five exams. Ten students were named National AP Scholars by earning scores of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken, including achieving a 4 or better on at least eight exams overall. The District commends all of these students on these incredible accomplishments!

NATIONAL AP SCHOLARS

Rohil B. Agarwal, Catherine Chen, Kate M. Cimino, Snehadri Das, Sejal Gupta, Michal A. Lewkowicz, Aaron S. Li, Milin Luthra, Christian W. Sekosan, Asghar Shah.

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

Lillian A. Aljada, Arozo Azimi, Reese J. Brusini, Christopher M. Chan, Sarah Choi, Sean C. Davis, Quynh C. Dinh, Wilmer Escobar, Viren S. Fernandes, Jessica George, Hunter R. Hsiu, Viveka Jain, Katherine E. Jergensen, Noel J. John, Katarina A. Kobetitsch, Tyler J. LaVorgna, Rachel A. Lee, Noel S. Mathew, Saddaf Menhaji, Peter B. Minichello, Alina Z. Naqvi, Alaha A. Nasari, Mark D. Ospina, Gurkirat S. Parhar, Hetvi R. Patel, Tej C. Patel, Daniel P. Ryan, Angelina R. Sangiovanni, Fawziyah S. Shamim, Dhanush Sivasankaran, Stone R. Strongin, Rishika S. Thayavally, Aaditya Vaghela, Jordan M. Wulff, Kevin J. Zike.

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONOR

Sage V. Boiko, Nicholas E. Capunay, Jillian S. Carroll, Brandon J. Chavez, Cindy J. Cheng, Aniruddh K. Chittabathini, Benjamin Choi, Akash Gandotra, Dylan N. Gaznabbi, Lydia H. Green, Tanzia Hassan, Sundus Hayat, Cailin J. Hoang, Zaem Hussain, Jack G. Immanuel, Rishab Jain, Jacqueline A. Jergensen, Laura A. Jon, Somya Mehta, Rawan M. Mohamed, Tracy Y. Mui, Adarsh S. Nair, Sadia Nur, Ohm A. Patel, Akanksha Prabhakaran, Arena Rahman, Rachel M. Samuel, Navpreet Singh, Jason Soe, Daniel C. Varghese, Ralph J. Velasquez, Brinda Vutukuri, Barbara M. Waterson, Natalie N. Yuge.

AP SCHOLARS

Alina Abraham, Adith R. Anugu, Gisselle E. Argueta, Michelle F. Beaudette, Chandani M. Brahmabhatt, Laura Buibas, Emily P. Cannavina, Derek A. Castillo, Serena Chan, Nicole Chhabra, Margo S. Christie, Manit Chugh, Brandon S. Dharampaul, Divya Dommaraju, Russell Esquerra, Graziella Flynn, Stephanie Gabriel, Anaya A. Ger, Jaideep S. Gill, Rishi S. Gill, Alejandro Gonzalez, Kirthana Goparaju, Ali Hassan, Matthew T. Henderson, Luke W. Hoffman, Katelyn Hughes, Saadiyah Ishfaq, Maria John, Manav P. Joshi, Harmandeep Kaur, Tannvi Kaushik, Simran Kohli, Shivansh Kumar, Jovani C. Ledesma, Anya R. Marquardt, Yce S. Mercado, Ryan J. Meyer, William A. Miranda, Teresa Moritz, Ayyad Mulla, Nishtha Nagr,

Jesse A. Natarajan, Daren Ni, George Palermo, Katherine A. Passick, Melody R. Plavsky, Brendan Pursoo, Sakina Rahim, Anjali M. Ranu, Krisia J. Romano, Andrew J. Scarpaci, Raj Shah, Vasanth Shakelli, Esha Sharma, Arspreet Singh, Amshitha Sivarajah, Rebecca K. Sloan, Aniket Sonika, Ariana M. Taboada, Jetlin P. Thomas, Dirac Tien, Felicite Tien, Irene X. Tsesmetzis.



Hicksville High School recently announced its "Top Ten" Class of 2020 academic achievers based on the students' six-semester weighted GPAs. Congratulations to: (back row, left to right) Christopher Chan, Noel John, Jack Immanuel, Sejal Gupta, Viveka Jain and Alaha Nasari with Principal Ray Williams; (front row, left to right) Sarah Choi, Natalie Yuge, Katarina Kobetitsch and Dhanush Sivasankaran.

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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HPS on **twitter**

Hicksville Public Schools now has a large and growing presence on Twitter! You can follow us at @HicksvillePS, where you can see all of the fun and exciting learning that takes place in our school community every day. You can follow tweets from the district's different schools and departments as well. You can also refer to the district website, www.hicksvillepublicschools.org, to stay up to date on the latest happenings around the district.

ALUMNI *Spotlight*

ANNA CHENG

Hicksville High School
Class of 2015

I graduated from Hicksville High School in 2015 and was accepted into Cornell University, where I majored in human biology, health and society, and minored in psychology and human development. I also studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, and conducted personality psychology research at University of Copenhagen.

Hicksville undoubtedly shaped my thoughts, opinions and endeavors, which brought me to where I am today. I could not be more grateful for having Ms. Atkinson (retired) and Mr. Cetron for four and two years, respectively. Ms. Atkinson always encouraged students to think innovatively and creatively, while Mr. Cetron never ceased to push students to work towards their full potential.

I also completed a health care branding internship at Weill Cornell Medicine a few summers ago, another opportunity that would not have had without my knowledge of design and health care from Hicksville High School. If I could give one piece of advice to all high schoolers, I would say to always try your hardest in everything that you do – give everything 110%.



DANIELA VENTURA

Hicksville High School
Class of 2016

I graduated from Hicksville High School in 2016. My experience was great and filled with hard work as well. Being an English as a Second Language student wasn't easy at first. I struggled a lot in my classes the first year, but that made me eager to keep studying because I really wanted to graduate on time.

I have to say that I was blessed to have the guidance of Ms. Aliperti. She made me feel that I always had someone there to help me, anytime. I will always appreciate her for this because without her support, and the support that other teachers and the guidance department gave me, I would not have been able to make it as far as I did.

The three online programs that I took in my senior year also helped me meet required classes that I otherwise couldn't fit into my schedule. The environment at Hicksville High School made me feel comfortable as well. From students to teachers, everyone was very friendly and always trying to help. Once more, I will always remember how much Ms. Aliperti did for me and how her support lead me to where I am today.

One of my goals in life is to be able to own and manage a business by myself.* I will keep working hard to make this happen.

**Daniela studied business at Nassau Community College.*

