

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD



Introducing 'Into Math'

At the start of this school year, we introduced a new mathematics program for our youngest learners called Into Math. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Into Math is a resource that is being used within the elementary math curriculum to deliver a fresh, engaging learning experience.

The comprehensive mathematics learning system unites a focused lesson structure with clear goals, measurements of student growth and a teacher support system. The learning model is focused on developing students' reasoning while connecting their understanding to concepts and skills. It provides both digital versions and hard copies of workbooks, along with assessments, in-class instruction and personalized supplemental practice for our kindergarten through fifth grade students.

With the help of a committee made up of teachers and administrators, Into Math was chosen as the district's elementary math program, as it supported the majority of the district's needs and is closely aligned with the Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards put forth by New York State.

One of the most valuable features of Into Math is that it is available in both English and Spanish, a benefit for our dual-language classrooms. Using the Google interface, it can be converted into any language that Google supports, making this program

inclusive for all of our students and families.

Into Math was also found to be one of the most accessible and user-friendly math experiences. It comes complete with a Teachers Corner, which provides our faculty and staff with professional development, classroom videos and tips from other teachers. Our own teachers tout being able to get anywhere within the program in just one or two clicks. Into Math also connects our families, giving parents insight into what their child is learning and offering them simple, at-home learning resources.

In addition to implementing Into Math in our elementary classrooms, we have paired it with Waggle, a supplemental digital platform that delivers flexible, insightful, personalized learning for second through fifth grade students. Waggle offers adaptive, guided practice and instruction with an embedded gaming system that gives our learners an extra incentive to be excited about math. It builds on the fun learning environment that exists in our classrooms, presenting our learners with challenges and missions, where they can receive rewards and a visual representation of their progress.

We are excited to bring such a robust program into our classrooms. We look forward to watching our students grow more confident and excel in mathematics.

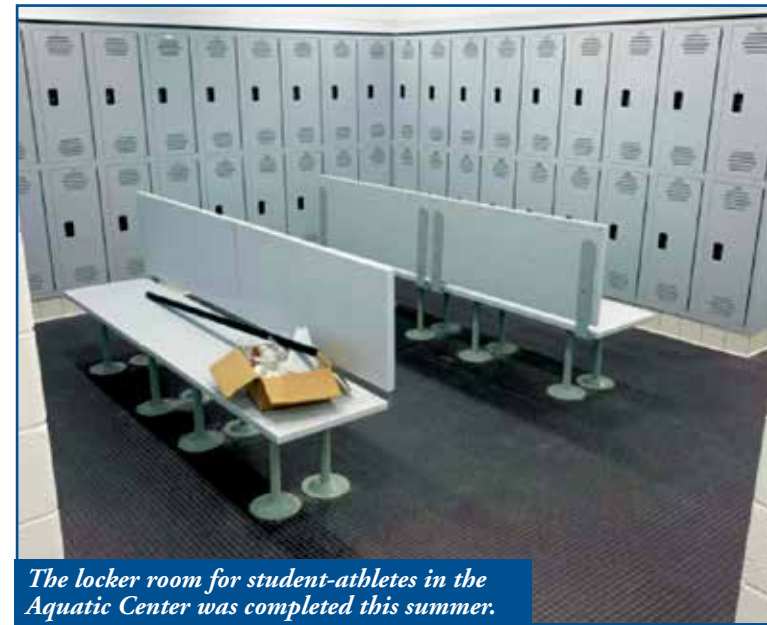




The new Aquatic Center features a six-lane, 25-yard indoor swimming pool.



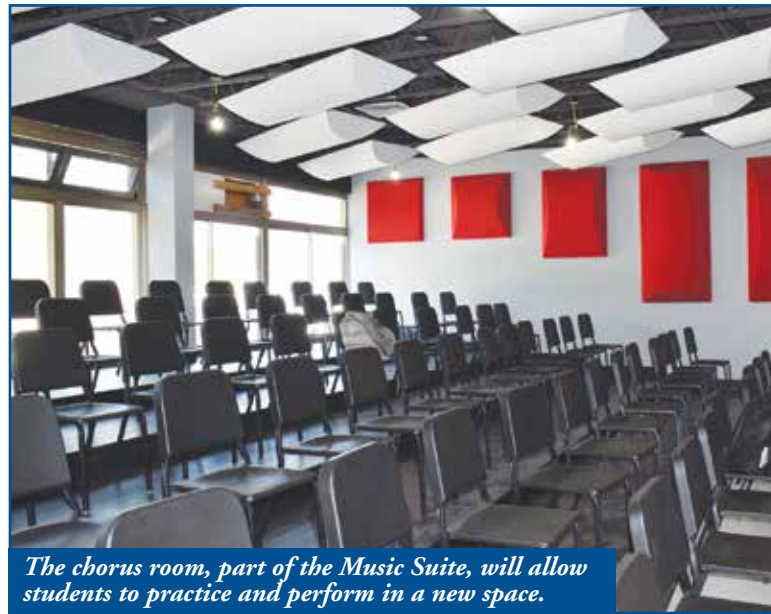
The Aquatic Center has the potential for community access in the future, with open swim opportunities for senior citizens.



The locker room for student-athletes in the Aquatic Center was completed this summer.



As part of the new band room in the High School Music Suite, students will have access to new instrument lockers.



The chorus room, part of the Music Suite, will allow students to practice and perform in a new space.

CAPITAL PROJECT PROGRESS

Throughout this year, we continue to upgrade our buildings and facilities to create the best possible learning environments and opportunities for our students and staff. Numerous capital improvements have been made thanks to the ongoing support of our community. Work approved through the 2017 bond is near completion, with the addition of the Music Suite and state-of-the-art Aquatic Center at the High School.

In addition, the district has upgraded many of our buildings and facilities through capital reserve funds and allocations in the capital budget. This past summer, the following work was completed:

- A new parking lot at the High School.
- High School roof replacement.
- New ceiling, lighting and cafeteria tables at Middle School
- New fencing at Woodland Elementary School.
- Upgrades to HVAC univents at the High School, Middle School, Woodland, Lee Avenue and East Street.
- Interior door replacement at Dutch Lane, East Street, Fork Lane, Lee Avenue and Old Country Road.
- Gym floor refinishing at all buildings as part of annual maintenance.
- Elementary playground maintenance.



The Music Suite includes a room for our orchestra students, with new storage and casework.



Part of the High School's roof was replaced over the gym hallway, weight room and boy's locker room.



New ceiling and lighting was installed at the Middle School cafeteria.



New fencing at Woodland Elementary School was put in, securing the school's perimeter.



The parking lot at the High School was redone with new asphalt and striping.

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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ALUMNI *Spotlight*

JOANNA ROCCO

Hicksville High School Class of 2011

Hicksville High School was much more than just a school for me. It was a true representation of community, camaraderie and family, even past graduating. I am an alumna of the Class of 2011 and eternally grateful for the teachers and staff. When I chose to pursue a career in music education, I was presented with such memorable opportunities and support by the teachers of the music department to prepare me for college. One of the most valuable elements of my Hicksville High School experience was playing piano in the High School Musical Pit Orchestra, while working under the instruction of Chad Wyman. This is where I began to grow a love for instrumental music and conducting.

I went to CUNY Queens College Aaron Copland School of Music to

receive a B.A. in music education. In 2015, I was ecstatic to become a part-time general music teacher at East Street Elementary School. I worked in the Hicksville Public Schools for four years, working alongside my elementary music teacher and role model, Beth Garner. During my time teaching at Hicksville, I became the assistant director of the Hicksville High School Marching Band, leading the band to third place in the New York State Field Band Conference in 2018. Additionally, I played keyboard in the High School teacher’s band for the annual Talent for the Troops performances.

Working at Hicksville part time has allowed me to continue my education, receiving a master’s degree in music education with a concentration in

instrumental conducting. Soon after, I became the assistant director of the Roslyn High School Marching Band and musical director of “Seussical the Musical” at Roslyn High School. I now hold a full-time teaching position at the Reinhard Early Childhood Center in the Bellmore School District, teaching general music and chorus. I will always look back at Hicksville High School with such pride and will cherish the memories and successes forever. My experiences at Hicksville High School have molded me into the musician and educator that I am today.

