



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Letter from Dr. Benante

Dear Community Members,

This September, Haldane opened its campus to students and staff after an extended period of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For some, our opening brought a sense of relief as a sign of the beginning of a return to normality; while for others, it increased a sense of anxiety for the potential risk that the opening of schools would pose for our community.

This will be a unique school year that will continue to challenge us.

As September comes to a close, I am proud of how our community has adapted to many new routines and procedures to allow for those staff and students who come to campus each day to remain safe, while also allowing us to provide a quality experience for our students who are learning remotely.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcoming New Faculty & Staff

PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs

National Merit Scholars

Outdoor Classroom Snapshots

Haldane Partners

This crisis has reinforced that we are a highly adaptable organization that keeps the interests of our students at the fore of our decision making. While there is still a sense of uncertainty for what the year may bring, the past month has taught us that we will continue to be well-served by keeping the broader interests of our students in mind.

I wish you and your family continued good health. Please enjoy this month's issue of Haldane Horizons.

Sincerely,
Phil Benante, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Welcoming New Faculty & Staff

Dave Goddard Interim Athletic Director
Katie Boonshoft MS/HS Visual Arts Teacher
Kathleen DeSocio HS English Teacher
Rebecca Masback HS Special Education Teacher
Travis Davidson Music Teacher/Choral Director
Catherine DeVoe Kindergarten Leave Replacement
Christina Staffu 3rd Grade Leave Replacement
Sarah Galante 4th Grade Leave Replacement

Susan Hylka ES Senior Office Assistant
Becky Macrillo MS Senior Office Assistant
Kelly Martin HS Attendance
Christi Kelly Teacher Aide/Cafeteria
Nicole Gee Teacher Aide
Susan Crandall Teacher Aide
Charlie Norton Head Cleaner, Evening
Luis Mendez Cleaner/Driver
Gabriella Tate Bus Driver
Nicholas Fazi Bus Driver
Kevin Westervelt Cleaner



Student Spotlight



Congratulations to Sophia Kottman, National Merit Semifinalist, and Doug Donaghy, Commended National Merit Scholar.

These prestigious recognitions are based on high performance on the PSAT exam. As a Semifinalist, Sophia will advance to eligibility for a National Merit Scholarship award.



PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs

Michelle Cordaro and Jackie McGrath Introduce New Media & Research High School Course

This past spring, the Haldane school community, like many others across the nation, went through challenges due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. As history teachers, Ms. Cordaro and Ms. McGrath looked at the pandemic as a teachable moment for students. In the spring, students created digital reflections of what life was like during the pandemic and how the quarantine impacted their lives.

Students submitted many great projects with poignant insights into teen life during the COVID-19 shutdown. As Ms. Cordaro and Ms. McGrath reflected on their teaching during the quarantine they asked, "how can we engage our student population in a way that connects current events to the curriculum, and has a meaningful impact with an authentic voice; reflective of our student population?"

The teachers spent the summer researching ways to put current events into context, and came across the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs program.

Their goal is simple:

"We want our "student-journalists" to bring credible and relevant news stories to their Haldane community."

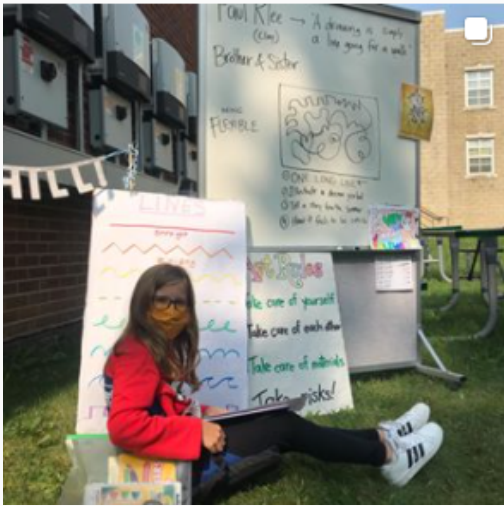


Ms. Cordaro and Ms. McGrath will serve as Haldane's Executive Producers working with PBS NewsHour to utilize resources that will help students hone their journalistic skills. Depending on students' success with PBS NewsHour, Haldane may have the opportunity to be featured in one of the PBS NewsHour broadcasts!

The hope is that students have fun reporting the news to the Haldane community and become more well-versed in the current events that affect us on a global, national, and local level. Now more than ever, it is important that journalists do their best to report the news with integrity and sincerity.

By the end of the year, students will learn about how a newsroom works and strengthen their ability to critically analyze information that is seen in the media, thereby becoming a more well-informed global citizens.

Scenes from Haldane's Outdoor Classrooms



Become a Haldane Partner

Please consider joining or supporting one of Haldane's partner organizations. Their contributions to academic, athletic, and artistic programming are a vital part of each school year at Haldane.

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