

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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200 Division Avenue  
Hicksville, NY 11801

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## ALUMNI *Spotlight*

### JOANNE BUCCI

#### *Hicksville High School Class of 1993*

After graduating Hicksville High School in 1993, I attended Farmingdale State College (formerly SUNY Farmingdale), where I received my bachelor's degree with a concentration in Visual Communications. I worked in communications for many years. Fast forward to 2013 when I began working in various roles in the Hicksville School District, assisting in elementary classrooms and eventually providing technology support.

In 2019, I transitioned into the district's Department of Public Information as a Digital Media Specialist. I oversee website content, social media and branding efforts schoolwide. Earlier this year, I was recognized by the New York School Public Relations Association with three awards for the creation of

projects supporting Hicksville students and family members during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

#### An Award of Excellence, Strategic Campaign "Be A Hicksville Superhero"

The goal was to empower students of all ages and their parents to feel confident and safe entering the school building for the first time since the close in March 2020.

#### An Award of Honor, Overall Graphics and Design: "Reopening Plan Supplemental Guide"

The goal was to create visually pleasing, well-organized guides to ease families' anxiety regarding information about the reopening, creating trust between the district and families.



#### An Award of Honor, Website: HPS COVID Time Capsule – A Time to Reflect on Hicksville's School Community Response

An "HPS COVID Time Capsule" website was created to display how we as a school community came together to give thanks and helped those in need.

As a proud alum of Hicksville Public Schools, including Burns Avenue Elementary, Hicksville Middle School and High School, it's wonderful to again be a member of the Hicksville school family and help share the good works of our students with the community.

Student Artwork: Elisabeth Noronha, Noah Montes, Lucas Tsao and Kenzy Rguigue

SPRING 2022



News from the Hicksville UFSD

## A FOCUS ON THE DISTRICT'S SAFETY AND SECURITY INITIATIVES

Hicksville Schools has developed an extensive districtwide safety and security program in compliance with the New York State Safe Schools Against Violence in Education legislation that provides for the safety, health and security of both students and staff. The comprehensive districtwide School Safety Plan outlines what to do in the event of a natural, criminal or toxic disaster, including emergency response protocols and prevention procedures.

"The safety and security of our students and staff is our district's top priority," said Hicksville Superintendent of Schools Marianne Litzman. "The district has invested time and resources to ensure that we provide a safe, secure environment and we are prepared to handle possible crises. We continue to partner with our community in maintaining a safe school environment."

Each building throughout the district has a safety team, which assists in reviewing, implementing and evaluating the districtwide School Safety Plan. Each team also develops and maintains an individual building plan defining evacuation routes, shelter sites, procedures for addressing medical needs, transportation and emergency notification to parents. These teams receive annual training conducted by the police department and should not be confused with contracted school security guards.

As part of the district's comprehensive School Safety Plan, appropriate security

measures have been implemented as a result of a security audit and assessment conducted by the Nassau County Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security. The findings from this audit have led to increased security throughout the district, which now includes eight security guards in the high school, four security guards in the middle school and one security guard in each of the elementary schools on a routine day with additional guards added for special events.

In addition to the district's own security staff, the district has a strong collaboration with law enforcement. "Our Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Officer is part of our team and is onsite each day and actively participates on our district safety committee," said Ms. Litzman.

A number of physical security measures have been added over the past several years, including additional internal and external cameras at all buildings, as well as security fences around certain properties.

Other measures have included the installation of double-door, single-person access control security spaces, also known as mantraps, at each school; all building visitors are prescreened and verified by security utilizing Raptor license-scanning before building access is approved; onsite security is at before- and after-school events; an around-the-clock weekend

*(continued on Page 2)*

### BY THE NUMBERS



19

**Security Guards Districtwide**

(These include eight at the high school, four at the middle school and one at each elementary school.)



508

**Security Cameras Districtwide**

(These include 307 interior and 201 exterior cameras.)



12

**Emergency drills conducted every year at each building.**

(These include four lockdown drills and eight evacuation drills.)

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## A FOCUS ON THE DISTRICT'S SAFETY AND SECURITY INITIATIVES

security team that monitors each school campus; and partnership with Nassau BOCES for a trained health and safety specialist to advise and support onsite each week.

To further enhance security, the high school installed a school safety and operations system known as ScholarChip requiring each student to swipe an identification card that provides an "Inside-Out" approach to school safety. Not only is the system used for daily student attendance, but it provides school administrators with real-time information as to which students are in the building at any given time in vital situations such as a building lockout.

As part of the district's safety and security initiative, training drills and exercises are conducted in each school throughout the year. These include shelter-in-place, hold-in-place, evacuations, lockdowns and lockout drills. The district also conducts situational drills and tabletop exercises for a variety of situations.

"While we hope not to need our crisis protocol for a real issue, we need to be prepared for any scenario," said Ms. Litzman.

A full copy of the districtwide School Safety Plan is available upon request at central administration in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools or can be viewed online under the district tab at [www.hicksvilleschools.org](http://www.hicksvilleschools.org).



The district has installed exterior security cameras on all buildings. The district currently has 201 external cameras.



To limit indoor visitors, each school has a "drop box" outside the main entrance, where parents can drop off items for their children.



The district has increased the number of security guards stationed at each building.



## A Closer Look AT OUR SAFETY AND SECURITY INITIATIVES



Please scan this code to view the district's safety plan. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage and click "Districtwide Safety Plan" under Important Links.



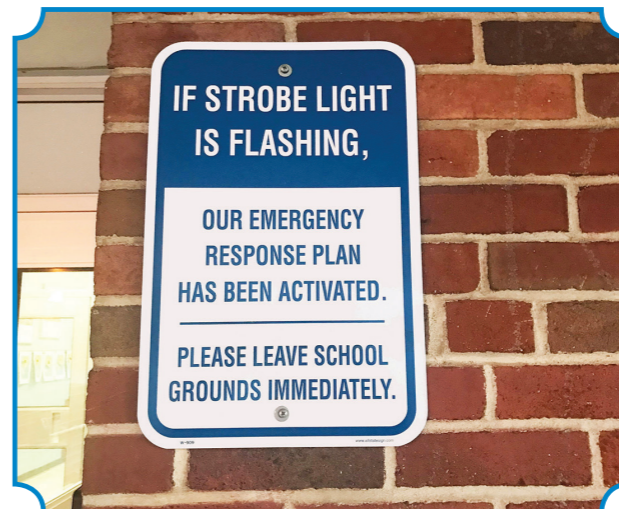
Each school has a double-door, single-person access control security space, also known as a mantrap, at the main entrance.



A Hicksville High School student scans his identification card upon entering the building using the ScholarChip program.



New perimeter fencing has been installed in several locations throughout the district to provide a more secure environment.



In the event of a crisis, the district's emergency response plan will be activated.

## Hicksville High School Pool Open to Public

On March 9, Hicksville Public Schools hosted the Aquatic Center ribbon-cutting ceremony at the high school. Now through June 17, residents of Hicksville are invited to open swim, free of charge with photo identification, during certain hours.

Public swim hours are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and senior citizen hours for those over 50 years are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-10 a.m.

The Aquatic Center houses a 25-yard, six-lane, heated lap pool with diving board. It includes male and female locker rooms with showers and toilet facilities, coaches' offices and a concession stand.

The completion of the 17,952-square-foot addition that connects to the high school is the result of the voter-approved bond from November 2017 which supported capital projects throughout the Hicksville School District.

For more information about open swim in the Aquatic Center, visit [www.hicksvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hicksvillepublicschools.org).

