



# A New Family Partnership Program

## Working Together With Families to Enrich Children's Learning and Success

The Hicksville Public School District launched a brand-new initiative called the Family Partnership Program just before the start of the school year. This program has been established to benefit students and families throughout all seven elementary schools, the middle school and high school. We understand that by supporting families through thoughtful programs of community engagement, all students will benefit.

Through the Family Partnership Program, we are dedicated to authentic family engagement as a shared responsibility among parents/guardians, educators, staff, and community members and partners.

“Our hope through the Family Partnership Program is to empower families, support their involvement in their child’s education and foster a sense of community,” said Hicksville Family Partnership Specialist Maritza Quintero.

The Family Partnership Program provide’s opportunities for families to learn how to support their children’s wellness and academics, how to navigate the school system, and how to prepare for the future.

By working together as partners, we create an inclusive and welcoming environment that provides families with a voice and opportunities to collaborate with the school community. By building trust and supporting students’ holistic experiences, the educational journey and well-being of all students is enriched.

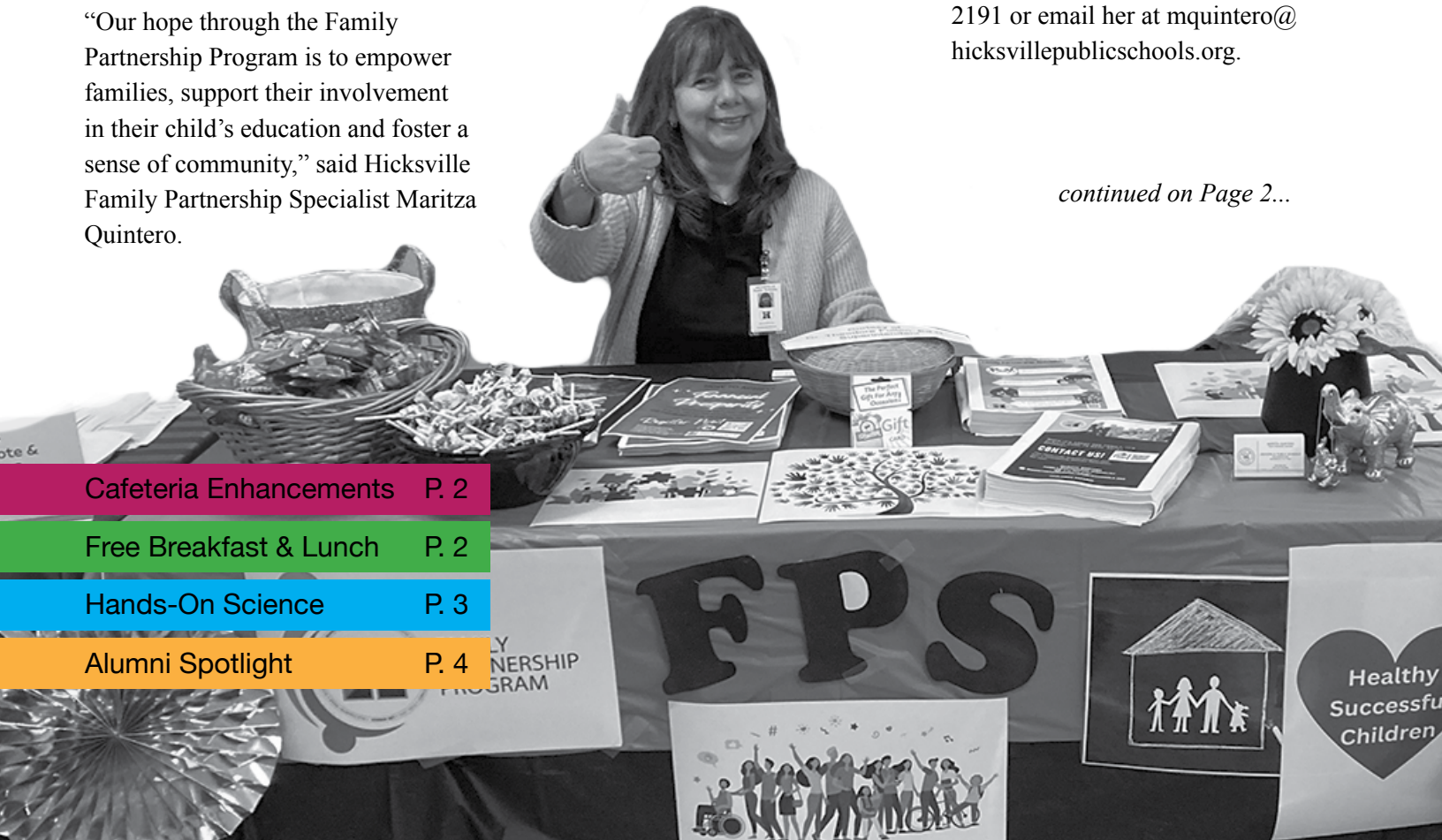
In October, families and community members were invited to attend two



free workshops about financial literacy in conjunction with the Hicksville Public Library. Multiple resources and services will be offered through the Family Partnership Program in the future.

To learn more about the Family Partnership Program, contact Maritza Quintero at (516) 733-2191 or email her at [mquintero@hicksvillepublicschools.org](mailto:mquintero@hicksvillepublicschools.org).

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## Working Together With Families to Enrich Children's Learning and Success



Mission: to build positive and authentic collaborative partnerships between families, schools and the Hicksville community to support whole-child development, and the overall well-being and educational success of students.

This includes:

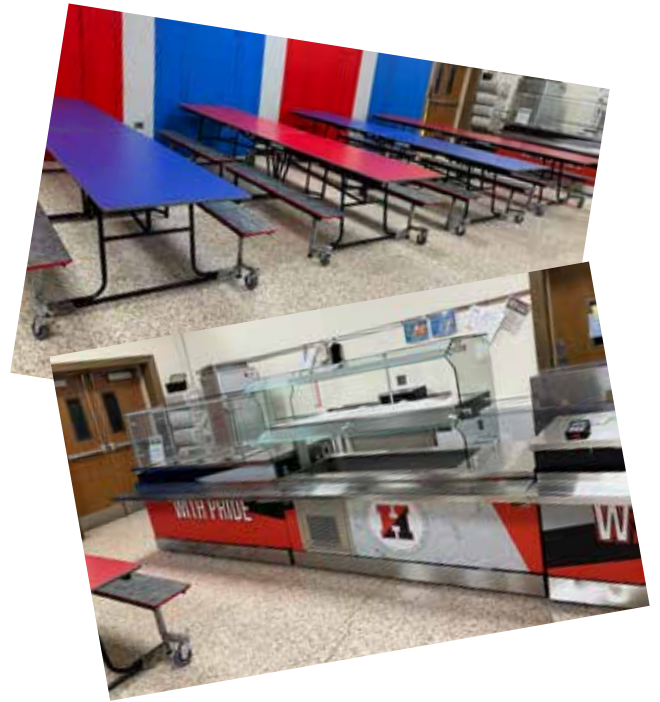
- Enhancing learning: to actively involve families in education by providing resources, information and opportunities for parents/ caregivers to support learning at home and in school.
- Communication: to facilitate effective, two-way communication between families and schools, ensuring that parents and guardians are informed about their child's progress, school activities and educational goals.
- Inclusivity: to create an inclusive and welcoming school environment that values diversity and respects the unique development, cultural and linguistic backgrounds of all families.
- Empowerment: to empower families and community to advocate for all children's educational needs and actively participate in school decision-making processes.
- Community engagement: to extend family engagement beyond the school walls, promoting partnerships with community organizations and resources that can benefit all students and their families.
- Children's success: Ultimately, the mission is to improve all students' achievement, well-being and sense of belonging.

## Cafeteria Enhancements

Each of the seven elementary schools in the Hicksville Public School district have upgraded their cafeteria spaces with state-of-the-art equipment to uphold the district's values of health and safety.

New kitchen appliances include steamers, double ovens, warmers, refrigerators, freezers and serving lines.

Additionally, all windows are now covered with solar shades, overhead LED lighting has been installed to replace dated fluorescent bulbs and brightly colored seating tables have been updated.



## Free Breakfast and Lunch

The district is pleased to announce that it is participating in the Community Eligible Provision program available to select schools as a part of the Federal National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. As part of this program, all students will receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no charge each school day, regardless of family income. For more information, scan the QR code at right.



# Hands-On Science in Hicksville

In the year ahead, K-5 students throughout the district's seven elementary schools will continue to explore the wonders of science through the OHM Science Program created by the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Science Center.

Individual science kits, distributed to elementary schools each quarter, bring real-life science experiences into the classroom. Kindergarten students, for example, discover relationships in ecosystems, while first grade students experience the sun and night sky. Second grade students investigate plant structure and function, and third grade students witness how tadpoles transform as they observe the life cycles of frogs.

Teachers guide students through science explorations, analyses and applications. Students learn from inquiry-based, hands-on experiences aligned with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards to equip them with the skills, curiosity and confidence to think like real scientists. "Students are naturally curious, which really fuels learning," Hicksville Supervisor of Science and Technology Michael

O'Connell said. "Hands-on and digital curriculums resemble what science professionals experience in the laboratory and inspire a life-long interest in science."

The OHM Science kits, which include a digital component, are incorporated into the science curriculum. Interactive scientific notebooks support teaching and learning in the science classroom. All materials are available in Spanish.

The OHM Program offers staff development and technical assistance opportunities through content development workshops and curriculum reviews. The Program also conducts in-depth kit workshops for new teachers and those transitioning between grade levels. Teachers have access to lesson plans, presentations, workbooks, journals, tutorial videos, student videos, live animal order forms and care guides.

Hicksville Schools is excited to share the success of the OHM Science Program as we prepare our young learners for careers in science.



*Fifth graders at Old Country Road learn about how animals camouflage themselves to hide from predators.*

**“These new hands-on and digital curriculums resemble what science professionals experience in the laboratory and help students think like scientists.”** **Hicksville Supervisor of Science and Technology Michael O’Connell**



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## Staying Connected to Our Community

Members of the Hicksville community can select their preferred language to translate the district's website. Users can choose between 150 languages! Simply select "Language" from the top-left menu of the homepage to select your preference.

Additionally, families are invited to opt in to School Messenger, a free text messaging service, as a way to stay up to date with school and district news. Text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587 to opt in.

## Alumni Spotlight

### Returning to the Hicksville Family

East Street Elementary School welcomed its new principal, Joseph Messana, who is also a proud graduate of Hicksville Public Schools.

Principal Messana began his educational journey at Lee Avenue Elementary as a young learner, attended the middle school, and was part of Hicksville's graduating class of 1995.

After graduation, he attended New York Institute of Technology and received a Bachelor of Science degree. He holds a Master of Science degree in both special education and elementary education, along with several teaching certifications.

Prior to returning to Hicksville Public Schools, he was a member of the Uniondale School District for close to 10 years, where he was an assistant principal at Smith Street Elementary School and principal of the Summer

Program at California Avenue and Grand Avenue schools.

Nearly 30 years later, the newly appointed East Street principal said, "I am happy to once again be part of the Hicksville school family and eager to get to work each day to instill the Hicksville pride that has been part of me for more than 45 years."

While Principal Messana lives only a few miles from his hometown with his wife, son and daughter, his parents still live in the house where he grew up, so he still considers himself an involved member of the Hicksville community.

Welcome back, Principal Messana!



THE **BULLETIN BOARD** NEWSLETTER

