



The Community

Herricks is located in Nassau County, Long Island, just east of New York City. Herricks is one of the earliest school districts in New York since it was chartered on August 19, 1813.

The Herricks community today is quite different from the community of 200 years ago but both believe in the value of high quality education for all students. The Herricks families of today share diverse backgrounds and personal histories. Some have been in the district for generations, while others have only recently immigrated to the United States. Sixty-nine different languages are spoken in the homes of the 1400 high school students and the majority of high school students come from homes where English is not the primary language spoken. The extraordinary variety of families comes together to comprise the cultural quilt that is Herricks. That diversity enriches our school community, educational environment and extracurricular programs.

Whatever their stories, Herricks families are bonded by their commitment to the education of their children. In fact, many families have made impressive sacrifices to invest in the education of their children. There is great emphasis on preparation for higher education and for sustaining excellent educational programs and services.

Ethnicity Profile

Asian or Pacific Islander	53%
Black (Not Hispanic Origin)	.6%
White (Not Hispanic Origin)	41%
Hispanic	5%

A Sampling of Languages Spoken by Herricks Students:

Arabic	Hebrew	Polish
Bengali	Hindi	Punjabi
Cantonese	Ilocano	Russian
Creole	Italian	Spanish
Farsi	Japanese	Swahili
French	Kachi	Tagalog
German	Korean	Tamil
Greek	Mandarin	Telugu
Gujarati	Malayalam	Urdu

Location

Herricks is located 20 miles east of Manhattan. The school district is comprised of residents who live in parts of the villages of Albertson, Manhasset Hills, New Hyde Park, Roslyn, Roslyn Heights and Williston Park. There is no town of Herricks and thus, the schools are the heart of the community.

Herricks Schools

K-12 enrollment is slightly less than 4,000 students. Prior to the recession, Herricks had been one of the fastest growing school districts in Nassau County. There are three elementary schools, one Middle School, one High School and an alternative high school program called Shelter Rock Academy. There is, in addition, a Community Center housed in a former junior high school which contains a dance school, a large day care program and other community services as well as the District offices.

What Makes Herricks Different?

In many ways Herricks resembles the other super high achieving districts in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester with which it competes as well as super high achieving districts elsewhere in the US – virtually 100%

graduation, virtually all students planning to attend four year colleges, high scores on standardized assessments from Grades 3-8 ELA/Math to Regents to AP courses and high school ranking among the top 100 in the United States for regular comprehensive high schools. Attendance is high. Parents are deeply involved and highly involved and invested.

There are differences, however, and they are both significant and important. Some are a matter of degree but they add up to a district which is passionately and collectively committed to continually moving forward to preparing all students for success in the 21st century and to ensuring that - to the extent possible - all students who graduate have the capacity to apply knowledge and skills to the solution of real world problems, think critically, communicate effectively, do sophisticated research, place their knowledge and skills in a global context, work collaboratively and support others of different races, religions, ethnicities and sexual orientations. This commitment drives the district's educational program.

It is hard to get a job as a teacher or administrator in Herricks. Herricks educators expect the best of themselves and of their colleagues. They are both intensively competitive and intensely collegial, challenging and supporting each other simultaneously in an effort to move the district forward.

Herricks educators, with the strong support of the Board of Education and the community, are also willing to push beyond the edge of the envelope. A number of examples are illustrative:

- Since 2000, the percentage of graduates taking at least one AP course has increased from roughly 30% to just under 80% in 2013. In 2000, 224 students took 469 AP's. In 2014, 650 took 1,433. During this time, the percentage of AP grades 3 or higher has declined only slightly.
- Shortly after David Conley published *Standards for Success*, a detailed description of the proficiencies (skills and knowledge, not courses) necessary for success in college, Herricks educators adopted these as the goals for all students. This was, and still is, the highest bar for college and career readiness. Herricks is not there yet but the commitment to attain it continues to drive the district.
- Herricks provides extensive programs in research in math, science and social studies and a special program (The English Scholars Program) in Middle School and High School for students especially interested in developing their writing skills.
- To benchmark itself against the best in the world and against itself over time, Herricks was one of four districts which talked their way into an independent administration of the 2006 PISA and helped develop the new PISA for Schools. In addition, Herricks, along with six elite boarding schools and one other public high school, piloted the CWRA.
- There is a long-standing half day integrated arts/theater/media alternative program (STAC).
- Herricks created a partnership with the Foreign Policy Association to give students and teachers first-hand access to international diplomats and policy experts.
- A Spanish Language Immersion Program was created as an option for students. Half of a student's day is entirely in Spanish, half in English. Roughly 20% of students in grades 1-5 are already currently enrolled. The program will roll forward through Grade 12 as students move through the grades.
- Herricks set the record for the most students selected for NYSSMA All State (over 30) and seven ensembles achieved gold or gold with distinction in 2014.