

Huntington Union Free School District Office of Fine and Performing Arts

Director's Message – Fall 2015

Welcome Students and Parents to another school year! On behalf of the entire music and art faculty across all of our schools, we look forward to seeing you again; if you are joining us for the first time this year, we look forward to meeting you. Our programs honor Huntington's Tradition of Excellence, as you can see from the many accomplishments celebrated on our website. Here are a few highlights of recent and upcoming events:

Congratulations go out to our newly nominated Long Island Scholar Artists, and our High School music students who have been accepted to this year's NYSSMA All-State Conference. We also celebrate an upgrade to our high school Video and Photo Lab. Our Blue Devil Marching Band has been hard at work this summer preparing "The Divine Comedy". This fall Huntington will host the NYSCAME All County Concerts and a NY State Field Band Conference Competition. Our High School Fall Drama Production will be "Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen. Back by popular demand, The Arts-in-Education Committee will host its fundraiser at Storyville with special guest faculty performances. All of this before the Winter Concerts in December!

I would like to welcome all of our fourth graders who are joining the music program in Band or Orchestra. Learning a musical instrument is a wonderful opportunity! Playing an instrument develops ALL areas of the brain, and research has proven the long term benefits (cognitive, motor skill, and others) of practicing music extend beyond the school career, regardless of whether it is continued after high school, and the benefits increase exponentially over the number of years practiced. What that means is – keep playing! The longer you practice, the greater the benefit for the rest of your life.

This brings me to the message I wish to share with you this Fall: Students, be encouraged by your participation in the arts – you are learning to do so many new and important things. Each year you get better and better and we adults love watching you develop as young artists! Parents, please continue to encourage your children. I know that can mean sacrifices and selflessness, but it is worth it: Your encouragement is a gift that will stay with them forever.

Wishing you all the excitement a new school year brings!

Sarah Loveland Gill, Director of Fine & Performing Arts

(HBDMB alumni & HHS Class of '89)