

The Huntington CONNECTION



Winter 2026

Blueprint for Excellence: Our Strategic Plan in Action

In March 2025, the Board of Education approved a new strategic plan to guide the district from 2025 through 2027. Titled the “Blueprint for Excellence,” it outlines four priority areas: Academic Excellence, The Student Experience, Operations, and Family and Community Engagement. In this edition of The Huntington Connection, we highlight how this work is already taking shape within our schools.

Academic Excellence on the Rise

Over the past several years, our students have continued to reach new academic milestones, reflecting the collective commitment of our educators, families and community. Guided by thoughtful instructional practices, data-informed decision-making and a sustained focus on meeting the needs of every learner, the district’s progress is evident in measurable outcomes across multiple subject areas.

The district has seen notable growth in Advanced Placement performance at the high school level (see charts to the right). In just four years, the percentage of students taking AP exams rose by 31%, while the percentage of total AP students scoring 3 or higher has risen 14%.

Over the past several years, the high school has expanded Advanced Placement opportunities through a collaborative effort among administrators, counselors, teachers and staff. As the data shows, more students are enrolling in college-level coursework and earning potential college credit. Initiatives such as the AP 101 information night and the in-school elective fair have increased awareness of these offerings and reinforced a consistent message to students and families that they are capable of taking on the challenge. These efforts have also earned recognition from the College Board.

Our students’ progress is also evident in other grade levels. On the New York State mathematics assessment, districtwide proficiency for students in grades 3-8 increased by approximately 5% in the past two years. Similar progress is seen on the state’s English Language Arts assessment, where proficiency across grades 3-8 rose by approximately 8% in this same time span.

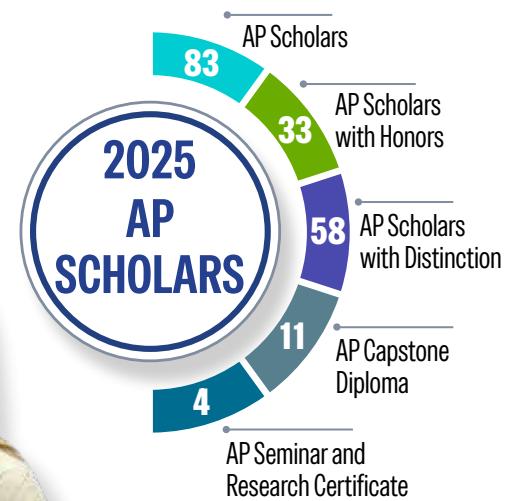
The mathematics, English language arts and reading departments have been hard at work implementing new mathematics and ELA curriculum across the district, aligning with best practices in mathematics instruction and the Science of Reading, as well. Teachers have received extensive training in both areas in collaborative settings with



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AP EXAMS

% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+



Did You Know?

Over a two-year period, the district saw a 65% increase in AP Scholars!

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colleagues, and testing results are beginning to trend upward in response to this ongoing work.

The district also continues to see progress from our English language learners, as documented on the annual NYSESLAT assessment, required for all ELL students in grades K-12. The percentage of ELL students who have reached the highest level of English language proficiency rose from 8.9% to 12.4% in the past year.

Through extensive professional learning and collaboration, the Office of World Languages and Bilingual Services has strengthened instruction for English language learners, leading to significant gains in NYSESLAT proficiency and mastery. As staff capacity has grown and best practices are shared across the district, students have shown dramatic growth in assessment outcomes.

Together, these results reflect a consistent pattern of academic growth across all levels of the district. Through the implementation of the district's strategic plan as highlighted in this newsletter, the district looks forward to sustaining this positive momentum, building on current successes and expanding opportunities for students.

Scan here to view the entire Blueprint for Excellence.



Operations

Over the past several years, the district has completed a wide range of capital improvement projects that have improved basic infrastructure, upgraded learning spaces and enhanced the overall student experience. These improvements reflect our long-term commitment to safe, modern and well-maintained schools. They were funded through the community's support and approval of the general fund budget and capital reserve fund expenditures, as well as through temporary federal COVID relief aid.

Most recently, the following projects were completed:

Facilities and Infrastructure

- New boilers installed at Flower Hill and Southdown primary schools.
- Roof replacement phase completed at Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School.
- Hallway lighting replaced at Huntington High School.
- Solar rooftop panels added at Washington Primary School.
- Gym floors resealed at Flower Hill, Jefferson, Washington, Woodhull, Finley Middle School and Huntington High School.

BEFORE



Learning Spaces

- New science room constructed at Finley Middle School.
- Blue Zone remodeled at Finley Middle School.
- New flooring installed at Southdown Primary School.
- New cafeteria serving line and flooring at Washington Primary School.

Athletic and Outdoor Enhancements

- Second turf field installed at the high school.
- New press box and field lights enabling evening competitions.
- New bocce courts and courtyard added at the high school.

Health, Safety and Security Upgrades

- Air conditioning added in various spaces across all schools.
- Security office expanded at Woodhull Intermediate School.

Additional projects are on the horizon, including the renovation of the high school auditorium and the installation of field house bathrooms.

AFTER



The Student Experience

The district has introduced several new opportunities designed to meet students' diverse needs and foster growth. Most recently, the School Board approved three new Unified art courses for students in grades 9-12. These classes expand the district's Unified program, which already includes Unified Physical Education and varsity Unified Sports teams in



bocce (pictured), bowling and basketball.

Alongside these programs, schools have continued to strengthen student engagement through mindfulness clubs and lunch bunch groups, SRO-led presentations on social media safety, and buildingwide character and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports recognitions. Mentor and buddy programs in each elementary school, as well as the Learners Who LEAD program in grades 4-6, allow students to connect with primary students, supporting meaningful peer relationships.

The district also promotes engagement through hands-on learning in the Innovation Lab, where students in grades 4-6 explore computer science and robotics and apply those skills to real-world challenges. Additionally, students in all grade levels recently engaged in various activities as part of Computer Science

Week. Middle school students, for example, discovered that coding can be a tool for both problem-solving and artistic expression during a music lab jam session.

Recently, the district launched a daily live broadcast at the high school, titled "Blue Devil Broadcast." Broadcasting students also collaborated with elementary staff to create an art "thank you video" and are working on an elementary recruitment video for an upcoming event. Lastly, district representatives visited another school district to learn how we can improve upon our already outstanding broadcasting program.

Together, these efforts reflect a continued commitment to offering students enriching, supportive and collaborative learning experiences.

Family and Community Engagement

As part of the district's ongoing commitment to engaging and empowering families as partners in their children's education, schools recently hosted a series of workshops and events designed to strengthen the home/school connection. At the primary level, opportunities include multicultural nights (pictured right) and holiday read alouds, as well as dual-language nights and STEM evenings, among others. Most recently, Flower Hill Primary School welcomed families for a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Night, which provided parents and students with practical strategies for

encouraging positive behaviors at home.

At the secondary level, the district hosts a variety of opportunities, including programs to help ease the transition between middle and high school, as well as workshops about college readiness, testing and financial aid.

While these are just a few examples of the work taking place within the district, every school and department is committed to providing numerous opportunities like these throughout the year. Additional information will be shared with each school community as the year progresses.



MESSAGE from BOE

Dear Huntington Community,

At our meeting in early September, we approved the district's proposed Intermediate School Restructuring Plan, a forward-thinking approach designed to strengthen learning opportunities for students in grades 4-6. This plan reflects extensive community feedback and aligns with our commitment to preparing students for an increasingly complex and global future.

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, incoming fourth graders will attend intermediate schools based on elementary attendance zones. Flower Hill and Washington students will attend Jack Abrams, while Southdown and Jefferson students will attend Woodhull. Siblings may request to remain together in the same building, and placement needs for students with disabilities will continue to be carefully considered.

The plan expands access to engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Additionally, aligned schedules will support equitable instructional time, while upcoming curriculum work and staffing adjustments will help ensure a smooth transition. The restructuring also offers projected transportation savings due to improved school-to-home proximity.

We believe this plan positions our intermediate program for long-term success. More information will be shared with the community in the months ahead.

In addition to this work, the Board remains committed to advocating for legislation and policies that strengthen public education. As active members of the New York State School Boards Association, we support statewide efforts to secure full funding for universal Pre-K for all three- and four-year-olds, as well as efforts to establish dedicated funding for student health and mental health services. We also stand with NYSSBA in opposing proposals to increase the number of charter schools permitted in the state. These priorities reflect our belief in protecting and enhancing opportunities for our Huntington students and families.

Our ongoing work reflects an unwavering commitment to public education and to the success and well-being of every Huntington student. Thank you for your continued partnership as we plan thoughtfully for the future of our schools.

Sincerely,

The Huntington Union Free School District Board of Education

Huntington Union Free School District

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SPOTLIGHT on ARTS and ATHLETICS

From standout achievements in the arts to impressive accomplishments on the field, our students continue to shine. Below are a few highlights that showcase their talent and dedication across both the arts and athletics.

The Arts

- Winners of the John F. Kellogg Theatre Awards and the Joseph Samodi Theatre Arts Awards.
- Inspiring student productions that emphasize leadership and artistic growth.
- Student films featured at the 16th Annual Film Festival at the Cinema Arts Centre.
- First Place Award at BASH for Arts, Entertainment, and Culture Feature Package.
- Over 100 students received the Blue Ribbon Award of Excellence in the visual arts.
- Home to Long Island Scholar-Artist Award recipients.
- 10 All-County and two All-State musicians in 2025.
- Seniors in 2025 earned more than 20 music-related scholarships, medals and certificates.
- A spirited, competitive marching band with multiple first-place finishes.

Athletics

- The varsity girls tennis team compiled a 12-3 regular season record en route to runner-up finishes in both the league and conference and a fifth-place showing in Suffolk.
- 15 Huntington athletes garnered All-State honors last year.
- 2025 varsity girls lacrosse team won the Suffolk and Long Island championship and had eight players recruited to play for NCAA Division I teams.
- 33 varsity teams earned New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete designation.
- Over 150 student-athletes recognized as NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes (academic grade average of 90% or better during the sport season).
- NYSSPHSSA School of Excellence Award.
- Three varsity Unified Sports teams: basketball, bowling and bocce.