



Hilton Insight

HILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maximizing the Potential of the Individual Learner
Spring 2022



MYP Personal Projects engage students in self-directed learning



Chloe Cardone presents her Personal Project on investing in the stock market.

For the seventh year, 10th-grade students participated in Personal Projects representing the culmination of the Middle Years Programme (MYP). Beginning in ninth grade and continuing through the spring of 10th grade, the Personal Project is a required, large-scale activity of students' own design and based on their own interests. With guidance from adults within the school community, students identify an area of interest and strength that they are motivated to pursue.

Strategic Plan

FOCUS AREA 1

Action Step 2

“The Personal Project is a unique opportunity for 10th grade students to have the structure, time and support in school to design a project of their own interest,” said Steve Cudzilo, MYP coordinator. “Students see the project through to the end, for better or worse, and write a report about their plan, skills practiced and reflection on the process. Finally, students celebrate their projects on presentation day, where they can share their project and gain valuable public speaking practice.”

Students began working on their projects in September outside of school and in school during advisement time. Projects included testing family recipes, researching family history, creating personal fitness plans, and learning new skills, such as car repair, welding, and sewing – among many others.

Nasir Brownlee worked with Teaching Assistant Ann Frey to learn sewing. “I wanted to learn and do something new,” said Nasir, who decided to make pajama pants and a scarf.

Evan Beer researched information about the White House and constructed a detailed replica with Legos.

Andrew Farrell’s goal was creating an item out of a cut of wood. His mentor, Brad Helmer, technology teacher, showed him the best materials to use and instructed him on the safe use of woodworking tools. “I wanted to do something hands on and get a feel of how to build and create,” said Andrew. His father and grandfather, both woodworkers, gave him tips as well. Andrew’s finished projects included a beautiful cutting board, airplane, vase, jewelry box with a secret compartment, mug and birdhouses. He said he now likes to create things for family members and teachers.



Evan Beer with the White House model he constructed out of Legos.

Students presented their project during advisement time on March 16. They were evaluated on how well they investigated their topic, planned their project, and acted and reflected on what they learned through the process. Students receive a Pass/Fail on their Quarter 3 report card based on their work on the project, and its completion is reflected on their transcript. Students also receive .5 credit for completing the project.

For more information about the MYP Personal Project, visit Hilton.k12.ny.us/MYP.



Andrew Farrell shows off just two of the many items he made of wood – a mug and vase.



Nasir Brownlee models the pajama pants he learned to make with mentor Ann Frey (right) and teacher Elaina Spreter.

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Dear Hilton Learning Community:

The weather is finally getting warmer and our calendars are beginning to fill with end-of-year events. Walking through our buildings, I sense the excitement as we make that final push to finish the school year strong and enjoy celebrating our students' and staff's accomplishments in person.

Speaking of celebration, this month the Hilton Central School District was named a Rochester Top Workplace for the ninth consecutive year! I want to thank our staff for once again giving Hilton CSD this honor. What makes this year's recognition so special is how our staff has persevered through such difficult times and continued to take care of each other and our students. I'm humbled and privileged to be their teammate!

I'm sure that you have seen the many postings the district has shared across all our social media channels advertising the job opportunities we have here in Hilton. Summer is a busy hiring time for school districts and we hope that you will consider Hilton CSD if you are looking for employment or to change jobs. Our listings are kept up to date at *Hilton*.

Recruitfront.com and the online application process is simple. If you need help, please don't hesitate to call our Human Resources Office at 392-1000, ext. 7015.

Amidst the pandemic, Hilton CSD has kept our five-year Strategic Plan in the forefront. We are proud of what we have accomplished on our three focus areas over the past five years. Soon we will be sharing a video that illustrates and celebrates this Framework for Success.

The District has set three transitional goals for the 2022-23 school year:

1. Improving the District's culture and climate;
2. Continuing to make progress on the District's diversity and equity initiative;
3. Successfully developing the District's next five-year strategic plan.

To begin the process of developing our next Strategic Plan, we will be surveying the community, staff, and students, and holding focus groups beginning in September. We will then process the feedback and develop the new Strategic Plan to begin on July 1, 2023.

Lastly, please be on the lookout for the 2022-23 Budget issue of the Insight newsletter in May. This year's Budget Vote and Board of Education Election is Tuesday, May 17 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Thank you to our parents, educators and community members for all that you do to support our Cadets as they work toward becoming self-directed, lifelong learners.

Sincerely,

Casey Kosiorek, Ed.D.
Superintendent



THANK YOU, HILTON STAFF!

It is a privilege and an honor to be named a Rochester Top Workplace for **9 consecutive years.**

Every Student. Every Classroom. Every Day.



2022-23 Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

Tuesday, May 17 – 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Hilton High School, 400 East Ave., Hilton for
 Parma, Clarkson and Hamlin residents

Northwood Elementary School,
 433 N. Greece Rd., Greece
 for Greece residents

The budget newsletter will be mailed to district residents in May. Information will be posted as it becomes available at hilton.k12.ny.us/Budget.

Strategic Plan

FOCUS AREA 3

Action Step 2

Meet the Candidates Night:

Tues., May 3 at 6 p.m. in the Hilton High School Auditorium (new location) and livestreamed (Please visit Hilton.k12.ny.us for instructions on how to join.)

Budget Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting:

Tues., May 10 at 7 p.m. in the Quest Elementary Auditorium

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available at the district clerk’s office for registered voters who are unable to appear at the vote due to vacation outside of the country, hospitalization, illness or other qualifying circumstances, such as concerns related to COVID-19. Completed applications, which are mailed, must be received at least seven days before the day of the election. Ballots to be delivered personally to the district clerk must be received no later than 5 p.m. on May 17, 2022. For more information the District Clerk is in the District Office, 225 West Ave., Hilton (Quest Elementary School), 392-1000, ext. 7099.

Polls are handicapped accessible.



One Drop at a Time

Eighth grader Jameson White mixes clay into water to help illustrate how a water filter that only costs \$75 can make 200 gallons of polluted water per day safe to drink. Jess Alinaitwe, Ugandan Water Project director of community partnership, educated students on the plight that Ugandans face every day for clean water. The assembly launched Merton Williams Middle School’s service learning project, “One Drop at a Time,” which raised over \$5,000, far surpassing the goal of \$3,600 for a rainwater collection system that will provide 250 people with clean water for 30 years.



Career Exploration

Paramedic Christopher O’Brien shows junior Abby Hahm some of the equipment he uses in the field of emergency medicine. On March 16, 50 professionals generously gave their time to share their knowledge with juniors and seniors during Career Day, which coincided with MYP presentations. Some of the many professions represented were: plumber, journalist, optical technician, deputy sheriff, sheet metal worker, web designer, mental health counselor and pharmacist.

Strategic Plan

FOCUS AREA 1

Action Step 4



High School academic honors announced

The following seniors will be recognized at the Board of Education meeting on June 14 for achieving Valedictory and Salutatory Honors, as well as those students who are International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates.

- Valedictory Honors is earned by achieving a grade point average of 97.0 or greater through the first seven semesters.
- Salutatory Honors is earned by achieving a grade point average of 95.0-96.99 through the first seven semesters.
- Honors is earned by achieving a grade point average of 90.0-94.99 through the first seven semesters.

Congratulations to the following seniors:

Barwald, Megan	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Byrd, Natalie	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
DiPalma, Jameson	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Jorgensen, Emily	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Kiser, Meghan	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Miller, Alayna	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Moran, Benjamin	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Rodriguez, Clara	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Spall, Carlie	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Standing, Molly	IB Diploma Candidate	Valedictory
Amering, Sophie	Valedictory	
Beyer, Lauryn	Valedictory	
Brugno, Dominic	Valedictory	
Christ, Ryan	Valedictory	
Christodaro, Raena	Valedictory	
DelVecchio, Lia	Valedictory	
DelVecchio, Rylie	Valedictory	
Donohue, Claire	Valedictory	
Fiorella, Madeline	Valedictory	
Hassett, Benjamin	Valedictory	
Indelicato, Doron	Valedictory	
IpenVanZeilen, Abigail	Valedictory	
Johnson, Maya	Valedictory	
Letta, Riley	Valedictory	
Marean, Andrew	Valedictory	
Mascadri, Ella	Valedictory	
Mascadri, Madalyn	Valedictory	
Mastowski, Matthew	Valedictory	
Meagher, HannaH	Valedictory	
Morris, Joel	Valedictory	
Pellechia, Cara	Valedictory	
Prince, Preston	Valedictory	
Reigle, Laura	Valedictory	
Sample, Autumn	Valedictory	
Sciortino, Julia	Valedictory	
Tydings, McKenna	Valedictory	
Verhay, Jillian	Valedictory	
Root, Alexandria	IB Diploma Candidate	Salutatory
Smith, Jake	IB Diploma Candidate	Salutatory
Williams, Jessica	IB Diploma Candidate	Salutatory
Muscato, Kendra	IB Diploma Candidate	Honors
Zink, Alexandra	IB Diploma Candidate	Honors
MacNeil, Tarah	IB Diploma Candidate	

Engine Repair

Aiden Pillion, a sixth grader in Loni Butlin's class at Quest, works with 10th grader Trent Green on repairing the fuel line in a leaf blower. Trent, who is a former student



of Butlin's, repaired a lawnmower as part of his Middle Years Programme Personal Project, and volunteered to help Aiden with his Primary Years Programme Exhibition project. Butlin said she put out a request on Facebook for small engines that need repairing and received a great response. Aiden has also received help from other teachers and former Quest families with donations of machines and sharing of expertise and tools. "I've been around this all my life," said Aiden. "My dad is good at fixing things."

National Library Month

April is National Library Month and Quest Elementary School is resuming its annual bookmark contest that was paused during the pandemic. The theme is "Connect with Your Library" and promotes the idea that libraries are places to connect to technology, in addition to traditional print books.

"Libraries spark ideas due to the transformative knowledge that they hold," said Quest Library Media Specialist Stephanie Harney. "They are active spaces of learning that all Hilton CSD libraries offer to their students each and every day."

Students were given a white cardstock bookmark and submitted a design for the contest using the theme. Winners will be selected at each grade level to be used schoolwide as printed bookmarks for the remainder of the year. Winners will be announced May 2.

Stay engaged with QUEST library by following them on Social Media:

Twitter @sofwtwo1

Facebook: @Questlibrary



Shown are: (l-r) Library Media Specialist Stephanie Harney, Carter Picente, Anya Green, Cadence Stahlecker, Ryan Scalera and Principal Derek Warren.

Egypt and Breezy bounded around the classroom before stretching out on the floor as their trainers, Cassandra Houghton, Guiding Eyes for the Blind regional manager, and Karie Livingston, regional coordinator, talked about the process of going from puppyhood to highly trained guide dog.

Teacher Steve Randall, who volunteered to raise a Guiding Eyes puppy with his daughter a few years ago, wanted his students to learn how an animal can be used as adaptive technology. The visit was also a great opportunity for one student, Braiden Wingrove, to hear more about the process of getting a guide dog himself. The visually impaired senior is memorizing two routes that he can walk by himself, a prerequisite for receiving a guide dog. Once a person is matched with a dog; they train together for two to three weeks at a Guiding Eyes facility. Braiden is hoping to get his guide dog sometime after graduation.

Egypt, four and a half months, and Breezy, 14 months, are socialized with a volunteer family from birth to about 18 months. “We want the dogs to explore our world so that they can be comfortable in it and work past any distractions,” said Houghton. In all, it costs \$50,000 to train a guide dog and there is no cost to the person receiving the dog. The program exists through donations and volunteers.

Braiden, who competes on the Track and Field, and Cross-Country teams, was particularly interested in a guide dog that could run with him. Currently, he runs tethered to his coach, Mike Childs. The Guiding Eyes for the Blind Running Guides program is the only program of its kind in the world. These extensively tested and trained dogs enable people who are blind and visually impaired to run with only their guide's support.

The class also learned about adaptive technology being developed through Google Research. Thomas Panek, president and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind of Westchester County, helped create an app, which uses his phone’s camera to monitor the route in front of him, alerting him whenever it’s time to turn. The app is not yet available to the public, but the team from what Google calls Project Guideline has said they hope to release it soon.



Senior Braiden Wingrove and his aide, Kelly Ramble, pet Egypt and Breezy, two black Labradors that are “In for Training” to determine if they have what it takes to be trained as a guide dog.

Congratulations, Winter Drumline!

The Hilton Winter Drumline qualified as a Class A Finalist with their production “NOLA: Scenes from French Quarter” at the New York State Percussion Circuit Championships on April 3 at Onondaga Community College. With a score of 80.90, Hilton finished seventh overall.

In addition to the students' incredible performance, the New York State Percussion Circuit (NYSPC) established the NYSPC Hall of Fame and inducted Tim Stodd, retired Hilton music teacher and Drumline director, as the first member. Stodd founded the Hilton Winter Drumline in 1995 and under his direction, they won the NYS Championship 16 times and won the 2013 WGI PSA World Championship. He is still writing and designing for the group post retirement. “We are forever indebted to Mr. Stodd and his contributions to the Drumline program,” said Victoria Valente, current director.



The 2022 Winter Drumline: (front, l-r) Jasmine Fox, Jacob Kistner, Danny Cerone, Drew Sadecki, Olivia Koegel, Claire Donohue, Graham North, Vinny Capria, Logan McGranaghan and Ian Kingdollar; (back) Shannen Bennington, Addy Newland, Gracie Preston, Owen Hunsinger, Ryan Gruener, Jacob Phillips, Nicky Gruener, Arri Brown, Sara Amend, Samantha Fox, Bri Sadecki and Eva Brooks.

2022-2023 Academic Calendar

The Board of Education approved the Academic Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year at its Mar. 8, 2022 meeting. To view it, visit Hilton.k12.ny.us/Calendar.

Hilton CSD welcomes new Director of Technology



Kristy Shafer

teacher in Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central Schools.

At its Jan. 25 meeting, the Hilton Board of Education appointed Kristy Shafer to the position of Director of Technology.

Before beginning her new position in Hilton on Feb. 28, Shafer served as a pre-K-12 instructional coach in the Wayland-Cohocton Central School District where she also worked as a STEM coach/teacher for three years. Her earlier experience includes serving as principal of an early college high school at Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES and as a technology education

Shafer's education includes a bachelor's degree in Technology Education from SUNY Oswego, a master's in Technology Education from Ball State University, a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Building Leadership from SUNY Plattsburgh, and a Graduate Certificate in School District Leadership, also from SUNY Plattsburgh.

"From the start of the interview process, I have received a very warm welcome and am looking forward to working collaboratively to help the district continue its growth," said Shafer. "I am thankful to the Board of Education, interview committees, and Dr. (Casey) Kosiorek for the rigorous and thorough, yet friendly, interview process and the opportunity to join the Hilton Central School District team."

Shafer lives in Lima with her husband Robert.

Birthday Surprise

Axel Maley, a fourth grader in Susan Huppé's class at Village Elementary, received a special surprise on April 4, his 10th birthday. His brother, Hunter, who serves in the U.S. Air Force as a mechanic and is stationed in Texas, and their dad, Michael Maley, made Axel's day when they popped in his classroom. Hunter had just arrived home for a short visit.



Virtual Safari

Joshua Hix and Bayan Shaibi share facts about African animals during a collaboration between sixth graders and kindergartners at Northwood Elementary School. After reading the book *Water Hole Waiting* by Jane and Christopher Kurtz, Barb Richardson's kindergartners researched a wild animal, learned a fun fact to share about that animal, planned a safari and colored a map of Africa. Then Jenny Ames' & Julie Fiege's sixth graders listened to the younger students talk about their project and used their Chromebooks to look up interesting facts about other animals. The activity tied into the informational writing and presentation skills the older students are working on for their Power of One projects.



Perkowski appointed as Northwood principal



Melissa Perkowski

Literature/Elementary Education, both from Nazareth College.

Perkowski resides in Fairport with her husband Michael. They have three children.

Prior to the search, Superintendent Dr. Casey Kosiorek and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Ned Dale met with Northwood faculty and

Melissa Perkowski, who is currently serving as interim assistant principal, was appointed to the position of Northwood Elementary School principal at the April 12 Board of Education meeting. She will begin her new role on July 1.

Prior to coming to Hilton, Perkowski worked in the Gates Chili Central School District where she served as interim assistant principal at Gates Chili Middle School, Neil Armstrong Elementary School and Walt Disney Elementary School. From 2016 to 2020, she was director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at Honeoye Central School District. Perkowski has also worked as a reading specialist, and first and fourth grade teacher.

Perkowski's education includes a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Oswego, and a Master of Science in Education and Bachelor of Arts in English

launched a ThoughtExchange to gather information on the characteristics, skills and qualities Northwood families desired in a principal. Screening interviews were conducted for selected applicants, then four semi-finalists were interviewed by a stakeholder committee comprised of parents, teachers, staff and administrators. Perkowski was selected as a finalist and Northwood families had the opportunity to meet her prior to her appointment.

"The crisis at Northwood has been extremely difficult for district families and staff," said Superintendent Dr. Casey Kosiorek. "We are confident that Melissa is the best person for this position as we progress on our road to recovery that includes healing and rebuilding trust with our community."

The District thanks those who participated in the ThoughtExchange and hiring process, and is grateful to Carol Stehm, interim principal, for her leadership over the past year.

Hilton CSD welcomes Kristen Paolini as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

At its Mar. 22 meeting, the Hilton Board of Education appointed Kristen Paolini to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. She replaces the retiring Dr. Barbara Surash and will begin her new position on June 1.

"We are very pleased to have Kristen join the Hilton learning community," said Superintendent Dr. Casey Kosiorek. "Her impressive track record of leadership, relationship building, and knowledge of curriculum and instruction made her the clear choice for the district."

Paolini currently serves as K-12 Director of Curriculum for the Spencerport Central School District, a position she has held since 2017. Prior to that, she was an assistant principal at Spencerport High School. She began her career teaching English in the Gates Chili Central School District.

Paolini has a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in education from St. Bonaventure University, a master's degree in English education from SUNY Brockport, and an administrative certificate from Canisius College.

A Hilton School District resident, Paolini lives in N. Greece with her husband, Tom, and their four children: twins Andrew and Barrett, freshman at Hilton High School, and twins Reese and Reagan, fourth graders at Northwood Elementary School.

"I am humbled to have been selected to serve the Hilton Central School District as the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with students, staff, and the community on delivering the high-quality educational programming for which Hilton is known," said Paolini.



Kristen Paolini

Hilton Central School District
225 West Avenue
Hilton, New York 14468
585-392-1000
www.hilton.k12.ny.us

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Hilton School Board Members are elected to three-year terms and serve without pay. Online Board meeting agendas and minutes: hilton.k12.ny.us/board-education.htm

**2021-22
Board of Education**

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hilton.k12.ny.us

The Hilton School District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, race, color, religion, political affiliation or national origin.

Superintendent of Schools,
Casey Kosiorek, Ed. D.

Director of Communications,
Grace Scism



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Hilton.k12.ny.us

Hilton School District Resident

Hilton Insight

Hilton Sports Boosters need you!

Did you know that Hilton Sports Boosters typically raise over \$20,000 each year for our Hilton Cadets? Do you have a child who is currently playing Hilton sports and are you willing to devote some time to this important organization? For more information, visit Hilton.k12.ny.us/Boosters.

