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August 21, 2024

Dear Hempstead UFSD Family,

Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 school year! It is my hope you had a restful and fun-filled summer vacation!

The Hempstead Union Free School District has moved to greater, and our efforts have made a positive impact. We have been informed by the New York State Education Department, that all schools in the Hempstead UFSD are in GOOD STANDING! This great feat can be attributed to our staff, students, and families working together to ensure we create a strong and safe educational atmosphere for our scholars. I am truly grateful to our Hempstead Staff and Board of Education for their commitment to the progress our district has made academically, socially, and fiscally.

For the 2024 – 2025 school year, the district will continue to offer scholars a wide variety of well-rounded and challenging programs, such as International Baccalaureate Framework (IB), Advanced Placement Courses, Smart Scholars, STEM, Bilingual Classes, FLES, Jr ROTC, Career Technical Education, and Music and Arts. Also, this year, we will be expanding the teaching of an all-inclusive account of American History using the BH365 curriculum for Black History and Latin History. To expose our scholars to the importance of agriculture, as it relates to wellness and financial literacy, we will introduce an agricultural curriculum in some of our schools. Lastly, to create an even better culture and climate for all, there will be a districtwide implementation of Restorative Practices. Expanding on these opportunities will give our scholars a chance to rise above their peers and better prepare them academic success and for their future.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of our community, again, we were able to pass a bond that will address the needs of our facilities. In the next few years, all our schools will be 21st century, state of the art buildings and will be properly heated during the winter and cooled in the summer. As we open this school year, you will see a lot of construction happening in our schools, as we continue to address the scope of work approved in the 2022 bond, and now in the 2024 bond. Shortly, work will begin on the new addition to the ABGS Middle School. As a result, we will have to change entrances and exits, as well as reroute our buses and some of our scholars drop off locations. More information regarding these matters will be addressed by the middle school administration and central office to ensure a smooth transition.

The Governing Body of the HUFSD remains committed to serving our scholars with dignity and respect, as we hold them accountable to high standards and expectations in a supportive, positive, and safe learning environment. Consequently, we will be enforcing our district's policy no. 5695 of **no cell phone use** during the school day for scholars. Many studies have confirmed cell phones are an impediment to learning and school safety. This is also an agenda item for New York State Governor Hochul. Therefore, it is the expectation that our scholars will adhere to the policy and procedures as outlined by their building principals as they return to school this Fall.

Just as a reminder, the first day back for staff is Wednesday, August 28, 2024. Staff should report directly to their assigned school/building at their regular contractual time. Convocation this year will be held Thursday, **August 29, 2024, 8:15am sharp at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse, Hofstra University 118 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549**. An overview of the two-day Superintendent's Conference Day schedule is attached to this memo.

As we move forward into the 2024 - 2025 school year, let us remain dedicated to creating an educational system where scholar's success is inevitable. Let us continue to take measures to ensure that our scholars are ready to learn and maximize their potential every day! This year, it is all about **#IMPACT!**

Committed to IMPACT,

Regina Armstrong
Superintendent of Schools
Hempstead Union Free School District

Attachments
2-Day Conference Schedule