



HWSC Syracuse and Binghamton Newsletter

Sixteenth Edition
Fall 2025

Hello Fall

Staff Anniversaries

October

Aleesha Czyz – 4 years*
Reyanah Brown – 3 years

November

Brandon Sullivan – 6 years*
Autumn Gilbert – 6 years

December

Rachael Acosta – 5 years
Jahquan Taylor – 1 year

**since re-hire date*

From the Desk of Regional Director, Karinda Shanes

At HWSC, we're doing more than tutoring; we're transforming futures. Our scholars gain academic strength, confidence, and life skills that prepare them for success in school, career, and community. Every investment in their potential fuels the long-term vitality of our community.

At the heart of our mission is creating opportunities for at-risk youth and their families. We foster a nurturing environment rooted in skill-building, self-belief, and community support. This empowers students to break cycles of disadvantage and pursue brighter futures.

#HillsideStrong
#HWSC
#YouthDevelopment
#EquityInAction
#FutureReady
#CommunityImpact



Notes from Mari and Naj

It was a strong start to the school year for HWSC Binghamton and Syracuse! We are incredibly proud of this amazing team.

As we wrapped up last quarter, there were many changes and challenges, but thanks to your resilience and teamwork, we closed the year and launched into summer with great success. Your dedication made all the difference.

Even more inspiring is the energy and motivation we've already seen as this new school year begins. It's clear that our staff is committed to supporting our students every step of the way, and that momentum is powerful.

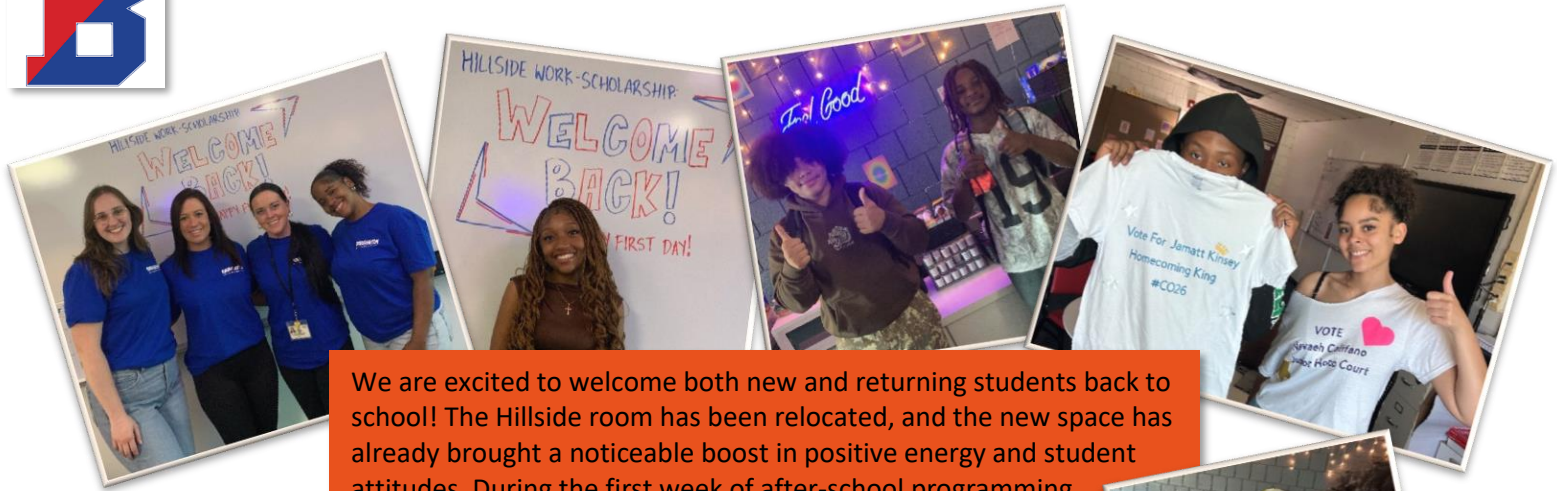
We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we truly couldn't do this without you.

Here's to a year full of growth, success, and shared accomplishments!

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Binghamton



We are excited to welcome both new and returning students back to school! The Hillside room has been relocated, and the new space has already brought a noticeable boost in positive energy and student attitudes. During the first week of after-school programming, students got creative with scrapbooking and diamond art.

Staff attended the Harpursville Community Fair, where they spoke with families about the program and had the opportunity to connect with various community resources and programs from across Broome County.



Meet Lily! Lily is currently interning with Hillside at Binghamton High School. She graduated this past May from SUNY Oswego with a B.S. in Secondary English Education. During her senior year, she student taught amazing 11th and 12th graders at Nottingham High School. After graduating, she worked as a substitute

teacher across various schools and grade levels within the Syracuse City School District. Lily is now pursuing her M.A. in English at Binghamton University. She looks forward to continuing to grow as an educator by working with learners at Binghamton High School through Hillside. After graduating, Lily hopes to return to her hometown of Kirkville and continue teaching high schoolers in the SCSD.



We are excited to welcome Courtney to the Binghamton team as our new youth advocate! She joined us in July and brings valuable experience from her previous role at Hillside, where she

served as a youth advocate at School Without Walls in Rochester. Since joining, Courtney has spent the summer getting to know our students, planning enrichment activities, preparing for the upcoming school year, and working hard to get acquainted at BHS.

Welcome to the team Courtney!

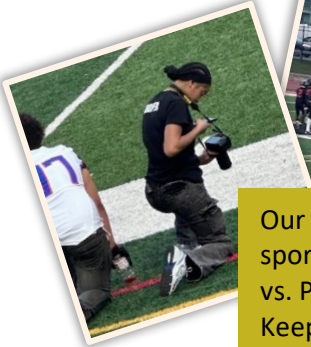
Nottingham & ITC



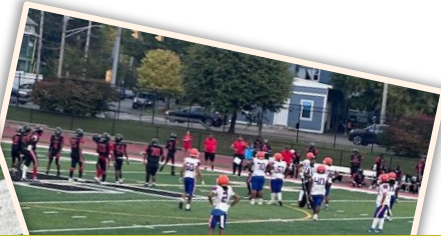
Congratulations to our two Nottingham August graduates: J. Adams and R. Rice (not pictured). Embrace the opportunities ahead, and always believe in yourself. **Congratulations!**



Welcome to Hillside at Nottingham, Mrs. Tia Wright! Thank you for supporting the Nottingham orientations. We're looking forward to a great school year with you on our team!



Our very own K. Cooper served as the sports photographer at the Nottingham vs. PSLA football game in September. Keep up the great work!



Nottingham Spirit Week featured Western Day and Character/Twin Day, with Advocate Tia joining the fun dressed as Arthur!



Hillside Nottingham students enjoyed the beautiful views during their college tour of SUNY Oswego.



Mrs. Gilbert supported our ITC Open House this year, and her students, K. Harris and Z. Adams, enjoyed stopping by her table to check in with their advocate!

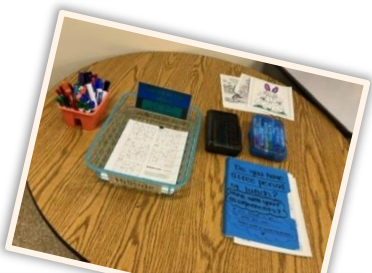


Senior Sunrise for the ITC Class of 2026! May the sun continue to shine on you all throughout this school year!



ITC Students enjoyed their lunch break with Hillside and made slime to help relieve some of the stress from the start of the school year.

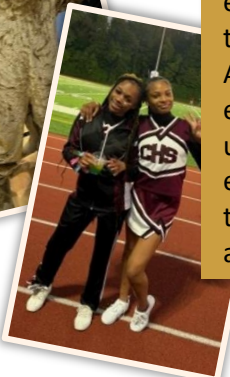
Corcoran & PSLA



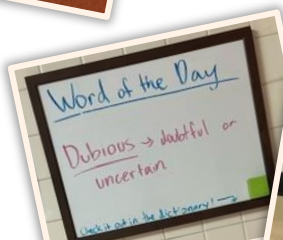
Corcoran students have begun attending Lunch Bunches with Youth Advocates Ms. Noelle and Ms. O'Sheonia. Activities have included trying out Sudoku puzzles and mindful coloring, which happen to be two of Ms. Noelle and Ms. O'Sheonia's favorites.



The Corcoran team created a "Welcome Back" board, a birthday celebration board, and a "Brain Dump" station in their office to engage students returning to school. The Welcome Back board gives students a chance to write out their goals for the year while also seeing the goals of their peers. The Brain Dump station offers a space for students to express their thoughts and then "let them go." The birthday board will be updated monthly to recognize and celebrate students with birthdays during that month.

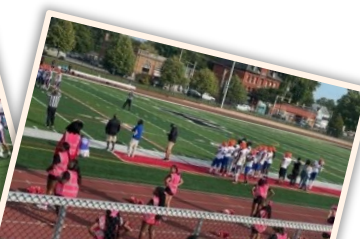
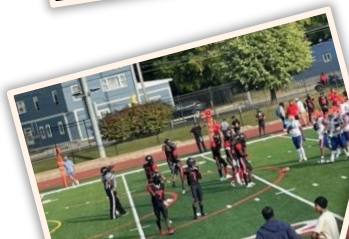


A Corcoran Hillside student brought extra school spirit to Homecoming this year by serving as the mascot! Alongside the cheerleaders, their energy and enthusiasm helped fire up the crowd and made the event even more memorable. We're proud to see our students getting involved and showing their Cougar pride!



Hillside at PSLA offers a free library for student leisure reading. They also highlight a "word of the day" to encourage building vocabulary and literacy. Each day, students can learn a new word, look it up in the dictionary, and practice using it in a sentence.

Youth Advocates Farren Toomey and Clancy Coonradt supported Curriculum Night by offering Hillside insights and goodies to families in attendance. Hillside senior Azarion Steward is a Falcon Ambassador! He is leading by example for his younger peers and helped keep Curriculum Night running smoothly.

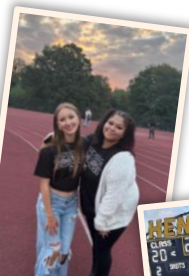


The PSLA team attended the Homecoming football game to show support for the many players and cheerleaders who are a part of Hillside. The Falcons won! As always, the cheerleaders were looking FABULOUS!



The esports facility at the Atrium downtown hosts students several days a week for practice and competitive play. Some students are even hoping to play on college teams! Mr. Clancy attends to keep his students encouraged!

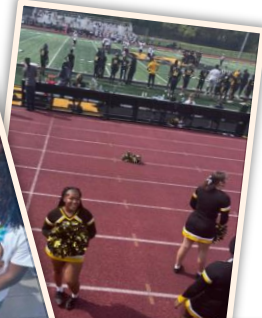
Henninger, Frazer & Brighton



Shout out to the Henninger Class of 2026! Our seniors kicked off the school year in style with the annual Senior Sunrise. Ms. Brown was up bright and early to support them. This group is full of energy and ready to make their final year unforgettable!



A special welcome to Jahquan Taylor. He has already been making a big impact by supporting so many students and staying actively involved in his new school. We're excited to have him on the Henninger team!



Henninger Advocates were proud to see so many students come out to support the football team at Homecoming. The school spirit and energy were truly inspiring!



Students at Frazer now celebrate "Workout Wednesdays" and "Frazer Gear Fridays." But don't worry, we're still keeping our favorite traditions, including the upcoming Trunk or Treat on October 16th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., featuring a special performance by the school's band!



Don't forget to support Frazer Frontier sports this season by cheering on our Soccer, Football, and Volleyball teams. We hope to see you there!



The Brighton Academy Lady Wolves played a great game in their season opener and brought home a big win!



Advocate Ms. Vic hosted her first Open House event at Brighton Academy. It was a great turnout, with lots of merchandise given away. It was an exciting day, and Ms. Vic had the opportunity to meet many parents and share important information.

Clary, Grant & Lincoln



Hillside at Clary said farewell to Ms. Orr as she transitions to her new middle school. We will miss you! Your passion for all you do as a Youth Advocate and your impact at Clary are truly unmatched. Your students, families, the entire Clary team, and your longtime Hillside colleague and friend, Nicole, wish you the very best on this new journey. Lincoln is so lucky to have you on their team.



It is with a heavy heart that we offer our deepest condolences on the loss of an incredible mentor and valued colleague, Mr. Lawrence Moten. Your support of our Clary students was a constant source of inspiration, and your influence will continue to shape their lives.

You will be forever remembered and deeply missed. Your mentorship was a true gift, and your impact on Clary Middle School is immeasurable. Your warmth, wisdom, and spirit will remain in our hearts always.



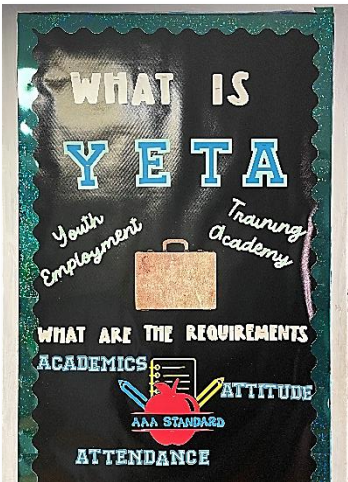
New school year, new office! Grant's Hillside office is in a new location on the first floor. Students will now have easy access to Hillside from the lunch room. YA II Brandon Sullivan has been recruiting new 7th and 8th grade students. We are looking forward to fresh faces and new Lunch Bunch activities!



Ms. Orr is excited to begin her new journey at Lincoln Middle School. She has already hit the ground running, building strong, positive relationships with students, staff, and families. With her caseload already full, she is eager to continue supporting students and helping them grow both inside and outside the classroom.



Phoenix Center



Celebrating Our Scholars This Fall!

As the leaves change and we welcome the new season, we're excited to share that 13 of our Hillside Scholars (10 Syracuse and 3 Binghamton) have successfully completed YETA and are now YETA Certified! We are very proud of their accomplishments and know they will be a great addition to any workplace team they join. A big thank you to our advocates for always pushing and supporting our students!

We are looking forward to our next sessions:

Upcoming Portfolio Workshop Dates:

- October 15, 2025
- October 29, 2025

Our next YETA session will begin on **November 4, 2025**.

Also, be on the lookout for flyers within your schools, as Mrs. Hughes will be in high schools hosting workshops as well!



This summer, Hillside students had the opportunity to visit multiple universities to explore the opportunities they offer and to discover pathways students can take to achieve their goals and dreams!

Students kicked off the summer with a visit to Syracuse University (SU) and enjoyed seeing campus highlights, including the JMA Dome! SU staff were very informative and explained the various pathways to an SU education.

Next, students traveled with Hillside to SUNY Oswego, where they got a glimpse of what student life is like at the college. They also attended a presentation from Oswego admissions to learn more about different majors and study abroad opportunities offered.

For the final tour of the summer, Hillside students explored Le Moyne College. Everyone asked great questions during the tour and seemed excited to learn more about this local institution. By the end of the visit, students had seen much of the campus and received valuable information about the programs offered there.

As the new school year begins, we're looking forward to more exciting college tours, along with many events that will allow students to explore great career opportunities, trade and apprenticeship pathways, and military options!