

Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools



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Dear Hastings Families & Staff,

I am writing with great news. Hillside Elementary School was named a [2022 National Blue Ribbon School](#) by the U.S. Department of Education today, a distinction awarded to only 297 schools nationwide. Hillside is one of nine elementary schools selected in New York State.

Schools were selected for the 2022 award based on overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Hillside, as with the other awardees, had to submit a comprehensive application, which was completed through careful work by all Hillside teachers and administrators.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona's announcement included this statement:

"I applaud all the honorees for the 2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award for creating vibrant, welcoming, and affirming school communities where students can learn, grow, reach their potential, and achieve their dreams...As our country continues to recover from the pandemic, we know that our future will only be as strong as the education we provide to all of our children. Blue Ribbon Schools have gone above and beyond to keep students healthy and safe while meeting their academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. These schools show what is possible to make an enduring, positive difference in students' lives."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed approximately 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools across 39 years. Hastings-on-Hudson schools have been named as National Blue Ribbon awardees several other times: Hillside (1998), Farragut Middle School (2007) and Hastings High School (2001 and 2017).

"The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms and validates the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in striving for – and attaining – exemplary achievement," as described by the U.S. Department of Education. "National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation."

Over the coming weeks, Principal Amy Cazes will be providing details on how Hillside will be celebrating this remarkable achievement and sharing the content of the work being honored. In the meantime, please join me in applauding and cheering for Hillside. Put simply, this is a Wow!

Be well.

Bill

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