



# MEADOW HILL GEM SCHOOL NEWS LETTER

October 2026



## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

### Welcome, Mr. Johnson!

Meadow Hill is pleased to welcome Ron Johnson as our new Middle School Assistant Principal, starting October 16th. Mr. Johnson brings nearly a decade of secondary teaching experience in Business Education and Social Studies, most recently at Arlington High School in the Arlington Central School District. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Marist College, an M.A.T. in Adolescent Education 7-12 Social Studies and his Certificate of Advanced Study in School Building Leadership from SUNY New Paltz. In 2024, he was honored as the NGPF Distinguished Teacher of Personal Finance, recognizing his commitment to preparing students for real-world success.

Mr. Johnson has spent his career focused on creating positive, supportive learning environments for students, and he is excited to bring that same energy to the Meadow Hill middle school community. Parents and families can look forward to an assistant principal who values strong communication, student growth, and a collaborative approach to problem-solving. Mr. Johnson looks forward to meeting families and being a visible, engaged presence in the building in the weeks ahead. Please join us in welcoming him to the Meadow Hill family!

Meadow Hill se complace en dar la bienvenida a Ron Johnson como nuestro nuevo Subdirector de Escuela Intermedia, a partir del 16 de octubre. El Sr. Johnson cuenta con casi una década de experiencia docente a nivel secundario en Educación Empresarial y Estudios Sociales, y más recientemente se desempeñó en Arlington High School, dentro del Distrito Escolar Central de Arlington. Posee una Licenciatura en Administración de Empresas de Marist College, una Maestría en Enseñanza de Educación para Adolescentes de 7.º a 12.º grado con especialización en Estudios Sociales, y un Certificado de Estudios Avanzados en Liderazgo Escolar de SUNY New Paltz. En 2024, fue reconocido como Maestro Distinguido de Finanzas Personales de NGPF, en reconocimiento a su compromiso con la preparación de los estudiantes para alcanzar el éxito en situaciones de la vida real.

A lo largo de su carrera, el Sr. Johnson se ha enfocado en crear ambientes de aprendizaje positivos y de apoyo para los estudiantes, y está entusiasmado de aportar esa misma energía a la comunidad de la escuela intermedia de Meadow Hill. Los padres y las familias pueden esperar contar con un subdirector que valora la comunicación abierta y constante, el crecimiento de los estudiantes y un enfoque colaborativo para la resolución de problemas.

El Sr. Johnson espera con entusiasmo conocer a nuestras familias y ser una presencia visible, accesible y comprometida dentro de la escuela durante las próximas semanas. ¡Acompañénnos a darle una cálida bienvenida a la familia de Meadow Hill!

### ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

At Meadow Hill, we know that **every day is a GEM!** Regular attendance plays an important role in helping our students grow academically, socially, and personally. Students who attend school consistently and arrive on time are better prepared to learn, build strong relationships, and take advantage of all the opportunities our school has to offer.

Throughout the school year, we will celebrate students for strong and improved attendance through special incentives, recognitions, and school-wide celebrations. Our goal is to encourage students to be present, on time, and ready to shine each and every day.

We are proud of the commitment our students and families continue to show toward making attendance a priority. Strong attendance habits are built through teamwork between home and school, and they help create the positive, supportive school community we value at Meadow Hill.

Thank you for partnering with us and helping our GEMS shine bright every day!

The Meadow Hill staff is here to support families when circumstances make regular attendance difficult. If your family needs assistance or you have questions or concerns regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school or your child's teacher.

### INFORMACIÓN SOBRE LA ASISTENCIA ESCOLAR

En Meadow Hill, sabemos que **¡cada día es una oportunidad para que nuestros GEMS brillen!** La asistencia regular desempeña un papel importante en el crecimiento académico, social y personal de nuestros estudiantes. Los estudiantes que asisten a la escuela de manera constante y llegan a tiempo están mejor preparados para aprender, desarrollar relaciones positivas y aprovechar todas las oportunidades que nuestra escuela tiene para ofrecer.

A lo largo del año escolar, celebraremos a los estudiantes que demuestren una buena asistencia o una mejora en su asistencia mediante incentivos especiales, reconocimientos y celebraciones escolares. Nuestro objetivo es motivar a nuestros estudiantes a estar presentes, llegar a tiempo y estar preparados para brillar cada día.

Estamos orgullosos del compromiso que nuestros estudiantes y familias continúan demostrando al hacer de la asistencia una prioridad. Los buenos hábitos de asistencia se desarrollan mediante el trabajo en equipo entre el hogar y la escuela y ayudan a fortalecer la comunidad escolar positiva y solidaria que valoramos en Meadow Hill.

¡Gracias por colaborar con nosotros y ayudar a que nuestros GEMS brillen cada día!

El personal de Meadow Hill está disponible para apoyar a las familias cuando alguna circunstancia dificulte la asistencia regular. Si su familia necesita ayuda o tiene preguntas o inquietudes relacionadas con la asistencia, no dude en comunicarse con la escuela o con el maestro de su hijo/a.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE             | EVENT                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Oct. 8th         | Hispanic Heritage Event (6 pm)    |
| Oct. 9th         | 15 Minute Early Release Drill     |
| Oct. 9th         | Fire Prevention Drill/ Fire Truck |
| <b>Oct. 12th</b> | <b>No School- Columbus Day</b>    |
| Oct. 16th        | Trunk or Treat                    |
| <b>Oct. 22nd</b> | <b>Half Day for Students</b>      |
| Oct. 28th        | NECSD Trunk or Treat              |
| Oct. 30th        | Halloween Parade K-2              |
| Oct. 30th        | Halloween Dance 6-8               |

Meadow Hill GEM School

# Hispanic Heritage Night

Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate Diversity, History, and Traditions!

- Live Latin Music
- Food & Drink
- Art and Craft Exhibits
- Family-Friendly Workshops

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

124 Meadow Hill Road, Newburgh





DISTRICT NEWS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

NECSD Afterschool programs are beginning soon! Visit our website to learn more and register for the program that is best for your child(ren)! Please visit the newburgh schools website to register or scan the QR code.

[AFTER SCHOOL Sign UP](#)



NEWBURGH ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING PRESENT

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**VIRTUAL PARENT COUNSELING & TRAINING SESSIONS**

A training series for students with disabilities and learning differences and their families. Funded by OPWDD Family Support Services

| Date              | Time   | Topic                                                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 15, 2026  | 6-7 pm | What is OPWDD?                                               | This webinar is for parents interested in learning what the Office of People with Disabilities has to offer, what the criteria are for eligibility, and how to begin the process of application.                       |
| November 18, 2026 | 6-7 pm | Behavior Management/School Discipline                        | This training provides understanding of behavior, and its roots. Additionally, we will discuss the district's responsibility in supporting behaviors and their legal responsibilities regarding discipline.            |
| January 14, 2027  | 6-7 pm | IEP 101                                                      | This workshop will take a deep dive into the Individualized Education Plan. We will look at each section and discuss the purpose/importance of accurate information.                                                   |
| March 11, 2027    | 6-7 pm | Guardianship / Power of Attorney / Supported Decision Making | This training will go over each legal designation and the applications. We will discuss the difference between the three and their implications for a family with an adult who needs support after reaching adulthood. |

To participate in any (or all) of the above parent training sessions, please email Lisa Cohen at [Lcohen@myindependentliving.org](mailto:Lcohen@myindependentliving.org) for link and any materials we will provide. Any questions regarding the sessions, please feel free to reach out to Lisa Cohen at 845-415-2511, Diane Troeller at (845) 565-1162, ext. 243 or Jennifer Sutton at 845-565-1162, ext. 231.



WALL CALENDARS

Wall calendars will be distributed to the youngest and only child of each family soon. You will find it in your child's backpack. Families can always add letter days and school/district events to their Google calendar for the most up to date information.



MEADOW HILL SCHOOL  
**HALLOWEEN SPIRIT WEEK**  
OCTOBER 26-30  
JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF SPOOKY FUN!

**PAJAMA PARTY**  
Show off your spookiest Pjs  
MONDAY OCT 26

**PUMPKIN POWER**  
Wear orange, black, or pumpkin-themed outfits and bring on the fall vibes!  
TUESDAY OCT 27

**WACKY HAIR OR HAT**  
Show off your wildest hair style, craziest wig, or silliest hat  
WEDNESDAY OCT 28

**SPOOKY TWIN DAY**  
Find a friend (or two or three or five) and dress alike  
THURSDAY OCT 29

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME DAY**  
Go ALL OUT! Show off your best Halloween costume and celebrate in style!  
FRIDAY OCT 30

Come dressed to impress and make this Halloween Spirit Week unforgettable!  
**\*Please remember NO masks or weapons are permitted for any costume or spirit day.\***

MEADOW HILL SCHOOL  
**HALLOWEEN SEMANA DEL ESPÍRITU ESCOLAR**  
OCTOBER 26-30  
¡ÚNETE A NOSOTROS PARA UNA SEMANA DE DIVERSIÓN ESPELUNZANTE!

**FIESTA DE PAJAMA**  
¡Muestra tus pijamas más espeluznantes!  
LUNES OCT 26

**PODER DE LA CALABAZA**  
¡Usa ropa naranja, negra o con motivos de calabazas y disfruta del ambiente otoñal!  
MARTES OCT 27

**CABELLO O SOMBRERO LOCO**  
¡Muestra tu peinado más loco, tu peluca más extravagante o tu sombrero más divertido!  
MIÉRCOLES OCT 28

**DÍA DE GEMELOS ESCALOFRIANTES**  
¡Encuentra a un amigo (o dos, tres o cinco) y vístanse iguales!  
JUEVES OCT 29

**DÍA DE DISFRACES DE HALLOWEEN**  
¡Da lo mejor de ti! ¡Muestra tu mejor disfraz de Halloween y celebra con mucho estilo!  
VIERNES OCT 30

¡Ven vestido para impresionar y haz que esta Semana del Espíritu de Halloween sea inolvidable!  
**\*Por favor, recuerden: No se permiten máscaras ni armas en ningún día de espíritu escolar.\***

SCHOOL MEALS

Check out the food services department for menus, school bucks and information. Consulta el departamento de servicios de alimentación para ver los menús, información sobre «School Bucks» y más.

OCTOBER MENU



PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL (INFINITE CAMPUS)

It is very important that the school has your correct phone number. You can update it anytime on your parent portal. Es muy importante que la escuela tenga su número de teléfono correcto. Puede actualizarlo en cualquier momento a través del portal para padres.

PARENT PORTAL ACCESS

