



Celebrating 50 Years of Service

Forum

Save the Date

VIOLENCE PREVENTION CERTIFICATION

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019 4-6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 4-6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4-6 p.m.
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4-6 p.m.

CHILD ABUSE CERTIFICATION

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4-6 p.m.

DASA CERTIFICATION

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019 4-7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020 4-7 p.m.
Monday, March 2, 2020 4-7 p.m.
Monday, June 8, 2020 4-7 p.m.

19TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Monday, March 23, 2020
Villa Lombardi's, Holbrook, New York

More info to follow.

Long Island's Educational Leaders Gather to Collaborate

Long Island's public school educational leaders attended SCOPE Education Services' 35th Annual Dinner Meeting for superintendents and school board members, held at Oakdale's Bourne Mansion. This year's event, which was dedicated to former Board of Directors members John Maloney and Dr. Anthony Pecorale, served as a networking opportunity for new and returning superintendents and Board of Education trustees, as well as other education professionals.

SCOPE provides a vast array of school district services, including before- and after-school child care programs, school enrichment programs and professional development.

During his welcoming remarks, SCOPE Executive Director George Duffy spoke about how vital it is to maintain the quality of education on Long Island and urged those in attendance to utilize the many highly successful programs SCOPE and other organizations provide. He also introduced all newly installed school board members and superintendents and wished them success in their new positions.

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Executive Director Lorraine Deller spoke about the implications of the 2020 census and encouraged

everyone to make certain that each individual is counted, while SCOPE Board of Directors President Charles Russo explained that being a member of SCOPE allows individuals to form "trusting relationships" and to receive "advice with no agenda."

Speakers included Roger Tilles, who serves as Long Island's representative on the New York State Board of Regents, and former New York State Commissioner of Education MaryEllen Elia. Both noted that Long Island schools are among the best in the world, but that special attention needs to be paid to struggling districts.

"As great as our schools are, if we don't help all school districts succeed, then we are not truly successful," Tilles said.

Commissioner Elia also spoke about the importance of implementing standards and supporting teachers in their quest to educate students. Additionally, she noted the importance of equity in education.

"All of you need to be involved and make sure you think of ALL students on Long Island," she said.



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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the SCOPE Forum for the 2019-2020 program year. This publication, which is circulated to every public school district on Long Island in both hard copy and in electronic form,



contains information regarding SCOPE programs in public schools across Long Island as well as highlights regarding staff promotions and student programs as reported by the school districts. The Forum is published four times per year and may also be found on the SCOPE website at www.scopeonline.us. We hope that you find this publication enjoyable and a source of information regarding the many programs and activities taking place in Long Island's public schools.

In this edition you will find information regarding the annual School Board Member/Superintendent dinner which SCOPE hosts each August. This year's dinner took place on Aug. 8 and was attended by over 400 school board members and superintendents from across Long Island. Guests networked and shared ideas and concerns regarding public education issues, including school district funding, student immunization requirements, equity for all students and other topics of interest or concern. NYS Commissioner of Education MaryEllen Elia, in her final address to the Long Island leadership, encouraged all in attendance to take an active role in addressing the issue of equity for all students on Long Island. Long Island's member of the Board of Regents, the Hon. Roger Tilles, thanked the commissioner for her years of service, welcomed Long Island's newly elected school board members and newly hired superintendents, and encouraged all in attendance to continue their efforts on behalf of Long Island's public school students.

SCOPE Education Services continues as a leader in providing services to Long Island's public schools. Information regarding our offerings, including school-age child care, prekindergarten, test preparation programs for high school students, mindfulness and social-emotional growth programs, and extended learning through enrichment programs, may also be found in this publication. If your school district is interested in providing any of these services, or would like to discuss the opportunities available, we may be contacted at 631-360-0800 or you may find additional information on our website.

Wishing each of you a very successful, safe and enjoyable school year!

Sincerely,

George L. Duffy
Executive Director

Recognition for Exemplary Service

SCOPE Executive Director George L. Duffy was honored as the first recipient of the prestigious Dr. Robert Moraghan award. This award, presented by the director of Stony Brook University's School of Professional Development, Dr. Robert Moraghan, was in recognition of Duffy's unwavering commitment to children, years of dedicated leadership and his exemplary service to schools and educators on Long Island and throughout New York State.

Dr. Robert Moraghan presented the first Dr. Robert Moraghan award to SCOPE Executive Director George L. Duffy.



SCOPE's Fall 2019 Professional Development Program

SCOPE Education Services is a New York State-approved sponsor of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education. SCOPE's program structure is aligned with State Education Department goals and designed to accommodate the professional needs of educators. Registration for all in-service courses is available online at www.scopeonline.us. Courses are limited in size; register early to ensure space availability.

Registration Fees:	Member District	Non-Member District
1-credit course	\$135.00	\$145.00
2-credit course	\$270.00	\$290.00
3-credit course	\$405.00	\$435.00

• Each credit is equal to 15 hours of Professional Development.

Fall 2019 Sample List Of Courses

- Balance the Mind and Heart: Creating Resilient Schools That Meet the Social, Emotional, Ethical and Academic Needs of Students
- The Dynamics of Conflict
- Mental Health in Students and Schools
- Making Math Meaningful
- Whetting Your Appetite – The Top Free Apps for Educators
- Digital Tools to Enhance Learning
- Exploring Google for Education – K-12
- Creating Online Assignments and Assessments – 4-12
- Fake News vs. Real News – Determining the Truth
- Excelling with Microsoft EXCEL
- Totally Twitter
- iPad Apps and Websites to Help Struggling Readers and Writers – K-12
- Integrating Technology and Literature Into Your Science Curriculum
- How to Teach Research Paper Writing at All Levels
- Teaching Study Skills – K-12
- Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom – K-12
- Character Education – K-12
- Bullying – Strategies for Teachers – K-12
- The Power of Teacher Language
- Recognizing and Meeting the Needs of Gifted Students
- Spanish in Our Classrooms
- Communicating With Our English Language Learners
- Best Practices for Teaching Multilanguage Students
- Developing a College and Career Ready Student
- Poverty In Education
- Essential Questions Engage Learners
- Understanding Growth Mindset
- Oppositional Defiance Disorders – Strategies For Teachers and Parents
- Defining Dyslexia and The Orton Gillingham Reading Methodology – K-12

The courses listed are the most popular courses in demand. As classroom demands and expectations change, new courses from interested and qualified educators are encouraged. Course descriptions and biographies of the instructors are available on the SCOPE website, www.scopeonline.us, under Professional Development. Each instructor is required to have the technological skills to teach online, design courses with depth and rigor, and meet the teaching standards established by the New York State Education Department.

LEARNING NEVER STOPS

SCOPE'S Student Enrichment Programs

SCOPE's Student Enrichment Programs continue to be successful with elementary students across Long Island, and more school districts are jumping on board to take part in this unique opportunity. Last school year, SCOPE served 13 school districts with more than 4,000 participants. SCOPE's Student Enrichment Programs are collaboratively designed with school districts to provide a safe, fun, caring and enriching environment for students. These programs offer students exciting ways to expand learning while having fun. Programs are offered before/after school, on weekends or during the summer at sites determined by the school district.

Examples of program offerings include: Arts and Crafts • Computers • Drama/Theater • Foreign Language • Instrumental Music • Recreation/Fitness • Science • Theme-Based Enrichment Activities. Programs can be designed to meet specific interests and needs of the school district.

SCOPE RESPONSIBILITIES

SCOPE designs and advertises the program with school district input, collects all fees, conducts a criminal background check of prospective employees, employs and compensates all program staff, provides supplies and equipment, secures insurance coverage and assigns a director to manage and supervise the program.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The school district offers adequate space for the operation of the program, provides custodial services and telephone access, and permits SCOPE to distribute information regarding the program to staff and parents in the school district.

ELIGIBILITY AND TUITION

Programs are open to students in eligible grades as determined by the school district. All programs are fee based, paid for by parents of participating students. Actual program fees are set annually by SCOPE and are dependent upon the number and length of sessions offered.

SCOPE's Student Enrichment Programs are unique and created to fit each district's needs and interests. By partnering with SCOPE, school districts can still offer exciting enrichment programs at no expense to the district. For more information, contact Susanne DeMottie, administrator for student enrichment programs, at 631-360-0800, ext. 242 or sdemottie@scopeonline.us

SCHOOL DISTRICTS OFFERING FALL SCOPE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Jericho K-5 Enrichment • Lindenhurst K-5 Saturday Enrichment • New Hyde Park-Garden City Park K-6 Enrichment • Smithtown New STEAM Enrichment for K-1 and STEAM Enrichment for grades 2-5 • Smithtown Sensational Science 1 for grades 2-4 • Bellmore STEAM for grades 1-6 • Great Neck Enrichment for pre-K through grade 5. SCOPE is also planning a Fall Chorus offering in the Jericho School District.

Each of these fall programs typically runs from October into early January. Online descriptions of enrichment programs can be seen attached to flyers under the category of Student Support. The next issue of the Forum will include descriptions of winter enrichment programs and direct attention to online registration for those courses.

Examples of fall enrichment programs include: Artistic Explorations • Buildings, Bridges and Blast Off With Rockets • Chefs in the Laboratory • Coding and Technology • Designs of Aeronautics • Engineering • Sports, Fitness and Fun • Spotlight on Theater • STEAM • Strategic Games • World of Polymers.

WHY CHOOSE SCOPE STUDENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS?

- Individualized Programs – Programs are collaboratively designed by SCOPE and the school district and created to fit the needs and interests of the students in each district.
- Low Cost, Parent Paid Programs – All programs are totally fee based, paid by the parents of participating students.
- No Expense to the District – By partnering with SCOPE, school districts can approve program offerings, with no expense to the district.
- School Year and Summer Enrichment – These programs can be offered throughout the school year, on weekend days and during the summer months.



SCOPE Services for Children and Students

Focus on Children

Nothing is more important to SCOPE Education Services than the well-being of the children of Long Island. SCOPE provides a wide array of programs to serve children and their families. Child-care and educational programs are designed

to help children thrive academically, emotionally and physically in a safe, enjoyable environment.

For more information about any child care program, please contact: Mindy Labriola at 631-360-0800, ext. 164 or Dina Pendel at 631-360-0800, ext. 120.

SCOPE PRE-K PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Universal Pre-K program provides eligible 4-year-old children with a wonderland of opportunity and discovery that builds on their natural curiosity and eagerness to learn. The program focuses on meeting the child's total developmental needs. Social, emotional, motor and cognitive growth are fostered through creative expression, arts and crafts, science, math, reading readiness, music, dance, large and small motor coordination, and much more. The curriculum is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards and is designed to transition students into kindergarten.

STAFFING

All teachers are New York State certified and specialists in early childhood education. Teachers are teamed with trained assistants who are

sensitive to the unique qualities and needs of each child. SCOPE teachers participate in professional workshops to keep abreast of new trends in education. Staff meetings are conducted weekly to create a sharing and collaborative environment.

ADMISSION

Admission is open to all eligible 4-year-old children residing in the school district (district transportation restrictions may apply). Students must be eligible to attend kindergarten the following school year in order to attend the Universal Pre-K program. Enrollment is limited to 18 students, who must be enrolled within the school district. If there are more eligible students than spots, the school district must hold a lottery and create a waiting list.



TUITION

Universal Pre-K programs are funded through school district state aid designated for that purpose. There is no cost to parents for children to attend this program. In districts where there is no UPK funding, SCOPE provides a parent-paid, tuition-based program.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS CURRENTLY OFFERING SCOPE UPK/PRE-K PROGRAMS:

Commack: UPK and tuition
Comsewogue: UPK and tuition
Connetquot: UPK only
East Meadow: Tuition only
East Moriches: UPK and tuition

Eastport-South Manor: UPK and tuition
Hampton Bays: UPK only
Hauppauge: Tuition only
Huntington: UPK only
Island Trees: Tuition only
Lindenhurst: Tuition only
Miller Place: Tuition only
New Hyde Park-Garden City Park: Tuition only
North Babylon: Tuition only
Patchogue-Medford: UPK-Pre-K
Riverhead: UPK only
Sachem: UPK and tuition
West Babylon: Tuition only

For more information about UPK/Pre-K, please contact Melissa Krauss at 631-360-0800, ext. 146.



SCOPE Services for Children and Students

Before- and After-School-Age Child Care Programs

SCOPE Education Services is the largest child care provider in the state of New York, serving more than 6,000 students. All SCOPE child care programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and are operated in public schools on Long Island.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCOPE child care programs provide a safe, fun, caring environment for the children of working parents. A variety of age-appropriate, supervised games, sports, arts and crafts, and enrichment opportunities are offered, as well as healthy snacks, scheduled homework time and daily opportunities to socialize with peers.

STAFFING

All staff undergo an extensive background check and meet or exceed all requirements set by the state of New York. The programs maintain a staffing ratio of one adult to 10 children at all times. SCOPE program supervisors and field trainers oversee the programs. In addition, the Office of Children and Family Services conducts inspections of the programs on a regular basis.

ADMISSION

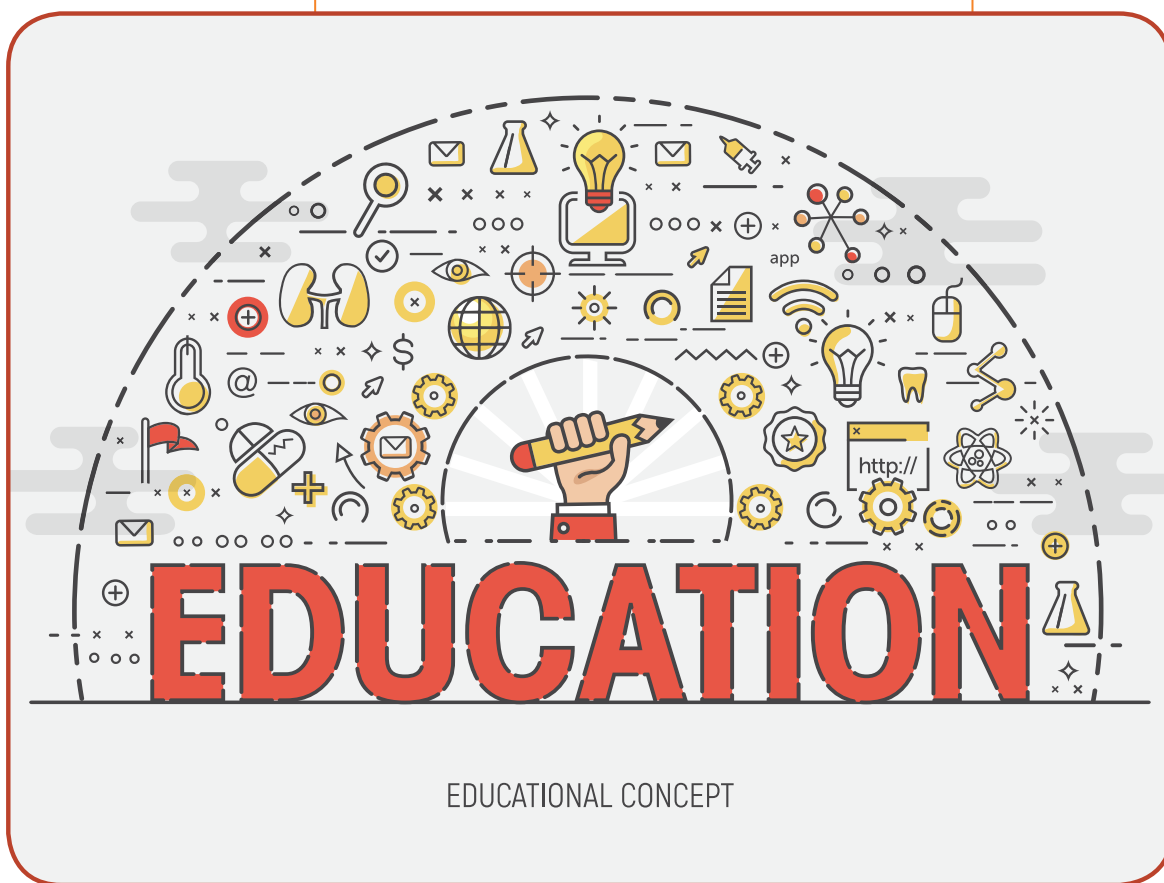
The programs are open to all elementary school students residing in the school district. (District transportation restrictions may apply.) Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to capacity limits set by the OCFS regulations. When necessary, students are placed on a waiting list for the next available opening.

SCOPE RESPONSIBILITIES

SCOPE conducts all needs assessments; designs the program to meet district needs; obtains all licensing; recruits, screens, hires and compensates all program staff; provides all staff training; purchases all consumable materials; provides children with a nutritious snack each day; provides all program supervision and maintains appropriate insurance coverage for the program.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The school district provides adequate and appropriate space for the program according to the OCFS regulation requirements, provides access to a storage area and refrigeration, provides access to a phone line, provides custodial services and permits SCOPE to distribute information regarding the program to parents in the school district.



TUITION

Parents pay all fees directly to SCOPE. Fees are posted for a.m. only, p.m. only, and a.m. and p.m. combined, as well as part-time (10 days or less) and full-time (all school days in the month). Fees are subject to change. Please contact SCOPE to obtain information regarding available programs and specific fees for your school district.

For further information, contact **Dina Pendel or Mindy Labriola at 631-360-0800, ext. 120 or 164.**



SCOPE Philosophy Supports Social- Emotional Awareness In Children

mental
health



SCOPE Education Services has always been aware of the importance of starting with a growth mindset and fostering healthy social-emotional relationships as the most important ingredient for student success. As such, the staff in all SCOPE programs receives ongoing in-service training in the latest research and strategies for adult-student and student-student interactions. Starting with the growth mindset premise, information on mindfulness and social-emotional learning is explored to improve student engagement in all SCOPE programs.

Knowing the Difference Between Fixed and Growth Mindset

Individual mindset can play a role in learning achievement, skill acquisition and interpersonal relationships. Those with a fixed mindset believe their basic qualities, such as intelligence and talent, are fixed and cannot be changed. Those with a growth mindset believe their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work, and that intelligence and talent are just the starting points.

The difference in the way children and adults view their own intelligence and talents directs how they view their own competence and the competency of others. Focusing on a growth mindset opens children to more opportunities and the formation of more positive attitudes about themselves and others.

What is Social-Emotional Learning?

Social-emotional learning uses an outside-in approach with a focus on teaching skills. Behavioral rules and boundaries for SCOPE programs are identified and discussed. Skills in recognizing emotions or using “I” messages become part of the vernacular as students learn to relate to each other and to adults in more effective ways.

How is Mindfulness Different from Social-Emotional Learning?

Mindfulness, on the other hand, works from the inside-out. It proposes that each person has the capacity for relationship-building qualities such as empathy and kindness. By helping children become aware of, and understand, the connection between their emotions, thoughts and feelings, they become more aware of how they can regulate their emotions to positively impact their behaviors.

Integration of Social- Emotional Learning and Mindfulness

When social-emotional learning and mindfulness are integrated, the social-emotional learning competencies have a better chance of being successful and the following competencies are stressed:

- Self-Awareness – Students’ self-awareness deepens when enhanced by the mindfulness practices of focusing attention and self compassion.
- Self-Management – Mindfulness increases students’ emotion regulation skills, which enhances their ability to resolve conflict more creatively or to express how they are feeling in an emotionally balanced way.

- Social Awareness – Mindfulness increases students’ empathy by helping them to regulate their emotions rather than get emotionally overwhelmed when faced with a difficult situation. As a result, their capacity to notice another person’s suffering and respond to it increases.
- Relationship Skills – Mindfulness increases compassion. Thus, when students practice social-emotional learning skills, such as creating a win-win solution with someone who challenges them, they are doing so with more compassionate understanding.
- Decision Making – Mindfulness increases cognitive flexibility and creativity, which gives students a wider range of responses to challenging situations.

Understanding and recognizing that behaviors can be labeled, regulated and improved helps SCOPE employees understand the power of helping students become aware of the control they have over their thoughts and their actions. Children can be taught to use language to express their needs with less frequent misinterpretation. They can also learn how to relate to others more effectively and form more positive and fulfilling relationships with their peers and the adults who supervise them.

Congratulations Are in Order

APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 New York State Superintendent Of The Year, Dr. Michael P. Nagler

The New York State Council of School Superintendents has named Mineola Union Free School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael P. Nagler the 2020 New York State Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Nagler is now eligible for consideration for the AASA – The School Superintendents Association’s National Superintendent of the Year award.

Before becoming superintendent of the Mineola school district in 2009, Dr. Nagler served as Mineola High School principal and then deputy superintendent. He is the immediate past president of the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents, as well as a member of the National Council on Digital Convergence, an AASA member, and a member of the advisory board for Digital Promise’s League of Innovative Schools. Additional recognitions he has received include the 2019 Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award and the 2017 The Council’s Appreciation Award. He was also named one of 2017’s Top 30 Technologists, Transformers and Trailblazers by the Center for Digital Education.



BAYPORT-BLUE POINT Two New Principals Appointed

Robert Haas and John Andruszkiewicz have been appointed as the principals of Bayport-Blue Point High School and James Wilson Young Middle School, respectively. Mr. Haas assumes his new role after a nearly five-year tenure as principal of the James Wilson Young Middle School. No stranger to Bayport-Blue Point High School, he previously served as an assistant principal from 2009-2014. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and a Master of Arts in liberal studies, both from Stony Brook University, in addition to a school building/district post-master’s certificate from the same institution.

John Andruszkiewicz served the Lindenhurst School District as the assistant principal at Lindenhurst Middle School since 2013. Prior to that, he served as the administrative chairperson for social studies and a social studies teacher at the R.C. Murphy Junior High School in the Three Village Central School District. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in social studies/secondary education from St. Joseph’s College, and a Master of Arts in liberal studies with a concentration cluster in coaching

and an advanced graduate certificate in educational leadership from Stony Brook University.



COMSEWOGUE Board of Education Appoints New Superintendent

Dr. Jennifer Quinn has been selected as superintendent of schools. Dr. Quinn has served Comsewogue for the last 10 years as assistant superintendent and was the principal of Comsewogue High School prior to that. She holds a Ph.D. in education from Long Island University.

EASTPORT-SOUTH MANOR Three New Principals Appointed

The Board of Education has appointed William Hender the principal of Eastport Elementary School, Shelita Watkis the principal of Dayton Avenue Elementary School and John-Michael Jackson the principal of South Street Elementary School.

Mr. Hender joins the district after an 18-year career as an elementary and middle school teacher in the Kings Park Central School District. In conjunction

with his time as a classroom teacher, Mr. Hender served as the assistant principal and dean of discipline at Western Suffolk BOCES Regional Summer School from 2016 to 2019. He holds a Bachelor of Science in child study from St. Joseph’s College, a master’s degree in education from Long Island University, a certificate in educational administration from Stony Brook University and is pursuing a doctorate in educational administration at St. John’s University.

Mrs. Watkis comes to the district from the Lindenhurst Union Free School District where she was the coordinator of world languages and English as a new language for five years. Preceding her time at Lindenhurst, Mrs. Watkins was a Spanish teacher at Eastport-South Manor Junior-Senior High School for 10 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of the West Indies, and a Master of Arts in teaching English as a second language and a certificate in educational administration from Stony Brook University. She is pursuing her doctorate in literacy studies at Hofstra University.

Mr. Jackson previously served as the assistant principal for summer school at Eastern Suffolk BOCES for two years and as an administrative intern in both the Shoreham-Wading River School District and in the Westhampton Beach School District. In addition to his administrative experience, Mr. Jackson taught at Wading River School and at Albert G. Prodel Middle School for 17 years. He holds a Bachelor of

Science in physical education from SUNY Cortland, a Master of Science in elementary education K-6 from Dowling College and an advanced certificate in educational leadership from Stony Brook University.



LONGWOOD Principal of Longwood Middle School Named

The Board of Education has appointed Yvette Mercado-Tilley as the principal of Longwood Middle School. Mrs. Tilley is a familiar face around the district, having served as an administrator since 2006 when she began her career as assistant principal at Ridge Elementary School. She was appointed assistant principal and principal at Charles E. Walters Elementary School in 2012 and 2014, respectively. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Black

Congratulations Are in Order

APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

and Puerto Rican Studies from Hunter College, and a Master of Science in elementary education and a professional diploma in educational administration from Mercy College.

of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association, was a member of the SCOPE Board of Directors, and serves the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools as assistant chairperson of its school evaluation committee and as a progress report evaluator.

serving Patchogue-Medford, Koerner worked in Hicksville Public Schools as the district coordinator/principal for its Students at Risk program and as an elementary school teacher during her nearly 25-year teaching career. Koerner has been an adjunct professor of special education at Dowling College and SUNY Old Westbury. She holds an associate degree in early childhood education from Farmingdale State College, a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in special education, and school building leader and school district leader certifications, all from Dowling College. She is working on earning her doctorate in education at St. John's University.

served the district for the past 16 years, most recently as an assistant principal at William Floyd High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in special education from Providence College, and a Master of Arts in liberal studies and advanced certificates in school building leadership and school district leadership from Stony Brook University.

Erica Peralta was a NYC Teaching Fellow and began teaching second grade bilingual at the Ruby G. Allen School PS 148 in East Elmhurst, New York. She also worked in the Riverhead Central School District as a bilingual elementary school teacher for 12 years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in government and international relations with a concentration in Latin America and the Caribbean from Manhattan College. Following her NYC Teaching Fellowship, she earned her Master of Arts in childhood education from Queens College, her school building leader/TESOL dual certification from St. John's University and her educational administration/school district leader certifications from the College of Saint Rose.

MILLER PLACE New Principal of LADSBS

Christopher Herrschaft has been appointed the new principal of Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School, effective Aug. 9, 2019. Mr. Herrschaft has more than 15 years of experience in the education field. Throughout his time working in Miller Place High School, Mr. Herrschaft served as a business education teacher beginning in 2007 and was named dean of students in 2015. A Miller Place High School graduate, he holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Bryant University, a Master of Science in secondary education from Dowling College and a Master of Science in educational leadership from Niagara University.



RIVERHEAD New Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

Lori Koerner has been named the new executive director of curriculum, instruction and professional development. Koerner has served as principal of Tremont Elementary School in the Patchogue-Medford School District since 2016. Prior to



WILLIAM FLOYD New Principal and Assistant Principal Appointed

Matthew Sanders has been appointed as principal of William Floyd Middle School and Erica Peralta has been appointed assistant principal at Nathaniel Woodhull Elementary School, respectively. Mr. Sanders has



MALVERNE Superintendent Announces Retirement

After 13 years serving the district, Superintendent of Schools James H. Hunderfund, Ed.D. has announced his intention to retire at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, effective Aug. 31, 2020. Dr. Hunderfund is leaving Malverne with nearly 50 years of experience as an educator, 26 of which he has served as a superintendent. During his time as Malverne's superintendent, Malverne High School was named a New York State Reward School for the first time in its history, made the National Advanced Placement District Honor Roll, was the only school in Nassau County to earn the National Education Policy Center's Gold Recognition as a School of Opportunity, and has been ranked among America's Most Challenging High Schools by the Washington Post for the past five years. In addition, Howard T. Herber Middle School was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, and Davison Avenue Intermediate School was recognized by New York State for best instructional practices. Dr. Hunderfund earned the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association's President's Award, the SCOPE Award for Outstanding Educational Leadership and the Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award. He has served as president



AMITYVILLE

Amityville's First Day Marks New Beginnings

It was a big moment for students in Amityville Memorial High School's Class of 2032 as they started kindergarten, the first step on their 13-year path to graduation. Faculty and staff at Northeast Elementary School warmly greeted the children as they arrived. Throughout the district, approximately 3,000 students started school at five buildings following a busy summer during which the district's facilities were upgraded. The 2019-20 school year features the introduction and expansion of several academic programs at all levels.

the junior and senior high school student councils who offered valuable advice on the numerous opportunities and activities available. Families participated in a question-and-answer session as the incoming students were broken up into groups to further explore the school and engage in icebreaker activities hosted by the student council members.



EAST MEADOW

A Strong Welcome Back

The district and the Bowling Green Elementary School community welcomed back fourth grader Mahdi Islam for the first time since his heart transplant last spring. Mahdi was greeted by students, teachers and administrators who lined the hallways as he was led by the school's mascot to his fourth grade classroom, where he was eager to rejoin his classmates and friends. The school held a special rally last April called Super Hero Day to support Mahdi prior to his heart transplant. The event raised \$4,000, which was given to help support the Islam family. Mahdi had no hesitation as he seamlessly stepped back into schoolwork and demonstrated his excitement to take on the adventures of fourth grade.



BABYLON

Incoming Seventh Graders Welcomed

The Babylon Junior-Senior High School hosted an informative orientation session for the incoming seventh grade students in preparation for another successful school year. Students and their families were welcomed by Babylon Junior-Senior High School Principal Al Cirone, district administrators and student-representatives from both

FARMINGDALE

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Weldon E. Howitt Middle School Athletic Field Complex

Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini, along with members of the Board of Education, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new athletic field complex at Weldon E. Howitt Middle School. Mr. Defendini first envisioned the complex several years ago and is thrilled to see it so embraced by the community. After a spirited pep rally in the gym, BOE President Michael Goldberg clipped the Daler-green ribbon amid cheers from the Dalerettes, the Farmingdale PAL kickline and all the fans. Then, the middle school football team took the field to play their first game of the season. They defeated Baldwin 31-13!



Districtwide Peace Concert and Art Exhibit. This special event also celebrated International Day of Peace, International Day of Non-Violence and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. All in attendance were in awe of the talented students who took the stage of the Freeport High School's Performing Arts Center. They also enjoyed viewing the amazing artwork displayed by students in the school lobby, which depicted images of peace, love and harmony. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kuncham and the administration also unveiled the district's new peace poster.



HALF HOLLOW HILLS District Launches Elementary Connects Social-Emotional Learning Program

For the 2019-20 school year, Half Hollow Hills introduced the monthly Elementary Connects program, a series of common grade-level activities designed to provide all K-5 students with important social-emotional learning experiences to help enable them to be successful in life. These learning experiences grew from a collaborative effort of educators from all five elementary schools, who shared effective practices and then created grade-appropriate activities on important topics like empathy and critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, and inclusivity and diversity. Following the



FREEPORT

District Hosts Annual Peace Concert

Freeport School District spread its message to "be the change" through its annual

Connect Day activities, in lieu of typical homework, students brought home a Home Connect newsletter that enabled families to continue these important conversations.



LOCUST VALLEY Locust Valley High School Orientation Offers Important Advice

Incoming ninth graders and students new to Locust Valley High School were reminded during orientation that they can achieve whatever dreams they have. The students were inspired by guest speaker Rohan Murphy, who had both of his legs amputated as a young boy, yet in high school, with the encouragement of a coach, he joined the wrestling team. He graduated having earned All-League and All-County honors and went on to wrestle at Penn State University, where he earned three varsity letters. Murphy's presentation was the culmination of a morning that gave new students an overview of the high school, including tours and discussions on the ways in which students are expected to act.

LONGWOOD Longwood High School Best Buddies Named Outstanding Chapter of the Year

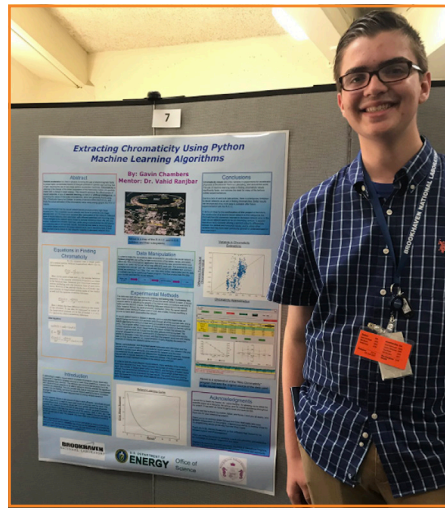
The Best Buddies Chapter at Longwood High School was designated Outstanding Chapter for the 2018-2019

academic year at the Best Buddies International's Annual Leadership Conference at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. The Longwood Chapter was recognized based on its development of incredible opportunities for inclusion and acceptance in the school and community, including fundraisers, events and the Best Buddies Prom, which hosts more than 500 attendees.



NASSAU BOCES Nassau BOCES Barry Tech Students Help Save Lives During First Blood Drive of the School Year

Medical assisting students from Nassau BOCES Barry Tech career and technical education high school collected 223 pints of blood for the New York Blood Center at the school's first blood drive of the 2019-20 school year. These vital donations will help to save more than 669 lives. Additional drives will be held Feb. 6-7 and May 20-21, 2020.



PORT JEFFERSON Brookhaven National Laboratory Collaboration for Port Jefferson Students

The opportunity to contribute to the scientific community was just one of the highlights for three Port Jefferson students who participated in Brookhaven National Laboratory's High School Research Program. Earl L. Vandermeulen High School senior Gavin Chambers, junior Grant Samara and 2019 graduate Monica Alexander were each paired with a BNL scientist who served as a mentor for the advanced high school program. Gavin's research was in the collider-accelerator department, Grant's project used artificial intelligence to find chromaticity values from the lab's Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, and Monica worked with a leader in the brand management department in the highly competitive six-week research program.

SMITHTOWN Accompsett Middle School Shows Off New Buddy Bench

Three students from Accomsett Middle School created a kindness bench for their school. The students are members of Girl Scout troop

1335. The bench can be used as a place to sit down with friends or make new ones. Students are encouraged to use the bench to work out their differences with their fellow classmates. It creates a friendly and safe environment for everyone.



WANTAGH Welcome to the Class of 2023

Wantagh High School opened its doors to incoming freshmen, who commenced the 2019-2020 school year through attendance at the annual orientation program. The freshmen met the school's administrators and received information on academic expectations, sports eligibility, conduct, guidance goals and on the importance of joining extracurricular activities. During the program, the students attended a club fair in the courtyard, toured the building, met with their guidance counselors and found their lockers, all in preparation for the first day of school.



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