



Over 50 Years of Service

# Forum

## A Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to spring. The weather is sure to begin improving over the next several weeks. I know that I am growing weary of the cool, rainy days, and I am sure you join me as we await the arrival of sunshine, warm temperatures and dryer weather conditions. Before you know it, the end of the school year will be here and summer vacation will be on your door step. Here at SCOPE, the staff is extremely busy planning for all the many end-of-year activities that will take place for children participating in the many SCOPE programs offered in school districts across Long Island. We are also preparing for the summer enrichment programs and child care programs which we continue to offer in several school districts during the summer months.

SCOPE Education Services is a not-for-profit organization permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to offer services to public-school districts in New York State. In both Nassau and Suffolk counties, SCOPE is a leading provider of before- and after-school child care, the largest provider of Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) on Long Island and is sought by many school districts as a source of enrichment programs for children in grades K-6.

Currently, our SCOPE staff is busy preparing for the 2024-2025 school year. Registration has already begun for the before- and after-school child care and UPK programs. In most school districts, our programs fill very quickly. This year, and again for next year, school-age child care is in great demand. SCOPE is busy interviewing, screening and hiring additional staff in an attempt to accommodate every family that requires this service.

One of the greatest challenges we face is that of finding qualified and appropriate staff. Should you or anyone you know have an interest in working with children before and after school, kindly contact SCOPE's director of recruitment, Renee Mercer, at [rmerc@scopeonline.us](mailto:rmerc@scopeonline.us). We are always hiring, pay the highest salaries on Long Island for child care workers and offer benefits and scholarship opportunities for our staff.

In addition to child care, SCOPE is the largest provider of UPK services on Long Island. Currently

there are approximately 3,200 children attending SCOPE UPK programs. SCOPE's goal is to ensure that our youngest learners are well prepared for their entrance into kindergarten. SCOPE UPK classes, with the oversight of the public-school district, are held in public elementary schools, and children are provided with a fun, educationally rich curriculum which prepares the children for their entrance into kindergarten.

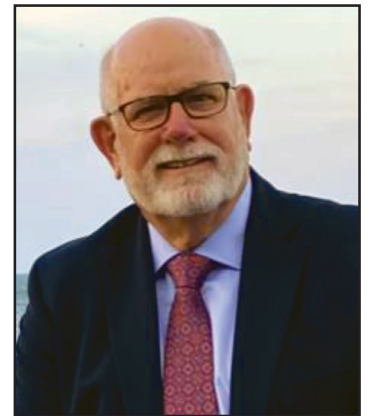
Finally, SCOPE enrichment programs, held during the summer as well as during the school year, on weekends, during vacation periods and before and after school, provide children in grades K-12 with the opportunity to expand upon what is taught in the classroom. STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) classes are established in coordination with the school district, which provide children attending these programs with age-appropriate, fun and enriching experiences. These programs are taught by certified public-school personnel working in the district and administered by the SCOPE team.

We at SCOPE are proud of the programs we offer in the public-school districts on Long Island and thank our parents and school districts for choosing SCOPE to meet the needs of the children in their schools and communities.

Wishing all the children attending our public schools, their teachers, school staff and families a very successful end to the 2024 school year.

Sincerely,

George L. Duffy  
Executive Director/CEO



### SAVE THE DATE

*Times Established By Presenters*

#### Child Abuse and Maltreatment Workshop

Tuesday, June 4 | 4-6 p.m.

#### Violence Prevention Class and Project SAVE Workshop

Thursday, June 6 | 4-6 p.m.

#### Dignity for All Students Workshop (DASA)

Monday, June 3

#### SCOPE Annual Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 13 5 p.m.  
Bourne Mansion, Oakdale

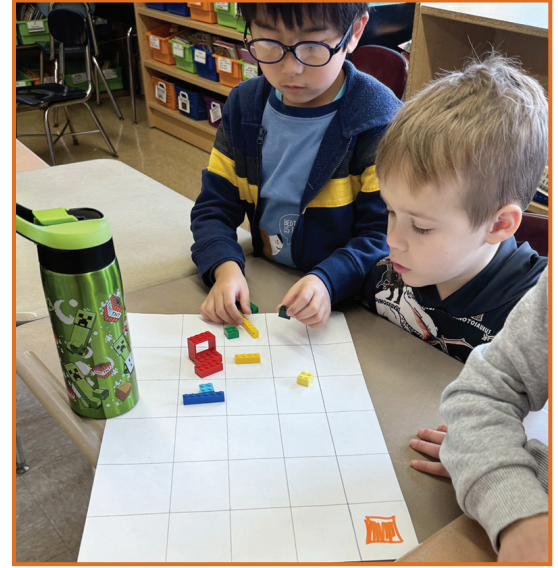
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*"SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization currently celebrating our 60th year, is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to public-school districts on Long Island and in New York State."*

George L. Duffy, Executive Director

# SCOPE 2024 Summer Enrichment Program Offers Something for Everyone



**There's still time to enroll in SCOPE's 2024 Summer Enrichment Program. Twenty-five school districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties are already committed to offering exciting and innovative enrichment programs this summer.**

The SCOPE Summer Enrichment programs are scheduled to start anytime from the first of July to the middle of August. Nearly all enrichment experiences are parent paid and staffed with professional teachers and district-based directors. This summer, the SCOPE Summer Enrichment Program has five base camps and workshop programs to educate and engage Long Island's students in programs with activities focused on fine arts, culinary arts, sports and fitness, theater, acting and performance

arts, as well as STEAM, robotics, coding and science.

Please see specific information on each summer workshop by visiting the SCOPE website at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us). Note that not all camps/workshops are offered in every district. Please see our website to see which camps/workshops are being offered in your area.

The school districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties listed below will be operating SCOPE Enrichment programs.

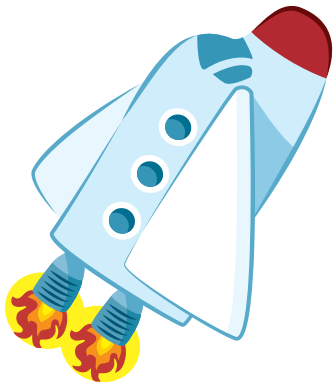
- Babylon.
- Center Moriches.
- Connetquot – Music.
- Connetquot (August).
- East Moriches – ENL.
- Eastport-South Manor.
- Floral Park.
- Garden City.
- Huntington.
- Island Trees.
- Levittown.
- Manhasset.
- Mattituck-Cutchogue.
- Middle Country.
- Miller Place.
- New Hyde Park-Garden City Park.
- North Bellmore.
- North Merrick.
- Riverhead.
- Rocky Point.
- Sachem.
- Sayville.
- Smithtown.
- William Floyd.
- Wyandanch.
- VIRTUAL.



# SCOPE SUMMER 2024

## Enrichment Opportunities

The SCOPE Summer Enrichment Program for 2024 is designed to offer different experiences for all students to explore and enjoy. These five different camps provide the structure for exploring choices that will lead to summer growth through fun. Each camp presents varied activities surrounding a theme that is wide open for student exploration. The following descriptions paint a picture of each camp with the essence of the experiences we will provide your children. Additionally, these offerings are described on the SCOPE website at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us).



**CAMP NO. 1 – SPACE CAMP:** Your child will embark on an exhilarating cosmic journey that will ignite their passion for exploration during this dynamic, three-hour daily adventure designed for everyone. They will experience the thrill of building and launching their own rockets, unravel the mysteries of propulsion and flight, engage in hands-on STEM activities and dive into the world of coding programming. They will discover the art of crafting delicious space cuisine, learn the science behind astronaut food choices and unravel the secrets of the stars, planets and galaxies. This out-of-this-world adventure is sure to spark curiosity, imaginations and a lifelong love for all things space.

### CAMP NO. 2 – DESTINATION EUROPE – Culinary Excursion in Cooking, Baking and Chocolate-Making:

In a classroom transformed into a delectable kitchen paradise, during this three-hour daily, enticing culinary escapade, children of all ages will explore the tantalizing world of European cuisine. They will mold, dip and design their own chocolate creations including learning the secrets of truffle making. They will experience the joy of baking European delights, crafting buttery croissants, fluffy pastries and other mouthwatering treats, while perfecting the art of pastry-making. They will delve into nonbaking activities, including crafting edible sculptures and designing chocolate-based crafts, igniting creativity and innovation. The budding young chefs will savor the flavors of Europe while honing their culinary skills.



### CAMP NO. 3 – BROADWAY AND THEATER PROGRAM – Disney Around the World:

Your child will embark on an enchanting theatrical journey for an immersive, three-hour daily adventure, five days a week, as they explore the captivating worlds of Disney’s “Aladdin,” “Encanto,” “Mulan” and “The Lion King,” bringing these beloved stories to life on stage. Through dynamic workshops, these budding performers will take a mesmerizing trip around the world, discovering diverse cultures and acting styles, and crafting scenes inspired by global destinations. This camp nurtures creativity, confidence and the joy of storytelling. Imagination knows no bounds, as children step into the magic of musical theater, where children will sing, act and dance while embracing the rich tapestry of cultures from various corners of the globe.



**CAMP NO. 4 – SUMMER OLYMPICS CAMP:** In this exhilarating summer sports camp, young athletes will participate in an action-packed, three-hour daily Olympic adventure, enjoying a variety of sports and games that can be played both indoors and outdoors, including basketball, relay races, soccer, track and field events and innovative obstacle courses. During friendly competitions, with a focus on inclusivity and fun, expert coaches will promote physical fitness and sportsmanship in an environment that fosters skill development, teamwork and friendly competition.



**CAMP NO. 5 – FINE ARTS – ANIMAL INSPIRATION:** Children will be immersed in the captivating realm of Art Inspired by Animals, a thrilling, three-hour daily adventure crafted for all students. They will dive into the vibrant hues of watercolor and canvas painting, capturing the grace and beauty of wildlife through brushstrokes, sculpting and molding as they bring to life their favorite animals in three-dimensional form. They will engage in arts and crafts activities, crafting animal-themed masterpieces using various materials and textures. They will design their own T-shirts and beach towel blankets, employing animal motifs and vibrant colors to create personalized wearable art. Creativity will soar as the children embark on this inspiring artistic expedition while appreciating the grace and beauty of wildlife.



# SCOPE Universal Pre-K Partners With School Districts Where Our Youngest Learners Become Lifelong Learners

Much like kindergarten used to be in the past, it's safe to say that prekindergarten has gained a foothold in our education system and is now perceived as the necessary start of formal education.

The jury on research related to child development from birth to age 5 is now in. The significance of growth through that span, in large part, sets the stage for all that comes after. The New York State Education Department has geared up for this initiative, and teacher certification for the Birth through Grade Two (B-2) range is now a requirement for teacher professionals working with children in this age range.

We have learned that approaches to learning and habits for taking in information and expressing needs, wants and understanding become entrenched in the life span of the birth-to-5-year-old child. Successful experiences in language and motor development instill confidence in the young child, with experiences in problem identification and solutions adding to the creation of a student who is ready to truly benefit from the grade levels that follow.

It is remarkable to witness how the 3- to 5-year-old child acclimates to and thrives and flourishes in the pre-K classroom environment. When the child struggles with this adjustment and is not ready to meet classroom expectations, SCOPE staff make every effort to

document behaviors and make accommodations to ease this transition from home to school. With a purposeful plan in place and the support of the school and the parents, SCOPE's responsibility is to work with factual information, avoid labels and assist the child to be successful. Our teachers and teaching assistants welcome school district support through difficult adjustments.

## THE BENEFITS OF A SCOPE UPK PROGRAM

The daily five-hour prekindergarten program has less of an academic focus and more of a child development focus. The development of listening and speaking skills through the establishment of predictable daily routines sets the daily learning stage, with reading and writing as ancillary vehicles to complete the picture.

Children at this age benefit tremendously from purposeful play and staged connections between disciplines. Social-emotional learning comes through interpersonal interactions and communication opportunities staged and recognized by the teacher. Attention to gross motor development recognizes the importance of understanding personal space, and fine motor development focuses a spotlight on being successful with creativity that depends on effective fine motor skills. The pre-K day is truly foundational in so many ways.

## NASSAU COUNTY AND SUFFOLK COUNTY UPK DISTRICTS

### NASSAU COUNTY

- East Meadow UFSD
- East Rockaway UFSD
- East Williston UFSD
- Garden City UFSD
- Jericho UFSD
- Merrick UFSD
- New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD
- North Shore UFSD
- Valley Stream 13 UFSD
- Wantagh UFSD
- West Hempstead UFSD

\*11 School Districts

### SUFFOLK COUNTY

- Center Moriches UFSD
- Comsewogue UFSD
- Connetquot UFSD
- East Moriches UFSD
- Eastport-South Manor CSD
- Hampton Bays UFSD
- Hauppauge UFSD
- Huntington UFSD
- Kings Park CSD
- Lindenhurst UFSD
- Miller Place UFSD
- Mt. Sinai UFSD
- Patchogue-Medford UFSD
- Sachem CSD
- Smithtown UFSD
- Shoreham-Wading River UFSD
- South Huntington UFSD
- Southold UFSD
- Springs UFSD
- West Babylon UFSD

\*20 School Districts



# SCOPE BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

## Every SCOPE Program Brings Learning and Fun Together Every Day

SCOPE Education Services is a not-for-profit organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to school districts. Those services include programs that support parents, teachers, students and school districts.



SCOPE is honored to be celebrating its 60th anniversary of providing innovative and educational school-age child care programs to families in Nassau and Suffolk counties. In most instances, SCOPE has been able to provide these essential programs in the home schools of the children we serve, making seamless transitions between classrooms and large group day care settings. The before-school sessions typically take place in the home school cafeteria where the children are provided with a healthy breakfast, snack and drink before they ready themselves to go to class for the day. At the end of the day, the children once again gather in their home school cafeteria where they engage in supervised fun activities along with dedicated time for homework. At both the beginning and end of the day, parents are responsible for providing transportation, and no child is ever signed out to adults not approved by the parents.

### Benefits of SCOPE Before- and After-School School-Age Child Care

- Safety is SCOPE's highest priority. Under the oversight of both SCOPE and the Office of Children and Family Services, regulations regarding adult-to-student ratios, environmental precautions, behavior management and safety guidelines are strictly enforced.
- In most cases, SCOPE programs are established within the child's home school. Your child never has to leave his/her home school throughout the day.
- Your child is already familiar with his/her school building, and SCOPE staff are trained in managing safe transitions from the time your child enters the SCOPE program until they are safely released at the end of the day to approved adults.
- SCOPE staff is trained to supervise and monitor routines and activities that keep your child engaged while enjoying the program.
- There is no down time during SCOPE programs. Multiple fun activities are planned, including STEAM-related projects, theme-based arts and crafts, and indoor gym or outdoor play experiences. Opportunities to play with same-age peers is also invaluable. Time for homework completion is also arranged.
- Nutritious snacks and water are provided daily for both the before- and after-school programs.
- While SCOPE School-Age Child Care programs register children for grades K-6 and prekindergarten, whenever possible age groups are divided, keeping younger and older children in separate groups for age-appropriate activities.



#### NASSAU COUNTY

Carle Place  
East Meadow  
East Rockaway  
East Williston  
Elmont  
Floral Park-Bellerose  
Garden City  
Great Neck  
Hicksville  
Hewlett-Woodmere  
Island Trees  
Jericho

Mineola  
Roslyn  
Seaford  
Syosset  
Uniondale  
Valley Stream #24  
Wantagh  
West Hempstead

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY

Babylon  
Bayport  
Brentwood  
Center Moriches  
Commack  
Connetquot  
Copiague  
Deer Park  
East Moriches  
Hampton Bays  
Harborfields  
Hauppauge

Huntington  
Lindenhurst  
Middle Country  
Miller Place  
Northport  
Remsenberg-Speonk  
Riverhead  
Sachem  
Sayville  
Southold



# SCOPE Is a Recognized Leader *in Professional Development*

SCOPE is a recognized New York State-approved sponsor of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education. SCOPE is fully aware of and understands the unique challenges educators face. The SCOPE courses were developed in emerging technologies to address those challenges and more.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS SUMMER 2024

SCOPE continues to provide updated professional development opportunities aligned with current teacher and district interests and needs. All SCOPE instructors are New York State-certified teachers in their respective fields, and SCOPE is a New York State-approved sponsor of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education. We encourage you to visit the SCOPE website at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us) to explore all that SCOPE has to offer.

The following are examples of newer courses that will be offered during the summer of 2024:

- **Social Media: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** (3 credits) – Addresses the time teens spend online and on social media platforms. Current trends and resources to mitigate their negative impact will be provided.
- **The Power of Positive Thinking** (3 credits) – Learn practical techniques to reframe negative beliefs and develop resilience against challenges through interactive exercises and real-life examples.
- **Engaging the Math Learner with Number Talks** (3 credits) – Created for teachers in grades K-8 seeking effective approaches to teaching math. The course will acquaint you with number talks as a way to engage students to think mathematically.
- **Top Digital Tools to Increase Student Engagement** (3 credits) – Offers an exploration of examples including Book Creator, BrainPop, Flipgrid, NearPod, Padlet and Pear Deck.
- **Knock Your Socks Off – Deep Engagement with Complex Text** (3 credits) – Strategies such as read alouds, dialoging about texts, engagement before/during/after reading, and extensive discussions allowing for creativity and growth will be explored, along with orthographic mapping, text structure and interdisciplinary applications.
- **Knowledge Mastery: Transformative Reading Instruction for Lifelong Learners – K-12** (3 credits) – Delves deep into the role of background knowledge, decoding skills and learning to critically analyze texts.

### The following sample list of courses continues to draw interested participants:

- America's Treasures: National Parks.
- Be a Game Changer: Live to Lead.
- Best Practices for Teaching Multi-Language Students.
- Bullying – Strategies for Teachers K-12.
- Character Education.
- Childhood Obesity: A Modern-Day Epidemic.
- Creating a Website with Google Sites.
- Creating Online Assignments and Assessments.
- Developing a College and Career Ready Student.
- Differentiation in Action.
- Educational Neuroscience.
- Embracing Diversity.
- Engaging the Math Learner with Games.
- Exploring AI, ChatGBT and Magicschool in the Classroom.
- Exploring Google for Education K-12.
- Hyped for Hyperdocs K-12.
- Inspiring Young Minds K-12.
- Ipad Apps and Websites to Help Struggling Readers.
- Making Math Meaningful.
- Mindfulness for Positive and Productive Classrooms.
- Oppositional Defiance Disorder – Strategies for Teachers K-12.
- Peaceful Schools: Easing Anxiety and Depression.
- Poverty in Education.
- Succeeding with Difficult Students.
- Teaching in a Brave New World of AI.
- Teaching Study Skills K-12.
- The Benefits of Journaling K-12.
- The Calm Classroom.
- The Musical Brain.
- Top 10 Sites for All Teachers K-12.
- Unveiling the Complexities of Food: Empowering Teachers to Foster Healthier Behaviors.

# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



**COLD SPRING HARBOR UFSD**  
**Superintendent of Schools Announces Retirement**

The Board of Education has accepted the resignation of Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch, effective June 30. Ms. Gierasch served 35 years in education and has served the district as superintendent of schools for the past three years. Under her leadership, the district's schools and programs have been ranked among the best nationally, in New York State and on Long Island. Ms. Gierasch also serves on the SCOPE Board of Directors. She previously served as superintendent of the Mattituck-Cutchogue School District and as assistant superintendent for curriculum in the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District.

brings nearly 25 years of experience as an educator and leader, most recently serving as the assistant superintendent for teaching and learning for the Pelham Union Free School District. She has served as an assistant principal and English chairperson at Floral Park Memorial High School in the Sewanhaka Central High School District and as principal at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School in the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District. Dr. Bowman holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from Hofstra University, an administration certificate from The College of Saint Rose, a Master of Science from Hofstra University and a bachelors degree in English from Stony Brook University.



**NORTH MERRICK UFSD**  
**New Assistant Superintendent Appointed**

The Board of Education has appointed Kate Caporusso as the next assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and personnel. Mrs. Caporusso has served as the assistant principal of Merrick Avenue Middle School in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District since 2019. She began her career as a social studies teacher at Calhoun High School in 1998 and later served as the assistant principal of the summer school program before becoming the district's social studies department chairperson. Mrs. Caporusso studied history at Loyola College and continued her education at Queens College, where she received a Master of Science degree in social studies secondary education and her professional diploma in administration and supervision.



**GARDEN CITY UFSD**  
**District Appoints New Assistant Superintendent**

The Board of Education has appointed Dr. Alice M. Bowman as the next assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, effective July 1. Dr. Bowman

**NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT UFSD**  
**New Assistant Superintendent Appointed**

The Board of Education has appointed Anthony Davidson as



assistant superintendent for human resources, effective July 1. Mr. Davidson most recently served as superintendent of schools in the Lindenhurst School District, overseeing all district operations and educational programming. His extensive career includes roles as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Locust Valley Central School District and principal of Commack Middle School. He also served as an assistant principal, chairperson of English language arts and English language arts teacher for the Commack School District. He serves as an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University. Mr. Davidson received his bachelor's degree in English from Hofstra University and his master's degree in liberal studies from Stony Brook University.



**SACHEM CSD**  
**Sachem Superintendent of Schools Announces Retirement**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Pellettieri announced his retirement, effective July 31. Dr. Pellettieri started in Sachem in 2020 and over the past four years, he led the district through several initiatives including developing a Culture of Care. In his retirement announcement to the school community, Dr. Pellettieri noted his gratitude to the Sachem family for its ongoing support and appreciation.

**SEWANHAKA CHSD**  
**New Superintendent of Schools Appointed**

The Board of Education appointed Deputy Superintendent Regina M. Agrusa as the next superintendent of schools, effective July 1. Ms. Agrusa has been an integral part of the district for more than 25 years, beginning her career as a school counselor at Elmont Memorial High School in 1997. She brings with her a

deep understanding of the district's values and a commitment to student success. In addition to her current role, Ms. Agrusa has also served as assistant superintendent for student support services, district director of pupil personnel services and chairperson of pupil personnel services at Elmont Memorial High School. Ms. Agrusa holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Villanova University and a master's in human resource management from New York University. Additionally, she holds school district leader and school counselor, 7-12 certifications from New York State.



**SOUTHAMPTON UFSD**  
**Veteran Educator Appointed Superintendent of Schools**

The Board of Education has appointed of Dr. Fatima Morrell the next superintendent of schools, effective July 8. A seasoned administrator with more than 30 years of educational experience, Dr. Morrell is coming to Southampton from the Buffalo Public Schools system. Dr. Morrell began her career in education as an English and Spanish teacher at Kensington-Prep High School. She taught Spanish at the Dr. Charles R. Drew Science Magnet School before moving into administration. She has served in various administrative capacities, including as an elementary and secondary principal and assistant superintendent of curriculum, assessment and instruction. She has served as Buffalo Public Schools' chief of culturally and linguistically responsive initiatives since 2021. Dr. Morrell holds her Bachelor of Arts, Master of Education and Doctor of Education degrees from the State University at Buffalo and New York State certification for school district administrator from Buffalo State College. Additionally, she studied educational leadership and school reform at The Principals' Center at Harvard University, where she received her leadership development certification.



## BALDWIN UFSD

### Baldwin High School Earns AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award

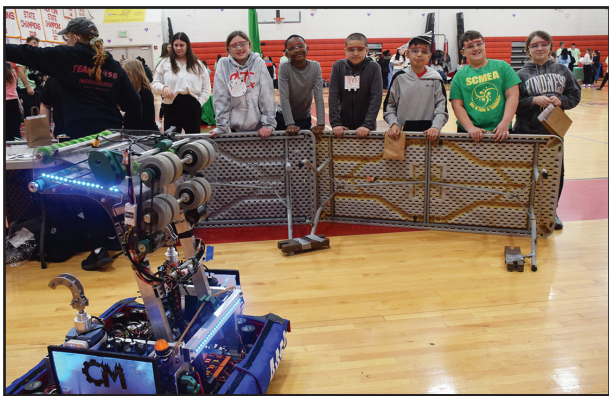
Baldwin High School earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A. Schools honored with this award have expanded girls' access in AP Computer Science courses. This year, the award acknowledged 1,127 schools based on the 2022-23 school year, and of those schools, Baldwin was one of 225 to be recognized in the category of AP Computer Science A.



## BRIDGEHAMPTON UFSD

### District Selected by New York Islanders Floor Ball Program Second Time Consecutively

The district was selected for a second time to participate in the New York Islanders' Floor Ball program. This program introduces students to the game and culture of hockey. The New York Islanders provided nearly \$1,000 worth of new, branded equipment and curriculum to help teach their own unit. After personally delivering the gear, students were excited to get started with physical education teacher Steve Meyers. This is one of the many special athletic programs the district can offer their students.



## CENTER MORICHES UFSD

### Students Collaborate at STEM Day

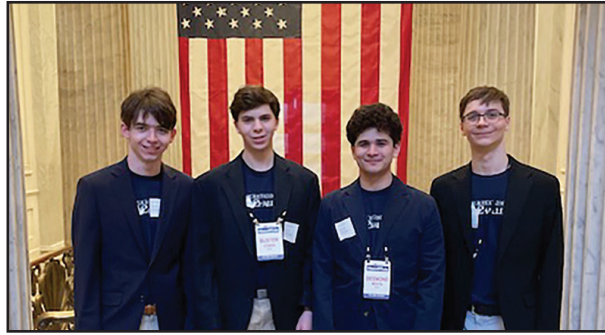
Clayton Huey Elementary School students visited Center Moriches High School to collaborate with the Science Honor Society during STEM Day. Fourth and fifth graders rotated through several hands-on stations led by high school students, focusing on the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Stations included Play-Doh making, building solar eclipse models, constructing kaleidoscopes and sound experiments. The high school robotics team was on hand to demonstrate how its robot works – a station that seemed to be a crowd favorite.

## COLD SPRING HARBOR CSD

### Students Present Award-Winning App to Congress

The Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School

seniors Buster Coden and Desmond Mehta and juniors Milan Lustig and Ryan Smith were invited to Washington, D.C., for the #HouseOfCode, which is considered the most prestigious demo day in STEM and the new national science fair. The team built an app that allows residents of Suffolk County to quickly check the water quality in their local bays, harbors and rivers and presented their app to members of Congress.



## COMMACK UFSD

### Commack High School Adds Financial Literacy Requirement

Students soon will graduate from Commack High School with an essential understanding of real-world financial topics, including investing for retirement and the perils of credit card debt. Beginning with the Class of 2025, all seniors will be required to take a financial literacy course in a newly constructed finance lab utilizing Bloomberg terminals. The financial literacy topics will be embedded into the students' social studies coursework.



## EAST ROCKAWAY UFSD

### Art Students Selected for Long Island's Best Exhibition

Two East Rockaway High School art students have been selected to have artwork displayed at the prestigious Long Island's Best: Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum art exhibition. Senior Rahima Fnu and junior Katarina Nunez were among the top 80 student artists to have works chosen to be featured in the gallery.

## FARMINGDALE UFSD

### Elementary STEAM Night Lights Up Farmingdale With Science and Creativity

The Elementary STEAM Night truly showcased the wonders of science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics in a fun and engaging way. The event brought together a diverse community of more than 600 attendees who eagerly explored dozens of interactive stations with the guidance of 100 enthusiastic volunteers.



## FIRE ISLAND UFSD

### Students Explore the Halls of Justice

Woodhull Elementary School fifth and sixth grade students took a field trip to the U.S. District Court where they explored Magistrate Judge James M. Wicks' courtroom in the Eastern District of New York. They attended a naturalization ceremony, spoke to Judge Wicks about the role of judges in upholding the law, met a U.S. Marshall and participated in a mock trial of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



## FREEPORT UFSD

### Students Conduct Solar Eclipse Experiments Funded by NASA NYS Space Grant Consortium

Freeport High School students took a scientific approach conducting experiments as part of the New York State Eclipse Weather Experiment, which they designed, funded by the NASA New York State Space Grant Consortium. Students used weather meters to measure temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction in 15-minute intervals. A high-altitude balloon was launched from Branchville, New Jersey, to gather similar data. The students will compare the results with data obtained by schools in Great Britain gathered during their solar eclipse in 2015.



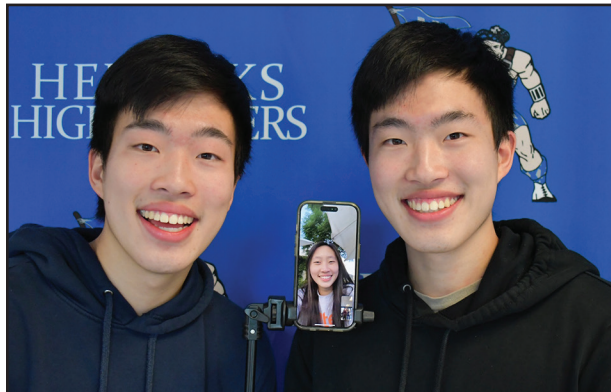
## HALF HOLLOW HILLS CSD

### PTSA Legislation Committee Returned to Albany

Members of the Half Hollow Hills PTSA



Legislation Committee visited Albany to meet with state representatives and share the district's legislative priorities with them. The students received legislative experience while lobbying for essential items, including foundation aid school funding, school safety and security, and healthy meals for all.



**HERRICKS UFSD**  
**Twin Brothers Named Herricks High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

Herricks High School twin brothers Devon Lee and Dylan Lee received national media attention after being named the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2024. The brothers and their family were interviewed by multiple media outlets as well as "Good Morning America," "NBC News," People Magazine, USA Today and others. Adding to the uniqueness of the story is the fact that their sister Jeylin was Class of 2023 valedictorian.



**HICKSVILLE UFSD**  
**Vocational Students Visit Disney**

Seven Hicksville High School vocational students and four staff members spent five days at Walt Disney World. From morning to night, each day's agenda was packed with fun at the Disney theme parks Animal Kingdom, EPCOT, Hollywood Studios and Magic Kingdom. The students raised the funds to cover the cost of this long-anticipated trip by selling snacks and Comet apparel in the school store during daily lunch periods over the last five years.



**ISLAND PARK UFSD**  
**Students Present Disney's 'Finding Nemo Jr.'**

Students from Lincoln Orens Middle School

took the stage in the Steven L. Foster Auditorium for their musical production of Disney and Pixar's "Finding Nemo Jr."

**LONG BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Student Artists' Work Featured at LIU Post Exhibit**

Long Beach High School students Syd Goldman and Laika Khan had their artwork featured in the Advanced Visions 19: High School Artists of Excellence Exhibit at LIU Post. Additionally, Syd received an honorable mention for her mixed media piece, "Pomegranate."



**LONGWOOD CSD**  
**Longwood Legislative Committee Meets With Officials to Advocate for Public Education**

Longwood School District's Legislative Committee, including 19 Seal of Civic Readiness students, traveled to the state capitol to meet with representatives in the Assembly and Senate to continue the district's advocacy for public education. The students also had the honor of being introduced on the Assembly floor. Their leadership and hard work preparing for this day led to meaningful and informative conversations with legislators and brought pride to the district.



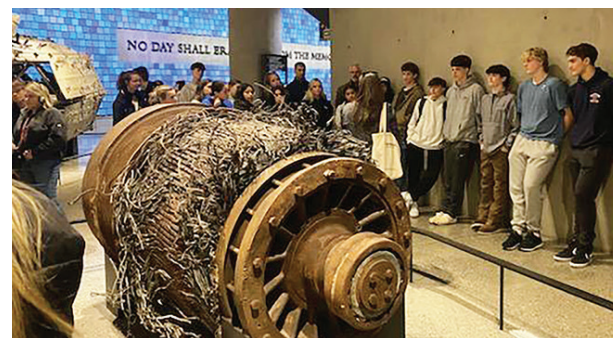
**MALVERNE UFSD**  
**Metallica Marching Band Champs**

The Pride of Malverne Marching Band was crowned winner in the inaugural Metallica For Whom the Band Tolls Marching Band contest, taking the top prize in the high school category: \$15,000 worth of equipment and instruments. More than 450 bands around the country competed and final judging was done by the members of Metallica themselves.

**MATTITUCK-CUTCHOGUE UFSD**  
**A Memorable Trip to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum**

The Mattituck High School junior class toured

the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and met Mattituck High School alumnus Edward Sidor who played an integral part in the design of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. Sidor shared his experiences with students from the post-9/11 cleanup to the museum's plans for the future. The visit deepened their understanding of a significant historical event and instilled a sense of reverence and appreciation for the resilience of the human spirit.



**MERRICK UFSD**  
**Birch Third Graders Dance Around the World**

After learning about cultures from around the world during their history and English curriculum, third graders at Birch Elementary worked on various dances during a five-day residency with an outside arts-in-education program.



**MINEOLA UFSD**  
**Mineola Hosts League of Innovative Schools Convening**

Mineola schools hosted more than 300 superintendents and district leaders from throughout the U.S. who were in New York City for the 2024 League of Innovative Schools Convening. The conference attendees visited each of the district's five schools where they saw examples of the district's transformative instructional model in action.

**PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD UFSD**  
**Eagle Elementary School Students Earn Social Detective Superhero Status**

Eagle Elementary School kindergartners and third graders participated in a 10-week social detective program with LoriAnn Solano, a behavior specialist, to enhance their emotional intelligence. Students earned certificates recognizing them as social detective superheroes. Ms. Solano even performed 10 cartwheels to represent the 10-week program.



### SACHEM CSD

#### 'How to Catch a Leprechaun' in Sachem

Third graders at Chippewa Elementary School collaborated with Sachem High School East students for a St. Patrick's Day STEM project. On March 15, high school students pushed into the third grade classes to read "How to Catch a Leprechaun" by Adam Wallace. Students then worked together to construct their own leprechaun traps using simple materials including cardboard boxes, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners and glitter.



### PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CSD

#### Plainview-Old Bethpage DECA Excels at New York State DECA Competition

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School's DECA chapter showcased exceptional talent and prowess at the 2024 New York State DECA Conference in Rochester. Ninety-three students from the school participated in the competition, facing off against approximately 2,900 peers from across the state in categories ranging from finance and marketing to hospitality and tourism. The Plainview-Old Bethpage DECA chapter earned more than 80 medals and boasted an impressive 44 students qualifying for the International DECA Competition in California, in April.



### SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CSD

#### Shoreham-Wading River Trio Serve as Student Facilitators

Shoreham-Wading River High School seniors Sophia Minnion, Elizabeth Sabino and Dongkai Zhang served as student facilitators for the 2024 Long Island Regional Student Forum. The students led discussions with their peers centered around issues including school/life balance, mental health, real-world learning, school environments and social issues and connections.



### WANTAGH UFSD

#### Wantagh Shadow Day

Nearly 30 students from Wantagh High School spent time learning about the teaching profession on Shadow Day. The annual tradition dates back more than a decade and is part of the district's work-based learning program. High school students were paired with teachers from the district's three elementary schools. Their tasks included assisting with lessons, reading books to the class and helping students during small-group work. Many students who participated are considering careers as teachers or in other child-related fields, and this gave them practical experience.



### RIVERHEAD CSD

#### Riverhead Middle Schoolers Give the Tooth Fairy a Hand

Riverhead Middle School students in Amy Doucette's family and consumer sciences classes used their sewing skills to create tooth pillows for district elementary school students. The pillows have a built-in back pocket where lost teeth are placed for the tooth fairy to retrieve. When students lose teeth, they are sent to the nurse's office, where they select a pillow to bring home with them.



### SMITHTOWN CSD

#### Collecting Cans for Change

Seven Accomsett Middle School students led the charge to help those less fortunate and helped raise more than \$2,000. The students encouraged their classmates to donate cans of food and in total collected 2,384 cans. The students partnered with the Smithtown Township Emergency Food Pantry to donate all the cans collected. The organization, Lead4Change, then donated \$2,500 to the pantry to help meet their needs as a community.

### WESTBURY UFSD

#### Westbury High School Teacher Selected as Top 10 Chick-fil-A Leader Academy Educator

Westbury High School teacher Naomi Parisette was named a Chick-fil-A Leader Academy 10-year celebration honoree for her exceptional work imbuing students with leadership skills and facilitating community service. Ms. Parisette was one of only 10 educators to receive this prestigious award from among 1,068 participating schools throughout the country.



### ROCKY POINT UFSD

#### Rocky Point Students Attend Human Rights Institute

Rocky Point High School Human Rights Club members attended the annual Human Rights Institute hosted by the Human Rights and Holocaust Education Center at Iona College. Students Simone Carmody, Abby Culley, Sofia Haviland and Parker Matzen presented a workshop that highlighted geographic, financial, political and social barriers that restrict or limit access to technology and information, therefore causing human rights violations globally.

### THREE VILLAGE CSD

#### Women in STEM Collaboration

Science research students from P.J. Gelinas Junior High School pushed into classes at Setauket Elementary School to share books they wrote about influential women in science, technology, engineering and math. The seventh and eighth graders led the elementary students through hands-on activities relating to the accomplishments of the women they wrote about.

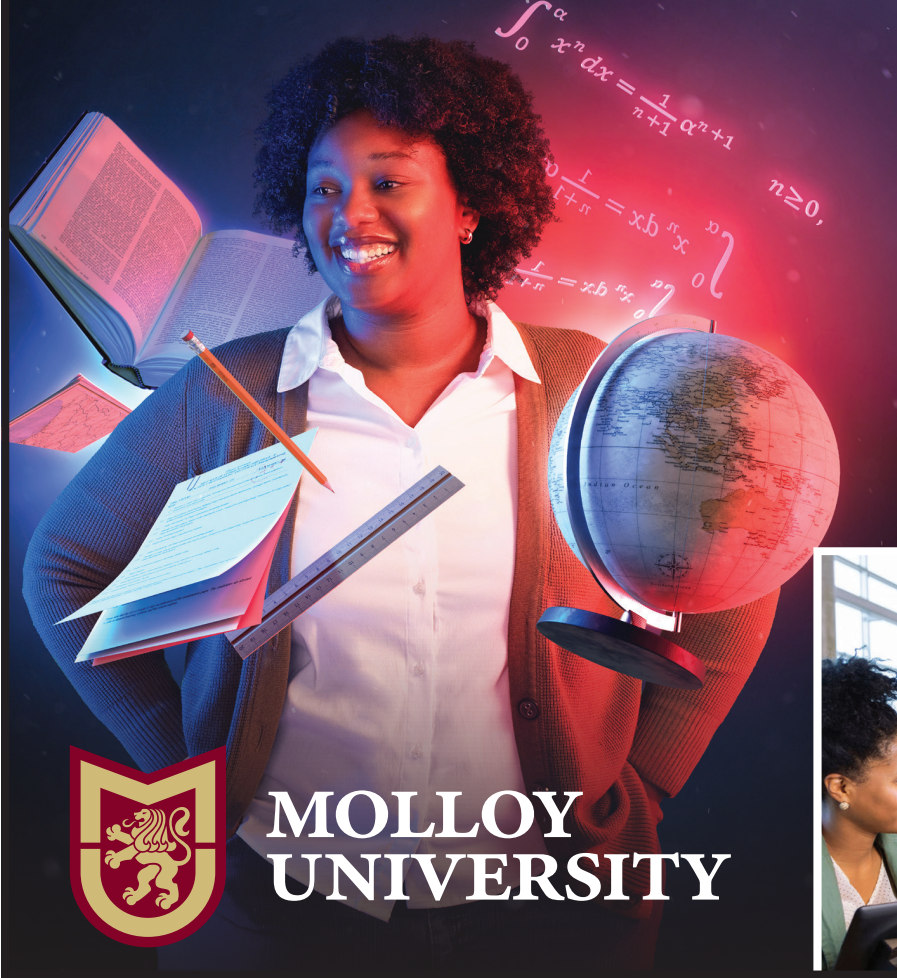
### WYANDANCH UFSD

#### Scholars Join First Student Leadership Forum

Two scholars from Wyandanch Memorial High School were invited to participate in the first in-person Long Island Regional Student Forum. Class of 2024 valedictorian Carlos Diaz-Sanchez and junior Kyvena Calal joined students representing high schools across Long Island to share their thoughts and ideas about important issues that impact their schools, their communities and themselves. The information collected during the forum will be shared with the New York State Education Department.



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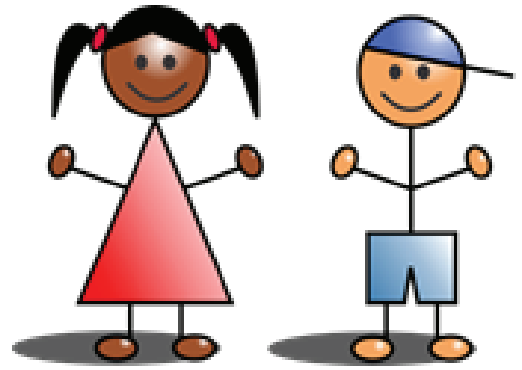
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SPRING 2024

# *Forum*



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The Forum can be accessed online at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us). If you have information about your school district that you would like to share, please send it to Kathy Beatty at [kbeatty@syntaxny.com](mailto:kbeatty@syntaxny.com).