



The West Hempstead Educator

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Here's What's New In West Hempstead



With the guidance of West Hempstead's ongoing Strategic Plan, this year's additions to the curriculum, the academic environment, and the technology infrastructure continue the District's upward progress.

- WH now has a District-wide wireless network: The recently installed network has energy efficient switches and building-to-building connections. West Hempstead's is the fastest K-12 network in New York.
- Computer and mobile devices are a feature of everyday student life: The District has computers and interactive whiteboards in all classrooms. A combination of computers, laptop/netbook carts, iPod Touches, iPads, Chromebooks, document cameras, scanners, distance learning equipment, and flip-cameras are applied by teachers and students in the learning process.
- A new initiative called STELLAR is making the school day more exciting and memorable: STELLAR is an acronym for "Success in Technology, Enrichment, Library, Literacy, Artistry and Research." It infuses all of these elements into academic subjects – giving learning a 21st Century, multi-media edge.

- Valuable new courses have been added at the middle and high schools: At WHHS, more Advanced Placement courses give students a jump on college-level study. The District is able to offer educational opportunities through distance learning. For example, virtual AP Psychology is available to students through a BOCES grant. At the middle school, 8th graders have new electives in art, technology and music.
- A program of intramural sports is offered at the elementary and middle schools: Many more students can enjoy athletic competition and benefit from its physical, strategic and teamwork-building benefits.
- WHHS has more clubs for students this year: Some of the additions are Book Club, Chess Club, Debate Club, and Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Club.



Classroom technology, distance learning and college-level courses raise the bar in West Hempstead.

Dear Community Members,

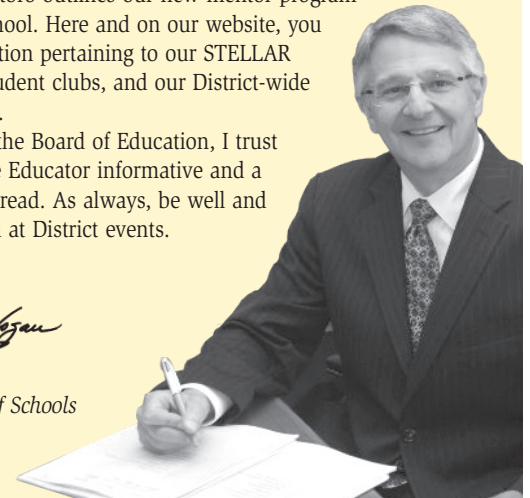
As I write this Fall message, the weather has turned crisp and the trees are glorious with colors of red, orange and yellow. That can only mean that Thanksgiving and the holiday season are fast approaching. It is hard to believe, but it also means that two months of school have flown past and our students are well into their studies for the 2014/15 school year.

I think that you will find this issue of The Educator particularly interesting as the articles and photographs review the school year to this point and anticipate all the events yet to come. Photos of students document the excitement of learning in new tech-centered programs, while articles address our new teachers and administrators. High School Principal Dan Rehman has provided an article on our co-teaching model at the High School and Middle School Assistant Principal Joe Castoro outlines our new mentor program at the Middle School. Here and on our website, you will find information pertaining to our STELLAR program, new student clubs, and our District-wide wireless network.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I trust you will find The Educator informative and a very worthwhile read. As always, be well and I hope to see you at District events.

Sincerely,

John J. Hogan
Superintendent of Schools



Talented Teachers Welcomed to West Hempstead

West Hempstead's newest teachers and support staff members are passionate about their work, full of enthusiasm for their students and delighted to join the District.

Elementary Schools

Kevin Cloghessy, who loves to see students “accomplish things they thought they weren’t able to do,” has joined the Health and Physical Education staff at George Washington School. The holder of a bachelor’s degree from Montclair State University, Cloghessy has worked at WHHS and Chestnut Street. Although he is an enthusiastic sports fan, he says, “As a kid growing up my role models were teachers.”

Lauren Conti “always loved school; I wanted to share the joy.” Now, she is realizing her dream in the Resource Room at George Washington. Conti taught in Brooklyn and the Oceanside Schools. She looks forward to collaborating with and learning from “many talented people” throughout the District. Conti earned her bachelor’s from Boston College and a master’s from Hunter College.

Michele Lambraia, teaching fourth grade at GW, was a leave substitute in WH, and has also taught in Levittown and Garden City. Lambraia “loves children and being part of their learning,” and her goal is to “be the best for each class.” She earned a bachelor’s degree at St. John’s University and a master’s in children’s literature at Queens College. She plays Obstacle Race Courses and volleyball.

Elyssa Mayer is a psychologist now on the staff of Cornwell Avenue School. “I love children and helping people,” says Mayer, who holds a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Buffalo, and a master’s in school psychology from St. John’s University. Her interests include volleyball, animals, nature and sports.

Rebecca Tuori is a psychologist at Chestnut Street. “I enjoy working with students who have disabilities and want to help them succeed,” she says. Tuori earned her bachelor’s degree from SUNY Buffalo and her master’s from Niagara University. She worked in Buffalo, at the Park School and the International Preparatory School, and enjoys singing, reading and working out.

West Hempstead Middle School

Dean Bourazeris, social studies teacher, wishes to “provide students the ability to become active, well informed citizens.” Bourazeris has worked in WH as a teaching assistant, and says that among his career choices, “education continued to call my name!” He earned his bachelor’s degree in history from Towson University and his master’s from Queens College. A coach and musician, he is an avid NY sports fan.

Charalambos (Harry) Loizides says that “it’s a great feeling to challenge students to understand math concepts, and priceless when they have their ‘aha’ moment.” Formerly at Huntington HS, he holds a bachelor’s in mathematics and a master’s in adolescent education from Adelphi University. Loizides enjoys obstacle race courses, volleyball, Notre Dame football and reading.

Ashleigh Longo wants her sixth graders to “understand that math is in our everyday world.” She recently taught at a health and science charter school in New York City, and also interned in a fourth grade classroom as a high school senior! Longo has a bachelor’s degree from Mount St. Mary College

and three certifications. She loves her puppy, Peanut, the beach and cheerleading.

Jenna Mottola joins the science department teaching sixth grade. Mottola is results oriented, aspiring to “make a difference in my students, school and community,” and “have each student show growth by June.” She has taught science in Great Neck, Bay Shore and Sachem and holds a bachelor’s degree from Monmouth University and a master’s from C.W. Post.

Kathy Woodworth, a technology teacher, wants to “show students that computer science and engineering can be interesting, and consider careers in these fields.” Woodworth pledges to “keep up to date in the world of technology,” and holds degrees in computer science from SUNY Oswego and business education from Hofstra, plus engineering courses.

West Hempstead High School

Sarah Ewald feels “blessed to begin my career here,” having subbed and student taught in the Levittown Schools. She is teaching special education at WHHS, and wants students to leave her classroom “better prepared for the real world.” Ewald “always knew this was for me.” She holds a bachelor’s from Molloy College, and enjoys reading, drawing and painting.

Elizabeth Fuentes, a psychologist at WHHS, is “passionate about helping students become independent, lifelong learners.” Fuentes interned and worked in the Baldwin and Oceanside Schools. She has a bachelor’s degree from Boston College and a master’s in education from Fordham. Fuentes wants to complete her doctorate and contribute to the research in school psychology.

Kristen Kearns wants to give students “skills and values that will take them far beyond the school walls.” She is teaching special education, “enabling students to realize what they are capable of accomplishing.” Kearns taught math/ELA in Brooklyn for five years, and most recently was in Jericho. She earned her bachelor’s from St. Joseph’s College and a master’s from C.W. Post.

Elias Romero wants “high engagement” in his middle and high school classrooms, where he is teaching Spanish. Romero’s goal is that “all my students are prepared for a successful future.” Romero earned a bachelor’s degree in Spanish from St. Joseph’s College and taught in Fallsburg before coming to WH. “It has always been my passion to be a teacher,” he says.

Denis Villacorta has joined the foreign language department at WHHS. Becoming a teacher to “empower students and have the power to inspire generations of change,” Villacorta taught in Brentwood, Oceanside, Rockville Centre and Great Neck. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from SUNY Old Westbury and is currently in an administrative program.



With happy anticipation, new teaching and support staff gathered together during orientation. Assistant Superintendent Richard Cunningham at far left, and Superintendent John Hogan at far right, were on hand to offer a warm welcome to West Hempstead.

New Department Leaders Bring Expertise to West Hempstead

Science chair is a mentor



Joseph Cangemi, an experienced math and science teacher and mentor, became an administrator eight years ago out of “a genuine interest in helping new teachers cultivate their methodology.”

Now, Cangemi has been named the District’s Director of Science, after serving as secondary-level math and science chairperson in the East Rockaway schools. There, Cangemi was a leader in fostering excellence among students and staff, using data to set learning goals, and developing science curriculum to support the Common Core standards. He is proud of having built a strong Advanced Placement and Intel-level science research program.

In his new post, Cangemi says, “My goal is to continuously work towards increasing our students’ 21st Century skills, which include a strong foundation in science, technology, engineering and math programs.”

He has been a science educator for 15 years. He taught biology, earth science, chemistry, astronomy, and environmental science at Aviation High School for seven years before adding administrative duties to his resume, and teaching AP and college-level science courses in East Rockaway. He was Summer School Program principal for two years.

Cangemi earned his bachelor’s degree from Queens College and his master’s from Touro College. He holds five New York State teaching and administrative certifications. He is also a musician and plays guitar.

Assistant director a seasoned school psychologist



Jo Ann Pisani, West Hempstead’s new Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services, has been a school psychologist for 20 years.

The majority of those years, including a period as District Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education (CSE), were spent in the neighboring Hempstead District. Earlier, Pisani had served as school psychologist in two New York City schools.

“I firmly believe that all our children can learn and accomplish goals with the help of committed and talented staff, parents and community involvement and support,” says Pisani. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with teachers and parents in a team approach as student needs are assessed and addressed.

As chairperson of Hempstead’s CSE, Pisani monitored more than 1,200 students in the District’s Special Education Program, performing evaluations, annual reviews, placements, and working with private schools, agencies and institutions in securing services for students.

She holds three degrees from the College of New Rochelle: a bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology, a master’s in school psychology and a master’s in administration. She is a member of the New York State and National Associations of School Psychologists.

Long Beach administrator named WH Pupil Personnel director



West Hempstead’s new Director of District-wide Pupil Personnel Services, Lois Jankeloff, has the skill to see the big picture. “My goal is to create partnerships with families, communities and educators to best support and empower our children,” says Jankeloff. She’ll coordinate the services of counselors, psychologists, nurses and other sources of support to address academic or behavior issues affected by students’ physical or emotional challenges.

The coordinator of Special Education in Long Beach for the past six years, Jankeloff has been a speech and language pathologist for over three decades. She was in private practice for the first 20 years of her career, and was an adjunct professor and clinical supervisor at first Hunter College and then Brooklyn College. She began working in Long Beach as a teacher in 2001.

In her previous post, Jankeloff chaired Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings, supervised a staff of 60, developed programs and oversaw the day-to-day operation of the special education department. She is especially proud of expanding the Life Skills program and other classroom initiatives.

Jankeloff holds B.A. and M.S. degrees in speech and language pathology from Brooklyn College, and a post-master’s certification in educational leadership from SUNY Stony Brook. She achieved 4.0 averages in all of those studies.

Jankeloff loves tennis and the beach, and enjoys reading, music and gardening.

Director of Guidance and Music is also an athlete and musician



Although Adam T. Hopkins has been a guidance counselor for more than a decade, he also filled his schedule with administrative responsibilities, organizing events and programs, and working with students in need of intervention, academic or otherwise.

Hopkins comes to West Hempstead from Hewlett High School, where he handled a caseload of more than 180 students. There he organized and led parent/student orientations, meetings and assemblies on academic, social and personal development, as well as the college admissions process. He takes a special interest in at-risk students; in Hewlett, he was an active participant in special education meetings and student support endeavors. Hopkins was the Parent University chairperson, led faculty meetings, and organized and implemented the “PSAT for All” program.

“I’m confident and proud of my ability to establish a positive rapport with students and colleagues,” he says. “I will be a diplomatic, strong leader for both students and staff.” While in Hewlett, he was the Yale Educator of the Year Award recipient and the Class of 2014 dedicated the yearbook to him.

Hopkins earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in interdisciplinary studies and school counseling respectively at New York Institute of Technology. He was captain of the lacrosse team there, and was inducted into the NYIT Athletics Hall of Fame. He subsequently was head lacrosse coach at the University of Arizona and Arizona State – and Hewlett High School.

The new WH administrator also enjoys playing the guitar.

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Photos by Steve Orlando

West Hempstead District Highlights

Teachers Team Up for Better Instruction

Teamwork emerged as a focus for the staff of West Hempstead High School as the 2014-2015 school year got underway.

Co-teaching teams have been created to meet the needs of all learners. The idea involves two educators who are truly partners in the instructional effort. These duos teach so that both have active roles. They work together on strategies to engage their students in ways not possible with only one teacher.

Meanwhile, the curriculum provides a framework that can be modified so learners get a challenging and interesting experience.

There are a number of models teachers can use effectively. For example, in team teaching an algebra class, one teacher reviews the material covered and the other teacher demonstrates concepts on the interactive whiteboard and asks questions. The teachers then switch roles with one introducing a new concept and the other moving to the interactive whiteboard to work examples and ask questions.

It takes practice

It's intended that the co-teaching teams learn together for extended periods of time to create a cohesive unit. As with



An exciting new teaching method at West Hempstead High School pairs teams of two faculty members, like Sarah Ewald and Pam Marder, above.

dancing, co-teaching demands taking time to develop a rhythm and create seamless delivery of the subject. Some of West Hempstead's co-teaching teams are: Sarah Ewald and Pam Marder, Christa Spano and Julie Weiss, Dana Kalinowski and Diane Cutrone and Melissa Benson and Dianna Towers.



Middle school peer mentors were on hand at sixth grade orientation to welcome new students and make them feel at home.

Middle School Mentors Connect with Younger Students

West Hempstead Middle School has a popular new peer mentoring program this year. Students are working to develop real connections with each other to create a safe and anti-bullying climate in the school.

The mentors help newly arrived sixth graders make a smooth transition to WHMS. Mentors let the younger students know they are part of a school where everyone belongs. They will have ongoing meetings with the sixth graders throughout the year.