

District DIGEST

www.northbabylonschools.net • Fall 2021

For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, the District is proud to introduce several new programs for students at all levels. The District continues to provide opportunities that support our students' academic pursuits, as well as their co-curricular and extracurricular interests. We thank the North Babylon community for its continued support!

Universal Pre-K Begins

The District's new Universal Pre-K Program welcomed its youngest members to the North Babylon family during the program's Visitation Day in August. Students and parents met with teachers and viewed their classrooms, which are at Marion G. Vedder Elementary School.

The academically based program started the following day on the District's first day of school. This program gives students the opportunity to develop their skills in prereading, math, social-emotional learning, physical education, art, music and knowledge of the library. In addition, students will have breakfast, lunch and recess time on the playground.

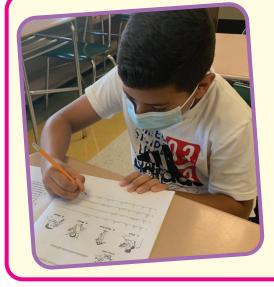
Kerry Larke, Principal of Marion G. Vedder school, said that the idea

for Universal Pre-K was initiated after the District received positive feedback from the community in favor of the program. With that, administration acquired a New York State grant to get the program rolling for the 2021-2022 school year. The District filled its 72seat lottery, with an additional 44 submissions placed on a waiting list.

The grant was able to fund all new supplies and furniture to establish four classrooms. Each classroom has 18 students, a full-time teacher and a paraprofessional.

Ms. Larke said they are very excited for the program and anticipate positive results. "Our biggest goal right now is to develop very strong foundational skills for our students, as they get ready to begin their career in North Babylon Schools," she said.





NEW 6TH GRADE ACCELERATED LOTE PROGRAM

Our Middle School has kicked off the new 6th Grade Accelerated LOTE Program for the 2021-2022 school year. At the end of fifth grade, students were assessed in reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in Spanish.

To start the program, sixth graders are taking the Enriched Spanish 1 course and will later take the Spanish Cultural Studies course. Moving onto the seventh grade level, they will take the Enriched Spanish 2 course and then in eighth grade, the Enriched

Spanish 3 course.

Students who successfully complete this program reap several benefits. They leave the Middle School with three High School credits; meet the Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation requirements before they transition to the High School; can pursue college-level courses or begin studying the Italian language in ninth grade; may take other electives in High School; and qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy.

North Babylon Public Schools

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State-of-the-Art Cosmetology Laboratory

The High School has further beautified itself with creation of a new Cosmetology Laboratory and Career and Technical course for students to become certified cosmetologists.

The in-house program eliminates the need for travel to and from BOCES, giving students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. It is a two-year course of study that requires 1,000 hours of instruction and practical experience in the skills

and theory necessary to be employed as a cosmetologist in New York State. This includes the care of hair, skin, nails and other related services offered in a salon.

new, state-of-the-art Our Cosmetology Laboratory will use equipment equivalent to that found in a modern salon. The successful completion qualifies our program students to take the New York cosmetology licensing examinations.





Grows to Middle School

Our Structured Teaching Reinforced in a Visual Environment, STRIVE, program at William E. DeLuca Elementary School has achieved so much success since its inception in 2017 that we are now offering the program at the Middle School level.

The program is rooted in the principles of applied behavior analysis for students with autism. They are taught individualized academic and functional skills, utilizing strategies such as Discrete Trial Instruction, naturalistic teaching and multisensory learning opportunities. They are also taught functional communication training and life skills, applying visual supports, shaping and chaining. At the secondary level, the students will be engaging in prevocational skills, such as building jobs.

The goal of the program is to promote academic and social skills, as well as independence in daily living skills.