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SEWANHAKA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT • FALL 2021

S·C·H·S·D
 SEWANHAKA
 CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCOOOP

SEWANHAKA

New Programs and Initiatives INTRODUCED THIS YEAR



After a year of remote learning, uncertainty and a shift in the norm, Sewanhaka Central High School District students were abuzz with excitement as the 2021-22 school year began. While the opportunity to learn in person with their peers again provided a great deal of eagerness, new district programs and initiatives also awaited the students on their return. The social and emotional well-being of the students and staff was at the forefront of the district's decision-making in adding programs, coursework, staff and more.

Prior to the start of the school year, during the summer months, seventh and eighth grade students were able to enroll in the district's four-week-long Summer Enrichment Camp, held at each of the five buildings to assist students in socializing and reintegrating into their school communities. The younger grades were also able to enroll in Project Lead The Way courses this school year. A nonprofit organization,

PLTW provides engaging classroom lessons that empower students to develop skills to handle real-world challenges. The new PLTW courses allow the seventh and eighth graders to dabble in different topics and see what might pique their interest.

Initiatives for all grade levels include the continuation and enhancement of social and emotional well-being. This is being supplemented by the addition of new SEL and pupil personnel services staff and the creation of a districtwide SEL committee, as well as individual building committees. Student-friendly, flexible furniture was also installed in the business classes in each of the five school buildings, along with outdoor tents for socialization and mask breaks.

These new programs and initiatives have been implemented this school year to best keep our students connected and involved, while keeping in mind their social and emotional health. As a district, we're so excited to see how our students progress this year!

HOMECOMING Highlights

School pride was on full display at each of the five homecomings this year!



Elmont Memorial

The Spartans prevailed with a score of 56-21, highlighted by four special team touchdowns. At halftime, the crowd was treated to a performance by the marching band. Daniel Salas and Oroboghene Obaro-Ogbovoh were named homecoming king and queen, respectively.



H. Frank Carey

Despite not winning the game, the Seahawk community still enjoyed a day of smiles and celebration. Various student groups performed during halftime, including the marching band, kickline and the cheerleaders. Paul Cirone and Gabriella McCartney were named homecoming king and queen, respectively.



New Hyde Park Memorial

While the Gladiators played hard, they unfortunately lost with a score of 27-0. During halftime, the crowd was treated to performances by the Romanettes, the marching band, the step team, the Twirlers and the cheerleaders. Twins Steven Mirabile and Emily Mirabile were named homecoming king and queen.



Floral Park Memorial

The Knights won the game with a score of 35-8. The crowd, decked in the school's color red, enjoyed halftime performances from the varsity cheerleaders, the Florettes and the marching band. Kate Edwards and Julia Mills were recognized as homecoming royalty.



Sewanhaka

The Indians cruised to a 39-3 victory. Various student groups, including the marching band, the rockettes and the cheerleaders, performed at halftime as the crowd cheered them on. Kimberly Stephens and Zaheerah Fuller were named homecoming royalty.

NEW Website

The district is excited to formally announce that it debuted a new website design at the start of this school year. Featuring larger images in scrolling banners and a streamlined design for easier navigation, the website will continue to showcase school news, events, announcements and parent/student resources. The website can also be translated to different languages, including English, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Italian, Malayalam, Spanish and Urdu. Visit www.sewanhaskaschools.org for all information regarding the district and five school buildings.





Floral Park Memorial High School students were tasked with creating an orthosis boot for people with cerebral palsy in the Project Lead the Way Design and Modeling class. The students drew their models, built the boots from various materials and then presented their creation to the class.

Project Lead The Way

The PLTW courses now being offered to seventh and eighth grade students include:

- Design and Modeling – This course introduces students to the design process and helps them to develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are given the tools to design real-life, useful objects.
- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers – Through this course, students can learn about programming by blending hardware design and software development. They discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible and shareable projects.
- Medical Detectives – Students have the chance to play the role of real-life medical detectives in this course, as they solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs. Students will investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, learn how the systems of the human body work, analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.”



H. Frank Carey High School students working in the Project Lead the Way Medical Detectives class.

In the Computer Science for Innovators and Makers class at Sewanhaka High School, students worked in pairs and utilized micro:bit, a pocket-sized computer, to create rolling banners that featured their names, images and tunes. The task introduced the students to coding.



A CLOSER LOOK at all that's new this school year



Social-Emotional Learning and Pupil Personnel Services

To best serve students and staff, the district utilized federal funding to enhance its social-emotional learning and pupil personnel services offerings. A Social and Emotional Wellness Committee, comprised of 12 districtwide individuals, was implemented this school year and is co-chaired by Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Regina Agrusa and District Psychologist Dr. Caryl Oris. The committee has been meeting to ascertain climate and culture and to make decisions about programs for students. Along with the districtwide committee, each building now has its own Social and Emotional Wellness Committee, as well, to gauge circumstances and needs at the building level. Additionally, new school counselors were hired at Sewanhaka High School and New Hyde Park Memorial High School, as well as at the district's Prestige Academy program. This has greatly reduced the counselor-student caseloads and has allowed for students to be assisted in a quicker, more efficient manner. And, new clinicians were added at Elmont Memorial High School, Floral Park Memorial High School and H. Frank Carey High School. The district also partnered with Northwell Health Mineola Behavioral Center to provide students with direct access to mental health services.

Furniture and Outdoor Seating

Business classrooms at all five buildings have received flexible seating in their respective school colors. The desks can be used for individual or collaborative work, as they can easily be wheeled together to create a larger table or a circular workspace. The new furniture also includes higher desks that students can stand at while working. Each building also received two tents to allow for safe mask breaks, outdoor eating and socialization.



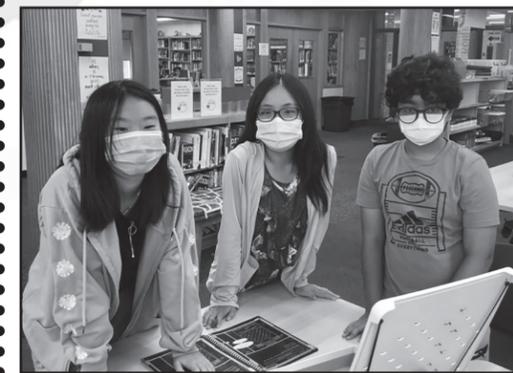
Elmont Memorial High School students are pictured seated at the new flexible seating desks in the business classroom.

Summer Enrichment Camp

This past summer, the district hosted Summer Enrichment Camps for seventh and eighth graders at each of the five school buildings. With many students learning virtually last school year and being separated from their peers due to the pandemic, the central administration felt that it was important to bring the students together to socialize in a fun and casual environment prior to the new school year. Each week, the camps featured a different theme, including music, art, cooking and STEM. Students were engaged in various learning experiences on visual and performance arts, robotics, coding, graphic design and more. They also participated in teambuilding activities and a Field Day. Over 800 districtwide middle schoolers participated in the Summer Enrichment Camps, and the feedback was incredibly positive. Students were able to start the school year with newfound friends and knowledge of different topics.



Elmont Memorial High School students enjoyed building structures during the Summer Enrichment Camp.



New Hyde Park Memorial High School students built marble-powered computers with Turing Tumble during the Summer Enrichment Camp.



Floral Park Memorial students worked on their painting skills during the Summer Enrichment Camp.