

# BETHPAGE

## Union Free School District

### NEWSLETTER

“I am very thankful for the Philosophy Club at the school.”



#### SENIOR REPRESENTS THE NATION AT

## International Philosophy Olympiad

Chang Jeong, a senior at Bethpage High School, was one of only two students in the United States chosen to participate in the International Philosophy Olympiad held in Denmark in May. The Olympiad featured two representatives from each of 40 participating countries. Chang was chosen based upon an essay he submitted through the Ethics Bowl of his school's Philosophy Club, who urged him to submit it for qualification into the Olympiad.

At the Olympiad, Chang had to write an essay on existentialism, not in his native language. “It was definitely a new experience,” he commented. “I am very thankful for the Philosophy Club at the school. It has really challenged me to reconcile my own ideas with those of the world.”

Chang will be attending Duke University in the fall as an English major on a full academic scholarship.

## BETHPAGE

# Class of 2013's

### Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The district would like to introduce the Bethpage High School Class of 2013 valedictorian and salutatorian. Thirteen years of hard work, determination and commitment to succeed have proven to be worth it all for Jessica Dabrowski and Nisha Shah. Their outstanding academic achievements have brought them to the forefront of their graduating class.



Valedictorian Jessica Dabrowski is no stranger to success. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was named both a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student and an AP Scholar with Honor. Jessica is a participant of the Long Island Ethics Bowl and Relay for Life, and tutors through the NHS. She is captain of the girls varsity swim team and works part-time as a lifeguard. The top-ranking senior is planning to major in chemistry at Tufts University this fall. “I took both Honors and AP Chemistry, and it just really clicked for me,” she shared of her decision. “I thought it was really interesting, and I find myself looking at all areas of life through a chemistry lens.” She also intends to play club rugby through the university.

Nisha Shah joined Jessica at the top of this year's class as salutatorian. This year alone she has been named a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student, an AP Scholar with Distinction and president of the student council. Nisha was also captain of the dance team and a member of the National Honor Society, National Thespian Society, Site-Based Committee, Ethics Debate Team, Drama Club, Philosophy Club, Marching Band and Athletes Helping Athletes. She served as captain of the varsity tennis team this year and was a nominee for the 2012 Nassau County Tournament. Nisha is also very active in her community, serving as team captain for Relay for Life and acting as president for the Community Outreach Responsibility Experience, in addition to numerous other activities. As a result of an AP Psychology course she took at the high school, she intends to major in psychology at Vassar College.

The district congratulates both Jessica and Nisha on this tremendous accomplishment.

Bethpage Union Free School District  
Bethpage, New York 11714

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# MESSAGE

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Residents,

I often say that I have one of the greatest jobs in the world. Not only do I get to work with great parents, faculty and staff, but I often get to witness first hand the success of students past and present.

On July 9th I had the great honor of attending the installation of a former student, Colonel Patrick Rhatigan, BHS Class of 1987, as the Commander of the 19th Airlift Wing based at Little Rock Air Force Base. Pat was a great student and was class president at both JFK and BHS. He told me he was far more nervous making his 8th grade speech to his classmates than he was last week to the assembled crowd of airmen and women on hand to meet their new commander. He gave a wonderful talk about team work and the challenges his division would face together. He was well received and everyone admired his devotion to his beautiful family (his wife and four children were all there). Like other BHS alumni in the military, Colonel Rhatigan has spent a great deal of his

career away from family serving our nation and I was proud to be in attendance to see this BHS alumnus who has become such a successful leader.

At the 2013 Commencement, I mentioned several other alumni who have been in the news in the past few months. Dr. Louis Uccellini, BHS Class of 1967, was recently appointed Director of the National Weather Service and now has responsibility for overseeing weather and storm predictions for the entire nation. Kevin Sackel, BHS Class of 2009, was one of fourteen people in the country just awarded a Churchill Scholarship and will study next year –free of charge- at Oxford University and the following year at MIT for his doctorate in mathematics. Thomas Secunda, BHS Class of 1972, was recently on the front page of the New York Times for a new venture capital firm he was founding with his business partner, Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

In future years, a Bethpage Superintendent will be writing about the successes of the Class of 2013 which attained a remarkable 99% Graduation rate,

96% Regents Diploma rate and 70% Advanced Regents Diploma rate, all among the highest in Nassau County. Newsweek recently ranked Bethpage High School the 353rd Best High School in America out of the 26,000 schools they reviewed.

It is good to know that our former students are doing so well and that students now graduating have the same great foundation provided by a community that stresses values like scholarship, service to others and honor. The Bethpage Educational Foundation is currently forming a Hall of Fame that will highlight the accomplishments of alumni and staff and you can read more about that on page seven of this newsletter. With all this, you can see why I am so proud to be the Superintendent of the Bethpage School District.

Sincerely,

Terrence Clark  
Superintendent of Schools

### Elementary School



The fifth-grade class at Central Boulevard School held a special ceremony recognizing their efforts over the past six years. Graduates are pictured on the playground.



Students from Charles Campagne Elementary School received certificates honoring their advancement to the next level of education. The entire graduating class is pictured in their formal class photo.



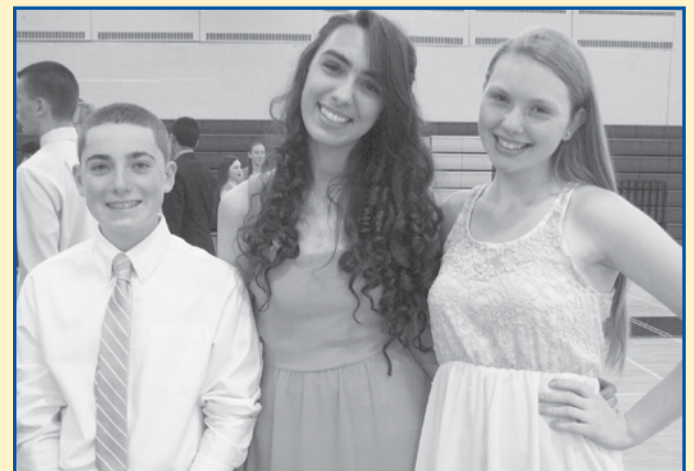
Kramer Lane Elementary School fifth-graders were honored in the school's annual moving-up ceremony. The students pictured will be moving up to the middle school next year.

## Congratulations on Moving Up!



### Middle School

Eighth-graders at John F. Kennedy Middle School received moving-up certificates to signify their transition to high school during the school's annual commencement ceremony. Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark showed appreciation on behalf of all in attendance, as did current principal and soon-to-be Assistant Superintendent David Schneider.



# Caps Off to *Class of* 2013



With almost 250 in Bethpage High School's Class of 2013, one would think the class was 1,000 deep by viewing the list of accomplishments they have achieved. With a 70% Advanced Regents Diploma rate and a 99% graduation rate, this commencement marked the beginning of a bright future for these –now former - Bethpage students. Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark reflected on recent national accomplishments by Bethpage alumni and remarked, "Today you join the ranks of the Golden Eagle alumni. We have high expectations of Golden Eagles."

The ceremony began with an extraordinary saxophone rendition of the national anthem by award-winning, graduating senior Luke Norris and continued with an address by senior class president Jessica Cipolla, salutatorian Nisha Shah and valedictorian Jessica Dabrowski. Each offered words of encouragement and advice, as well as reminisced on the class's fondest memories. Nisha urged classmates, on the advent of the release of the movie "Monster's University," to "embrace the child that is still inside of you and never limit yourself." Jessica Dabrowski advised, "This is only the beginning; from here we choose our own paths." She also added her appreciation for the "opportunities this community has given us."

To conclude the ceremony, each student's name and achievements were announced, upon which they walked to the podium to receive their diploma and shake the hands of Board members and administrators who helped make their successes possible.

## SENIORS RECRUITED *for Sports*



Three Bethpage High School seniors who were recruited by college coaches for their academic and athletic abilities gathered with their families, current coaches and high school administration to honor their accomplishments.

Kevin DeCastro, captain of the varsity baseball team, has been accepted on a partial academic scholarship to St. Thomas Aquinas College to play his sport. A baseball star for the past 16 years, Kevin is a two-time All-Conference athlete and recipient of the Coach's Award and Golden Eagle Award. He plays on the Long Island Whalers league and has played in the North vs. South All-Star Game. He will be attending St. Thomas Aquinas for its nationally ranked baseball team. Kevin is pictured (center) with coach Rob Fisher, Athletic Director John Franchi and parents Charlene and George DeCastro.



Kayla Hatki, captain of the varsity softball team, has been accepted on a partial academic scholarship to the University of Scranton for its physical therapy program and for participation on the softball team. A scholar-athlete and All-Conference player, Kayla also plays on the Long Island Bandits softball league, which is a competitive college showcase team. A three-year varsity player, she has been playing softball since the age of 5 and is an AP Scholar and a National Honor Society member. She is (left, top) pictured with High School Principal Michael Spence, Athletic Director John Franchi and parents Christine and Andy Hatki. Bethpage's varsity softball team is coached by Anne DiPrima.



Basketball star Nicole D'Angio has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Mount Saint Mary College. Having played basketball since the third grade, Nicole is a four-year varsity player who served as captain of the girls varsity basketball team this year. She has been named All-Class and a Scholar-Athlete, and is one of the top rebounders for Long Island's 2012-13 basketball season, with an average of 15 rebounds per game. Nicole also plays on the school's varsity lacrosse and soccer teams and has been a member of the AAU Long Island Lightning basketball team since the sixth grade. This year, she was one of 20 basketball players chosen to play for the Nassau Senior All-Star team. She was joined at her signing by parents Linda and Steven D'Angio, grandfather Victor D'Angio and uncle Rob Kneuer, as well as Principal Michael Spence, varsity coach Joseph Inghilterra, Mount Saint Mary head coach Randy Ognibene and AAU coach Charlene DeCastro (pictured left, bottom). Nicole will be receiving a partial academic scholarship to the college.

Congratulations to these graduates!

## Students Select Teachers to Spotlight

As part of Bethpage High School's ninth annual Recognition of Excellence dinner, nine graduating seniors were selected by the high school faculty to each choose one teacher from their elementary, middle and high schools who had been a mentor and an inspiration to them. The teachers, together with the students, were honored with plaques at the dinner for their positive impact on the school community. The evening also featured a special performance by the high school jazz band.

Below is a list of this year's honorees:

### STUDENT

Amanda Arnold  
Brittany Bungert  
Christopher Mastanduno  
Luke Norris  
Lianna Perota  
Courtney Radcliffe  
Molly Reilly  
Nisha Shah  
Jacqueline Zizzo

### HONORED TEACHERS

Amy Letter, KLS; Ronny Ciarniello, JFK; Laura Hald, HS  
Jeanne Cano, KLS; Leslie Green, JFK; Jon LaRochester, HS  
Denise Caliguri, KLS; Lauren Como, JFK; John Como, HS  
Gina Rufrano/Susan Corcoran, CBS; James Coscette, JFK; James Stehlik, HS  
Jennifer Dittrich, CBS; Robert Fisher, JFK; Deborah Stehlik, HS  
Michael Posch, CCS; Erica Blau, JFK; Chryseis Corson, HS  
Roseann Cordiner, CBS; Dennis Sciacca, JFK; Scott Lynch, HS  
Kathleen Peters, CCS; Chris Pollatos, JFK; Wendy Way, HS  
Sara Dionne, CCS; Timothy Brace, JFK; Chrissy Bennett, HS





# LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



Valedictorian and Plainview/  
Bethpage Lions Club Award  
recipient Jessica Dabrowski  
with guidance counselor  
Kathleen Gagliardi.



Salutatorian, Principal's  
Award and the John Rager  
Scholarship Award recipient  
Nisha Shah with guidance  
counselor Jenn Payne.



Student Civic Award, Bethpage  
Civil Service Employees Association  
Award and Long Island Blood  
Services Award recipient Amanda  
Arnold with guidance counselor  
Kathleen Gagliardi.



Nassau County Citizenship  
Award recipient Brittany  
Bungert with guidance  
counselor Kathleen Gagliardi.



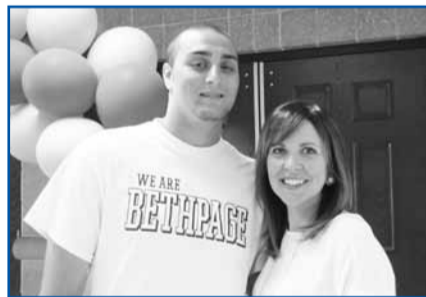
Nassau County Comptroller  
Award recipient Emily Fischer  
with guidance counselor James  
Benjamin.



George Eastman Young  
Leaders Award winner Deena  
Hadhoud with guidance  
counselor Kathleen Gagliardi.



Nassau County Executive  
Award winner Chang Jeong  
with guidance counselor James  
Benjamin.



New York State Comptroller  
Award winner Sean Lunetto  
with guidance counselor  
Kathleen Gagliardi.



Senator Kemp Hannon  
Citizenship Award recipient  
Nicholas Maresco with  
guidance counselor Meg  
Scanlon.



Senior Class Officers: President Jessica  
Cipolla, Vice President Gabrielle Feliciano,  
Secretary Courtney Radcliffe, Treasurer  
Andrew Aquino, and Senators Tyler  
Albert, Amanda Barbuto and Taylor Russo  
with adviser Jon Larochester. Co-adviser  
Ron Tauriello is not in the photo.



Student Council President Nisha  
Shah, Vice President Thomas  
Fraher, Secretary Kyle Tengco,  
Treasurer Akash Dagur, Senate  
President Jessica Seiter and adviser  
Wendy Way.



National Honor Society Officers:  
President Amanda Rich, Fundraising  
Vice President Nina Skarica, Tutoring  
Vice Presidents Marley O'Donnell  
and Lianna Perota, Treasurer Conor  
Bystron, Secretary Jessica Seiter and  
adviser Scott Lynch.

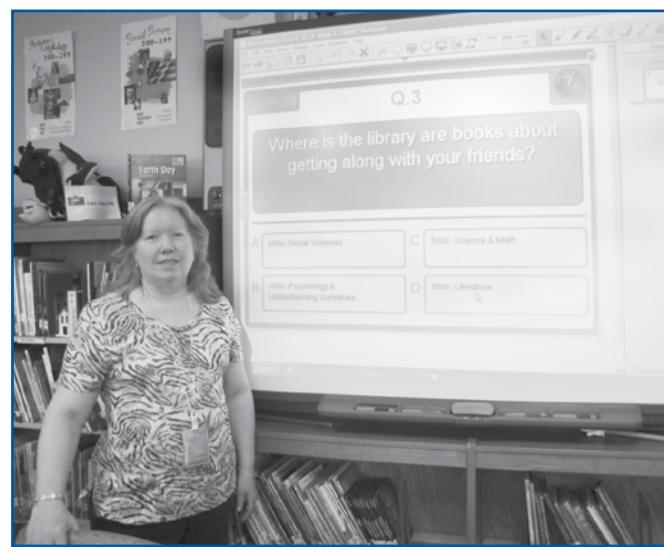
## Zeus Retires, Passes Lightning Bolt to Successor

Sixth-graders in Monica Klein's social studies classes at John F. Kennedy Middle School researched ancient Greek deities, culminating in a unique persuasive speech and debate project. For the fourth consecutive year, the students took on the roles of ancient Greek gods, goddesses and heroes to try and become the eternal ruler of Olympus.



Zeus, played by Mrs. Klein's father, Ben Morselli, decided to retire to Florida and needed a successor to rule. He decreed that each of the gods, goddesses and heroes should use his or her persuasive abilities and powers (in the classic Greek tradition) to convince the mortals of who their new ruler should be. The students prepared and memorized full one-page, typewritten speeches in the voices of their chosen characters in order to convince others of their qualifications, which they delivered while dressed as the gods, goddesses or heroes they were pretending to be.

Students in the audience were required to judge their peers on costume, speech and persuasiveness. Some of the deities represented were Persephone, Athena, Poseidon, Iris, Hephaestus, Hades and Apollo.



## Librarian Wins Best Practices

Ann Tracy, the librarian at Central Boulevard Elementary School, was named the first-place winner in the Long Island School Media Association's Best Practices contest. Ms. Tracy submitted her third-grade lesson titled "Where Dewey Look in the Library," which is a Smart Board lesson that teaches students where to find books in the library using the Dewey Decimal System. She was named the association's March winner for her best practices lesson plan and received a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble for her work.

## Welcome to Wild Africa

Fourth- and fifth-grade students in Andrea Feinstein's class at Central Boulevard Elementary School held activities to culminate their unit of study on Africa. The unit, which was tied into the class's nonfiction text and research curriculum, required each student to conduct online research about the continent and then create various projects to illustrate aspects of its culture and geography. For example, students created "lucky hands," which are native to Morocco; tie-dyed T-shirts, a practice that originated in Africa; and cooked a native Maasai meal. To conclude the unit, students transformed their classroom into an African theme and shared their PowerPoint presentations, filled with African facts, with the class and special guests.



## Meaning of Memorial Day

Fourth-grade students in Linda Parascondola's class at Central Boulevard Elementary School celebrated the meaning of Memorial Day. After studying a unit on veterans, the students used their math skills to create paper lanterns in red, white and blue to decorate the classroom. Family members who served in the military were invited to the celebration and were asked to speak with the class about their experiences. Parent Michael Monteleone, who served in the Navy during the Gulf War, and grandfather Edward Pecinka, who was a Marine during the Korean War, shared their memorabilia and experiences while serving with the class. After answering questions and being presented with cards of thanks from the students, Mr. Monteleone and Mr. Pecinka stayed to eat red, white and blue treats with the class.

# Magic of 5-a-Day



As part of a weeklong Recess Relay at Charles Campagne Elementary School, students participated in daily health and wellness-related activities. Throughout the week, students made luminarias for their walk-a-thon, wore sunseeker bracelets to remind them to wear sunscreen, pledged to eat five fruits and vegetables a day, and culminated the festivities by participating in a field day. One of the week's activities included a special presentation by comic magician Brian Richards, who used humor and magic to illustrate the importance of eating "5-a-day the color way." He challenged students to not only eat five fruits and vegetables a day, but to make sure they vary the types and colors for maximum health benefits. Mr. Richards also encouraged students to live an active and healthy lifestyle and to share the information with their families.

# Honoring Diversity at Kramer Lane

In May, Kramer Lane Elementary School held its annual International Feast. The feast, which celebrated culture through food and dance, brought together staff members, students and parents.



All fourth-graders were asked to bring in a dish that best represented their ethnic background, and as a class they practiced cultural dances such as the South African line dance and Tibetan dance. Following the dance performances, students had the opportunity to enjoy some cultural classics, including Italian meatballs, Chinese vegetable dumplings, Greek salad, Irish soda bread and German butter cookies.

# Importance Of Our Flag



In honor of Flag Day on June 14, Kramer Lane Elementary School hosted retired Lt. Col. Joe Regale and Sgt. Maj. Larry Pinto from the United Veterans Organization of Nassau County. Together they spoke with students in grades K-5 on the importance of the American flag. They also shared a video on the history of the flag and the national anthem.



# Using Their SENSES

First-grade students at Charles Campagne Elementary School participated in a workshop on the importance of using all five senses. Hosted by the Long Island Center for Arts and Sciences, the program discussed each of the senses in detail and had students use lima beans and glue to spell out "I love you" in Braille. As a group, they then read "Sense Suspension," which asked students how various objects found on an exotic island would smell, sound, taste, touch and look.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Colonel Patrick Rhatigan, BHS Class of 1987, took command of the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base. Colonel Rhatigan has served many missions abroad and is an accomplished pilot who attended the Air Force Academy after graduating BHS. Bethpage is proud of his accomplishments and thankful for his service. See our website for additional pictures.



# Alumni Hall of Fame

The Bethpage Educational Foundation is currently forming a Hall of Fame that will highlight the accomplishments of alumni and staff. They are actively seeking input from community members and have a website where you can nominate those who best represent the Golden Eagle traditions. The first class of nominees will be honored at a dinner this October. Feel free to go to our website, [www.bethpagecommunity.com](http://www.bethpagecommunity.com), and click on the link Alumni Hall of Fame, where you will find the easy-to-fill-out online nomination form.

# National Honor Society Inductees

The National Honor Society was established in 1921 to recognize outstanding students at the high school level, according to the organization. In order to be eligible for this distinction, a student must maintain a minimum academic average of 85 percent, in addition to demonstrating his or her commitment to being a leader, engaging in service and exhibiting good character. More than 90 of the students at Bethpage High School were eligible to earn this distinction.

Congratulations to the following students:

Firas Akbik	Sarah Cirese	Brendan Hoffman	Michael Mirman	Anthony Saya
Francisco Almanzar	Anthony Coletta	Nicholas Hydo	Thomas Mkrtrichian	Briana Scaldaferrri
Genna Amick	Lisa Coletta	Samantha Ingenito	Kristina Murtha	Craig Schmier
Alexander Andreades	Dennis Costa	Chang Jeong	Steven Nani	Saloni Shah
Charles Bachmeier	Christopher Dane	Brandon Johnson	Danielle Nendza	Samantha Skopas
Elizabeth Backman	Caitlyn Darcy	Matthew Josephs	Conor Nimmo	Jeremy Sola
Michael Baggia	John Paul DiGiovanna	Jennifer Keylon	Kevin Ogden	Stephen Stork
Andrew Bartolozzi	Nicole Domin	Ahmed Khokhar	Meghan Paola	John Tierney
Nicholas Bartolozzi	Brendan Dowd	Nicholas Kideris	Emily Perrault	Daniel Varley
Shilpa Basu	Meghan Foley	Jeannie Kim	Gabriela Pilarte	Samantha Virgil
Marissa Bavaro	Thomas Fraher	Jonathan Kim	Tina Rapaglia	Emily Walker
Josett Bernberg	Sana Fujimura	Jessica Kopetz	Adriana Raskin	Alexandria White
Frank Blesi	Daniel Gottlieb	Stefano Korkotas	Luke Richardson	Brandon Woods
Emily Brass	Ryan Gray	Lucas Lee	Alexander Russo	Jisun Yang
Maria Buondelmonte	Suzanne Gregorian	Gary Liang	Hartej Saini	Eric Yurman
Nicole Carroll	Jacklyn Grigorian	Ashley Makarewicz	Briana Saur	Samantha Zito
Alexander Cerza	Alexander Gusmano	Stephanie Malatestinic		
Gabriel Chan	Deena Hadhoud	Alina Markarian		
Jonathan Chao	Matthew Hanley	Michael Mascio		
Nicholas Christensen	Kevin Hanly	Gillian McGowan		

## NEW ASST. SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM

David Schneider, the current principal of John F. Kennedy Middle School, has been appointed to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology for the district. His appointment was unanimously accepted at the district's May 28th Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Schneider, who has more than 12 years of experience in education, has been principal of JFK Middle School since 2011. Under his supervision, the school has implemented new guideline practices for New York State's Annual Professional Performance Review, incorporated new Common Core Learning Standards, designed new teacher workshops focusing on best practices, and reorganized the school's special education program with its focus on co-teaching practices. Prior to joining Bethpage, Mr. Schneider was an assistant principal at Merrick Avenue Middle School. He also serves as a national staff instructor for the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

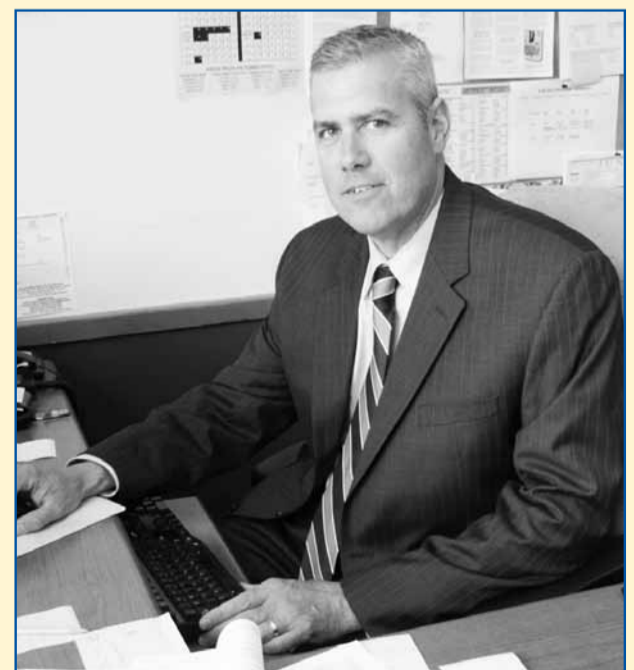
Mr. Schneider holds a Bachelor of Arts in geology from Binghamton University and a Master of Arts in education/special education from Touro College. He earned his professional diploma in Administration from LIU Post and merited the distinction of receiving the Walter Seuss Award in recognition of being the "outstanding student in the program." He is currently working towards his dissertation for his doctorate in learning and teaching through Hofstra University.

"I am very excited to be working with the Board of Education, Mr. Clark and central administration, and the entire Bethpage school community in this new position," Mr. Schneider said of his appointment. "Bethpage is a very special place, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to continue working with the dedicated staff of the Bethpage schools in preparing our children for a successful future."



## Fullerton Promoted to Principal at JFK Middle School

On Tuesday, May 28, the Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Kevin Fullerton as the principal of John F. Kennedy Middle School effective July 1, 2013. Mr. Fullerton, who was the assistant principal at JFK, has been a member of the Bethpage School District for the past seven years, four of which he has served as assistant principal at JFK. Prior to joining Bethpage, he worked as a teacher at Hicksville Middle School for close to 10 years. Mr. Fullerton holds a Bachelor of Science from Skidmore College and a Master of Science in secondary education from Hofstra University.



Union Free School District  
**BETHPAGE**

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Bethpage School District's  
Community Relations Office

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