

BETHPAGE

Union Free School District
Newsletter
WINTER2021

In This Issue...

- P. 2 Bethpage Business
- P. 3 Favorite Part of 20-21 Year
- P. 4 News Around the Schools

BETHPAGE

Gets Down to Business

Over the past several years, the Bethpage High School business program has steadily grown to include a wider variety of courses for students to learn real-world skills. High school business teachers Nancy Simpson and Anthony Murray noticed there was a large number of students studying business in college, and they felt there was an opportunity to better prepare students for their futures. As veterans of the business world, they applied their skills and wisdom to expand the Bethpage business program, creating a robust list of offerings for students in grades 10-12.

“We found that in the past so many students would major in business in college and now that we’re able to grow the business program, we’re meeting that demand,” Ms. Simpson said. “The students are getting exposure to it here so that they’re making informed choices when they go to school.”

The business program has grown to include accounting, business management, personal finance and marketing, with college credits available in some courses. The classes focus on having students practice life skills and relating lessons to current events. For example, the Personal Finance class participates in a lifelike stock market game, buying and selling stocks to make a profit.

“The new classes have served as great introductory courses that have helped students progress from a basic

understanding of business to a practical, real-world use,” Mr. Murray said.

A Student-Run Enterprise

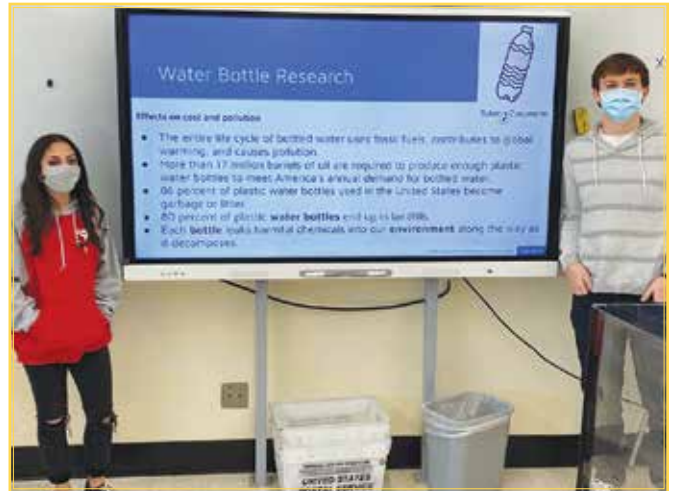
The culmination of the business curriculum is Virtual Enterprise. The course is available to junior and senior students and allows them to experience every aspect of business in a simulated environment. Bethpage High School boasts three Virtual Enterprise teams and, for the first time, students are able to take the course in both their junior and senior years.

“Virtual Enterprise gives each student accountability for their job,” Ms. Simpson said.

Typically, the companies are able to attend large-scale events to market and sell their products and compete with other Virtual Enterprise companies from around the country and world. This year, students will engage virtually with thousands of firms to participate in competitions, trade shows and fairs.

Creating a More Diverse Business World

The business courses at Bethpage have historically been male-dominated, but both Ms. Simpson and Mr. Murray made a concerted effort to put a focus on diversity in their classes by covering a wider range of topics. For example, they transformed Sports Marketing



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- Anthony Murray, Bethpage High School Business Teacher

into Principles of Marketing, which in addition to sports covers topics such as entertainment and fashion. The wider range of options attracted a more diverse group of students.

For Sarah Ali, co-CEO for the Virtual Enterprise company METaKey, the new courses allowed her to delve deeper into the business world and understand where her interests lie. As one of the students who took two of the new business courses, Business

(continued on Page 2)

BETHPAGE Gets Down to Business

Management and Principles of Marketing, Sarah began Virtual Enterprise with a solid foundation, leading her to focus on the areas of business that were most engaging to her in an independent and innovative way.

“Virtual Enterprise is an enjoyable way to learn about the business industry,” Sarah said. “Having a class that offers the ability to tap into my creative side and collaborate with others is something that is very much appreciated, and it’s one of the few classes that can set you up for the real world.”

Building Blocks for Success

Aside from preparing students for their future at the high school level, initiatives around the district continue to lay the foundation for students of all ages. In grades 2-5, a new keyboarding skills curriculum has been introduced in accordance with the New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards. At the onset of the program, the focus is on technique over speed. As students

progress, they concentrate on their speed and accuracy. Two programs, Typing Pal and Typing Club, are used to present students with keyboarding challenges that get progressively more difficult as they move on to different levels.

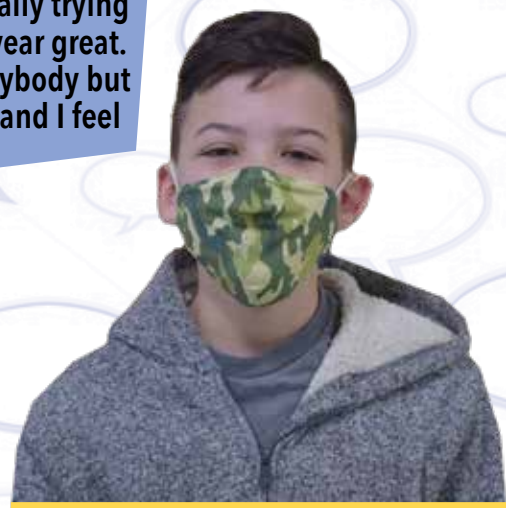
“We introduced the keyboarding curriculum to make sure that kids at an early age are getting comfortable with typing on a computer,” Mike Spence, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, said. “Keyboarding is an essential skill nowadays and we want students to be well-acquainted by the time they reach fifth grade.”

Additionally, the district continues to implement programs such as KidOYO, Making Grammar Stick, ST Math and Writers Workshop.

KidOYO has been expanded from just the middle school level to include ninth grade as well. The district also continues to focus on the Responsive Classroom approach at the elementary level, focusing on social and emotional skills alongside an academic curriculum.



CCS - Ariana G. - Gr. 5
“All the staff, teachers and principal are trying to make this a wonderful year for us even though it’s a hard year with the circumstances. They are keeping us all safe.”



JFK - Timothy C. - Gr. 7
“We’ve done a really good job [with our safety precautions] with the pandemic going on. I think the teachers and students are doing a really good job of really trying to make this school year great. It’s different for everybody but we’re adapting, and I feel safe.”

What Has Been Your Favorite Part of the School Year?
The 2020-21 school year started unlike any other, but Bethpage successfully welcomed back all students, in person, since day one. While many things look different this year, students from around the district reflected upon what their favorite part of the school year has been thus far.

CBS - Jack B. - Gr. 5
“My favorite part of the school year so far is doing math with my classmates and my teacher. I’m happy we’re in person. I feel like I can learn and understand math better, and my favorite is learning fractions.”



KL - Madison M. - Gr. 4
“Our Halloween parade was my favorite part of the year. We got to dress up and walk around the halls with our friends. I’m also really happy we’re back in school.”



BHS - Marnes R. - Gr. 10
“My favorite part of the school year so far was being able to come back to school after that six-month interval because it’s nice to see faces I haven’t seen in a while. It makes me happy because I see people I love and remember. It’s why I like Bethpage; it’s a great school district.”



BETHPAGE SCHOOLS

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Bethpage, NY 11714

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NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOLS:

Excellence, Achievement and Service Abound

Throughout the holiday season, schools throughout Bethpage participated in a variety of charitable and meaningful activities. From fundraisers to sending well wishes to front-line heroes, Bethpage celebrated those in the community and beyond.

CENTRAL BOULEVARD

Central Boulevard Elementary School continued its tradition of hosting a pajama drive in partnership with Scholastic Book Club. Each year, students, staff and community members are asked to bring in pajamas during the month of December for children in need. For every set of pajamas contributed, Scholastic matches the donation with a book.

CHARLES CAMPAGNE

At Charles Campagne, students partook in holiday activities, including favorite holiday shirts day and pajama day, before the holiday recess. Classes also took part in holiday-themed activities, including writing holiday cards for health care workers.



KRAMER LANE

Kramer Lane organized its yearly Giving Tree fundraiser, collecting donations of warm winter clothing and accessories to help families in need on Long Island. Kramer Lane partnered with the Student Civic Key Club and the S.A.D.D. Club from Bethpage High School for the event. The collected items were donated to several local organizations.



JOHN F. KENNEDY

For the holidays at JFK, the school identified students whose families were facing significant financial difficulty and reached out to them to



see if they would like assistance. Faculty and staff then signed up to purchase gifts and gift cards for the families. Once collection was complete, the gifts were wrapped and delivered to the deserving families the week before holiday break.

BETHPAGE HIGH SCHOOL

The Bethpage High School Student Civic Club, led by teacher Dan Fazio, organized Operation Appreciation. Operation Appreciation collected items, such as toiletries, board games and non-perishable snacks, to be donated to servicemen and women in the United States military. Student representatives from the Student Civic Club were able to provide the donated items to Staff Sergeant Smile prior to the holiday break.

