

# BETHPAGE

## Union Free School District

### NEWSLETTER

## Board of Education Appoints David Schneider AS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

At its Oct. 24 business meeting, the Bethpage Board of Education unanimously appointed David Schneider as the district's next superintendent of schools, effective July 1, 2018. He will replace current Superintendent Terrence Clark, who is retiring after 32 years

of service to the district. Mr. Schneider currently serves as the district's assistant superintendent for instruction and technology, a position he has held for the past four years.

Mr. Schneider brings a wealth of knowledge to the position of superintendent, with more than

16 years of experience in the education field. During his tenure as assistant superintendent for instruction and technology, he has overseen the implementation of the district's 1:1 Chromebook initiative, which included providing the necessary professional development for staff. He also spearheaded the district's partnership with Google to add the Google G Suite for students and staff, as well as facilitated the district's hosting of Google ExploreEDU, an event designed to introduce school technology professionals to different technology solutions in the classroom.

In addition, Mr. Schneider has overseen the implementation of new programs within the Bethpage schools, including Go Math, Writer's Workshop, Be an Expert and Frontier, as well as the expansion of Achieve 3000 into grades 3-5. At the high school level, he has overseen expanded course offerings to include a number of Advanced Placement and college-level classes. Mr. Schneider has also helped to expand offerings to staff members within the district's Professional Development Academy, including the district's first blended courses (classes in which a portion of the instruction is web-based, online learning).

Prior to his current role, Mr. Schneider served as principal of John F. Kennedy Middle School in the district and as an assistant principal at Merrick Avenue Middle School in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. 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." Mr. Schneider has also completed his doctoral coursework in teaching and learning at Hofstra University.

"I am honored to be appointed as Bethpage's next superintendent of schools," said Mr. Schneider. "I look forward to continuing the district's tradition of excellence and maintaining the high standards that have made our schools so successful. I am excited to work with the Board of Education, the entire Bethpage staff and the greater community to continue to evolve our educational program to ensure the success of all students."

"We are pleased to announce Mr. Schneider as our next superintendent," said Board of Education President Michael Kelly. "He is a proven educational leader within the Bethpage community and has already established positive relationships with all constituencies. We are confident that Mr. Schneider will be a positive asset for years to come and will continue our district's trajectory of success."



*"I look forward to continuing the district's tradition of excellence and maintaining the high standards that have made our schools so successful."*

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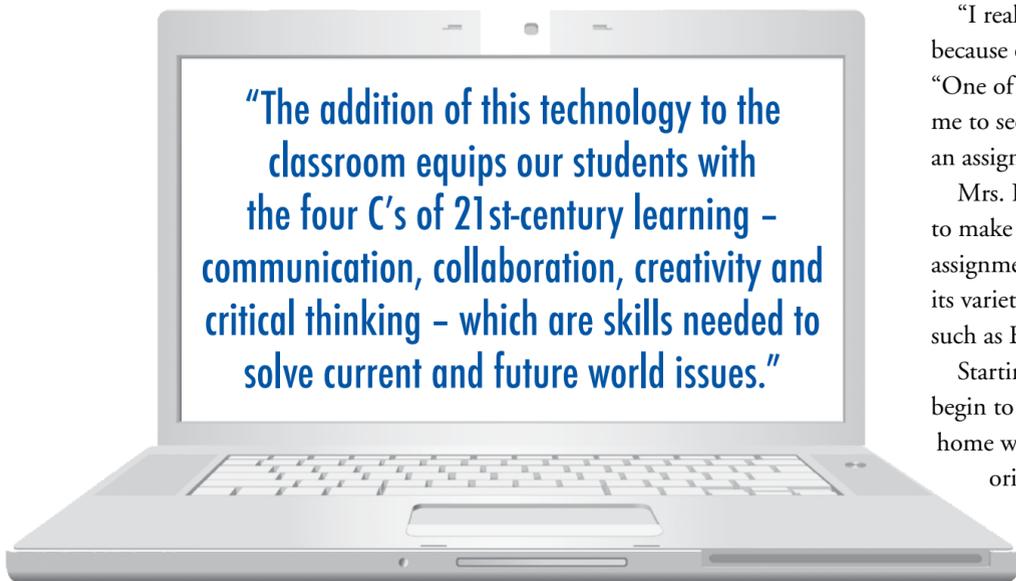
# Chromebooks Take

During the 2013-14 school year, the Bethpage School District launched a Chromebook initiative at JFK Middle School to enhance students' educational experience with the inclusion of this technology.

Over the course of four years, Chromebook distribution has expanded to all students in grades 3-12. In addition, students in grades K-2 have access to Chromebooks in their schools' computer labs and libraries and use them in the classroom from time to time. Third-

through fifth-graders have their own Chromebooks that remain in the classroom for everyday use, and those in grades 6-12 are given laptops that they can use both in school and at home.

The Chromebooks are furnished with G Suite for Education, a web-based learning management tool that allows teachers to provide seamless instruction with a variety of applications. These include Google Classroom, Docs (word processing), Sheets (spreadsheets), Slides (presentations) and email, as well as a



plethora of other educational tools for achieving mastery of major subject areas such as STEM, world languages and geography.

"The integration of Chromebooks into the curriculum allows us to bring the world closer together because of the information, connectivity and communication that is readily accessible to us," said David Schneider, assistant superintendent for instruction and technology. "The addition of this technology to the classroom equips our students with the four C's of 21st-century learning - communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking - which are skills needed to solve current and future world issues."

With Chromebook implementation now in full swing, educators and students alike are using the devices to their fullest potential.

At Charles Campagne Elementary School, fifth-graders in Cheryl Kelly's class are using G Suite's "Periodic Table" app to learn about the elements in depth, from their atomic number and electron configuration to their chemical properties and everyday use. The app provides a credible source for research and study, and Google Classroom allows Mrs. Kelly to view student progress in real time.

"I really enjoy using Google Classroom because of its versatility," Mrs. Kelly said. "One of the major benefits is that it allows me to see when students have completed an assignment."

Mrs. Kelly also uses the online service to make announcements about upcoming assignments, tests and projects, and utilizes its variety of resources for other subjects such as English, geography and math.

Starting in the sixth grade, students begin to bring their Chromebooks home with them. During sixth-grade orientation, parents and students are invited to learn about the technology from educators and honor society students,

# Hall of Fame INDUCTION

Following homecoming festivities on Oct. 21, the district held its fifth annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, sponsored by the Bethpage Educational Foundation.

Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark welcomed guests to celebrate the induction of eight honorees and the 1968-1969 varsity wrestling team.

"The Bethpage Educational Foundation did a fantastic job of soliciting community input and determining the final selection of inductees," said Mr. Clark in his opening remarks. "They could not have chosen more deserving Golden Eagles. We look forward to honoring the highest caliber of Bethpage alumni, teachers, administrators, staff members, coaches and community members in the years to come."

Other speakers included Nassau County Legislators Rose Marie Walker and Laura Schaefer, Bethpage Educational Foundation Secretary James McGlynn, JFK Middle School Principal Kevin Fullerton and Bethpage High School Principal Michael Spence.

The Bethpage Educational Foundation has been responsible for raising and donating more than \$100,000 to the Bethpage schools to enhance programs and provide opportunities for all district students.



*"I think everyone here knows that Bethpage is a very special place where the bonds of family and friendship run deep. With that bond has developed a civic spirit, and the school district plays an essential role in keeping that spirit and sense of community alive."* – Terrence Clark, Superintendent of Schools

## HONOREES:

- Al Blau, Bethpage High School Science Teacher and the 1968-1969 Wrestling Team
- Timothy Cloonan, Class of 1958
- Brian Hickey, Class of 1972
- Barbara Keiler, Class of 1970
- Antoinette MacLeod, Bethpage High School Principal, 1987-2003
- Charles Melone, Class of 1960
- Frank Procida, Class of 1993
- Rosalie Walsh Niemczyk, Class of 1956



## District Welcomes Its Newest Educators

The Bethpage School District welcomed 25 new members to its educational community with a detailed orientation program on Aug. 28. The day was designed to transition the educators into their new positions by familiarizing them with the district's tradition of excellence and demonstrating ways to implement that tradition.

The daylong orientation began with breakfast and welcoming remarks from central administrators and district directors in the high school senior courtyard. Each new instructional member received a Bethpage School District tote bag filled with informational materials for a successful school year.

The program included a bus tour of the community, with stops at local businesses such as Alice and Gold Coast Studios, where faculty toured the set of the CBS sitcom "Kevin Can Wait."

Concluding the day, the new educators explored their respective schools to become acquainted with their buildings and principals.

The district welcomes the following individuals to its

instructional staff: Tyler Arnone, Melissa Biscardi, Joan Chiarello, Erin Duignan, Daniella Flaim, Angela Formica, Jon Hatzfeld, Lindsay Johnson, Mara Karfinkel, Jennifer Lindkvist, Kaitlyn Lynch, Scott Mattered, Karen Mayal, Mary Ellen McEntee, Denise Moerler, Jillian Mulholland, Megan O'Brien, Alexandria Olsen, Jennifer Panzner, Basmattie Passaro, Thomas Piccirillo, Kristin Rochford, Antonia Ryan, Dylan Sloane and Victoria Yegelwel.





### THOUGHTS FOR TEXAS

Kicking off the first Thoughtful Thursday at Central Boulevard Elementary School, students made handwritten cards with colorful drawings and messages of hope for the children and staff of Dickinson Independent School District in Dickinson, Texas, which was devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

Established a few years ago, Thoughtful Thursday is a schoolwide community service initiative in which the entire school dedicates one Thursday a month to bettering the community through a project. The initiative reinforces the school's message of "character builds success."

In groups, students drew hearts, smiles and rainbows and penned messages such as "hope your school gets better soon," "thinking of you" and "we are here to help you."

In addition to this project, classes throughout the school collected school supplies and toiletries for Dickinson.



### SINGING ABOUT KINDNESS AND INCLUSION

In recognition of October as National Bullying Prevention Month, students at Kramer Lane Elementary School learned about respect, kindness and inclusion with the help of singer/songwriter Brian Chevalier.

Kicking off their first character education assembly, Mr. Chevalier engaged students by teaching them lyrics, sign language and choreography for each of his songs, which discussed ways to be a good friend, include others during recess and be a good citizen.

While Mr. Chevalier sang, student volunteers took center stage to sing, reiterate the dance moves and sign the lyrics.



### SWEET STRUCTURE FOR A SPOOKY WITCH

During a STEM lesson, first- and second-graders of Charles Campagne Elementary School collaborated to build a new home for a "spooky friend" using toothpicks and gumdrops.

After reading "We're Off to Find the Witch's House" by Richard Krieb, first-grade teacher Kristen Rochford and second-grade teacher Daniella Flaim asked their classes to build a structure that would house the witch using only the given materials.

Working together, students brainstormed and constructed homes in various shapes that would protect the witch from the weather and unwanted visitors. Students discussed how they built their homes and reflected on the challenges they faced and what they could have done better.



### TWO-STEPPING FOR TEXAS

The Bethpage School District held a Country Night on Oct. 20 to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Gathered in the athletic complex, students, families, faculty and community members enjoyed a night of country music, food and activities. Guests were invited to learn line dancing from Classic Country, get a taste of Southern cooking from Texas Roadhouse and Bulls I BBQ Caterers, have their faces painted, ride a mechanical bull, dunk a teacher in a dunk tank and jump in a bounce house.

Additionally, the Bethpage Fire Department allowed children to climb through a smoke house and learn the proper way to escape a fire.



# Learning to the Next Level<sup>3</sup>

and they gather in small groups to review the laptop's tools and programs.

As one example of Chromebook use at the middle school, eighth-graders had to research Native American tribes to learn about their origins, cultures and customs. Over the course of five weeks, the students used their Chromebooks to conduct extensive research and create presentations with Google Slides. A key benefit to this app is that students can work virtually on a presentation, and multiple users can access the project to make edits and upload images and text to it, which the other users can see. This multi-user accessibility allowed students to work on the presentation in a collaborative fashion, yet at the convenience of their own schedules.

"One of the biggest factors in selecting a Google-based laptop was the ability for students to work remotely, anywhere," explained Mr. Schneider. "Multiple students can access the same document and see who is making changes to the project. Groups can meet virtually and still collaborate effectively to complete assignments."

It is because of this accessibility and collaborative environment that teacher Danielle Molé has the juniors and seniors in her Virtual Enterprise class use the Chromebooks on a regular basis. The VE class mimics the operations of a real business, complete with accounting, marketing, human resource and web departments. The company is entirely student-run, with Ms. Molé acting as consultant. In addition to managing its daily operations on a multi-departmental level, the students also evaluate employee growth and receive a virtual salary that can be spent on products and services offered by other schools' VE firms, both local and international.

To remain organized and ensure business runs smoothly, the VE students use a variety of G Suite apps to document inventory, track sales, generate invoices, pay bills and manage payroll. They also use G Suite to create presentations to pitch

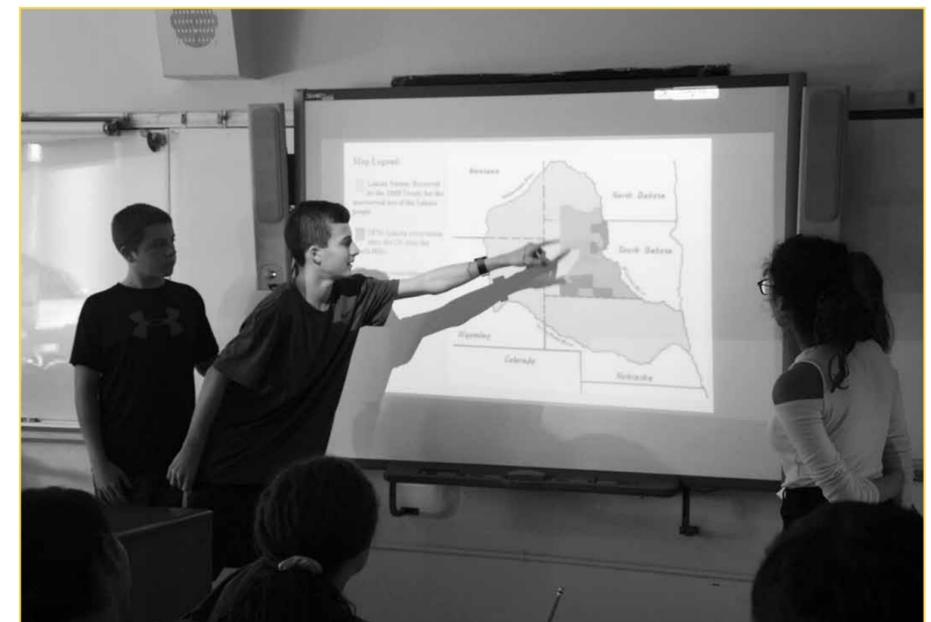


their product, design advertisements and communicate with one another outside of school. The ability to edit and work simultaneously helps alleviate the weighty task of writing a 25-page business plan by having firm members access the document, make changes, leave suggestions and offer positive feedback.

"I personally like using the Chromebooks," said BHS senior Lorenzo Martinez. "From last year, I learned that when we share our projects on Google

Classroom, we can leave suggestions for improvement. Instead of waiting for feedback, we can help our classmates through peer editing."

With the integration of Chromebooks, the district is proving itself to be a leader in classroom technology innovation. Bethpage students are expanding their 21st-century skill sets and attaining a higher understanding of subject matter by having accessibility, interconnectivity and a multitude of resources at their fingertips.



# Outstanding Accolades for Eagles

## National Merit Commended Student

Bethpage High School senior Smiti Shah has been named a Commended Student in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Approximately 34,000 students across the country were recognized for their outstanding academic performance with this designation. Smiti placed among the top 5 percent of 1.6 million students who entered the competition by completing the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Smiti is an AP Scholar with Distinction and captain of the robotics team, which for the first time in more than 10 years competed in the national-level FIRST Robotics Competition after winning top prize at the regional contest. She also conducted research on water filtration and nanotechnology at Hofstra University with Dr. Roche DeGuzman and is a member of the National and Spanish honor societies. She interned last summer at the New York Academy of Sciences and is currently president of its Junior Academy, where she oversees more than 700 international students. While interning, she was invited to the Gates Notes event, where she spoke with Bill Gates, Melinda Gates and author John Green.

In addition, Smiti was recently invited to speak at the World Summit on Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Fortune 500 leaders in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning about the generational divide between conversations regarding humans and machines.

The district congratulates Smiti on her distinguished academic performance and wishes her continued success in her senior year.



Bethpage High School Principal Michael Spence (left) congratulated senior Smiti Shah on being named a Commended Student in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program.

## Musical Marvels

Aside from academics, Bethpage High School students have been excelling in the fine arts, with distinctions including acceptance to renowned concerts at the regional and state levels.

Juniors Soham Maiti and Josephine Kim and sophomore Nicole Zacchia have been invited to perform in the Long Island String Festival Association's Nassau Secondary Festival in November, to be held at Wisdom Lane Middle School in Levittown.

These talented students were selected based on their superior scores at the annual New York State School Music Association solo evaluation festivals and music teacher recommendations. Soham will be performing bass and Josephine and Nicole will be performing viola.

Junior AJ Vita has been selected by NYSSMA as an All-State alternate for guitar and bass. The All-State festival is part of NYSSMA's 83rd annual Winter Conference, which will be held Nov. 30 through Dec. 3.

More than 6,500 sophomores and juniors in New York State performed in NYSSMA solo evaluation festivals last spring in the hopes of being selected for All-State. Qualifying students had to receive a score between 98 and 100 on their solo performance, judged by a NYSSMA adjudicator.

The district is tremendously proud of these students for their dedication and musical accomplishments.



Bethpage High School Principal Michael Spence (left) and Music Chairperson Eric Kay (right) congratulated sophomore Nicole Zacchia and juniors Soham Maiti and Josephine Kim on being invited to perform in the Long Island String Festival Association's Nassau Secondary Festival.



Junior AJ Vita (center) was congratulated by district Coordinator of Music Dr. Leon Petruzzzi (left) and high school Jazz Ensemble Director James Stehlik for being selected as a NYSSMA All-State alternate for guitar and bass.

## 132 Named AP Scholars

More than 130 current and former Bethpage High School students have been recognized by the College Board as AP Scholars due to their outstanding success on Advanced Placement exams. Students took the exams in May after completing challenging, college-level courses in a variety of subjects.

According to the College Board's website, the AP Program offers willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performance on the AP exams.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on these exams.

**Congratulations to the following students:**

### National AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Andrei Aziz*	Vishnu Nair*
Shanaz Deen*	Jessica Nardulli*
Anthony Hernandez*	Philip Shirinian*
Amy Kappel*	Michael Sweeney*

### AP Scholars with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Samantha Alaimo*	Emily Liang
Andrei Aziz*	Michelle Luo*
Daniel Batista*	Avery Mack*
Alec Cavaciuti*	Paul Maino*
Dana Chan*	Nicole Malatestinic*
Kaitlyn Chua	Brian McCarthy*
Matthew Collins*	Clare Meany*
Alyssa D'Arrigo*	Matthew Melendez*
Mark De Castro	Daniel Midgette*
Shanaz Deen*	Vishnu Nair*
Theresa DeVivo*	Jessica Nardulli*
Alyssa Firth*	Gillian O'Boyle
Sean Ganley*	Timothy Ogden*
Marie Giacinto*	Marissa Parisi
Julie Grzybowski*	Andrew Perico*
Emily Guida*	Alexa Ritchie*
Candace Haney	Camryn Roeller*
Samantha Herman*	Salvatore Salerno
Anthony Hernandez*	Smiti Shah
Taylor Hughes*	Philip Shirinian*
Grace Jang*	Jenna Skaferowsky*
Erin Jedd*	Timothy Smith
Amy Kappel*	Holly Solomon*
Jason Katz	Andrew Stern*
Nicole Kopetz*	Michael Sweeney*
Keana Lee*	Giavonna Theocharidis*
Andrew Lewis*	Kaylagh Walsh
Jack Lewis*	Zachary Zapata*

### AP Scholars with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Katarina Boncic	Rachel Heym	Corinne Serrian
Julia Bradley	Teresa LeClair*	Jason Steier
Joshua Danziger	Jesse Lee*	Toni Sullo
Hajarah Dar	Ryan McGowan*	Corrin Tempesta*
Nicole El Chami	Ashley Nargentino	Nicholas Vangi*
Cormac Foley*	Frank Ragusa	Erin Ward
Rosalia Greco	Jack Raia	

### AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Tashfia Ahmed	Matthew Groom	William Murphy
Kathryn Backman*	Adam Guarino*	Michael Narbutt*
Antonio Bello	Elizabeth Hanley	Marianna Neratzinis*
Cole Caputo	Erin Hughes*	Rani Patel*
Rachel Chao*	Kelly Hughes	Evanna Plakas
Alivia Cioffi*	Emma Immediato	Shreyasi Saha
Steven Coyle*	Gannon Kenney-McGown*	Ryan Salony*
Marco Cunha	Alex Kim*	Madeline Santoro*
Stephanie D'Agostino	Kenferd Kim*	Kristina Schatzel
Duke Daly	Paul Korkotas*	Jason Seiter
Robert Darvick	Thomas Lang*	Christopher Shamah
Rebecca Diers	Katelin Leavey	Kaitlyn Stork
Thomas Facarile	Alexandros Makris	Sara Suazo*
Andrew Ferruzza*	Edwin Manj*	Irena Tsavaris
Sean Fitzpatrick	Jason Maund	Elizabeth Valentineti*
Christina Giovannello	Jeremy Mercado	Amy Vasquez
Jason Glickman*	Matthew Michelson*	Jacquelyn Verdi*
Samantha Goldman	Daniel Mongan*	Mallory Wilson*
Erin Gonzalez	Alyson Mooney	

\*Denotes Class of 2017 graduate





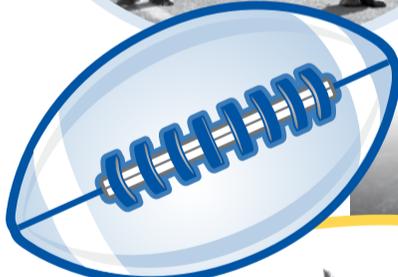
# Golden Eagles Soar at HOMECOMING

The Bethpage School District athletic complex was a sea of gold and blue as the Golden Eagles varsity football team took on the Plainedge High School Red Devils at homecoming on Oct. 21.

Prior to the annual game, the marching band, cheerleaders and homecoming king and queen, James Fitzpatrick and Alyson Mooney, paraded down Stewart Avenue. They marched alongside numerous local organizations and student representatives displaying banners and floats from each high school class. After the parade, attendees were invited to the front of the high school to view class skits, and could visit the high school's robotics team and varsity baseball team booths in the athletic complex.

Under the direction of head coach Erwin Dill, the Golden Eagles were victorious, defeating the Red Devils 28-21.

The winning game's halftime was marked by spectacular performances from the marching band, kickline team and cheerleaders.



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**BETHPAGE**

NEWSLETTER

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

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