

BETHPAGE

Newsletter

FALL 2020

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Welcome Back, Bethpage!

Engaged, Connected, In Person

The Bethpage School District was one of only a few districts on Long Island to welcome all students back full time in person at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. The “All In Plan” was made possible by months of dedication and planning from administrators and support staff.

“The plans for reopening were the culmination of one of the largest collaborative efforts school districts have ever faced,” Superintendent of Schools Dave Schneider said.

Collaboration was at the forefront as the district worked tirelessly to create and implement a plan which would allow students to return to school full

time. From educators to custodial staff, the successful implementation of the plan required immense effort for success.

A Technological Edge

The Bethpage School District has always considered technology to be a significant pillar of success for students and expanded it even further as a part of the reopening plan. Bethpage took quick and thorough steps to ensure each and every Bethpage student and educator was ready for this new landscape of learning.

- *Each student, teacher and teaching assistant in the district was issued their own device, all of which were equipped to specifically support livestreaming.*
- *Educators in the district created and disseminated instructional videos, demonstrating the use of various software and tools utilized for learning.*
- *Wireless access points were expanded to include the school building’s new instructional spaces, including gymnasiums and all-purpose rooms.*
- *The district’s bandwidth was increased by 100%, allowing for high-speed internet during livestreaming and video instruction.*



Thanks to the district’s previous advancements, long-term planning and commitment to technology and accessibility, Bethpage schools have been able to connect educators and students, fostering the relationships necessary for a well-rounded education.

“More than ever, we have seen how technology is instrumental to the collaboration and maintenance of connections between our teachers and students,” Director of Technology Andrew Choi said.

Mr. Choi commends the effort put forth by the Bethpage administration, school board, educators and support staff for their part in achieving a successful reopening.

“I have to commend the Board of Education and our leadership team for supporting the growth of the technology program, and the support staff, including the IT department, help desk and library media specialists, for supporting users. We also must credit educators for their willingness to adapt and learn new technology to support their lessons, not only for the tail end of the 2019-2020 school year, but also this current 2020-2021 school year.”

—Director of Technology Andrew Choi

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The Beat Goes On

Another aspect of reopening that was vital for Bethpage was maintaining the district's music program. At John F. Kennedy Middle School and Bethpage High School, all musical performing groups are back to their daily rehearsals, but in different locations than before. Orchestra, band and choir must be spaced either 6 or 12 feet apart to adhere to safety guidelines, so they have begun utilizing the larger areas, such as

the gym or auditorium, to account for the extra space needed.

Elementary students throughout the district are participating in small-group lessons, separated by instrument type. They are also taking music appreciation classes in lieu of the larger pre- or post-school rehearsals they would participate in normally.

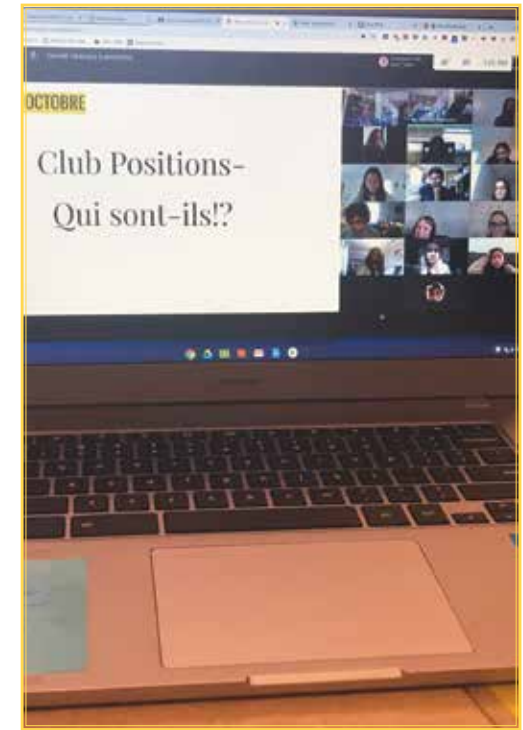
The district's coordinator of music, Dr. Eric Kay, spoke to how students are adapting to this "new normal."

"They're making music," he said. "It's not the same as when we were in our classroom spaces, but they're making music and getting familiar with this new kind of rehearsal system."

Extracurriculars From Home

Starting the first week of October,

“The best thing is that the administration made a commitment to keeping performing arts by allowing us to have a space where we can actually rehearse.”
-Dr. Eric Kay, Coordinator of Music**”**



“It has been great having students back in the building full time, but we all know a school is so much more than academics. When we created our reopening plan over the summer, our goal was to find a way to give them as typical of an experience as possible and, with the staff's help, we have provided our students with a complete, positive school experience.”
-Bethpage High School Principal Nicholas Jantz**”**

John F. Kennedy Middle School and Bethpage High School began offering virtual clubs and homework help to students. The clubs are held via Google Classroom and are accessible to all students who are eligible to participate.

From National Honor Society to French club, Bethpage students are able to access the extracurriculars that are so vital to a student's well-rounded educational experience.



BHS SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Bethpage High School seniors David Hedquist, Maya Maciel-Seidman and Pawan Pitiranggon were named commended students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. Each student was presented with a special certificate by Principal Nicholas Jantz in recognition of this accomplishment.

Commended students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2021 competition by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. About 34,000 commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their academic performance.

TAKING INSTRUCTION OUTDOORS AT JFK

John F. Kennedy Middle School has been utilizing a variety of outdoor spaces for instruction and other activities since reopening in September. On one sunny day, Dan Zabell's seventh grade technology class launched handmade rockets on the school's athletic field.

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOLS: Excellence, Achievement and Service Abound

Throughout the start of this new and unique school year, students and staff in the Bethpage School District have been continuing to learn, collaborate and thrive. The motto #WeAreBethpage exemplifies pride in Bethpage schools, and every member of the district continues to embrace it through their hard work and dedication.

"We have been encouraging teachers to take their classes outside whenever their lesson plan and the weather permits," Assistant Principal Erin Hayes said.



IN THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT AT CHARLES CAMPAGNE

Students at Charles Campagne Elementary School had a day full of Halloween fun on Oct. 30. Despite the rainy weather, students dressed in their costumes and were able to pick pumpkins from classroom "patches." Remote students were also invited to pick up pumpkins from assigned tables in the front entryway.



PHYSICALLY APART, SOCIALLY TOGETHER

For the first Thoughtful Thursday of the new school year, students



from Central Boulevard Elementary School created paper chain links with encouraging sayings on them on Sept. 24. The chains signified that even though the students may need to be physically apart, they are still connected socially by their thoughts and actions.

KRAMER LANE FIRE SAFETY

Members of the Bethpage Fire Department visited Kramer Lane Elementary School on Oct. 22 to teach fire safety to kindergarten students. The firefighters taught students how to react in case of a fire, to always have a meeting spot with their parents and to not go back for any belongings. The students were then able to get a closeup tour of the firetruck, stopping to learn about specific aspects along the way.



BETHPAGE SCHOOLS

Bethpage Union Free School District
Bethpage, NY 11714

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BETHPAGE ATHLETES SAFELY RETURN TO THE FIELD

To ensure students can stay active while interscholastic athletic competition is postponed, the Bethpage School District created the 21st Century Sports Activity Program. As a branch of their 21st Century Junior Scholars Program, the athletic program offers after-school sports activities to John F. Kennedy Middle School and Bethpage High School students.

“Extracurricular activities are a vital part of our students’ overall development,” Superintendent David Schneider said in an email to the community.

The program’s activities are clinic-style sessions, which offer equal opportunity and play to all participants. Sessions begin about an hour after each school dismisses and are open to any middle or high school student who would like to participate.

“The 21st Century Sports Program gives students a safe environment to be active, as we’re practicing all of the safety guidelines,” said John Franchi, director of athletics, physical education and health. “It’s great for students to get some physical activity and be back with their friends and coaches.”

