

BETHPAGE

Union Free School District

NEWSLETTER



*National
Merit*



SEMIFINALIST

Bethpage High School senior Harshil Garg has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2015. His score of 233 (out of 240) is among the highest of scores that the Bethpage School District has ever had. In addition to this latest recognition, Harshil was named to the top 50 in the Nassau County Interscholastic Math League and has worked at Sloan Kettering, Stony Brook and the Cold Spring Harbor cancer research centers. He also plays the violin and is a member of the school's Mathletes and robotics teams.

Semifinalists represent the top one-third, or about 16,000, of approximately 50,000 high scorers who took the PSAT/NMSQT, which has a total of 1.5 million entrants, according to the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students are ranked with a selection index score based on their combined scores in critical reading, writing and math. Semifinalists can compete to be named a finalist and continue in the process to receive corporate and college-sponsored scholarships, as well as the esteemed National Merit Scholarship. Those advancing to the finalist stage will be notified in February of their standing.

The Bethpage School District congratulates Harshil on this impressive achievement and wishes his continued academic success in the future.

Exemplary ASSESSMENTS

Third through eighth-graders across New York State took assessment exams in the spring. Scores for these exams were released in early September. Bethpage was among the highest performing districts in the county and the state on these exams this year.

- Third-grade students were No. 1 in Nassau County on the ELA exam scores.
- Fourth-grade students were No. 2 in Nassau County on the ELA exam scores.
- Sixth- and eighth-grade students averaged No. 6 overall in Nassau County on the ELA exam scores.
- For grades 3-8, Bethpage students were in the top 15 of the county on all 12 exams for both ELA and math scores.
- All five Bethpage schools are categorized as "in good standing" by the New York State Education Department – in fact, Bethpage High School was recognized as a "High Performing School."

The State Education Department was so impressed with the district's results that administration was asked to conference with them to explain how our district has outperformed so many others. Here are some of the reasons Superintendent Terrence Clark shared with them:

- Climate of trust
- Teacher collaboration
- Professional development
- Teachers stressing literacy in all disciplines
- Personalization of instruction through data analysis and technology

"We have so much to be proud of this year. Student performance on the state assessments was phenomenal and that is testament to the education they get day in and day out from their classroom teachers and administrators. The students worked hard and the parents supported us in every way," said Mr. Clark. "We are in a great place as a district- academically very strong, fiscally solid and technologically advanced...And while we have great scores, I always say it is about so much more which is why we have so much support for the fine and performing arts, athletics, extracurriculars and programs like the 21st Century Scholars."

Bethpage Union Free School District
Bethpage, New York 11714

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AMERICA'S TOP HIGH SCHOOLS

★ 2014 ★

Bethpage High School has been ranked No. 385 out of the 26,000 high schools in America. A designation by Newsweek magazine, schools are distinguished based on college readiness and graduation rate. Bethpage High School has also been named a Reward School.



Historically SIGNED

Formerly the Bethpage School, John F. Kennedy Middle School was the first school in the nation to be renamed after the former president, just four days after his assassination. Tied as the first with JFK Elementary School in Butte, Mont., JFK Middle School held remembrance events and a ceremony on Nov. 22, 2013 to mark the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's death. This fall, Principal Kevin Fullerton held another, smaller ceremony to commemorate the official designation of the school as a historical site.

"I've been here for 30 years and it was one of the great days in history for Bethpage schools," Superintendent Terrence Clark recalled of the remembrance ceremony last year. "The historical society was so instrumental that day and we wanted to memorialize it."

The actual historical marker was unveiled in a quaint ceremony on Oct. 8, on the grass surrounding the new sign and included several student performances. Lenny Mulqueen, president of the Bethpage Historical Society, was on site to pull the cover off of the official sign.

"[The Bethpage Historical Society] has these markers up around Bethpage," Mr. Clark said. "It's important for us and our community to know where we came from."



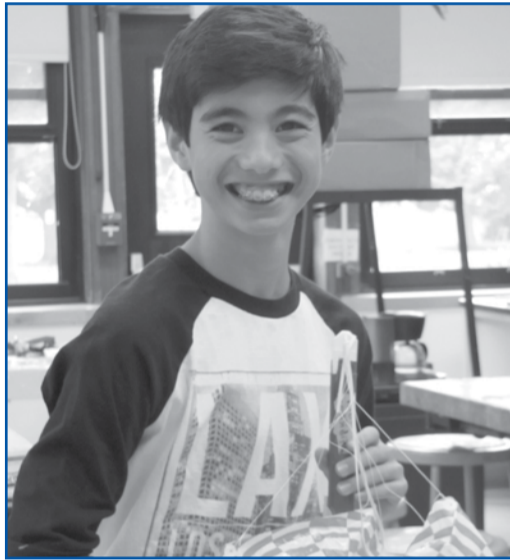
ROCKET Science

Each year, as part of the seventh-grade technology curriculum, students launch a rocket that they build themselves in the prior weeks. The task asks students to apply Newton's third law of motion and build an aerodynamic rocket by reading plans, utilizing shop equipment and

applying what they know about flight. Once the rockets are launched, the students are asked to calculate their speed and height.

"I liked this project," student Joseph Foley said. "It's so much better than learning from a textbook."

Teachers Pete Michels and Dave Wettengel said the students have been doing this project in tech class since 1990. In the past, students paid for the engine that served as the source of power for the rocket (since rockets can't fly), but this year the Bethpage Educational Foundation offered to pick up the tab on not only the rockets, but the engines as well. The donation totaled \$3,500.



Tickle Your Senses

Ball pits, a swing and bean bags...oh my! New this year, Charles Campagne Elementary School launched the use of a sensory gym for students in the Applied Behavior Analysis program. Previously housed at CBS, the program provides support for approximately 13 district students in grades K-5. The sensory gym helps students hone their gross, sensory and fine motor skills in a stimulating and safe environment. The room contains fully cushioned walls and floors with a variety of tactile items, surface types and colors, as well as calming music and dim lighting.

"A room like this really builds students' body awareness," ABA teacher Kelly Marvullo said. "It helps them focus at certain times and keeps them moving."

Sensory items were always used with students in the program, but it was done in the classroom setting where it was not always as calm, and the classroom could not house the larger equipment that the gym can hold. The gym also houses a room for occupational therapy and physical therapy students' needs. The sensory gym is a trial this year, with students' responses and needs assessed on a regular basis.



"A room like this really builds students' body awareness."

- Kelly Marvullo, teacher



HOMECOMING



AN INSIDE LOOK AT BETHPAGE HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

A TRUE BLUE HOMECOMING



Kicking off the homecoming festivities, the “American”-themed parade marched down Stewart Avenue and into the high school parking lot on Saturday, Oct. 18. The warmer-than-average weather brought out many onlookers and participants, including the local youth leagues and civic organizations. Featured in this year’s parade were members of the Class of 1964, who were celebrating their 50th anniversary reunion that weekend. Also featured were this year’s homecoming king Michael Rotunno and queen Janine Maggi.

Following the parade, spectators made good use

of the facilities by grabbing lunch at the concession stand and purchasing Bethpage pride goodies, such as sunglasses, shirts, and blue and gold paraphernalia, in support of community groups and school clubs. The game kicked off with a rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” sung by Carly Sesti, and an enthusiastic cheer from the varsity cheerleaders to get the crowd pumped. Although the football team did not win in their game against Hewlett, Bethpage pride was high for the Golden Eagles as the fans cheered them on regardless of the score.





AMERICAN-MADE FLOATS *for a Cause*

This year, through the Senior Seminar Program, Bethpage High School is fundraising for the Wounded Warriors Project. Inspired by the cause, students carried that spirit to homecoming and incorporated it into the design of their floats. Set to the theme of "America," each class's float and skit focused on a different aspect of the word, resulting in "Freshman Fireworks," "Sophomore Soldiers," "GI Juniors" and "Star-Spangled Seniors." In addition to this year's festive floats was a Field of Honor flag display, for which community members could dedicate a flag to a loved one and support the cause. Flags bordered either side of the walkway leading up to the stadium and provided a visual reminder of the soldiers who have fought, and continue to fight, for our freedom.





SIX INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

The district held its second annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, sponsored by the Bethpage Educational Foundation, as part of the homecoming festivities on Oct. 18. Superintendent Terrence Clark served as emcee for the event, which drew a crowd of approximately 200 to celebrate the honorees. An emotional evening, among the prestigious honorees was Bethpage Educational Foundation founder

and president Marc Sieben, who passed away just this past summer.

“These individuals have contributed to extending the sense of community and have impacted the lives of thousands of people with their kindness, dedication and willingness to help others,” Mr. Clark said in his opening remarks. “We salute these very special Golden Eagles.” Other speakers included JFK Middle School Principal Kevin Fullerton, high

school Principal Michael Spence, Bethpage Educational Foundation secretary James McGlynn and Nassau County Legislator Rose Walker.

The Bethpage Educational Foundation has been responsible for raising and donating well over \$100,000 to the Bethpage schools over the past seven years. These donations are used to enhance the program and offerings for all the district’s students.

“These individuals have contributed to extending the sense of community and have impacted the lives of thousands of people...”

- Terrence Clark, Superintendent

Honorees



ELLEN LANG

Class of 1967

Sings for the Metropolitan Opera

STEVE SCHANWALD

Class of 1973

Executive Vice-President for the Chicago Bulls

JACK McCAFFERY

Former teacher and assistant principal at Bethpage High School

MARC SIEBEN

(In Memoriam)

Class of 1970

President of the Bethpage Educational Foundation Officer at MetLife

WAYNE RHATIGAN

Class of 1981

Retired NYC police officer who foiled the Times Square bomber

LOUIS W. UCCELLINI

Class of 1967

Director of the National Weather Service

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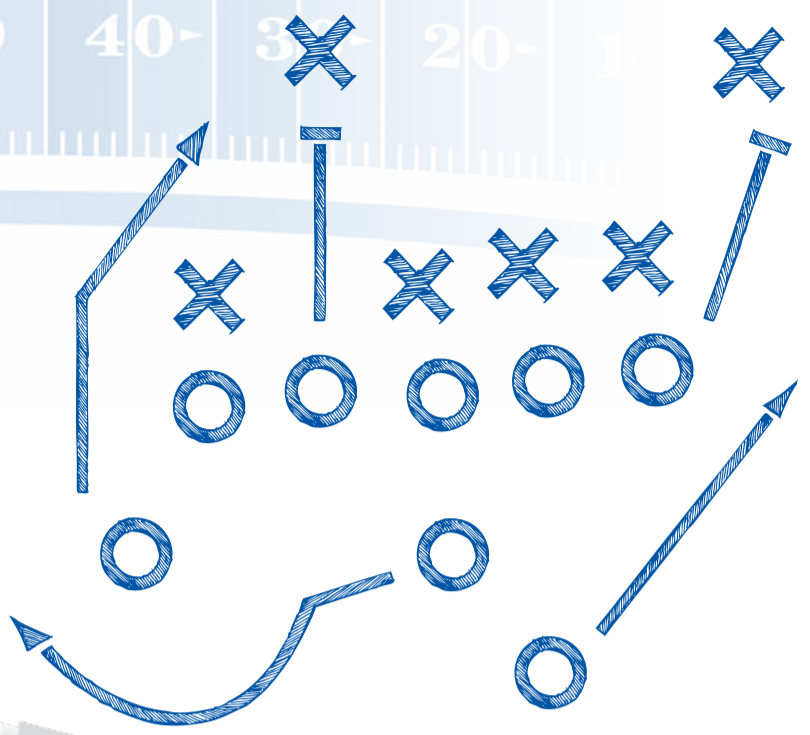
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AP SCHOLARS

The College Board has recognized 116 current and former Bethpage High School students as AP Scholars due to their outstanding success on Advanced Placement exams. Approximately 338 students took 728 AP exams in May 2014 after completing challenging, college-level courses in the district in a variety of subjects. In total, Bethpage had 50 AP Scholars, 24 AP Scholars with Honor, 42 AP Scholars with Distinction and seven National AP Scholars; this represents approximately one-third of the total student population who took AP exams receiving commendation.

Congratulations to the following Class of 2015 students who received recognition:

National AP Scholar

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.

Harshil Garg

AP Scholar 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.

Lindsey Chan, Michael Coyle, Robert DeDonna, Harshil Garg, Samuel Hirsch, Stephanie Katartzis, Kurt Lanning, Anastasia Levy, Martina Morris, Alexandra Nerantzinis, Priya Shah, Marybeth Smith, Michael Vangi

AP Scholar with Honor

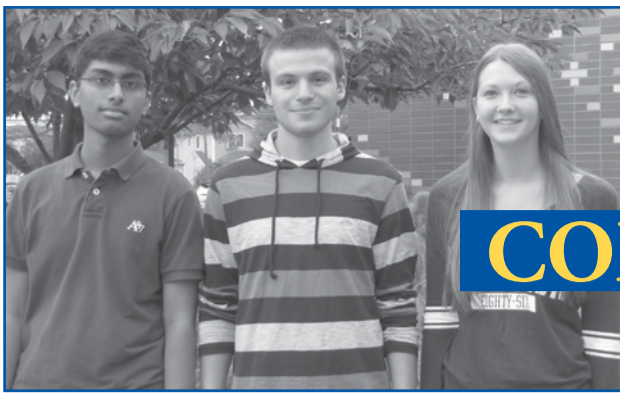
Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Ayesha Asif, Isabella Bradley, Casey Caruso, Shannon Dowd, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Nikki Grover, Kayla-Anne Javier, Alexa Pepe, Jacob Roller, Joshua Rosenheck, Rebecca Rosenheck, Joseph Smith, Chris Tempesta, Mackenzie Woods

AP Scholar

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

Jordyn Blom, Kenneth Cafiero, Michelle Cirillo, Kyle Collins, Jenna Coyne, Sergey D'Allessandro, Elizabeth Ferraro, Emily Ganshaw, Geraldine Granobles, Rachel Hayes, Andrew Kim, Michelle Lampert, Daniel Lizarazo, Melissa Marietto, Katherine Meaney, Samreen Mohammed, Mahir Mohtasin, Neal Morris, Vaibhav Prasad, Ariella Ranz, Stephanie Roach, Jeni Sacklow, Taylor Sammis, Alissa Seiter, Sagar Shah, Emre Soybas



(L-R) Thomas Fitzpatrick (not pictured), Vaibhav Prasad, Joshua Rosenheck and Shannon Dowd.

COMMENDED Students

Four academically outstanding seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. The district congratulates: Shannon Dowd, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Vaibhav Prasad and Joshua Rosenheck.

Approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being

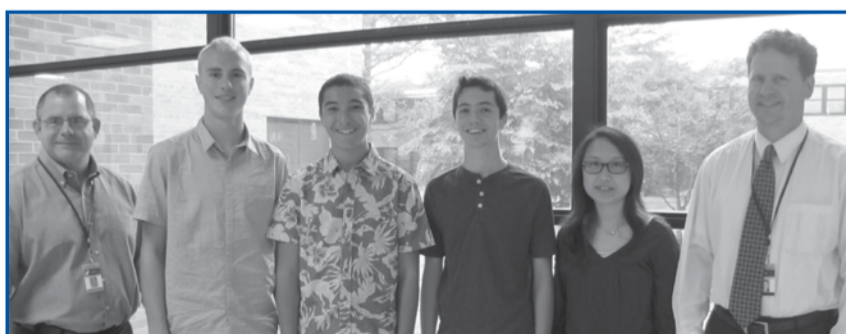
recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2015 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



Top Violinists

Four student-musicians from Bethpage High School were selected for participation in the 2014 Long Island String Festival Association String Ensembles. The district congratulates violinists Melissa Cao (11th grade), Dana Chan (10th grade), Joaane Kim (11th grade) and Michelle Luo (10th grade). LISFA musicians are selected from

among the very best student string players on Long Island. Selection to a LISFA ensemble is a highly competitive process, based on superior scores at the annual New York State School Music Association solo festivals and school music instructor recommendations. The LISFA concerts are being held November 14-15.



(L-R) Joshua Finkel, Michael Cipolla, Michael Rotunno and Melissa Cao

MUSICALLY INCLINED

Four Bethpage High School student-musicians have been selected to perform in the All-State Festival of the NYSSMA 2014 Winter Conference in December. Senior Michael Rotunno and juniors Melissa Cao, Michael Cipolla and Joshua Finkel (alternate) were chosen for this prestigious honor based upon the proficiency they demonstrated at auditions last May.

In addition to both being chosen for the jazz ensemble, Michael Rotunno (string bass) and Joshua (saxophone) had their own compositions – “Space Carnival” and “Beyond the Tree Line,” respectively – selected for the electronic music composition concert. Michael Cipolla (trumpet) was chosen for symphonic band, while Melissa (violin) was selected for the symphonic orchestra.

WELCOME TO THE *Family*

Prior to the start of school, all new instructional team members of the district were formally welcomed during the annual new teacher orientation. The daylong orientation featured breakfast, welcoming remarks from central administrators and district directors, a bus tour of the community (including a stop at local supporter Cablevision), and time for incoming staff to get acquainted with their new principal and school.

The district would like to welcome the following individuals who were chosen after a rigorous application and selection process:

ADMINISTRATORS

Erin Lindsay, Principal at CCS

A former teacher of the deaf, special education teacher, and assistant principal, Ms. Lindsay brings more than 15 years of education experience and expertise to Bethpage. She is highly qualified and holds a Bachelor of Arts in elementary and special education and a Master of Science in deaf education.

Nicholas Jantz, Assistant Principal at JFK

Mr. Jantz taught middle school social studies and served as the assistant director of the East Meadow Creative Arts Program. He holds degrees in history and teaching literacy, as well as an Advanced Certificate in school building leadership. Mr. Jantz is a full believer in the middle school philosophy and brings over ten years of middle school experience to JFK.

TEACHERS

Jillian DeNapoli	BHS/JFK	ESL
Mallory Inglese	BHS	School Psychologist
Catherine Califano	JFK	Speech
Sarah Norton	JFK	Home Economics
Lauren Battaglia	CBS	Speech
Alyssa Byrne	CBS	Reading
Danielle Eschmann	CCS	Reading
Patricia Kraker	CCS	ABA
Kathleen Callahan	Districtwide Deaf & Hard of Hearing	



TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Bethpage High School: Renee Balvin, Jacqueline Bellairs, Nicholas Berardi, Daniel Catapano, Tina Kyroglou, RoseMarie Vezzi and Jeffrey Lomonaco

JFK: Katherine Gutkes and Kristin Jaklitsch

CCS: Nicola Cafaro, Kayleen Gonyon, Lauren Katz, Margaret Meehan, Megan O'Brien, Cindy O'Shea and Kristina Philippen

CBS: Gina Romuno



School Store Reopens

After almost 20 years of being closed, the school store at John F. Kennedy Middle School has officially reopened its shutters. Offering a mix of basic school supplies, spirit items and fun extras, the school store will be open for students to make purchases during their lunch hours. A special ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Friday, Oct. 17, attended by members of administration and students from the academy class who will be running the store.

Superintendent Terrence Clark was among the first customers at the store, purchasing a cherry-scented pencil and a stress ball. With homecoming the following day, the school store sold much of its spirit gear, including ear warmers and Bethpage black paint stickers. The woodshop class made the sign for the store, modeling it after the school's main sign out front.

BHS and JFK are now serving breakfast!

- Complete, nutritious meal
- Convenient
- Free for those who qualify for free/reduced lunch

More information and menus are available through the district website: bethpagecommunity.com

Union Free School District
BETHPAGE

NEWSLETTER

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

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