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Students Shine in Art and Music

Art and music are important areas of our curriculum that help our students grow both creatively and intellectually. During the 2022-23 school year, we have experienced many wonderful musical events and have seen our student-artists excel in their craft. The talents of our students continue to impress us, and our wonderful new Director of Fine and Performing Arts Alyssa White has helped our programs flourish this school year. Below are some highlights from our fine and performing arts department from the past few months.



The Bethpage High School Masquers Guild presented its 2022 fall production, "A Christmas Carol."

Students Take to the Stage

This past November, the Bethpage High School Masquers Guild proudly presented its fall production, "A Christmas Carol." They successfully told the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Matthew Schneider, an elderly miser who is visited one night by his former business partner Jacob Marley (Adriana Lisa) and the spirits of Christmas Past (Emily Kossman), Christmas Present (J.T. Verdi) and Christmas Yet to Come (Ashdon Chadwick). After his journey through time, Scrooge turns into a

kinder man who learns the true meaning of Christmas. Ava Mirabelli served as a captivating narrator, the entire cast kept audiences engaged and the crew and audio/visual team made sure each performance went on without a hitch.

The production was directed by Christopher DeStefano and produced by Trish Pané. Michael McCourt took the lead on stage design and Robert Verdi served as the technical director. Aside from the in-school performances, members of the Bethpage High School Masquers Guild also attended the Bethpage Tree Lighting and performed a scene from the show for the community.

At the beginning of February, the John F. Kennedy Middle School Masquers Guild performed Roald Dahl's "Matilda the Musical Jr." The show was double cast to showcase the full talent at JFK Middle School. The students told the story of a gifted child named Matilda, played by both Charlie Majewski and Sophia Naness, who must

overcome obstacles caused by her family and school. Through spectacular musical numbers and a beautiful set design, the student performers did a wonderful job entertaining their audiences.

Teacher Zachary Levy served as the director and music teacher Michelle Kovacs served as vocal director. The production was choreographed by Danielle Levy and Michael Gamman led the stage and audio/visual crew.

Next to take the stage this year is our talented elementary students who will be performing "Shrek the Musical Jr.," under the direction of Michael Barden and Kayleigh Duca. The performances will be held on June 14, 15 and 17.

Kramer Lane students performed for family and friends during their winter concert this past December.



The John F. Kennedy Middle School Masquers Guild performed Roald Dahl's "Matilda the Musical Jr."



Winter Concerts Showcase Student Talent

Leading up to the Holiday Recess, student-musicians from throughout the district showcased their hard work and dedication with culminating winter concerts. Throughout December, Central Boulevard, Charles Campagne and Kramer Lane elementary schools,

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Students Shine in Art and Music

along with John F. Kennedy Middle School and Bethpage High School, held their own evening concerts where students performed in chorus, orchestra and band to the delight of family and friends.

Student-Musicians Attend Festivals

Fifty-one talented student-musicians from throughout the district participated in the 2023 Nassau Music Educators Association’s All-County Music Festival from Jan. 8-15. This year’s festival was held at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post and featured exceptional student-musicians from schools in Nassau County. Each year, students are selected to attend the festival based on their performance at the New York State School Music Association Adjudication Festival. They also must be nominated by

their music teachers.

In addition, 10 Bethpage student-musicians were selected to attend the Long Island String Festival Association’s intermediate and secondary festivals. The Nassau Secondary Festival was held from Feb. 3-5 at Uniondale High School and featured students-musicians from grades 9-12. The Nassau Intermediate Festival was held from March 3-5 at Uniondale High School and included student-musicians from grades 5-8. During both festivals, student-musicians from across Nassau County participated in rehearsals and a culminating concert.

A Focus on Visual Arts

From the elementary to the secondary level, students have been producing outstanding artwork in areas such as

drawing, painting, photography and sculpture. At Bethpage High School, student art is celebrated through a display in the school’s lobby. One of the recent displays was from Courtney Young’s Advanced Placement Drawing and Design class. Students had to develop a unique essential question to help guide the direction of their piece. “How is fear perceived?” and “Why do our perspectives change with age?” were just two of the many questions on which these student-artists based their art. This project is one of many impressive examples of what our students are producing in their art classes.

As we roll into spring, our students will have more opportunities to further develop their music and art skills. We look forward to seeing their talents flourish into the end of the school year!



Bethpage High School students in Courtney Young’s Advanced Placement Drawing and Design class had their artwork displayed in the school’s lobby.



All-County and LISFA student-musicians from Central Boulevard Elementary School.



Charles Campagne band students performed their winter concert.

New Northwell Health Partnership

The district is proud to announce its new partnership with Northwell Health to create a community of care for students and families. Bethpage joins several other Long Island school districts which have also connected with Northwell Health to support students’ mental well-being.

Students who reside in the Bethpage School District now have access to Northwell Health’s Behavioral Health Center in Mineola. Here, they can receive care in a timely manner for any mental health crisis that they are going through. Aside from the in-school efforts and supports already in place by the district’s pupil personnel team, the center is readily available for any student who needs it. It also eliminates the need to visit an

emergency room in urgent situations.

“Sometimes we need to extend that support outside of our walls and find ways for families to connect to the health care field so that they get the proper care that they need,” Superintendent of Schools David Schneider said.

Lisa Lucchesi, Bethpage’s executive director of PPS and special education, spearheaded the new partnership and reinforced that it would provide “that extra support, more than what we can do within the school system.” The Behavioral Health Center will provide short-term crisis care, including medication management and urgent access to psychiatric assessments and referrals for those in crisis. This is critical as it sometimes takes months for

families to be connected to providers for ongoing care.

In addition, the new partnership allows for Northwell Health resources to be shared within the Bethpage community. Northwell hosts community sessions and will provide a monthly newsletter for the district to share with its residents which will highlight relevant topics and resources.

The partnership is a true collaborative effort as Northwell Health will provide professional development for Bethpage staff and be there for guidance when supporting the mental health of its students. The district thanks the Board of Education for supporting this partnership, and it looks forward to seeing the positive impact it has on students and families.



NEWS

AROUND *the* SCHOOLS



Central Boulevard Elementary School

Students from Central Boulevard Elementary School participated in a Valentine's Day service project for Thoughtful Thursday on Jan. 19. Students throughout the building created their own Valentine's Day cards as part of Nassau County's Valentines for Veterans program. The school participates in this program each year around Valentine's Day. Students colored their own cards and wrote thoughtful messages inside, thanking the veterans for their service. The cards will be distributed to veterans in hospitals and nursing homes. Each student will also receive a certificate from Nassau County for taking part in the program.

Charles Campagne Elementary School

Kindergartners from Charles Campagne Elementary School participated in a fun-filled Lego STEM activity on Feb. 7. With the support of STEM teacher Srividya Sridharan, the students were challenged to create a functioning pinwheel out of Legos. The kindergartners worked in small groups as they followed the directions and began assembling. After all the groups completed the STEM challenge, they gathered on the carpet to discuss what a pinwheel is, what it does and how

wind makes it move. The students also participated in a pinwheel dance and tested their creations using a fan in the classroom.



Kramer Lane Elementary School

Third graders from Kramer Lane Elementary School participated in a full-day workshop called "Let's Go to China" on Jan. 24. Facilitated by award-winning singer-songwriter Patricia Shih and her partner Wendy Weng, the students engaged in different lessons and activities throughout the school day which focused on China and its history and culture. Students participated in the ribbon dance and explored artifacts. They also learned how to speak Chinese and discussed the history of Chinese clothing, like the discovery of silk. To conclude the fun-filled day, the third graders took part in a lively celebration to mark Lunar New Year, when students transformed into musicians and Lion Dancers. It was a wonderful way to end a special day of learning.



John F. Kennedy Middle School

Christine Sciarra's eighth grade family and consumer science classes completed a Cupcake Wars project to finish their semester. For this project, students worked with their groups to make a vanilla cupcake recipe with a vanilla buttercream frosting. They were able to choose any theme they wanted and use that theme to decorate their cupcakes. At the completion of their baking and decorating, they presented their cupcake to faculty judges and competed against the other groups in their class. The students were judged on their cupcake's appearance and flavor, along with creativity and presentation.

Bethpage High School

The Bethpage High School guidance department held two mini college fairs in the high school gymnasium for juniors and seniors this past fall. More than 100 colleges and universities were in attendance on both dates, when students could speak with representatives and ask questions. Mini college fairs are a great way for students to explore their options for after high school. The next college fair will be held on April 17.



BETHPAGE SCHOOLS

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Bethpage, NY 11714

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Outstanding Students Inducted Into Honor Societies



Our students at Bethpage High School are gifted in many different areas. During November and December, Bethpage High School welcomed its newest members into the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society and World Language Honor Society. Each organization held a special ceremony in the Bethpage High School auditorium where central and building administrators, staff, family and friends gathered to recognize the inductees.

Placement in each of these three honor societies is based on a specific academic criterion, among other requirements. Bethpage High School had an impressive 97 students join the National Honor Society, 50 join the National Science Honor Society and 67 join the World Language Honor Society for the 2022-2023 school year. Congratulations to all the new inductees on this well-deserved honor!

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle

Members of the Bethpage High School Class of 1971 returned to their alma mater on Nov. 12. Superintendent of Schools David Schneider and Bethpage High School Principal Nicholas Jantz had a wonderful afternoon with the alumni as they walked the halls of the building, visited the school's courtyard and reminisced about their high school years. That evening, the group celebrated their 50th high school reunion together!

