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SEWANHAKA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT • WINTER 2024



Students Prepare for Medical Field Jobs Through New CTE Program

The Sewanhaka Central High School District is proud to announce that the Career and Technical Education's (CTE) Medical Assistant program is successfully underway. Officially beginning in September, this newly offered health sciences program has 18 students from all five school buildings enrolled.

The addition of this health sciences curriculum to the CTE offerings was due to student interest, as well as a community assessment. According to Director of CTE Dr. Patrick Dunphy, the local region's top 10 jobs are all in the health care field. This two-year program will prepare students to be knowledgeable health professionals. Students will learn medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, etiology of diseases, front office management, assisting with minor office procedures, sterilization, instrumentation, how to take vital signs, patient relations and other skills.

Classes are taught by registered nurse Lori LoRusso, who previously worked as the school nurse at Floral Park Memorial High School and was a medical assistant

herself earlier in her career. From Monday through Thursday, students currently have their medical assistant classes at Nassau Community College. As part of the two-year program, students will receive 12 college credits from NCC. On Fridays, the students convene at Sewanhaka High School, which is the CTE program's base, to utilize the Anatomage Table. This virtual dissection table allows the students to view and interact with real cadavers. The Anatomage, which was purchased through a grant, displays all body systems, such as the cardiovascular, respiratory and nervous systems. Since it simulates dissection, LoRusso and the students utilize the table to study the internal workings of the human body. Along with the Anatomage Table, there are plans to purchase an exam table and a corner cabinet with a sink to replicate a clinical setting.

The program has a partnership agreement with PM Pediatric Care, a pediatric care provider with eight locations on Long Island, through which students will be able to partake in supervised clinical

experiences during their second year in the program. This affiliation certifies the program according to New York State standards. They will also be able to take the American Association of Medical Assistants exam at the conclusion of the program.

There are 24 spots available for students interested in exploring the medical assistant profession. Students interested must apply and be accepted.



Find more information on the Medical Assistant program through this QR code.

Student Spotlights FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Elmont Memorial High School's Model United Nations students attended the international Princeton University Model UN Conference in November. The students represented the nations of Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Japan, Montenegro, Poland, Syria and Ukraine. The Elmont students earned two Best Delegate Awards and a Best Position Paper Award, and the entire delegation won the Honorable Mention Award for a small school.



Floral Park Memorial High School art and literary magazine, Trumpet, had its 2023 issue, Chiaroscuro, selected to receive the rank of Distinguished in the National Council of Teachers of English REALM

program, which recognizes excellence in art and literary magazines. The editors of the honored issue are graduates Rebecca Lin, Fatima Razvi and Rebekah Saji. The current magazine staff accepted the certificates.

H. Frank Carey High School student-athletes Francesca Giordano and Cormac Govaert received Outstanding Physical Education Student Awards from the Nassau Zone of the New York Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Francesca and Cormac were honored along with other students from across Nassau County at a ceremony in December.



New Hyde Park Memorial High School students Amy Jigon and Nayana Kabir were recognized as schoolwide winners in the Poetry Out Loud competition in December. More than 40 students competed in the high school's first schoolwide competition. Poetry Out Loud is a national program sponsored by the National Endowment for

the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. Amy and Nayana will advance to the regional semifinal, competing against students from across Long Island.



Sewanhaka High School football players Abdullah Aflak, Lovell Cannon, Jadon Lawson and Braylon Metellus were recognized for their achievements in the sport. Braylon and Jadon each won the 2023 All-Conference Award from the Nassau County High School Football Coaches Association. Abdullah won the Scholar Athlete Award from the National Football Foundation, and he also participated in the annual Exceptional Senior Game. Lovell earned the Long Island Association of Football Officials Award for Spirit and Dedication.

New Admin Team at Floral Park Memorial

This school year, Floral Park Memorial High School has seamlessly introduced a brand-new administration team to lead the building. All have ties to the district, which gives them a wealth of knowledge to best serve our students. Former Assistant Principal Alicia Calabrese is now at the helm as principal, and she is joined by assistant principals Michael Farina and Dr. Kevin Sullivan.

Ms. Calabrese, who officially began her new position on Jan. 2, has been with the Sewanhaka district for over 25 years. She began her career in the district as an English teacher at Elmont Memorial High School. In 2007, she was promoted to assistant principal at Elmont Memorial, where she served until 2018 when she became assistant principal at Floral Park Memorial.

Dr. Sullivan was appointed as an assistant principal in October. He has been in the Sewanhaka district for more than 20 years, beginning his career as an English teacher. Most recently, he served



as the chairperson of English at Floral Park Memorial. Prior, he was the dean of students at Elmont Memorial from 2004-2016.

Mr. Farina officially joined the team as an assistant principal on Jan. 2. He began his career in the Sewanhaka district in 2002 as a special education teaching

assistant at H. Frank Carey High School. He worked at Carey as a social studies and special education teacher from 2004-2018 until his promotion to social studies chairperson. Most recently, he served as executive director for administrative services for the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District.



Sewanhaka Mascot and Logo Update

Sewanhaka High School is still in the process of creating a new logo and school mascot. In the fall, the school hosted a community survey to collect ideas for what would be most important or wanted in a new mascot. Some questions included were:

- “In your opinion, what about this region of our state makes us unique...makes us stand out?”
- “Is there anything about the mentality of our school (our people) that must be reflected in our identity?”
- “Are there any mascots you have considered that may be a perfect fit for Sewanhaka High School moving forward?”

The logo/mascot is still in the planning stages, but Sewanhaka High School is excited and hopes to unveil the new mascot in Spring 2024.

Superintendent Search UPDATE

The search for the district’s next superintendent of schools is still underway. To best assist with the search, the Board of Education has partnered with the search firm School Leadership LLC. They conducted an online survey in December to gain insight into the qualities the community is looking for in a superintendent.

The district will continue to keep the community updated in the superintendent search.



Continuing to Unify the District

In a continued effort to foster collaboration and community between all five school buildings, the district has been offering events to bring the students together for fun, unique experiences.

The Mini District Sports Event was held in the fall at WildPlay at Jones Beach. The goal was not for competition, but rather to cooperate and try new activities. There were 20 districtwide students who participated, with four from each building attending. Many class leaders, including valedictorians, salutatorians and class presidents, joined the event. The response from the students was overwhelmingly positive. They expressed that it was a great bonding experience, challenging and a lot of fun.



Upcoming districtwide events to keep a lookout for are:

First District Foreign Field Trip to Canada, from April 10-15

First District Science Symposium at H. Frank Carey High School, on May 20, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.