

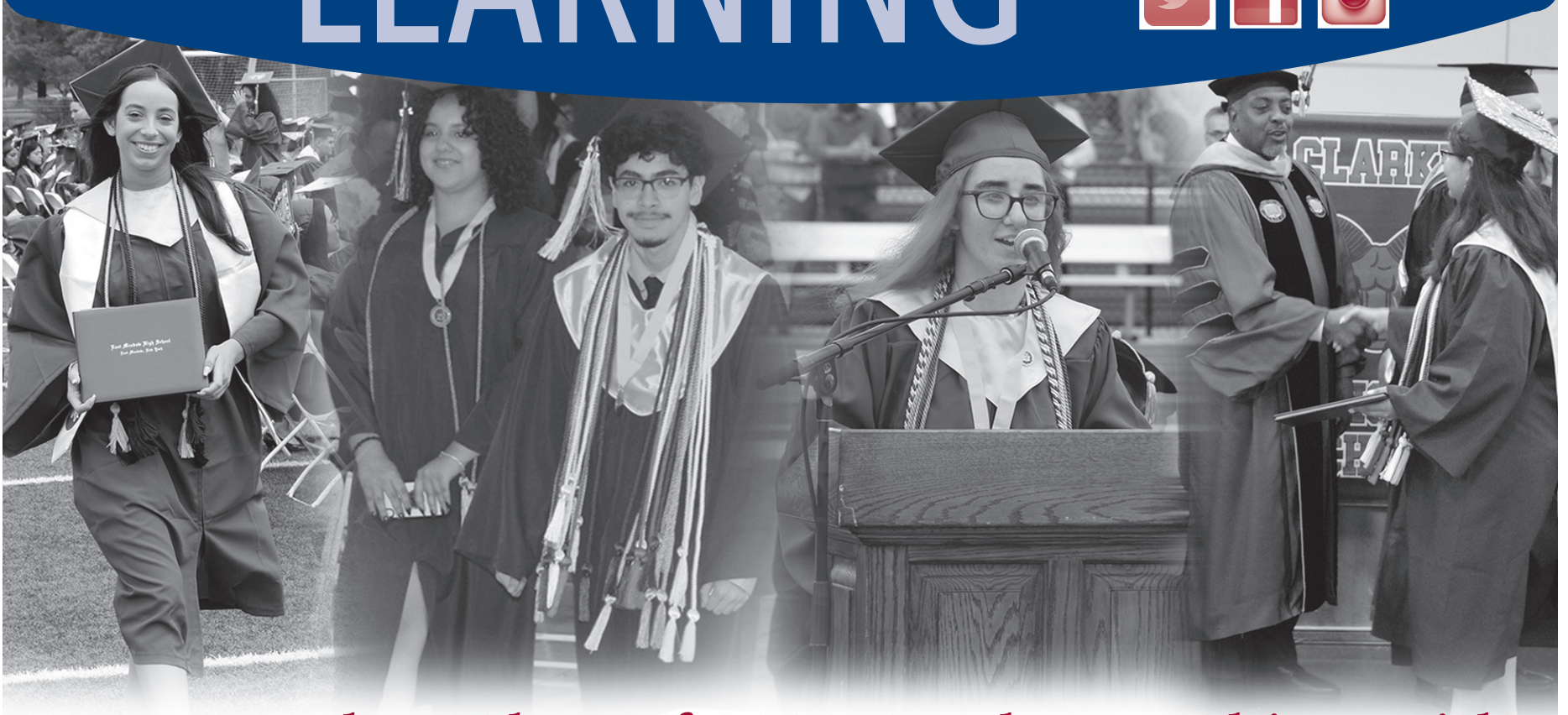


EAST MEADOW SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



# Steps to LEARNING



## East Meadow Class of 2023 Graduates Shine With 'GRIT, GRACE AND DETERMINATION'

W.T. Clarke and East Meadow High Schools' seniors were beaming with joy as they celebrated their graduations on June 23 and June 24, respectively.

The Class of 2023 at each high school was greeted with roaring applause from their families and friends. Joined by the Board of Education, central and high school administrations, the graduates proudly took their seats to begin their commencement ceremonies.

East Meadow High School's ceremony kicked off with a rendition of the national anthem by the senior chorale, while a group of American Sign Language seniors signed the words as they were sung. Principal Richard Howard then addressed the senior class.

"Over the last four years, you have all continued to make me proud,"

Mr. Howard said. "I am honored to say that I'm your principal. You are now part of an elite group of people who have accomplished the task of graduating from this great high school."

Valedictorian Addison Baroukh, Salutatorian Kenneth Chan and Class President Mikayla Verdi also spoke to their classmates with words of inspiration.

"We've all faced difficulties that have challenged us, such as quarantining, online learning, social distancing and more," Chan said. "Remember how you fought those hardships despite the unfavorable situations. Remember how you triumphed over them and became the resilient person you are today."

"We all have the capacity to be good people," Baroukh said. "Please embrace that and spread

good into the world. Choose kindness. It's not always the easier choice, but it's worth it. Ultimately, it's our own choices that will impact the way we live our lives."

At the W.T. Clarke High School ceremony, the graduates proudly processed into the school's gymnasium to the sound of "Pomp and Circumstance." Next, Valedictorian Matthew Vo, Salutatorian Shreejita Satpathy and Class President Amanda Abbatiello kicked off the student speech portion of the ceremony. Vo and Satpathy reflected on four unforgettable years at Clarke.

"Whether you choose to become a doctor or a music producer, remember that in the end, the key to success lies in what makes you happy," Vo said. "Today marks the beginning of our journey on the road to happiness."

"Like many of us, I'm a little nervous about the future, but I'm also excited to see what we will accomplish," Satpathy said. "Embrace the uncertainty that you're feeling right now, because it's normal to feel that way. Enjoy this moment and enjoy all of your success. Just remember that we've done so many incredible things just to make it to this day."

Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr., and

Board President Alisa Baroukh delivered commencement addresses at both ceremonies. Ms. Baroukh spoke about sharing this moment with her daughter, Valedictorian Addison Baroukh.

"I'm sure many of the loved ones in the stands are feeling what I feel right now," Ms. Baroukh said. "How did these little babies grow into the graduates we see sitting here today? Through it all, this Class of 2023 has persevered. Our graduates have shown the world that they can take on any obstacle before them with grace, grit and determination."

"Today concludes a significant and wonderful chapter of your life, and an equally significant and wonderful chapter is about to begin," Dr. Card said.

The presentation of diplomas culminated both events, with each student being recognized for their successful high school completion. After the final students were called, the East Meadow and Clarke graduates celebrated with a cap toss and cheers. The crowd looked on proudly as the graduates processed, ready to take on the next chapter of their academic and personal lives.

The district wishes East Meadow High School and W.T. Clarke High School's Class of 2023 luck, success and fulfillment in their futures.

**East Meadow Union Free  
School District**  
East Meadow, NY 11554

Periodical  
Postage Paid  
East Meadow,  
NY

**\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE Superintendent of Schools

Dear East Meadow School Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits, enjoying the summer months. Today, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude as I reflect on the incredible memories I have made during my time in the East Meadow School District. It is with immense appreciation that I thank each and every one of you who has contributed to making my journey as a leader and educator truly remarkable.

The experiences and encounters I have had in East Meadow have had a profound impact on my personal and professional growth. I will forever cherish the lessons learned and the connections made with individuals who have enriched my journey as an educator. Your support, guidance and collaboration have played an invaluable role in shaping me into a better leader.

In the face of extraordinary challenges posed by a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, threats to student safety, and a divisive

political climate on a national scale, East Meadow has demonstrated resilience and unwavering commitment to our students' education. Despite these obstacles, we have achieved numerous successes, a testament to the strength of our community.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Board of Education for their steadfast support and outstanding leadership throughout my tenure. Your dedication to the betterment of our schools and unwavering commitment to the success of our students have been instrumental in creating an environment where greatness thrives.

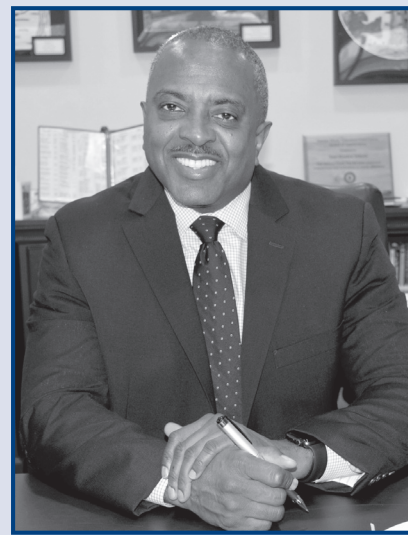
To the remarkable faculty and staff of the East Meadow School District, I am grateful for your tireless dedication and unwavering passion for education. Your unwavering commitment to bringing out the best in every student has made a lasting impact on their lives. Your hard work and dedication have been vital in ensuring that our schools are places of growth, learning and

academic excellence.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the parents, students and community members who have played an integral role in our educational journey. Your involvement, support and collaboration have been crucial in creating a welcoming and affirming environment for our students to thrive. Together, we have fostered a community that values inclusivity and encourages the pursuit of excellence.

As I embark on a new chapter, I carry with me the countless memories we have created together. Although there may have been challenges along the way, I choose to remember the good times – the moments of growth, achievement and unity. These memories will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Lastly, I would like to extend my best wishes to Mr. Kenneth Rosner and the Board of Education for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year and beyond. May your leadership continue to inspire and guide



the East Meadow School District towards even greater heights of success.

Thank you once again, East Meadow Community, for your unwavering commitment to education and for creating an environment where "Great Happens Here." It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the superintendent of schools of this extraordinary community.

With profound gratitude and warmest regards,

Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools

## A Message FROM THE New Superintendent of Schools

Dear East Meadow School Community,

I am honored to be the new superintendent of the East Meadow School District, and to partner with our students, educators, families, and the community we serve to ensure we meet the district's mission.

I am committed to this charge and excited to learn about how our mission is being implemented in the East Meadow schools. This is a great time to be part of our learning community, and I fully embrace this opportunity to provide strong and steady leadership with a focus on all children feeling safe and valued in their school environment. We must continue to focus on improving student outcomes for all children, K-12.

As your new superintendent, I am grateful for the comprehensive hiring process your community engaged in this winter and spring with the Board of Education. Because of this process, the voices of our community

– students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, staff, board members, residents and civic leaders were able to play a role in my selection. East Meadow is transforming education in Nassau County and has achieved success on many levels. I want to build upon the strong legacy that the school district and community have established for ALL students in East Meadow.

As I begin my work, I recognize that there are numerous opportunities that our entire community is excited to address. To make sure that we build upon our strengths, recognize our challenges, and identify the most powerful strategies to address those challenges, my initial days of service will include the enclosed structured entry plan to guide my work. I want to learn as much as possible about what is working for our students and where there are areas for growth. I also want to hear how we can better prepare and support our teachers,

administrators, and staff for the critical roles they play in each student's life. Lastly, I want to deeply understand the goals of the

Board of Education and the community, and how the transformational work that exists in this entry plan will become our reality in the East Meadow School District.

I feel I bring a wealth of experience to East Meadow. My journey began as a special education teacher aide, teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Superintendent of a Nassau County school district. I believe in a simple, but important philosophy: "It's all about the children..."

I look forward to this opportunity to listen, learn, and partner with you. Together, we can increase educational opportunities for all East Meadow students to succeed in school and beyond.

In partnership,

Kenneth Rosner  
Superintendent of Schools



Please scan Superintendent's Entry Plan.

Steps to Learning (USPS521-400)

Volume No. 161

**East Meadow Union Free School District**

East Meadow, NY 11554 - Periodicals Postage Paid at East Meadow, NY 11554

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to:

Steps to Learning, EMUFSD, 718 The Plain Road, Westbury, NY 11590



# Fifth Graders Move Up to Middle School



Throughout the week of June 19, fifth grade students from Barnum Woods, Bowling Green, McVey, Meadowbrook and Parkway Elementary Schools celebrated their past six years of education, while also looking forward to starting middle school during their respective moving-up ceremonies.

The principals at each school commended the students for their hard work, devotion and many accomplishments before encouraging each of them to take full advantage of a new chapter in middle school and beyond. The district congratulates the graduating fifth graders and wishes them bright and successful futures as they look forward to new opportunities at W.T. Clarke and Woodland Middle Schools.



## Next Step: High School



Woodland and W.T. Clarke Middle Schools held moving-up ceremonies to celebrate graduating eighth-grade students on June 21. Woodland Middle School held two ceremonies for the eighth-grade class in the school's auditorium. Principal James Lethbridge spoke at each, offering advice and well wishes to the soon-to-be high school students. Later that evening, W.T. Clarke Principal Stacy Breslin welcomed students, families, teachers, building administrators and central administration to the W.T. Clarke Middle School moving-up ceremony at the school's new football field. Both ceremonies included musical numbers and awards for

exceptional students.

At both schools, central administration was present, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr. spoke to the students about their next steps. He offered calm words as he reassured them that they have been well prepared by the staff and faculty at Woodland and W.T. Clarke Middle Schools.

The district looks forward to continuing to watch the journeys of these students and wishes them luck and success in their high school careers.

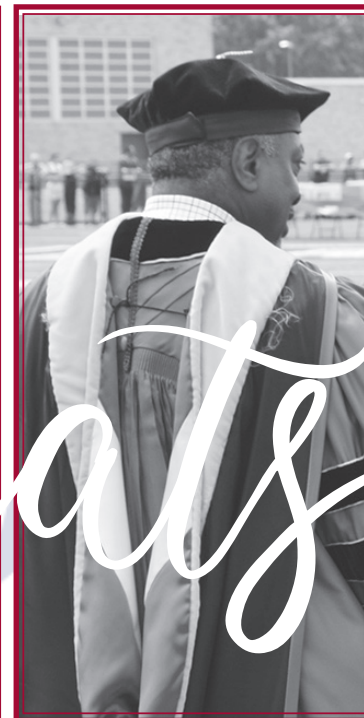


# BRIGHT FUTURE CLASS OF 2023 COLLEGE

Adelphi University  
 Alderson Broaddus University  
 American University  
 Averett University  
 Benedictine College  
 Berkeley College - New York  
 Binghamton University  
 Boston College  
 Brown University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 College of Charleston  
 College of Mount Saint Vincent  
 Colgate University  
 Cooper Union  
 Cornell University  
 CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College  
 CUNY Brooklyn College  
 CUNY College of Staten Island  
 CUNY Hunter College  
 CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
 CUNY LaGuardia Community College  
 CUNY Macaulay Honors College  
 CUNY Queens College  
 CUNY Queensborough Community College  
 CUNY York College  
 Drexel University  
 Elon University  
 Emerson College  
 Fairfield University  
 Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metropolitan Campus  
 Farmingdale State College  
 Fashion Institute of Technology  
 Five Towns College  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Florida State University  
 Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

Full Sail University  
 George Mason University  
 Hillsborough Community College  
 Hofstra University  
 Indiana University-Bloomington  
 James Madison University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Johnson & Wales University-Providence  
 Keiser University  
 King's College  
 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
 Lasell University  
 Lincoln Technical Institute - East Windsor  
 Lincoln Technical Institute - Queens  
 LIU Post  
 London School of Economics and Political Science  
 Long Island University Global  
 Louisiana State University  
 Lynn University  
 Marist College  
 Merrimack College  
 Messiah University  
 Misericordia University  
 Molloy University  
 Montclair State University  
 Nassau Community College  
 New York Institute of Technology  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University  
 Nova Southeastern University  
 Ohio State University-Main Campus  
 Ohio Technical College  
 Pace University  
 Pennsylvania College of Technology  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus  
 Plymouth State University

Pratt Institute-Main  
 Providence College  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Ramapo College of New Jersey  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 Rockland Community College  
 Roger Williams University  
 Russell Sage College  
 Sacred Heart University  
 San Diego State University  
 School of Visual Arts  
 Seton Hall University  
 St. John's University  
 St. Joseph's University  
 Stella and Charles Guttman Community College  
 Stevens Institute of Technology  
 Stony Brook University  
 SUNY at Fredonia  
 SUNY at Purchase College  
 SUNY Buffalo State  
 SUNY College at Geneseo  
 SUNY College at Old Westbury  
 SUNY College at Oswego  
 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
 SUNY College of Technology at Canton  
 SUNY College of Technology at Delhi  
 SUNY Cortland  
 SUNY Maritime College  
 SUNY New Paltz  
 SUNY Oneonta  
 Syracuse University  
 Temple University  
 Texas A & M University  
 The City University of New York  
 The University of Alabama  
 The University of Tampa





# URES AHEAD!

# COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
 The University of the Arts  
 The University of West Florida  
 United States Coast Guard  
 United States Navy  
 University at Albany  
 University at Buffalo  
 University of Bridgeport  
 University of Central Florida  
 University of Cincinnati-Main Campus  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Florida  
 University of Hartford  
 University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
 University of New Haven  
 University of North Florida  
 University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus  
 University of Rhode Island  
 University of Scranton  
 University of South Carolina-Columbia  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Virginia-Main Campus  
 Utica University  
 Wentworth Institute of Technology  
 West Virginia University  
 Western Connecticut State University





# NEWS | AROUND THE SCHOOLS

## MIX IT UP DAY

At Woodland Middle School, the Social Emotional Learning Committee held a program to “mix it up” and, for one day, encourage students to meet new people, develop their social skills and work in teams.

On “Mix It Up Day,” sixth and seventh grade students received different colored bracelets during their homeroom period, each corresponding to a different team. The theme of the day was different decades, and students participated in activities incorporating toys, characters and songs from the 1950s to the 2020s.



## Celebrating Cultures



East Meadow High School’s Multicultural Club hosted its annual Multicultural Show on April 20. The show included various performances to honor the various cultures in the East Meadow community.

The assembly featured talent and cultural pride from students as they highlighted songs and dances from such countries as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Columbia, Guyana, India, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines and El Salvador. The school’s Multicultural Club hosts the annual show to promote understanding, tolerance and acceptance of diverse cultures. The tradition allows students to celebrate their own cultural heritages, as well as those of their peers.

## SENIOR PROJECT FAIR

During East Meadow High School’s annual Senior Project Fair on May 25, students displayed their yearlong projects which detailed what they learned through various internships, community service projects and work experiences.

The project began in September with students developing a resume. This was followed by students identifying areas of interest and reaching out to sponsors for potential internships and community service projects. During the second semester, the students’ experiences commenced, and they recorded their progress and accomplishments through activity logs. The project culminated with a fair in the school’s gymnasium.



## NEW PLAYGROUND UNVEILED

On May 12, the student council at Meadowbrook Elementary School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their state-of-the-art playground.

Students, teachers and district administrators attended the celebration as members of the student council spoke about the school’s new playground. Each student council member removed a small ribbon from the playground before cutting a large ribbon to complete the celebration.



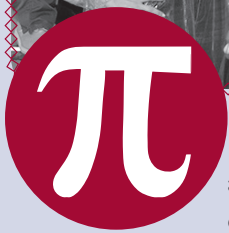


## Annual Poetry Recital

First graders at Bowling Green Elementary School shared lots of love with their parents and teachers on Valentine's Day during the school's 10th annual Poetry Recital.

Ms. Rhonda Cohen's class paired with Ms. Lauren Kani's class in the school's all-purpose room for this event. Students cheerfully shared a selection of thoughtful poems to spread love throughout the school.

## Pi Day Fundraiser



On March 14, the Student Council at Barnum Woods Elementary School celebrated Pi Day with a thrilling pie-eating contest.

Barnum Woods Principal Gregory Bottari, along with several staff members, took to the stage in the school's all-purpose room to see who could eat the most pie. Students were asked to bring in donations to raise money for scholarships to support students at East Meadow High School. Fifth grade teacher Lissette Pellegrino emerged as the winner of the competition, and Barnum Woods raised \$3,515 to support East Meadow High School's students.

## Annual Carnevale Festa



On March 10, the Italian Club at Parkway Elementary School held its 22nd annual Carnevale Festa.

Led by teachers Ms. Annamaria Izzo-Barbieri, Ms. Chiara Marangelli and Ms. Brianna Messere, the club was proud to have more than 100 student members in grades 2-5 participate in the club's culminating activity. Students paraded into the all-purpose room showing off their homemade maschere (masks) as they recited the Italian national anthem and a Carnevale poem. Afterward, the students celebrated with each other while enjoying a feast of Italian foods such as pizza, meatballs, garlic knots, salads, desserts and lemon-flavored Italian ices.

## AN EVENING OF STEAM IN EAST MEADOW



W.T. Clarke Middle School and W.T. Clarke High School were transformed into a STEAM convention center during a night of interactive educational activities on March 29.

Students and families from the East Meadow School District celebrated 21st-century learning at the district's annual STEAM

Night. The event was coordinated by Debra Harley, the district's Director of Math and Science. On this night, students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade had the opportunity to choose from more than 30 educational activities. Along with their families, students explored the burgeoning disciplines of science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.



## Earth Day Celebration

Students at George McVey Elementary School celebrated Earth Day with East Meadow High School's environmental club students at East Meadow High School on May 26.

McVey students teamed up with high school volunteers at different stations throughout the school's courtyard to participate in several environmentally friendly activities.



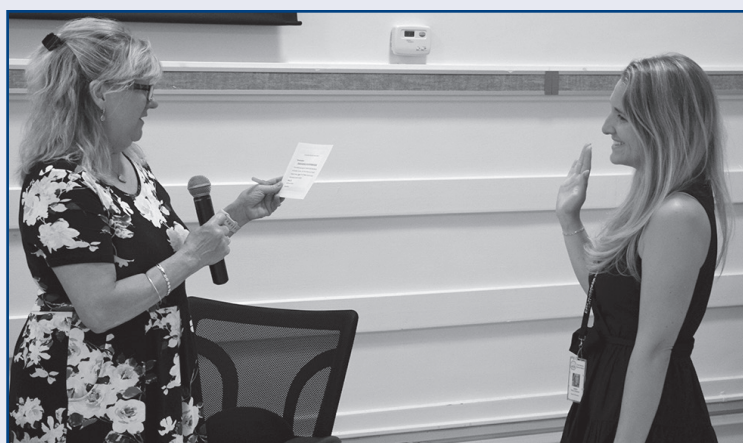
## REORGANIZATION COMPLETE FOR *East Meadow Board of Education*

The East Meadow School District Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting on July 5. The meeting saw the installation of the Board President and Vice President as well as two new trustees being sworn in.

District Clerk Judy Kandel opened the meeting by swearing in Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr., for his seventh year as Superintendent of Schools. Similarly, new Board Trustees David Carl and Jessica Ricco-Simeone took their oaths of office, each for three-year

terms. Additionally, Judy Kandel was sworn in as the District Clerk while Ms. Puma was sworn in as the District Treasurer.

Lastly, following nominations, Matthew Melnick was elected President and Eileen Napolitano was elected Vice President of the Board of Education for the coming school year. The Board looks forward to another successful school year, and the district would like to congratulate the trustees as they embark on an ambitious agenda.



*Board Trustee Jessica Ricco-Simeone*



*Board Trustee David Carl*

## ATTENTION: PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL PARENTS!

Residents are reminded of New York State Education Law 3635-2 requiring parents/guardians of students who plan to attend private or parochial school to submit a written request for transportation and textbooks annually to their public school district.

**The East Meadow School District must be in receipt of the application for**

**transportation and textbooks on or before the New York State Education Department's legal deadline of April 1 to be considered for the following school year.** In order for the **April 1** request letter to be considered, all students must be officially registered with the East Meadow School District. Applications must be, according to statute, filed annually

and are available at the Salisbury School or on the district's website, [www.emufsd.us](http://www.emufsd.us). **A separate application is required for each child.** It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm the transportation department's receipt of your application prior to **April 1**.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Be sure to stay up-to-date with the latest district news and events by following us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!

Twitter: @emeadowschools

Facebook.com/emeadowschools

Instagram: emeadowschools

Steps to  
LEARNING

EAST MEADOW SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



### **East Meadow Union Free School District**

#### **Board of Education**

Matthew Melnick, President  
Eileen Napolitano, Vice President  
David Carl  
Dr. Jodi Luce  
Jessica Ricco-Simeone  
Melissa Tell  
Nancy Widman

Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr., Superintendent of Schools