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Completed Bond Projects Come to Life

Students, Staff and Community Embrace Newly Renovated Spaces

Students and staff throughout the Bethpage School District returned to the buildings this past September with wide eyes and big smiles as many of the district’s completed bond projects were revealed. This was the result of a \$16.25 million bond proposal for various capital improvement projects across the district which was approved by the community in 2021. With no additional cost to taxpayers, this approved bond allowed the district to make necessary improvements which were identified in the district’s five-year building condition survey.

Since the summer of 2021, the district has been working diligently to complete the projects at each school. At Bethpage High School, the

outdated auditorium lighting and the synthetic turf and scoreboard were replaced, the girls and boys locker rooms were upgraded, the library was renovated into a modernized learning space and an athletic barn (pictured below), the first of its kind on Long Island, was built outside the school’s gymnasium for students to utilize.

At John F. Kennedy Middle School, a STEAM suite was created to foster innovation, the gymnasium floor was replaced, the library received a modern makeover and the athletic facility at the back of the school was completely redone. This included the addition of a concession area for Bethpage students and families to enjoy.

All three elementary schools also received upgrades. The libraries at Central Boulevard and Charles Campagne elementary schools were renovated to fit the 21st-century learner and are now fresh new spaces for students to read and explore. At Kramer Lane Elementary School, the gymnasium ceiling was replaced and the parking lot was improved.

In addition to these individual school projects, all five buildings received information technology upgrades, and if needed, accessibility improvements based on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“These improvements are going to make a big difference in the lives of Bethpage students for generations to come,” Superintendent of Schools David Schneider said. “We are not only continuing to provide a safe environment but are also enhancing learning opportunities. I have already seen the joy that these completed spaces have brought to our students and staff. Thank you to the Bethpage community for supporting us in this endeavor.”

To watch a full video on the completed bond projects, please scan the QR code on this page.



2 *A Thanksgiving Message*

From the *Board of Education*

Thanksgiving is a time for gathering because gathering is in our nature. We gather around campfires to share stories, we gather for a weekend BBQ, we gather to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

We gather on Thanksgiving to remember that no matter how difficult our lives may feel, we can always find something to be thankful for.

As you gather with family and friends to share a traditional meal, express gratitude and enjoy a great football game, remember, gathering matters.

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season!

- James A. McGlynn, President
- Anna Israelton, Vice President
- Michael J. Kelly, Trustee
- John Lonardo, Trustee
- Christina Scelta, Trustee
- Marie Swierkowski, Trustee
- Sandy Watson, Trustee

1 **BOND PROJECTS** **Come to Life!** 3



The new and improved athletic facility at John F. Kennedy Middle School.



John F. Kennedy Middle School's gymnasium floor was redone, allowing for a safe surface for students to play on.



The Bethpage High School library was renovated into a modern space for students to study in.



One of the new classrooms in John F. Kennedy Middle School's new STEAM suite which was built for innovative learning.



Central Boulevard Elementary School's library was fully renovated during the summer of 2023.



The John F. Kennedy Middle School library was completely renovated and features a new makerspace, flexible seating and more.



Charles Campagne Elementary School's newly renovated library features new flexible furniture.



The girls locker room at Bethpage High School was expanded to include new lockers and benches for student athletes.



A new concession area was created next to the field at John F. Kennedy Middle School for the community to enjoy.

NEW

Courses Set Students Up for SUCCESS



Each year, the district strives to expand on learning opportunities to provide students with the tools and knowledge that they need to succeed. This school year, two new courses were introduced at Bethpage High School and a new language program was established at each of the elementary schools.



Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) Comes to Bethpage

Central Boulevard, Charles Campagne and Kramer Lane elementary school students in grades K-5 are expanding their language skills with the district's new FLES program. This full-year program, led by teachers Katie Barba and Allison Gunning, allows students to not only explore a new language, but also exposes them to new cultures. Students in kindergarten, first and second grade are tackling the Spanish language with Ms. Gunning, while students in third, fourth and fifth grade are exploring languages such as French, Italian and Spanish with Ms. Barba. Each class meets with their FLES teacher once a week for 30 minutes during their special period and participates in engaging lessons and activities to help them build their foreign language skills.



Bethpage High School Students Gain Valuable Skills in New Home Improvement Course

Bethpage High School students are gaining real-world experience in a new course, Home Improvement and Repair. Led by teacher Jim Miller, this unique, full-year course is open to students in grades 10-12 and introduces them to the basics of home repair.

The high school's former stage crew room was transformed into a new classroom workshop for the course. Here, hands-on learning is embraced as students learn how to safely use tools to participate in projects in carpentry, insulation, electrical wiring, basic heating and cooling, roof and gutter repair and maintenance, and plumbing. Mr. Miller provides demonstrations, support and guidance as the students work through different repair and installation projects, building their self-sufficiency.

Although only in its early stages, the course has become a big hit among Bethpage students.

"I wanted to take this class because of the application of it, how real-world it is and how helpful this could be later in life," senior Matthew Schneider said. "This is one of the few classes that can help you save money in the future."

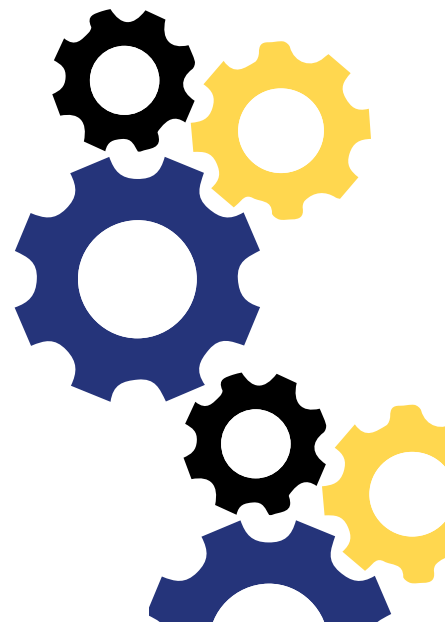
Aside from the skills that they will take into future homeownership, the course also introduces students to the world of a skilled trade professional such as a plumber, electrician and contractor. This exposes students to more career options and better prepares them for life beyond the classroom.



Principles of Engineering 2: Manufacturing and Automation Opens at Bethpage High School

Bethpage High School juniors and seniors who completed the school's Principles of Engineering 1: Engineering Design course, have the chance to continue their studies with Principles of Engineering 2: Manufacturing and Automation. This manufacturing course, led by teacher Tess Strauch, expands on what students learned in their first engineering course and follows a curriculum provided by Siemens. Engineering 2 students are challenged to collaboratively solve design problems by working in teams, performing research and reporting findings. It also prepares students to obtain Siemens PLC and Solid Edge certifications.

"This course challenges students to utilize and expand their 21st-century skills – including problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration and iteration," Ms. Strauch said. "Any student will benefit from enrolling in these courses, even if they are not interested specifically in engineering. With that said, I hope students leave the course with fundamental knowledge of the engineering design process, our CAD software and 3D printing, in addition to developing long-lasting skills that will help them as students in their future educational years."



21ST-CENTURY SCHOLARS' PROGRAM

Unique to the Bethpage School District is our 21st-Century Scholars' Program. Students are continuing to gravitate to this program this year as it provides an abundance of educational opportunities. From service projects, educational field trips and special

workshops, there is something for everyone. To receive upcoming 21st-Century Scholar opportunities, please join the district's listserv by clicking "Join Listserv" in the top right corner of the district's website, bethpagecommunity.com.

⑥ ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT, *One Community*

Here in Bethpage, we are grateful to have so many community members and families who support our schools. We take pride in our community partnerships which have led us to some wonderful events and opportunities for our students and families.

In September, our school community gathered under the lights of Bethpage High School's athletic complex for the Bethpage PTA Council's annual Back-to-School Bash. The special evening featured PTAs from schools across the district, guest organizations, a DJ and food trucks. This event has been a positive way for the district to come together to celebrate the start of a fresh new school year.

The district's annual homecoming parade and football game concluded the month. Although the day started out with rain, the weather did not stop our community from coming out and showing their school spirit. The

parade was a success as many of our students and families participated. The celebration continued at Bethpage High School's athletic complex where the Golden Eagles took to the field and played their hearts out.

The community bond continued into October as the Bethpage

“ We are grateful to have so many community members and families who support our schools. ”

Educational Foundation held its annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner. This year, seven individuals and one team had the honor of being inducted – Dr. BettyAnn Chodkowski, John Coumatos, Kathy Eastwood, Michael

Guerrieri, Joe Killeen, Dr. Ian Peikon, John Rager and the 1985 Bethpage High School girls club lacrosse team. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner is a staple in the district for not only honoring the best of the best from Bethpage, but for also serving as a fundraiser to support the Bethpage Educational Foundation and its mission of giving back to Bethpage students and staff.

October concluded with Halloween at the Field, an annual Halloween tradition which the Bethpage High School Parent Teacher Student Association always does a fantastic job of hosting at the high school's athletic complex. Students, families and community members enjoyed delicious food, music, games and trick-or-treating at spooktacular tents, created by each school's PTA.

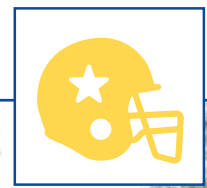
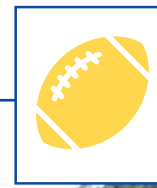
The district looks forward to more community-based events in the future.



HALL OF FAME ⑦



HOMECOMING



BETHPAGE SCHOOLS

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Bethpage, NY 11714

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Two Seniors Recognized as National Merit Semifinalists



Bethpage High School seniors Ankur Raghavan and Arsh Singh were named semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among more than 16,000 semifinalists out of 1.3 million high schoolers to earn the title due to their excellent 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Scholarship Qualifying Test scores.

As semifinalists, both Ankur and Arsh represent less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors. They are now in the running to compete in the program for about 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered in the spring of 2024. About 95% of semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist round, with approximately half of the finalists winning a National Merit Scholarship.

Congratulations, Ankur and Arsh! We wish you the best of luck as you continue in the competition.

Student Musicians Earn NYSSMA All-State Honors



Two student musicians from Bethpage High School were selected as either a participant or an alternate in the New York State School Music Association's 2023 All-State Conference. Senior Matthew Schneider will play guitar in the All-State Jazz Ensemble and senior Ryan O'Connell was chosen as an alternate on bass clarinet. The festival will be held at the Eastman Theatre in Rochester, New York, from Nov. 30-Dec. 3.

To be selected for the annual conference, a student must be recommended by their music teacher. In addition, they had to prepare a NYSSMA level VI All-State solo last spring which was evaluated by a NYSSMA Certified All-State adjudicator. To be an All-State participant or alternate is an honor, as only the top student musicians from across the state are selected.

Congratulations, Matthew and Ryan!