

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

## Friends of Music

The Friends of Music of Smithtown is comprised of parents, community members, educators, administrators, students and alumni who help support, promote and advocate for music education in the Smithtown Central School District. The organization was founded and established in 1995 by Lawrence Sobol, a music teacher in the district for 33 years. The nonprofit group works to enhance district programs and recognize the achievements of Smithtown student-musicians.

Thanks to local business sponsors and community members' annual support, the Friends of Music of Smithtown presented more than \$6,000 in mini-grants to Smithtown music programs during the last three years. In 2015-16, St. James Elementary started a ukulele program with its mini-grant funds. In 2016-17, Accomsett Elementary received funds for its ukulele program, and two more mini-grants were given to Nesaquake and Smithtown Elementary to purchase microphones. This year,

the Friends of Music presented Great Hollow with funds to purchase concert drums.

The Friends of Music also recognizes and rewards the efforts and accomplishments of music students throughout the district. Last year, the organization distributed more than \$7,500 in music scholarships to graduating seniors. They also recognized every graduating senior from Smithtown High School East and West who has participated in the music program for their four years of high school.

"We encourage families to participate and support their student's musical interests," said Gina Barnett, president of the Friends of Music of Smithtown. "This year, we have more than 110 members and that number is still growing."

During the elementary music festival and other district music events, the Friends of Music continue their efforts to raise money for its scholarship and mini-grant program. The group also hosts a jazz dinner featuring High School East and High School West's jazz ensembles and choirs.

### School Breakfast Program Update

The Smithtown Central School District is requesting an exemption from participating in the 2018-2019 breakfast program from the State of New York. If granted, breakfast would not be offered in the elementary schools next year. If you have any comments regarding the exemption, contact director of child nutrition Regina Dunne at 631-382-5500.

### ASBESTOS UPDATE

The district's ongoing asbestos program complies with the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and has resulted in the following asbestos abatement projects since our last report.

- Districtwide operation and maintenance of floor tile replacement.
- Smithtown Elementary Faculty Room floor tiles.
- St. James Elementary Greeter's Office floor tiles.
- Great Hollow Middle School Library and Receiving Room floor tiles.

The district has completed its tri-annual survey of all the buildings and continues its semiannual surveillance requirements under the regulations of AHERA. This, combined with the district's ongoing maintenance program, has produced a list of operation and maintenance repairs on a districtwide basis. A summary of these repairs is included in each building's management plan.

Any individual may review a building's management plan by going to the school's main office and requesting it. Copies of all the schools' management plans are available for review at the district's central offices at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown.

### VOTER REGISTRATION

Only registered voters can participate in the election on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. If you have not voted in any political or school district vote within the past four years, you will need to register. Residents vote at the elementary school in their election district. If you meet the following requirements, you are eligible to vote:

- 18 years of age or older,
- A citizen of the United States,
- A resident in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and
- A registered voter with Suffolk County Board of Elections

You may download a voter registration form from the district website ([www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us)); however, you must return the completed form in person to the district's central office at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, during regular business hours, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the district clerk's office at 631-382-2012 for further information.

**The last day to register to vote is May 8, 2018.**

### Where To Vote

ELECTION DISTRICT No. 1	ELECTION DISTRICT No. 2	ELECTION DISTRICT No. 3	ELECTION DISTRICT No. 4
West of Hauppauge Road (Route 111) south of Jericho Turnpike, and west of Fifty-Acre Road South and Fifty-Acre Road, north of Jericho Turnpike, west to the boundaries of District No. 4. VOTE AT: Smithtown Elementary School, located at 51 Lawrence Avenue, in Smithtown. POLLING PLACE: The Smithtown Elementary School Gymnasium.	East of Fifty-Acre Road South and Fifty-Acre Road, north of Jericho Turnpike. VOTE AT: St. James Elementary School, located at 580 Lake Avenue, in St. James. POLLING PLACE: The St. James Elementary School Gymnasium.	East of Hauppauge Road and south of Jericho Turnpike. VOTE AT: Nesconset Elementary School, located at 29 Gibbs Pond Road, in Nesconset.* POLLING PLACE: The Nesconset Elementary School Gymnasium.	West of the Long Island Rail Road and north of Jericho Turnpike and Creek Road. VOTE AT: Accompsett Elementary School, located at 1 Lincoln Street, in Smithtown. POLLING PLACE: The Accomsett Elementary School Gymnasium.

You can also check your voting district by using our "Voter Location Tool" on our website: [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us).

\*Please note that although Nesconset Elementary is not being used as a school, the building will still be used as a polling place.

### Absentee Ballot Applications

To obtain an absentee ballot, a person must be a qualified and registered voter of the Smithtown Central School District on the date of the election.

The person seeking the absentee ballot must be approved by the district clerk and/or the board of registration by filing an application with the district clerk. Applications are available at the district's central office at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, or on the district website at [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us).

The application must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the election if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, which for this election will be MAY 8, 2018, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the voter, which will be MAY 14, 2018.

Any question concerning the application procedure for absentee ballots should be directed to the office of the district clerk, 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, N.Y. 11787, 631-382-2012.

### SCHOOL & COMMUNITY DIGEST

Published by the Smithtown Central School District

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26 New York Avenue, Unit 1  
Smithtown, New York 11787



Smithtown Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of handicaps or on the basis of sex, race, or ethnic background in the educational programs or activities which it operates.



SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

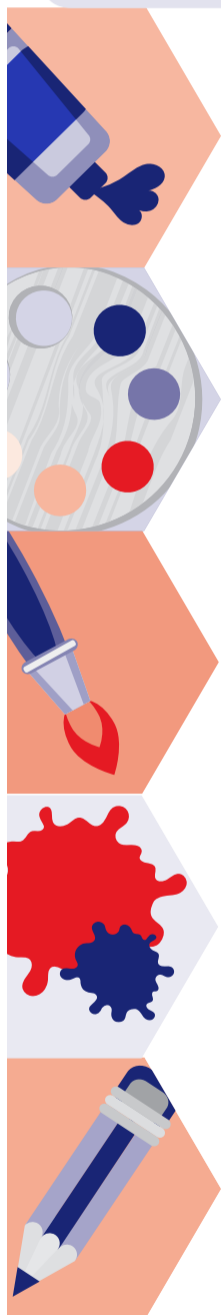
# DIGEST

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

## CRAFTING *Creative Minds*

Engaging Smithtown students in the fine arts is an important component in the district's overall educational experience. A comprehensive creative arts program helps to establish the building blocks for a well-rounded curriculum. Art and music teach students decision-making skills, to be creative, and how to interpret and use visual information.

"The arts are an integral component of society," said Michael Mastrangelo, director of fine arts. "In Smithtown, we recognize that arts education must be prioritized as essential subject matter for students to appreciate these experiences."

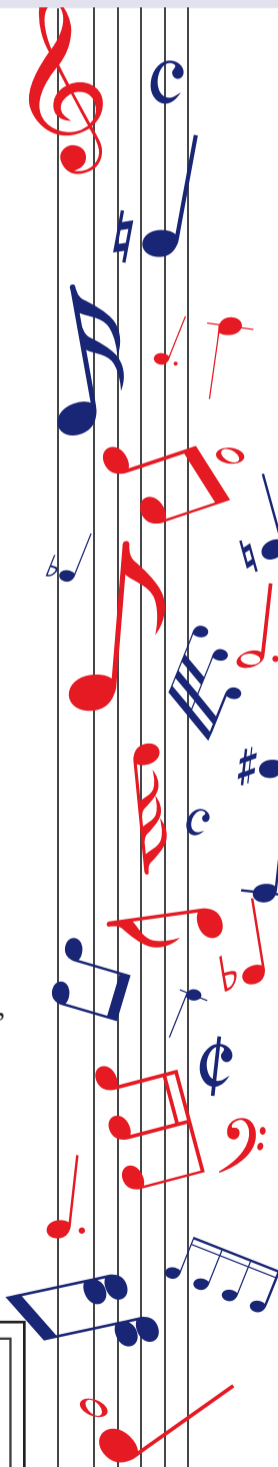


### *Artistic Expression*

Art education begins with the basic tools in the early elementary years, introducing students to a range of elements and mediums. Elementary students learn about color theory, perspective, positive and negative space, light and shadow, and elements of line and form using pencils, paints, chalk and more. Many elementary students have the opportunity to participate in artist-in-residence programs each year, working with a local artist to create a collaborative schoolwide work of art. Students can also explore their artistic expressions outside of the classroom by participating in after-school clubs such as dance, art, writing and theater/drama.

Transitioning to the middle school, student-artists move to new media and techniques as they learn about two- and three-dimensional drawings. Students delve deeper into the works of famous artists and learn how to replicate their styles using clay, pencils, pastels and more. Middle school students can also participate in before- and after-school programs and clubs that fuel their artistic side. Clubs for digital media, painting, artistic crafts, drama and writing, as well as a Chef's Club, are just some examples of middle school offerings.

On the high school level, those interested in the arts can branch out even further. The high school curriculum features classes such as ceramics, fashion illustration, film and video, computer art and design, and film history and criticism.



### *Musically Inclined*

When it comes to music, elementary students start with general music classes in kindergarten and are introduced to chorus, band and orchestra in the fifth grade. During general music, students learn critical listening skills and the fundamentals of reading and performing music (for example, melody, harmony, form and rhythm). They have the opportunity to experiment with different instruments and explore their musical abilities. Students also learn about how music connects with the different periods in history.

Each year, student-musicians are selected to perform at festivals across the county and state, as well as show off their abilities to family and friends in local performances. Even during the summer months, there are opportunities for budding student-musicians in grades 4-8 to hone their musical skills. Students work in small groups to fine-tune their skills before heading into the new school year.

As students progress to the middle school and high school, more opportunities become available to supplement their musical experiences. Band, orchestra and chorus meet daily as large ensembles and by instrument in rotational smaller settings. Middle school musicians can also choose to participate in different musical ensembles, such as jazz, brass, string chamber or select chorus. There's also an array of cocurricular activities for high school students such as brass ensemble, jazz band, pep band, pit band, chamber/jazz choir and chamber orchestra.

Theatrical and musical productions begin at the elementary level. Later, the middle and high school musicals afford students the opportunity to showcase their singing and musical abilities. Art students also have the chance to shine during the musical productions, taking part in the set, prop and costume designs.

Smithtown Central School District  
26 New York Avenue, Unit 1  
Smithtown, NY 11787

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\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*  
SMITHTOWN POSTAL CARRIER

To further enhance this newsletter, we have put together a short video highlighting our music and arts programs. Please use your smart phone to scan the QR code to the right or visit the newsletter section of our website.



# CRAFTING Cre

The music theory course deals solely with the mechanics of music and is designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of everything on the musical written page, such as all phases of rhythm, sight-reading, interval and chord reading, and the beginnings of analysis in four-part writing.

East musicians will once again perform at Carnegie Hall.

The Great Hollow Painter's Club is creating a mural in the Learning Center. At the request of a math teacher, the club is creating a mix of art and math by painting a landscape and a tree made entirely of triangles using warm and cool colors.

West students attended a New York Philharmonic rehearsal in Lincoln Center.



Eighth-graders at Accomsett Middle School created a theme skateboard design inspired by personal interests. The students made their compositions considering both positive and negative space, and used their knowledge of color blending and color theory to complete their skateboard designs.



The district is in the process of establishing art and music digital media labs at both high schools. This will permit students to have learning experiences using current technology that relates directly to potential career pathways. Visual art students are using computer programs to manipulate photographs and create three-dimensional objects and video. More recent areas of the media arts include game design, infographics and virtual reality. Music students are using notation and recording software to compose music.



The Drama Club is for those students who are passionate about theater, whether on stage or behind the scenes. The goal is to give all students a creative outlet to let their talents shine. Students have an opportunity to audition for various school theatrical productions throughout the year.

# Creative Minds

The Tri-M Honor Society assists the Music Department in advancing its exposure in the community, as well as raising funds and planning musical events to enhance the education of the music students.



Middle school students in the Digital Media Club use their filming, editing and production skills for a weekly segment that is featured on the school's website.

Students in grades 9-12 can participate in concert band, concert choir and concert orchestra. For more advanced student-musicians, symphonic band or orchestra is offered.

Theater Technical Club is a place to explore all aspects of theater support, from costuming to props, and assist with set design decisions based upon the actors' movements, fabrics, etc. The club assists with costuming for drama and musical productions.



Accompsett Elementary and HSW students participated in a shared art project. After the elementary students created their own "monster" artwork, high school students re-imagined the original creations.

High school computer art and design courses develop the role of computer technology as an art medium in the emerging field of digital media. Students are challenged to create projects that apply design principles and color theory reflective of the style of notable artists. Projects include animation, video game design, 3D printing, photography, web design, interactive media and more.

One hundred and thirty six student-musicians throughout the district were selected for this year's Suffolk County Music Educators Association's All-County Honors Ensembles.

