

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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Message*



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SEPT 2023



SUPERINTENDENT Message

Dear Smithtown School Community,

I hope this message finds you well! As we near the end of the first month of school, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few items of importance. I have been happy to hear a great deal of positive feedback about the various Back to School and Meet the Teacher nights. These are valuable opportunities for parents, guardians and our staff to forge the positive relationships that are essential for student success. I also want to sincerely thank our PTA's for all they do and encourage all of you to join if you haven't already.

Next, I wanted to provide you with a brief update regarding our Smithtown 2027 Strategic Plan. To continue the work necessary to realize the goals of our plan, we will be sending surveys to our parents/guardians, district staff and secondary students in November. These surveys will ask questions about their perceptions of the district, its schools and its departments. It will also address important topics such as engagement, health and well-being, communication, and support. Data collected from the surveys will provide the information that the district needs to systematically improve our learning and work environments.

I also want to remind you to read the letter, if you haven't already, that was sent home last week regarding internet safety, bullying and the district's response when threats occur. It can be found [HERE](#). It highlights the importance of positive decision making and the potential consequences of poor decisions. We sincerely hope it will motivate you to have a heart to heart conversation with your children about these important issues. We will be better able to succeed in these areas when the families and the district partner to provide a similar message. We appreciate your assistance and support as we look forward to an amazing school year!

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.



CURRICULUM CORNER

WELCOME BACK!

The SCSD welcomes all of our new and returning students!
Here's a look back at the first day of school, 2023!



CURRICULUM CORNER

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS!

High School East seniors Dylan Shen and Rishabh Dholakia and High School West senior Daniel Davidsen have been named 2024 National Merit Semifinalists!

The nationwide pool of semifinalists represented less than ONE percent of U.S. high school seniors.

Congratulations to our students and guidance counselors for this tremendous achievement!

National Merit Semifinalists



Dylan Shen and Rishabh Dholakia
High School East

National Merit Semifinalist



Daniel Davidsen
High School West

CAPSTONE CONGRATULATIONS!

Fifty High School West and High School East graduates have been recognized for their work in the AP Capstone Diploma program!

Fourteen were awarded the AP Capstone Diploma by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and on 4 additional AP Exams.

Thirty-six were awarded the AP Seminar and Research Certificate by earning scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research. All students were graduating seniors in the class of 2023.

Well done!



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

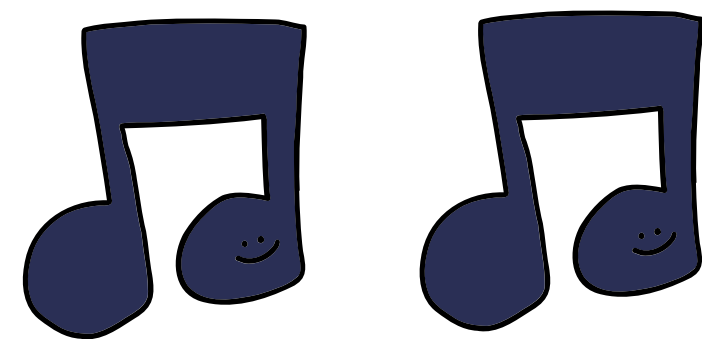
BEST IN STATE!

Tri-M Music Honor Society Chapter #1338 from High School West has been recognized as Chapter of the Year in New York State!

This is a very prestigious honor bestowed by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

Amazing job by Orchestra Director, Joseph Cotignola, and student officers, President, Stephen Jung, Vice President, David Rubin, Secretary, Anabelle Kreitzman, Public Relations, Justin Martin, Historian, James Corcoran and Treasurer, Katie Greening.

The Tri-M Music Honor Society is the only national honor society for student musicians in the country.



EQUATION EXCELLENCE!

What do you get when you add a team of math stars with a desire to help others? An award winning math society!

Congratulations to the High School East Math Honor Society and the advisors, Marianne Schoepflin and Angela Boccio-McComb, on winning the 2023 Diane Rubin Service Award from Mu Alpha Theta!

The Diane Rubin Award is presented to the Mu Alpha Theta chapter, which has a history of outstanding mathematics service to its community for at least two years. This service must promote interest in mathematics and benefit a group other than its own chapter.

The HSE Math Honor Society has given back to the SCSD with events like “Math Fun” night, “Bingo Night”, and tutoring for middle school students as well as fundraising events.

Along with a forthcoming plaque, HS East was awarded a \$5000 grant!



COMMUNITY NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

DR. MARY-ELLEN KAKALOS : Smithtown Elementary School Principal

Please give a warm welcome to the new principal of Smithtown Elementary School, Dr. Mary-ElLEN Kakalos!

Dr. Kakalos, who replaces Janine Lavery, who retired this past spring, has over 25 years of experience in education. She has served as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, literacy coach and most recently held the role of assistant principal at the Seaford Manor Elementary school.

Dr. Kakalos said, "I am looking forward to meeting the students, families, and staff at Smithtown Elementary and to all of the wonderful memories they will create together!"



BRIAN DOLAN: Accomsett MS Assistant Principal

Accompsett Middle School has a new Assistant Principal and his name is Brian Dolan! Brian told us, "I am excited to be in Smithtown because of the tradition of excellence."

For the past two years Brian was an assistant principal at Connetquot Central School District. He collaborated with another assistant principal to create a Connetquot Drug Education Awareness program to further establish relationships and help students make the right choices for their future.

Brian also has coached boys basketball, middle school football and golf in the Harborfields Central School District.

Welcome!



COMMUNITY NEWS

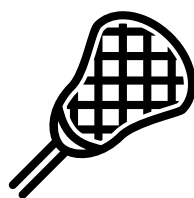
WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY...PART 2

A big welcome to all of the new faces joining the Smithtown Central School District this year! The new educators participated in an orientation program prior to the start of school.

We're looking forward to a great school year!



HOME SWEET HOME



He helped the Bulls as a player and now Matt Schultz will lead them as a coach! Matt is the new varsity lacrosse coach at High School West.

A 2012 graduate of HSW, Matt was an All-American lacrosse player. He then was a four-year starter at Stony Brook University and went on to play with the New York Lizards and Boston Cannons.

Matt was an assistant coach at HSW in 2018 and 2019 and coached at Babylon and Island Trees the last few years.



COMMUNITY NEWS

"GO GOLD" DAY

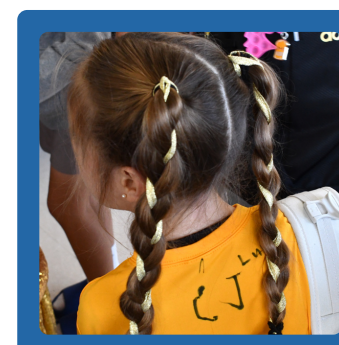
SCSD students, staff and parents participated in "Go Gold" Day on Friday, Sept. 22nd, to support the Lace Up for Kids campaign, part of the nonprofit Solving Kids' Cancer.

Rocking gold laces (or shoes, socks, ribbons, etc), the 'Lace Up for Kids' campaign in Smithtown is made possible thanks to Smithtown parent and Solving Kids Cancer advocate, Amy Beach, and her partnership with the Smithtown Central School District, under the leadership of SCSD Superintendent, Dr. Mark Secaur.

At Accomsett Elementary School, students were "changing" kids' lives by donating coins for the Lace Up for Kids Awareness Campaign!

For more information on Solving Kids' Cancer...click

[HERE](#)



SPORTS ZONE

Congratulations to the varsity sports teams at High School East and High School West on being recognized for their prowess in the classroom.

High School West has been recognized as a “School of Distinction” and High School East a “School of Excellence” by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

“The School of Excellence and School of Distinction Awards exemplify the mission of NYSPHSAA, education through interscholastic athletics,” said Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director. “It is amazing to see the commitment to academic excellence from the schools, administrators, coaches, and student-athletes.”

Overall there are more than 60 varsity teams at High School East and West.



For more great pictures and stories head to our website & social media pages! @smithtowncsd

