



# DIGEST

## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

### Spotlight on Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- **Real-world learning** – hands-on experiences in high-demand fields.
- **Industry certifications** – gain credentials that set them apart.
- **Cutting-edge facilities** – train with the latest technology.
- **Pathways to success** – prepare for careers or further education.

***“Our job as educators is to prepare our students for a future of their choosing.”***

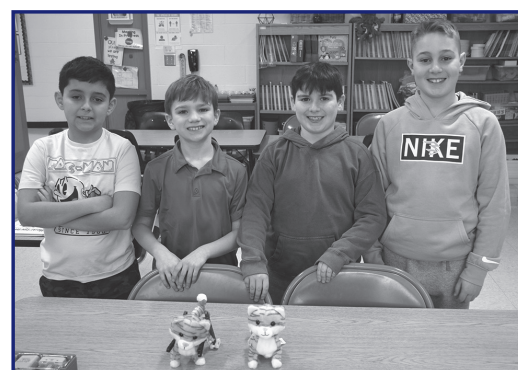
Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mark Secaur

## Pathways to *Success*

Students have a variety of paths to choose from when it comes to shaping their careers, from academic pursuits in sciences and humanities to creative and technical fields, each offering unique opportunities for growth and success. The Smithtown Central School District is extremely proud to highlight the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Smithtown CTE allows students to apply core learning to real-life experiences, to hone their technical skills and to successfully develop 21st-century skills to become a productive member of society.

Spearheaded by Christine LoFrese, director of career and technical education, the program provides students with valuable, hands-on learning experiences designed to prepare them for success in a wide range of careers. Through a comprehensive curriculum that combines classroom instruction with practical, real-world applications, students gain skills in fields such as health care, engineering, information technology, business and skilled trades. With access to state-of-the-art facilities, industry partnerships and expert instructors, the CTE program lets students explore their interests, earn industry certifications and graduate with the knowledge and experience necessary to enter the workforce or pursue further education.

“In technology we offer both ends of the spectrum; for those interested in the trades, we have courses in auto, construction, basic electricity, etc. For those interested in more technical fields we have courses in engineering, DDP, architecture, manufacturing, programming, robotics and cybersecurity,” LoFrese said. “We are teaching our students life skills in



*In conjunction with Project Lead The Way, fourth graders at Dogwood Elementary School were tasked with designing and testing a prosthetic device for a cat who lost its back legs. Collaboration, compromise and active listening were key skills required for success.*

family and consumer science, using math and problem-solving skills to complete projects. CTE provides students with not only career and academic skills, but soft skills that are needed for the workplace, such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, creativity and leadership.”

The career and technical education department in the Smithtown Central School District consists of three departments, business (grades 9-12), family and consumer science (grades 6-12) and technology (grades 6-12). The CTE department represents many of the elective opportunities in the district. Work experience and the Smithtown Industry Advisory Board are also included under the CTE umbrella.

New York State has also approved eligible students to receive endorsements/seals in marketing and accounting/finance within business, as well as human development and food/nutrition within family and consumer science. These endorsements demonstrate to colleges and employers that the student has met coursework and work experience requirements, a key focus of Smithtown’s CTE Department.



# BUILDING A PATH *Toward the Future*

The family and consumer sciences department offers courses that enable a student to succeed in their personal and professional lives. With our middle school and high school programs, we encourage an appreciation of each individual throughout the life cycle. Students in middle school are taking family and consumer sciences classes which focus on career exploration and matching jobs with brain skills and lifestyles.

Sixth graders are learning about time and stress management and getting hands-on sewing experiences. In seventh grade, our young learners are delving into consumerism and financial management, including learning about budgeting and bill paying. They're also being educated on nutrition and making healthy food and lifestyle choices as well as kitchen safety. Eighth graders are learning about topics such as health and nutrition, recipe reading, food safety, career choices and job interview skills.

The technology department courses are designed to introduce students to fields and career paths that they may not have known about, apply what they have learned in other classes to real-world problems and develop 21st-century skills. Smithtown High School's Technology Education classes have been incredibly productive and engaging.

The variety of hands-on experiences offered in our classes, from DIY: Home Improvement to our Project Lead The Way (PLTW) advanced engineering courses, provide students with practical skills and a glimpse into potential

career paths. DIY students renovating a wall in the robotics classroom is an impressive application of learned skills, and projects like bookshelves, American flags and keepsake boxes showcase creativity and craftsmanship from our woodshop courses. The automotive classes' real-world applications, like oil changes, and the problem-solving focus in PLTW engineering courses are great ways to prepare students for future challenges and opportunities. Our well-rounded program is invaluable for the students of Smithtown, enabling them to explore their interests and build confidence in their abilities while opening doors to future careers.

The Business Department offers more than 20 diverse courses over six career clusters: Accounting, Career Development, Computer Information Technology, Finance/Business Management, Foundation/Introductory, and Marketing. In addition, students can earn 45 college credits through the department.

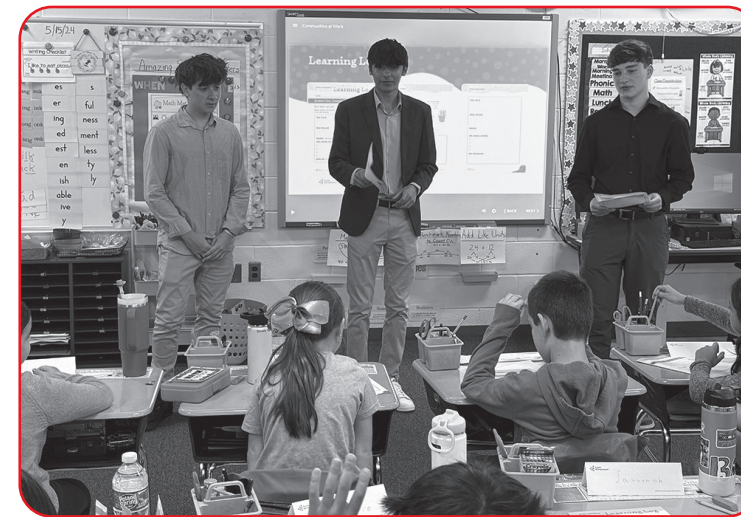
The business department exposes students to many different career opportunities through guest speakers, field trips and internships to provide them with real-world applications. In our introductory courses we provide students with those foundation skills, such as financial literacy, communication and teamwork. We have a robust Virtual Enterprise program where students run a virtual company using the skills they learned in other business courses, such as Accounting, Business Law and Marketing. The course prepares students for working in a real business environment.



Through an internship program with St. Catherine's Hospital, High School East and West students learn about all areas of the medical field and perform tasks with a mannequin.



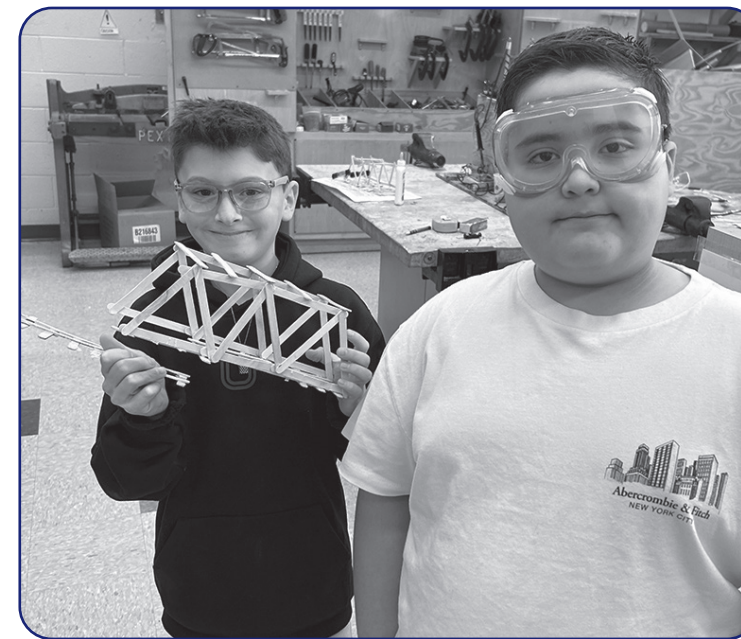
Middle School students are using technology in Project Lead The Way courses to experiment with aids for different parts of the body – elbows, knees, wrists and ankles.



For over 20 years the Smithtown IAB/Smithtown HS School of Business, in partnership with Junior Achievement, has coordinated the High School Heroes program which trains high school students to teach basic business/civic lessons to elementary school students in grades K-5.



High School East and West students enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences Baking 1 and Chef 1 classes participated in grilled cheese and cupcake competitions.



Students utilized engineering design principles, material science and statistics to create a truss load-bearing bridge.



The College Food Science classes at High School East and West once again held their annual Thanksgiving Feast. Each student personally invited one teacher of their choosing to join them for a shared holiday meal to show their gratitude and appreciation. Students chose the dishes to be served, researched the scientific concepts involved in each recipe, and then used their time management, collaboration and food preparation skills to execute the abundant menu.



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

# Attaining High-Level Proficiency

In today's interconnected world, students need skills that go beyond the classroom to stand out in college applications, careers and their communities. New York State offers two prestigious distinctions, the Seal of Civic Readiness and the Seal of Biliteracy, to recognize students who demonstrate excellence in civic engagement and multilingual proficiency. Whether through active participation in community initiatives or mastery of multiple languages, students who earn these seals showcase their readiness to lead, communicate and contribute in an ever-evolving society.

The New York State Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset and civic

experiences. Civic-ready students use civic knowledge, skills and mindsets to make decisions and take actions for themselves, their communities and the public good as members of a democratic society. Through the Seal of Civic Readiness Initiative, Smithtown High School students are provided with meaningful opportunities to develop specific civic knowledge, skills and mindsets, and to participate in authentic actions and experiences that are necessary for them to function as productive civic participants within their schools, communities, states, our country and the world. Attaining the Seal of Civic Readiness becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for these students and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admission.

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The NYSSB acknowledges the importance of being biliterate in today's global society. It highlights the hard work and achievement of students, and encourages them to pursue language study while in school, including the continued development of one's home language. The recognition of attaining biliteracy is also a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admission. Students can earn the NYSSB in any of the languages taught in Smithtown: American Sign Language, French, German, Italian and Spanish, as well as any other language spoken at home.



*As part of their Civic Capstone Project needed to complete to earn the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness, High School West students have been working with the Town of Smithtown to have sunscreen dispensers placed in the town parks.*



*Students attaining the New York State Seal of Biliteracy participate in a yearlong process with many components, including written essays, presentations and portfolios.*

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SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# DIGEST

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.