



# SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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**JUNE 2026**



# SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

As we wrap up the 2025-2026 school year, I have very much enjoyed attending the various awards nights, moving up ceremonies and school graduations. It is always fun to see the students recognized for their accomplishments, especially with their family and loved ones in attendance. We share in their pride and it gives us great satisfaction when we positively impact the trajectory of the students in our care.

These events provide us all with an annual reminder of the importance of our work and the progress our students make during their time in the Smithtown Central School District. Our annual aspiration for the graduating students is that they are well prepared for the future of their choosing and we are confident that we met that goal. We believe they are ready, and we all look forward to hearing of their future successes.

As we begin the summer in earnest, I truly hope that each and every one of you has the opportunity this summer to spend quality time with loved ones and enjoy all that Long Island has to offer.

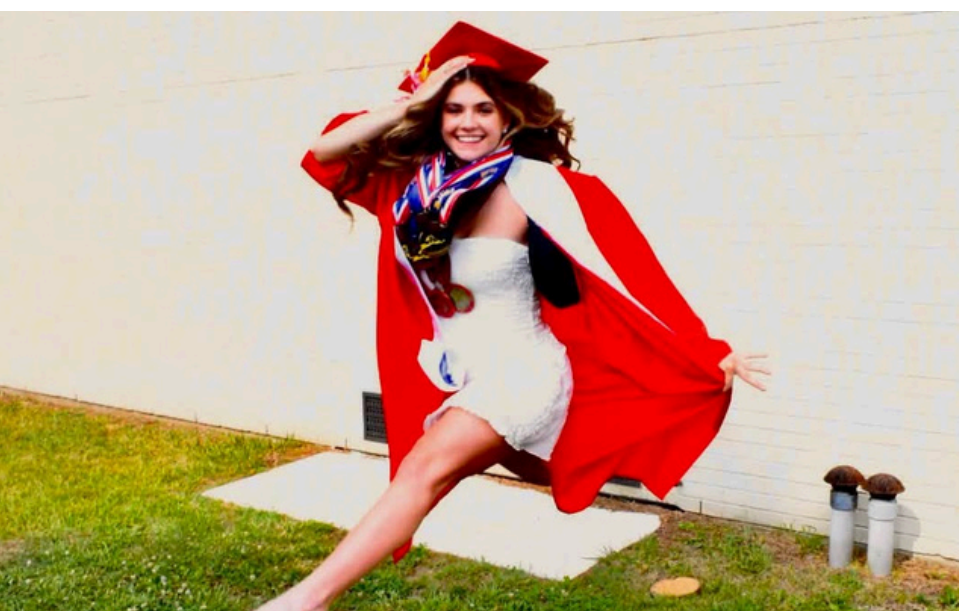
We also hope you enjoy this month's edition of the BULLETIN!

Sincerely,  
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.





**Congratulations to the graduating class of 2026! On June 26, High School East and West seniors turned their tassels and tossed their caps into the air. Approximately 680 seniors comprised the Class of 2026 as they enjoyed a wonderful commencement ceremony. The day was filled with many hugs, rounds of applause and a few tears of joy as our seniors celebrated their milestone achievement. Congratulations to our students and their families!**



# CURRICULUM CORNER



## MOVING UP!



Congratulations to our students who celebrated their Elementary “Moving Up” ceremonies at Dogwood, St. James, Smithtown, Accomsett, Mills Pond, Mt. Pleasant, Tackan, and Middle School Moving Up at Nesaquake, Accomsett and Great Hollow!



# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## TOP OF THE

The Smithtown East and West World Language Achievement Awards celebrated students for their linguistic proficiency, cultural engagement and academic excellence.

These students have earned the prestigious World Language Academic Achievement Award, which recognizes their outstanding commitment and excellence throughout their language learning journey. This honor is a testament to their dedication, which has resulted in the highest level of academic success in the study of world languages and cultures.

Students also received their New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB). The NYSSB recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The NYSSB takes the form of a seal on the student's diploma and a medallion worn at graduation.



## SCIENCE STARS!

Smithtown High School West hosted its annual Senior Science Awards and Symposium, a premier event dedicated to recognizing the exceptional achievements, dedication, and innovations of the graduating class's top science students. The memorable evening brought together educators, families, and peers to celebrate student success across three areas: academic excellence in specific science disciplines, the completion of the PLTW Biomedical Science pathway, and original projects showcased by science research students.



## SWEET SUCCESS!



More than 250 talented musicians from High School East and High School West enjoyed an unforgettable weekend at the Music in the Parks Festival in Hershey, Pennsylvania, combining outstanding musical achievement with memorable experiences at Hersheypark.

Representing High School East, the Concert Choir, under the direction of Mr. Mark Hegreness, earned a Superior rating in its division. The Symphonic Orchestra, led by Mr. Brian McCoy, received a Superior rating and captured First Place in its division. The Symphonic Band, under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer Leavy, also earned a Superior rating, First Place in its division, and was recognized as the Best Overall Band of the festival.

High School West musicians also delivered exceptional performances. The Concert Choir, directed by Mr. James Brosnan, the Symphonic Band, directed by Mr. Frank Scheno, and the Symphonic Orchestra, directed by Mr. Joseph Cotignola, each earned the festival's highest distinction: a Superior rating. The Symphonic Orchestra went on to earn First Place in its category and was named Best Overall Orchestra of the entire festival—an impressive accomplishment in a highly competitive field.

The Smithtown Central School District extends its congratulations to all of the student musicians who represented their schools and community with excellence, dedication, and outstanding character. The district also thanks the teachers, staff members, and chaperones whose commitment and support made this memorable experience possible.



# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## ON TRACK FOR A CURE!



From dusk until dawn, the track at Smithtown High School West became a symbol of hope and determination as students from High School East and High School West recently came together for the annual Relay For Life event.

The 12-hour fundraiser was held overnight from Saturday into Sunday and raised more than \$83,000 to support the fight against cancer through the American Cancer Society.

Relay For Life is a team-based fundraising event in which participants take turns walking around the track throughout the night. The event serves as the culmination of months of fundraising and awareness efforts led by students from both high schools.

A hallmark of Relay For Life is the commitment to keep at least one team member on the track at all times, representing the reality that cancer never rests. In the same spirit, participants continue walking through the night in honor of those battling the disease and in memory of those who have been lost.

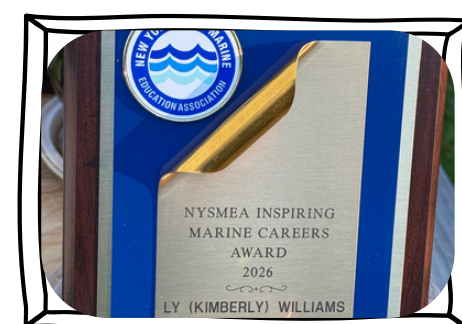


## MAKING SOME WAVES

Kimberly Williams, Marine and Earth and Space Science teacher at Smithtown High School West has received the Inspiring Marine Careers Award from the New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA). Williams was honored at NYSMEA's annual conference, hosted at Stony Brook University.

The award highlights educators who champion career readiness in the marine sciences. By introducing students to professional networks, internships, and advanced laboratory techniques, Williams bridges the gap between the classroom and real-world scientific careers.

"We are incredibly proud of Ms. Williams for receiving this well-deserved honor," said Dr. Stephanie O'Brien, Director of Science. "Her passion for marine biology inspires our students to become stewards of our local waterways, and her work with the Long Island Sound Schools Network ensures Smithtown remains a leader in marine science education."



## AN EQUATION OF EXCELLENCE!

Frankie Stollberger, a seventh grader at Great Hollow Middle School, has been accepted into the prestigious Institute for Creative Problem Solving at Stony Brook University, a highly selective STEM program for exceptional young mathematicians, scientists, and engineers. Frankie previously earned recognition as part of one of Long Island's select finalist teams in the First in Math Statewide Competition in Albany and was recently honored by the Board of Education for that achievement. "Frankie, your grit, curiosity, and exceptional problem-solving skills have brought you to this moment," said Director of Math Angelica Babino, who praised his accomplishments and bright future ahead.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## NO YOLK! AN EGGS-CELLENT TIME!

The annual fifth-grade Egg Drop, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) project) at Mt. Pleasant Elementary was "eggscellent"!

Students worked hard individually and in groups designing a strong container for an egg to survive a drop from a 50-foot and 75-foot fire truck ladder. 19 eggs survived the fall!

Thank you to our local Fire Department for helping launch our eggs.



## BACK TO THE STONE AGE!

Great Hollow Middle School sixth grade students recently visited the Cold Spring Harbor DNA Learning Center to explore the fascinating world of the Neolithic Era, also known as the New Stone Age, through the incredible story of Ötzi the Iceman.

From examining what Ötzi's body, clothing, and tools reveal about ancient life, to participating in hands-on DNA extraction labs, students became real-life history detectives and scientists for the day!



## JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

There are several openings in the Smithtown Central School District. Those interested can submit a letter, resume, and two professional references to Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Neil Katz at: [employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us](mailto:employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us)

**WE'RE HIRING - JOIN OUR TEAM!**

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR  
✓ SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF!

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONITORS:**  
shifts are 2:25-2:55 hours per day between 11:45 AM-2:15 PM  
\$37.00 per hour

**FOOD SERVICE WORKERS:**  
\$17.42 per hour

**SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDES:**  
various shifts available for all levels including elementary,  
middle and high schools - \$20.75 per hour - minimum 3 hours per day

SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY

Send a resume and letter of interest to: [employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us](mailto:employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us) or call (631) 382-2170 for more information



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## A BENCHMARK FOR KINDNESS

The Smithtown High School East SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club recently designed and donated a Buddy Bench to St. James Elementary, creating a welcoming space where students can connect with one another and ensure that no one feels left out.

The project began when High School East Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Connie Smith, approached St. James Elementary Principal, Adam Javidi, about bringing a Buddy Bench to St. James Elementary. Around that same time, fifth-grade student Mackenzie Stevenson also shared a willingness to bring a Buddy Bench to SJE. The next step was to build the bench.

Students in the High School East Technology Honor Society got to work building the bench and the SADD students painted and designed it. Mackenzie contributed meaningful artwork and inspirational quotes that were incorporated into the final design.

The Buddy Bench initiative was spearheaded by SADD President Addy Agliato and Vice President Olivia Granaban, who developed the concept and design alongside fellow club members.

This endeavor supports a core principle of The Smithtown Promise—You Belong Here.

Read more about The Smithtown Promise [HERE](#).



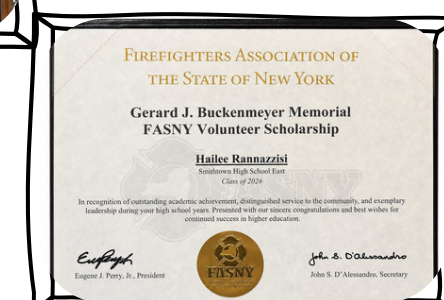
## COMMUNITY DEDICATION!

High School East senior Hailee Rannazzisi was recently recognized by the St. James Fire Department for her academic achievements and her unwavering service to the community.

Hailee, an EMS provider, was honored by FASNY with the Gerald J. Buckenmeyer Memorial Scholarship.

Hailee's journey began in the Junior Fire Department, where her dedication and drive quickly stood out. Today, she continues that commitment as an extremely active member of our EMS Ambulance Company, responding to calls with professionalism and compassion.

Hailee is a fourth-generation volunteer with the St. James Volunteer Fire Department, proudly carrying forward a family tradition of helping others. We are incredibly proud of Hailee for earning this well-deserved honor. We look forward to hearing about your continued success in higher education. Congratulations, Hailee, on your well-deserved honor and thank you for your service to our community!



# SPORTS ZONE

## BULLS RUN FOR THE GOLD! 🏆🐂🔥

For the first time since 2015, (when SCSD Director of Athletics Jason Lambert was the head coach), the Smithtown High School East boys' lacrosse team are county champions!

Sophomore Brock Bernhardt scored the game winning goal with 37 seconds left to lead the Bulls to an 8-7 win over West Islip in the Class B Suffolk County championship on Saturday, May 30 at Stony Brook University.

Congratulations to the team and head coach Kevin Huff, who won a county championship as head coach of the Bulls in 2003!

The following weekend, the Bulls stormed back from a 7-1 deficit to Manhasset in the Long Island Championship game before falling in a heartbreaker, 10-9.

Hold your heads high, Bulls!



## COUNTY FINALISTS!

For the fourth straight year, the Smithtown High School West girls lacrosse team made it to the Suffolk County championship, but unfortunately the Bulls fell to Westhampton Beach, 13-9, in the title game on Sunday at Stony Brook University.

An amazing season nonetheless for HSW and a bright future remains!



## SHINING LIKE A



At just 16 years old, Smithtown High School East sophomore Diamond Armello is making his mark as one of the top young Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competitors in the world. Ranked No. 2 by the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) for both 2024 and 2025, Diamond has turned years of dedication and determination into international success.

Through daily training, Diamond earned his blue belt at just 15 years old, and has competed across the United States and around the world, including Brazil, Portugal, Ireland, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Colombia, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

When asked the secret to his success, Diamond says it's no secret: "Practice. I train every day of the week."

Looking ahead, Diamond says he hopes to continue competing at the highest levels and one day open his own Jiu-Jitsu studio to mentor the next generation of athletes.

Diamond's story has been featured in the New York Post and on FOX5 NY!

