

SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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MAY 2025



SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

I sincerely hope that you enjoyed Memorial Day weekend and the wonderful weather we had. It is important that we all pause, reflect and honor America's military heroes who lost their lives in service to our country.

I would like to thank the community for its support of our school district budget for 2025-2026. Your support will enable us to maintain our impressive course offerings as well as all of the programs and supports that help our students to thrive. I also would like to congratulate Bernadette Ackerman, Theresa Donohue and Brandon Solomon on their election to the Board of Education. Mr. Solomon is assuming the trustee position that was vacated by Mr. Savoretti and was sworn in last Tuesday. I look forward to working with all of them.

Whether your children are in elementary, middle or high school, this is a very exciting time of year. Each of our schools have a number of celebratory events that bring our students joy and I hope to share many of them with you, our staff, and most importantly, our students.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition!

Sincerely,
Dr. Secaur



CURRICULUM CORNER

Schools of Distinction

The Smithtown Central School District is proud to announce that Project Lead The Way (PLTW) has recognized all of our elementary and middle schools as 2024-2025 PLTW Distinguished Schools!

This is the eighth consecutive year all seven of our elementary schools have been designated as Distinguished Launch Schools, which is based on our PLTW Launch program in the 2023-2024 school year. Our elementary schools represent seven of only 16 in New York State to be recognized. For the seventh consecutive year, all three of our middle schools have been designated as Distinguished Gateway Schools, which is based on our PLTW Gateway program in the 2023-2024 school year. Our middle schools represent three of only eight in New York State to be recognized.

"We are honored for this recognition and thankful for our partnership with Project Lead the Way," stated Smithtown Central School District Superintendent, Dr. Mark Secaur. "Providing this type of hands-on, experiential learning is crucial because it allows our students to be able to connect theories and knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world situations."



The Pancake Principal

As a reward for having the most PARP reading minutes, first graders at Mt. Pleasant Elementary were served a pancake breakfast courtesy of Principal Ierano!

No pancakes were dropped in the making of this breakfast



LEARNING ABOUT MEMORIAL DAY

Second graders at Dogwood have been learning about Memorial Day and how it is a special time to remember the brave men and women in the armed forces who have helped keep our country safe. These heroes showed courage and strength to protect our freedom. Students honored them by saying thank you and remembering what they did for us. Their drawings show our gratitude and love for those who served.



CURRICULUM CORNER

WORLD LANGUAGE ECCELLENZA

Students from Ms. Barricelli's Italian classes at Accomsett Middle School participated in the Annual American Association Teachers of Italian (AATI) Poetry and Song Competition. The event took place at Hofstra University and was open to students from all over Long Island in grade levels 6 to 12.

The competitors included: 7th grader Sienna Brady and 8th graders Dylan Verga, Eitan Rubric, Liubomyr Budash, Julia Lovejoy and Ivy Casalino.

Ivy won 3rd Place for singing in the Contemporary Song category!

The World Language Department would like to thank all students who competed in the event and is very proud of their hard work, dedication and focus!



ROTARY CLUB AWARDS

Fifteen students from High School East and High School West were Smithtown Rotary Club award recipients this month.

Every district high school guidance counselor recommended one student who has overcome significant obstacles or adversity to excel in school.

Smithtown High School East Assistant Principal Mike Aleci led off the ceremony by telling the students, "We are here to acknowledge your journey. Your journey is a testament to your character...You are the true embodiment of what it means to be a student and a role model."

For more on the ceremony, click [HERE](#).

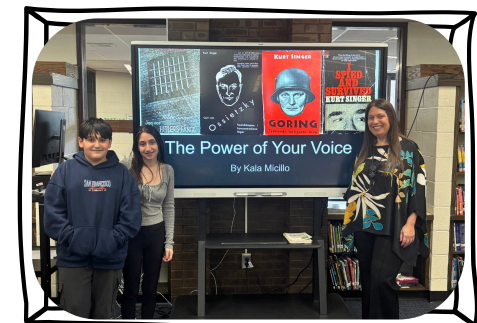


THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE

Accompsett Middle School students recently received two moving and important presentations regarding the Holocaust.

Ms. Micillo, a Smithtown Central School District parent, recently visited AMS to present "The Power of Your Voice" to eighth grade students. Ms. Micillo presented her grandparents' story and how they used their voices admirably by beginning an underground paper against Hitler in Berlin.

Students also had the pleasure of seeing actors from Theatre Three present, "Voices from the Fire," the story of two young Jewish girls living through the reign of Hitler and the persecution of the Jewish people.



SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

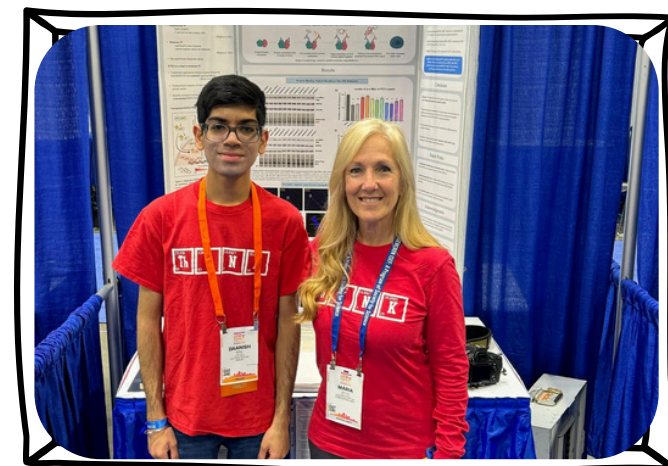
DAANISH TAKES ON THE WORLD...AND WINS!

Smithtown High School East senior, Daanish Bassi, has just returned from the world's largest international STEM research competition for high school students, and Daanish did not disappoint!

The top STEM students from around the world competed in Columbus, Ohio, for the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, and Daanish earned fourth place in the WORLD his category of Cellular & Molecular Biology. Over 2,000 students from around the world competed with their scientific research in 22 categories.

Daanish's research titled, "Assessing Novel RIPK2-MKK7 Interaction Inhibitors in Prostate Cancer Cell Lines," focused on investigating the inhibition of a protein-protein interaction in a lethal disease, metastatic prostate cancer.

Congratulations to Daanish, Science Research Coordinator, Maria Zeitlin, and Director of Science, Dr. Stephanie O'Brien, for this wonderful accomplishment.



SCIENCE CONGRESS, HERE HE COMES!

High School West senior Joey Davide has been nominated to present his ecology research at the State Science Congress in Syracuse. Joey finished in the top three in the Ecology category of the Long Island Science Congress out of 93 projects.

Joey investigated the effects of common plastic substitutes, BPS and BPF, on marine organisms. His project is titled "The Ecological Effects of Bisphenol F and Bisphenol S".

The NYS Science Congress is a culminating event for students who have been given high honor recognition by a NYS regional science fair.



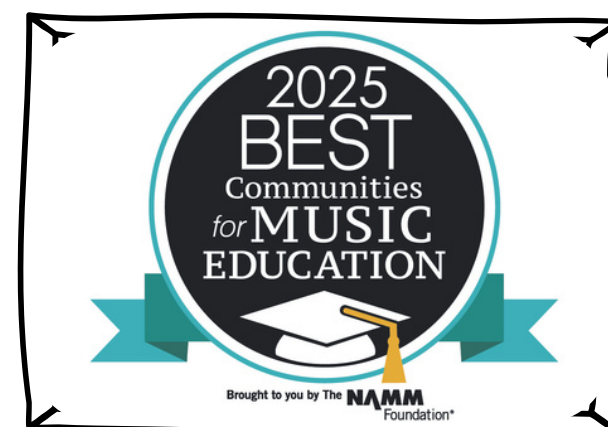
SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

MUSIC TO OUR EARS!



The Smithtown Central School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for their outstanding support and commitment to music education.

“This national recognition would not be possible without our talented and dedicated music educators, administrators, and the supportive Smithtown music community,” said Smithtown Director of Fine Arts, Victoria Hartman. “I am proud to acknowledge the profound impact that music education has on our students here at Smithtown. Receiving this designation further validates our commitment to a quality K-12 music program.”



DHARAHAS DIGS DNA

Smithtown High School East junior, Dharahaas Nalla, has placed 3rd out of more than 1,200 participants worldwide in the American Society of Human Genetics DNA Essay Contest. This year, students weighed the risks and benefits of using artificial intelligence (AI) in genetic testing.

The contest included 45 states and 59 countries.

For his efforts, Dharahaas has earned \$400.



ENVIROTHON EXCELLENCE!

Smithtown West's Envirothon team has made history!

The team, consisting of seniors Joey Davide, Sierra Needham, Emma Phillips, and Sydnie Vogel as well as freshman Kiera Flynn, took first place in the regional Envirothon, beating over a dozen other teams.

This was Smithtown West's first entry into the Envirothon.

The Envirothon is an environmental competition for high school students in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The students have now advanced to the state level competition.



COMMUNITY NEWS

THANK YOU, MOMS! ❤️

SCSD held a variety of fun events to celebrate mothers during the week of Mother's Day. From "Mother's Day Tea" to crafts to singalongs, we felt the love!

Click [HERE](#) to see a special Mother's Day video, courtesy of our young students!

BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION!

Dogwood Elementary School Principal Renee Carpenter welcomed Dogwood's school bus drivers for Dogwood Elementary's annual "Bus Driver Appreciation" breakfast.

Kindergarten students sang "Wheels On The Bus" for our drivers while the fifth grade news broadcasting club presented a thank you video. The Dogwood leadership club created snack gift bags for all the drivers to take with them as part of their community service project.

ESSAY EXCELLENCE!

Please join us in celebrating Great Hollow Middle School 8th grader, Patrick Citera, whose essay submission in the Ancient Order of Hibernians' "Irish History Writing Contest" placed 1st in his Division Level and 2nd at the County level!

Congratulations, Patrick!

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



WE ARE
HIRING!

JOIN
OUR TEAM

Special Education Aides: various shifts available for all levels including elementary, middle and high schools.
\$20.39 per hour. Minimum 3 hours per day.

Elementary School Monitors: shifts are 2.25-2.5 hours per day between 11:45 AM-2:15 PM. \$17.00 per hour.

Food Service Worker and Custodial Worker positions also available.

- > NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- > WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR
- > SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF

SEND A RESUME AND LETTER OF INTEREST TO: EMPLOYMENT@SMITHTOWN.K12.NY.US
TO APPLY OR CALL: (631) 882-2179 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SCAN
QR CODE
TO APPLY



COMMUNITY NEWS

POLICE APPRECIATION



The Smithtown Central School District would like to thank the men and women of law enforcement who, every single day, lead, protect, serve and put their own lives at risk to keep us safe. We are very proud of our partnership with the Suffolk County Police Department.

We once again honored our law enforcement community during National Police Week by welcoming officers into our schools and greeting them with cards, gifts, songs and much more!

The highlight of the week was the annual Police Appreciation event held by Dogwood Elementary School. [WATCH!](#)



HSW MUSICIANS HONOR AND ENJOY!

Students of the High School West Chamber Orchestra and Tri-M Music Honor Society Chapter #1338 had the honor to perform for residents of the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University.

A special thank you to Smithtown senior, Sydnie Vogel and Rho Kappa for arranging this performance and our Master of Ceremonies Tri-M President, Kevin Castellano.

Members of the Tri-M also enjoyed a stunning performance of the 2019 Tony Award winning sensation Hometown on Broadway at the Walter Kerr Theater. Prior to the show, students enjoyed a feast at Carmine's Italian Restaurant in Times Square as well as a leisurely stroll in Central Park to view the famous Bethesda Fountain.

Thank you to all of the Tri-M Officers, members, advisor Mr. Cotignola, and chaperones Mrs. Castellano, Mrs. Stallone and Mr. Scheno who made this day truly unforgettable!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY HELA!

Hela Ressa loves to knit and crochet. She loves it so much that she has taught the skill to thousands of yearning learners for more than 25 years in Smithtown. It was only fitting that her adult students celebrate her upcoming 100th birthday with a surprise party before her adult ed class at the Smithtown administration building. She turns 100 on June 19.

Superintendent, Dr. Mark Secaur shared a letter with Hela congratulating her accomplishments. The letter read in part, "Your hands have crafted far more than scarves and sweaters....Through your lessons, we've learned to slow down, to create with purpose, and to find joy in the quiet rhythm of our craft...you have made a lasting difference in the lives of so many."



SPORTS ZONE

BADMINTON'S BEST! 🏆

Introducing the SCSD's first ever Section XI Individual County Champion in badminton, High School East's Nicole Clemans! The senior completed a 2-0 sweep in the finals of the Section XI county championship. Congratulations to Nicole and Head Coach Jon Hart.

Bravo to East athletes Cole Schmideler and Ava Valenzano for competing in the championships.

Special shout out to our boys Coach Mike Menendez and the boys team for their support!



WAY TO GO, MR. LAMBERT!

Smithtown Central School District Director of Athletics, Jason Lambert, has received the Emerging Athletic Administrator Award from his colleagues at Section XI.

Lambert was hired as district AD in 2022, and has served the Smithtown community for nearly two decades as an educator and coach.

Very well deserved!



GRIDIRON GREATS!

Congratulations to Smithtown High School East student-athlete, Cole Bisca, on his selection to the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Team, and Smithtown High School West student-athlete, Gavin German, on his selection to the National Football Foundation prestigious Golden Eleven Team!

The Scholar Athlete team acknowledge academic achievements, athletic prowess, and community involvement. The Golden Eleven team recognized Gavin as one of the county's top 11 football scholar athletes.

Congratulations!



COLE BISCA
HSE

GAVIN GERMAN
HSW

