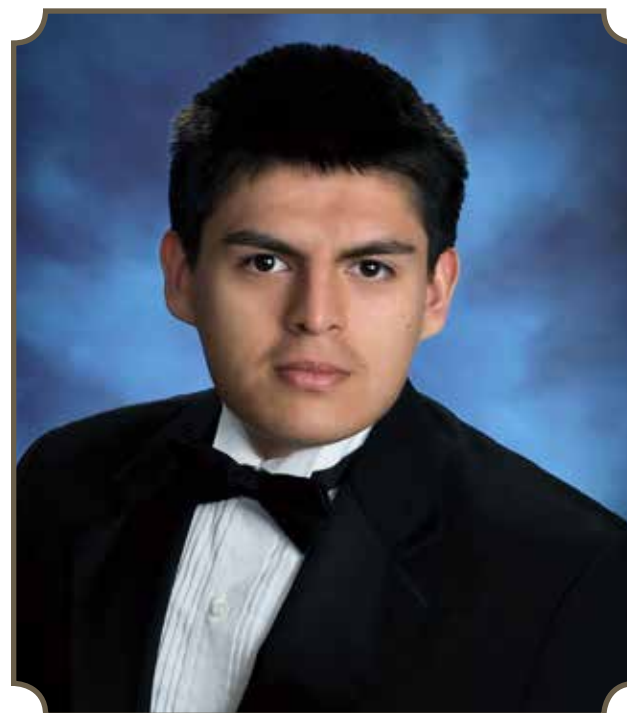




The Bridgehampton School

Spring 2024
Newsletter



INTRODUCING OUR CLASS OF 2024 *Valedictorian and Salutatorian*

The Bridgehampton School takes great pride in introducing our 2024 valedictorian, Kimberly Villa, and salutatorian, Justin Urgiles. These students epitomize academic excellence, embodying the culmination of 13 years of unwavering dedication, hard work, and scholarly pursuit.

As they prepare to embark on their next chapter following graduation this June, Kimberly's academic journey leads her towards a pursuit of law at the collegiate level. Beyond academics, she shines as the captain of our varsity cheerleading team, spearheads the child care program at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork in Bridgehampton, and serves as president of the Dream Team community organization, dedicated to sponsoring teen programs. In her spare time, she selflessly volunteers for the Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons, further demonstrating her commitment to the community.

Meanwhile, Justin's passion for computer science steers his academic trajectory. Engaged in various extracurricular activities at Bridgehampton, he is an active member of the Vex robotics club and a dedicated participant in two travel soccer teams with Elite Soccer Long Island. Additionally, he is enrolled in a program that will award him a certificate in Python upon completion of Introduction to Computer Science, showcasing his dedication and enthusiasm for the field.

"The dedication to academic excellence that Kimberly and Justin have shown throughout their educational journey has truly yielded remarkable results. We are so happy for them, and we wholeheartedly wish them continued success as they embark on their future endeavors."

– Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary T. Kelly

A Look Inside Our Classrooms

Chemistry Class

As part of their immersive learning experience, students in Mr. Michael Sherman's chemistry class recently conducted a groundbreaking laboratory experiment. Their investigation focused on determining the percentage of water by mass in a crystal hydrate, showcasing their practical application of theoretical knowledge. Our robust chemistry program is open to 10th and 11th grade students, and is recommended for those with future aspirations in the sciences, including nursing, pharmacology, or medicine, so that they can build a solid foundation for their future academic pursuits.



Pi Day (3.14)

As part of our annual Pi Day festivities, sixth-grade teacher Julianna Pronesti organized an engaging competition in her classroom: a challenge to memorize and recite the most digits of pi, with the enticing reward of the opportunity to "pie" her in the face! This year, sixth-grader Zoe Urgiles emerged victorious, astonishing everyone by memorizing an impressive 100 digits of pi, a feat unmatched by any previous sixth-grader. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Pronesti for her spirited participation in front of an enthusiastic audience of students.

Meanwhile, the rest of the school embraced the Pi Day celebrations in various ways. In the College Statistics course, a dual enrollment course with Suffolk County Community College, students embarked on a unique exploration throughout the school grounds in search of circles. Armed with an array of tools, they meticulously recorded estimations for the diameter and circumference of these circles. Employing advanced techniques such as linear regression and leveraging technology, students crafted a sophisticated least-squares regression model. Through rigorous analysis, they concluded that regardless of the circle's size, the relationship between diameter and circumference remained linear, showcasing their adept understanding of mathematical principles in a practical context.

Washington, D.C.

Students in the eighth grade class embarked on their annual journey to Washington, D.C., immersing themselves in the rich tapestry of our nation's capital. Their itinerary included the White House, the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Washington Monument, each unveiling layers of American history and heritage. They also delved into the intriguing world of espionage at the International Spy Museum, explored the narratives of resilience and triumph at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and explored the diverse facets of American life at the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

The trip, made possible through the generous contributions of members of our community and from the proceeds of our pickleball tournament in January, afforded the students an invaluable educational experience. It provided them with a tangible connection to the roots of our nation's foundation, fostering a deeper understanding of its significance. As they concluded their journey with a leisurely visit to Pentagon City Mall on Friday, the students carried with them not just memories, but a newfound appreciation for the mosaic of stories that shape our collective identity. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who steadfastly support the Hive, ensuring that such transformative experiences continue to enrich the lives of our students.



Staying Active, Staying Healthy

Ice Skating All Winter Long!

Thanks to a generous donation from Douglas and Kathryn DeGroot, students in our second through fifth grade classes were able to glide across the ice at Buckskill Winter Club in East Hampton. Provided with ice time, skates, and helmets, our students embarked on an exhilarating journey of learning and fun. Guided by the expertise of physical education teacher Steve Meyers, January and February became months of skill development, as students refine their balance and coordination on the ice.



Islanders Floorball Program

This year, our district had the honor of being selected once again to take part in the New York Islanders' Floor Ball Program, marking our second consecutive participation. Designed to introduce students to the exhilarating world of hockey, this program not only brings the excitement of the game but also instills its rich history. Generously, the New York Islanders bestowed nearly \$1,000 worth of brand-new, Islanders-branded equipment and curriculum, empowering us to implement our own engaging hockey unit. With eager anticipation, students received the gear from the Islanders' staff, their enthusiasm palpable as they prepared to dive into this exciting opportunity.

Basketball Beehive at the Knicks Game

Earlier this month, Bridgehampton School partnered with the Ross School for an unforgettable field trip to catch a New York Knicks basketball game. Adding to the excitement, our middle school boys' and girls' basketball teams had the honor of showcasing their skills on the iconic court of Madison Square Garden in a thrilling exhibition match. This electrifying experience left a lasting impression on our students, igniting their passion and fueling their aspirations to elevate our high school basketball program to new heights.



Postal Customer
Bridgehampton, NY 11932



D.A.R.E.

Our fifth graders embarked on an empowering journey as they met with Officer Eugene LaFurno from the Southampton Town Police Department to kick off the D.A.R.E. program. This initiative, facilitated by dedicated police officers, delivers a series of impactful classroom sessions aimed at equipping children with invaluable skills to navigate peer pressure and embrace lives free from drugs and violence. Over the course of 10 engaging lessons, our fifth-grade class will delve into the core principles of resilience and decision-making. Culminating in a D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony led by Officer LaFurno, this program stands as an integral component of our students' social-emotional development, nurturing their ability to make informed and positive choices.



What Is SEL?

Social-emotional learning (SEL) stands at the forefront of modern educational methodologies, striving to nurture vital social and emotional competencies within school curricula. In its essence, SEL elevates the significance of these skills alongside traditional academic subjects like math, science, and reading. Central to its philosophy is the recognition of preparing students for their roles as informed, conscientious members of society as they transition into adulthood. Within our district, the integration of SEL practices represents a concerted effort to provide comprehensive support for our students' holistic development.

School counselor Ryan Barker describes SEL as “a foundation for success and an integral part of adolescent development. SEL is the process in which students acquire and apply the knowledge and skills to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, establish and maintain relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. SEL creates learning environments to maximize our students' potential and to empower them to thrive in school and within the community.”

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Vinski, *President*

Angela Chmielewski

Kathleen McClelland

Dr. Mary T. Kelly

Superintendent of Schools

Jo Ann Comfort, *Vice President*

Carla Lillie

Markanthony Verzosa

Tammy Cavanaugh

District Clerk

