

COPIAGUE *Connections*

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



New 1:1 Initiative Supports 21ST-CENTURY LEARNERS

Technology and the ability to access educational resources are particularly important during these uncertain times. With that in mind, the District placed an order for Chromebooks in early spring. The 1:1 initiative

would ensure every student could be equipped to learn whether in school or remotely with access to the internet, digital materials and textbooks.

The students at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School have been equipped with their Chromebooks since the start of the school year, as they have been on a remote learning schedule since September.

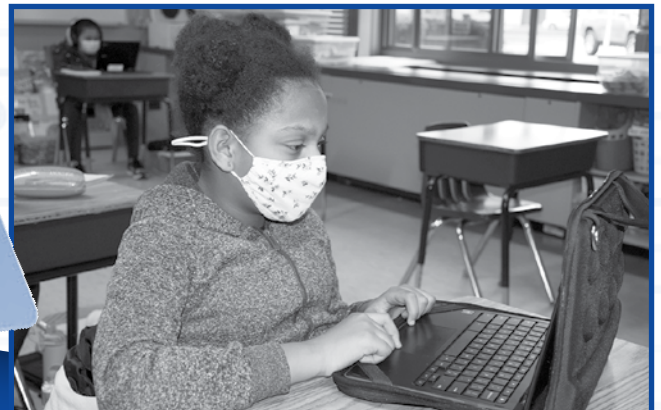
Following a manufacturer backorder, the District received

the remaining Chromebooks in October and began deploying them by grade level. By mid-November, all students had received their Chromebooks and were familiarizing themselves with the different technologies. The younger grade levels are spending more time with their Chromebooks in the classrooms to become comfortable using the devices. Kindergarten students, who have in-person instruction daily, will be keeping their Chromebooks in the classroom.

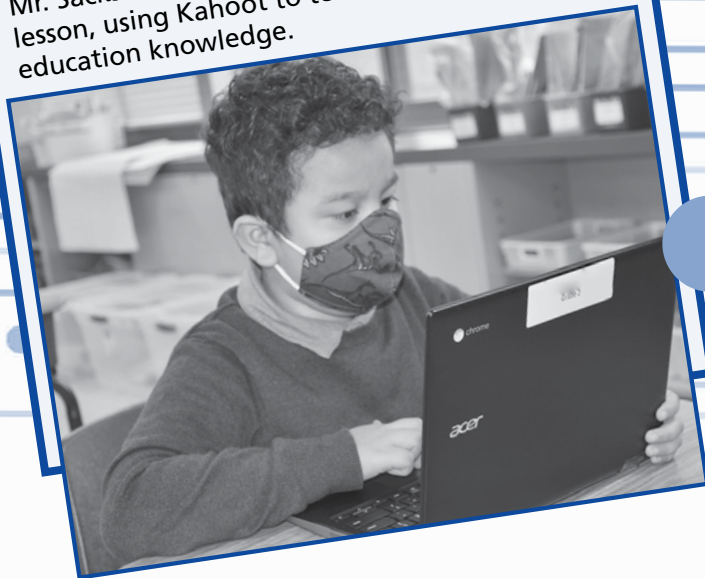
With all students now equipped with their own devices, synchronous learning can occur throughout the District. In-person learners have the ability to connect and interact with those working virtually.

A graphic of a blue laptop computer. The screen displays a quote in blue text, and the keyboard and trackpad are also visible in a light blue color.

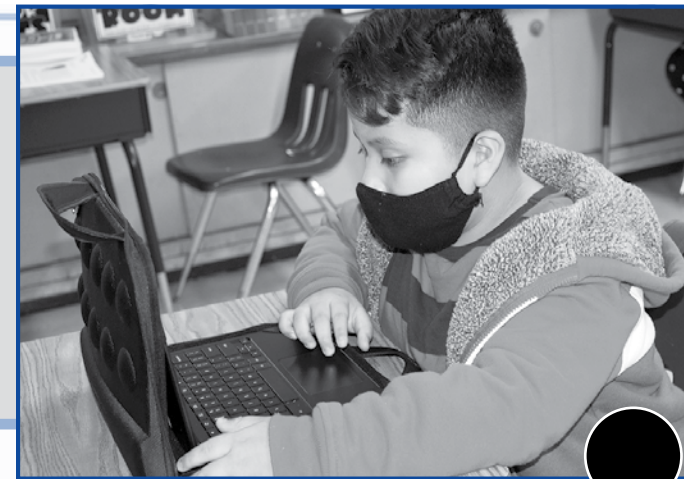
*"The technology helps to support learning more consistently, increases student engagement and provides increased access to learning materials while also building students' 21st-century skills."
– Kelly Urraro,
Director of Technology*



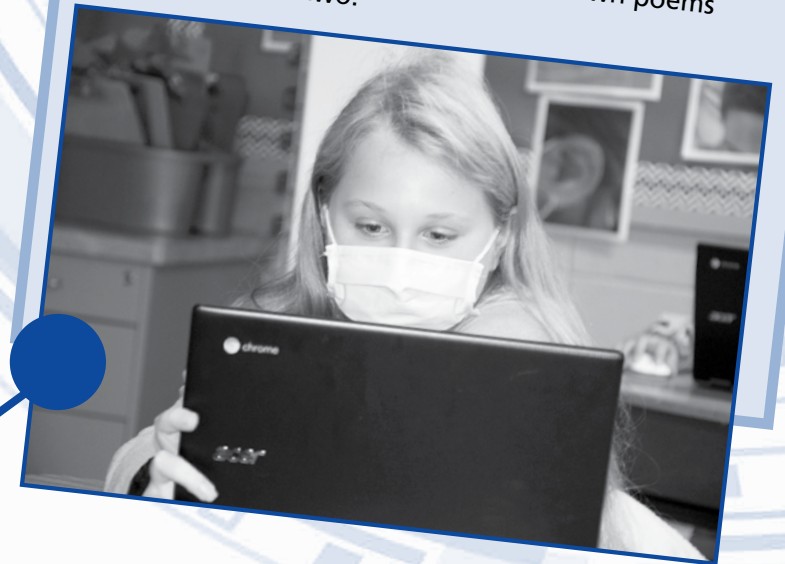
Physical education activities may be a bit different this year due to social distancing requirements. At Deauville Gardens East Elementary School, physical education teacher Mr. Sacks incorporated technology into a lesson, using Kahoot to test students' physical education knowledge.



In Ms. Giannini's class at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School, students worked on an English lesson using technology. Taking a sentence from one of their mentor texts, the students were tasked with labeling the parts of the sentence, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and punctuation. They also worked with students who were remote learners.

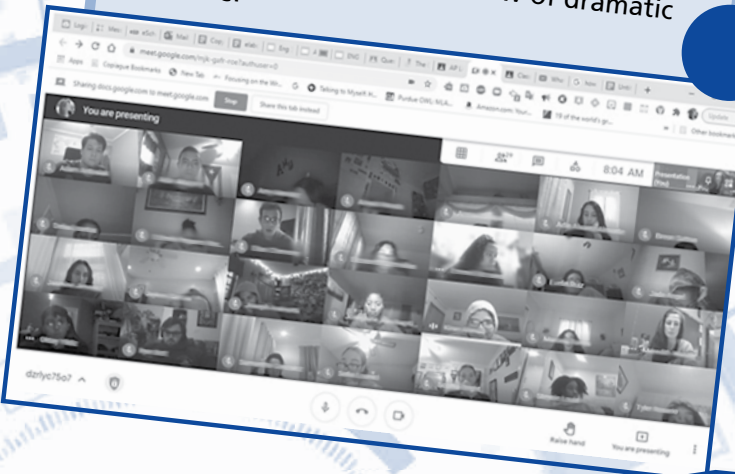


Students at Deauville Gardens West Elementary School used technology during their English lessons. After studying poetry anthologies, the students copied poems they found online that were meaningful to them and wrote their own poems connecting the two.

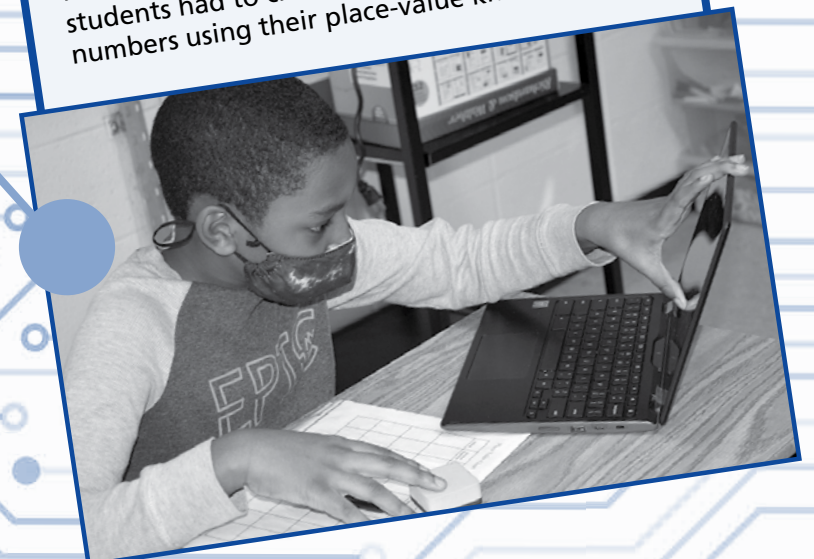


TECHNOLOGY AT WORK

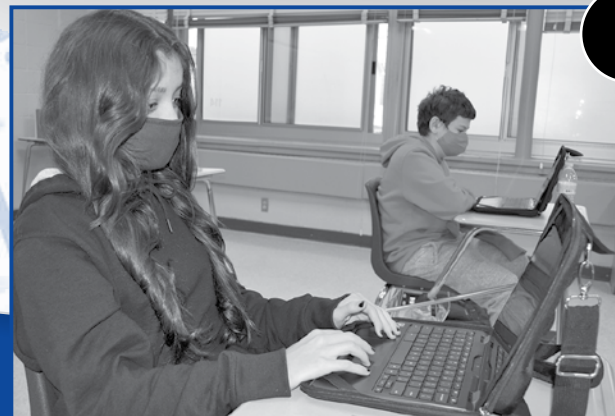
Twelfth grade Advanced Placement English literature students at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School studied "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. After digging into the historical background of the play, they performed the play together through daily Google Meets. Each day, they focused on literary elements and devices Miller uses to develop his theme. The students used Jamboard, an interactive whiteboard tool, to sign up for roles and then worked together to create a plot map as a review of dramatic structure.



At Great Neck Road Elementary School, students in Ms. Mullins' class created their virtual choice boards. The students wrote about different activities and interests, topics they wanted to learn more about and what they want to be when they grow up. After completing the writing activity, the students recorded their likes and interests. In Ms. Maggio's class, the students used Jamboard as a way to interact with their peers who are working remotely. The interactive whiteboard rolled a virtual dice and students had to create the largest or smallest numbers using their place-value knowledge.



Eighth grade math students at Copiague Middle School are using Edpuzzle. Students are watching videos and TED Talks with embedded questions and using their Chromebooks to answer online. The students receive immediate feedback on their answers so they know if they are understanding the concepts.



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Copiague Cares



Food service workers, the Copiague community and generous donations from organizations such as Island Harvest allowed for the District to continue to feed the community during the pandemic.

The food service department started a grab-and-go program that is still in place. Food service workers helped the community by making meals every single day to distribute at four different locations throughout the District. From March to June

alone, they have served close to 250,000 meals to the community and more than 350,000 to date since the pandemic hit.

The Eagle's Harvest food pantry began last year, facilitated by Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School students and adviser Jill Faber. Students would help to make up bags of food based on requests from the social workers in the District, and they would deploy the food weekly to families in need.

When the pandemic hit,

the need for food in the community became even greater, and the District and its volunteers stepped up their efforts. "We determined as a community that we were going to need to help feed our families during this pandemic," said Michael Ferretti, Director of Strategic Planning and Safety, who stepped in to help with the food distribution in March. The District planned for its lunch spots to serve as its grocery distribution areas. They created anywhere from 150-300 grocery bags weekly for different locations in the District each week.

Prepandemic, donations for the Eagle's Harvest would be stocked from food drives, staff and community donations and donations from Island Harvest. "The Copiague teachers and staff have been incredibly generous with their donations," Mr. Ferretti added.

The partnership with Island Harvest has been extremely beneficial in helping to feed the community consistently. It provides a backpack breakfast and lunch to go home with students on the weekend.

"We have been very lucky to have had an ongoing relationship with Island Harvest," said Dr. Kathleen Bannon, Superintendent of Schools. The District recently has been on the receiving end of a grant Island Harvest was given by the Town of Babylon, which donates boxes of complete meals that the District has been distributing twice a month on Saturday mornings. For Thanksgiving, the District distributed 300 bags of groceries, 350 produce bags and 160 turkeys (40 from Island Harvest and 120 thanks to donations to the Eagle's Harvest food pantry) to the community.



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