



COPIAGUE. Connections

Winter 2016

COPIAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

EXPLORING

THE ELEMENTS OF

Art

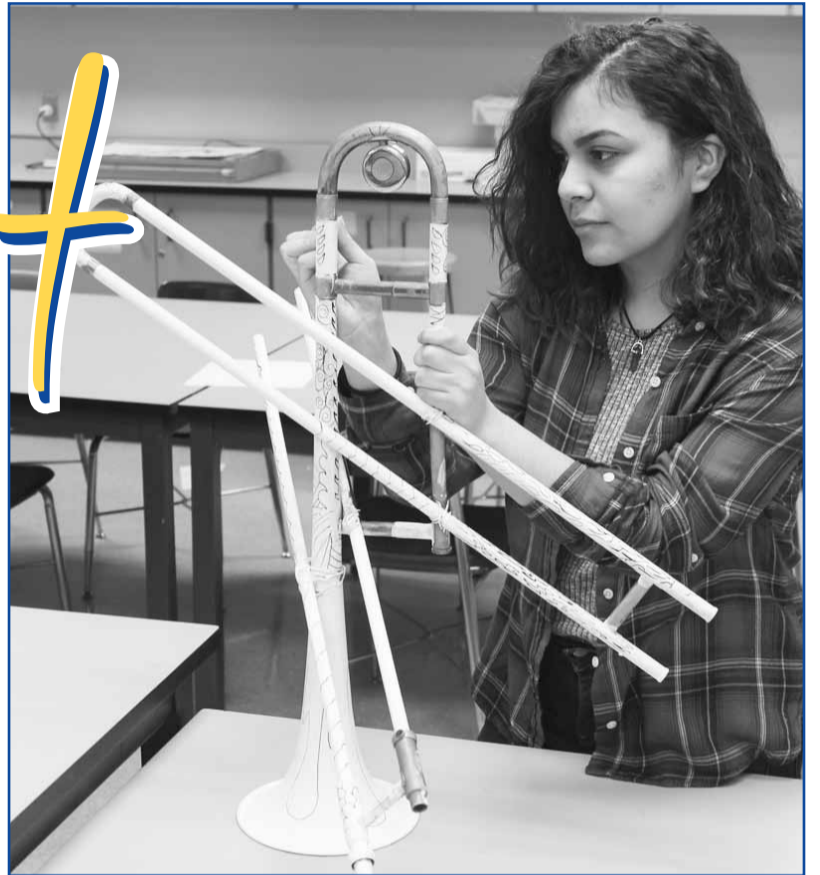
The Copiague School District continues to provide its students with a comprehensive curriculum that meets state standards while fostering students' interests on a broad spectrum of studies. Over the past several years, more and more students have expressed an interest in the creative arts program. Beyond the state mandated art/music credits needed to graduate, students are enrolling in more advanced art courses and electives to further develop their creativity and discover different art forms. As students grow and excel in the program each year, the District strives to provide more opportunities and enriched art programs.

"Our Board of Education and administration believe in the importance of art in education," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bannon. "Through the years, the District has found ways to not only maintain a high level of art courses, but to also expand those offerings for our students."

Copiague's visual arts program

has its foundation in the National Standards for the Arts and the National Core Standards. With this solid structure, the continuum of instruction for elementary classes starts with fundamental studies in shape and form using mediums such as paint and pen/pencil. Introducing students to a range of mediums at a young age allows them to develop their talents and interests as they progress through the school system. Additionally, elementary students are afforded the opportunity to explore other forms of artistic expression by participating in a number of after-school clubs covering interests such as visual arts, dance, journalism (the school newspaper), exercise and American Sign Language.

When they transition to the middle school, students expand upon their art foundation by studying two- and three-dimensional forms and begin using more diverse mediums, including clay, pastels and charcoals.



High school student Estephany Villalobos repurposes a broken trombone to create an art sculpture.

Finally, in high school, these artists are challenged with the integration of the full spectrum of mediums and studies, including course offerings in digital photography, media arts, sculpture, drawing and painting, studio studies and graphic arts. In addition to art courses, students are involved in after-school programs such as the Art Club, Steppers, the Hip-Hop Club, the Photography Club and the Video Production Club.

"Within the seven years that I have been in the District, the enrollment in fine arts programs

continues to grow by leaps and bounds," said Coordinator of Fine Arts Jennifer Pierre-Louis. "These programs give students an outlet for creativity that they don't necessarily have in a setting where they are studying for a national exam. It is exciting that the state has now recognized the arts as a core subject, which means we have national standards to adhere to. Although a core subject, it is recognized that the best way to measure the arts is not through a written exam, but rather through doing."

Copiague School District
Copiague, N.Y. 11726

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ECRWSS

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Copiague School District

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Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bannon

Digital Photography:

As an advanced elective class, this course is designed to develop skills acquired in prior art courses and introduce students to the art of photography. Projects for the course focus on learning different photographic techniques and technical skills with the camera. Students gain experience photographing still lifes, landscapes and portraits and employing the techniques of stop-motion, motion blur and more.

Sculpture:

New to the high school course catalog for the 2015-16 year, students work with a myriad of materials to create artwork that explores 3-D space, scale and volume.



For students interested in pursuing an art degree, many of these courses help create variation and add dimension to their portfolios.

National Art Honor Society:

High school students who have shown an outstanding ability and interest in art are inducted into the society. They help beautify their school with colorful paintings during the holidays and assist with decorations for school functions.

Beginning in kindergarten, students are participating in the art program. The elementary art teachers are laying a foundation of skill, which is built upon as the students move through the program.

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Middle School Creative Art Expression:

Creative art expression, also known as expressive art therapy, is the use of the creative arts as a form of expression. The use of visual art expression modes such as painting, visualization, clay work and drawing are, and can facilitate, powerful physical and emotional mental healing and growth. The value of creative arts expression can help every student, but it works particularly well for those who are having trouble in school because of a personal crisis, disability or misbehavior. While some students resist traditional verbal therapy because it seems threatening, others find that the creative art expression process is a more natural way to communicate their emotions.



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Art OF Activity

Studio Workshop:

This course is for students in grades 9-12 who are interested in exploring the design possibilities of various materials with an emphasis on three-dimensional artwork. Students develop the ability to execute designs by using appropriate tools, techniques and materials such as mosaic, soft sculpture, cardboard, paper, plaster, recycled materials and fabric.

Graphic Art:

Offered as an advanced elective, this course builds on the skills acquired in prior art courses and introduces students to art on the computer. Students are exposed to professional graphic design software and will complete projects based on real-world situations in the graphic design industry.

Studio Art:

Taught at the high school level, this course provides students with a general background of visual arts. As an introduction to a wide variety of traditional art forms, students gain understanding, knowledge, appreciation and application of fundamental elements and principles common to all art structures. This course meets the New York State requirements for graduation.



Media Arts:

The media arts class is an introduction to the basic tools, concepts and techniques of graphic design. This course creatively uses a variety of media, including illustration, typography, Internet media, and computer and traditional art media. Students create presentations and projects with computer art software.

Students who love art or who are interested in art, but are not enrolled in a course at the middle school and high school, are welcome to join the Art Club. The club's members meet on a regular basis and participate in volunteer projects throughout the school year.

School Studio Art:

By teacher recommendation, a select group of talented school students are invited to enroll in the studio art class. As a new course offered at the middle school, this class meets every day for the entire school year, as opposed to traditional art classes that meet every other day for half the year. The objective of this course is to provide students with an advanced level of art and develop their skills through various artistic media. The program equips students with the necessary understanding of art elements and principles that will prepare them for advanced art courses at the high school level. Successful completion of the class earns students one of the credits in art/music necessary to graduate high school.



CLASS OF 2016

Top 10 Students



Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School has announced the top 10 students of the Class of 2016. Leading their class are valedictorian Dawn Gioia and salutatorian Karla Lopez.

"The honor of being among the top 10 students in the graduating Class of 2016 does not come without a great deal of hard work and dedication on the part of the students," said Principal Joseph Agosta. "What I find most astonishing about these students is their unwavering desire to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. Because they are intrinsically motivated, the top 10 have matured into well-rounded students destined for success in their postsecondary studies and in life."

Honored for her exceptional academic and athletic talents, Dawn was a recipient of the distinguished New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Suffolk

Zone Physical Education Leadership Award, was named an Advanced Placement Scholar and received the Copiague Golden Eagle Award, given to one student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average for the season. Dawn is a member of the school's National Honor Society, Art Club, Math Team, Science Olympiads and spring track team. She plans to attend either Fairfield University or the University of New Haven in the fall of 2016, with a major in business administration.

As an active member of her school community, Karla is president of both the One Mind Club and the Ecology Club, vice president of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Madrigal Chorus, Tri-M Music Honor Society and Math Team. Furthering her educational career, she hopes to attend Boston University or Bryant University, with a major in finance.

Top 10

Dawn Gioia, valedictorian
 Karla Lopez, salutatorian
 Adrian Chochorek, third
 Marcus Weeks, fourth
 Kasandra Hanson, fifth
 Maegan Tosun, sixth
 Patricia Estevez, seventh
 Ethan Taveras, eighth
 Axel Pineda-Portillo, ninth
 Joshua Mohan, tenth

Community Votes **PASS** Capital Bond Project

In November, residents in the Copiague School District voted on a capital project bond referendum. Voters approved Proposition 1, which includes \$42,963,526 of repairs and improvements to the District's facilities, and defeated Proposition 2. The Board of Education and central administration would like to thank all community residents who voted on the bond referendum.

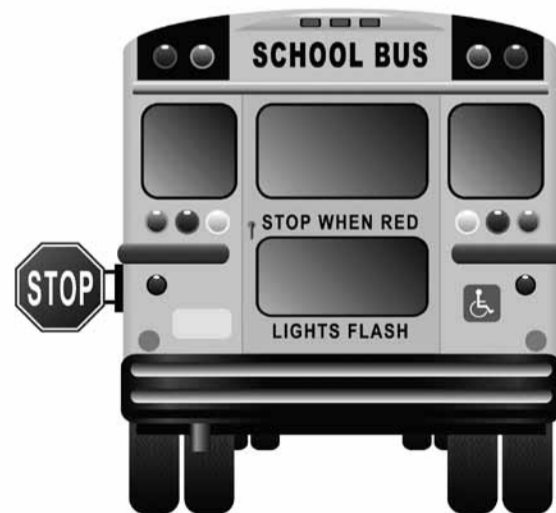
"We are grateful to the Copiague community for their continued support," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bannon. "The approved Proposition 1 will enable us to move forward with the repairs and improvements needed in our schools."

The District will continue to update the community on developments of the bond projects through messages on its website and in Copiague Connections.

Transportation Reminder

All requests for transportation to private and parochial schools for the 2016-17 school year must be made in writing no later than April 1, 2016 using a Transportation Request Form, which can be obtained at the Copiague Administrative Building or at the school your child will be attending. Required information includes the student's name, grade, address, telephone number, date of birth, and the name and address of the private or parochial school for which transportation is requested.

Requests should be submitted to Copiague Public Schools, c/o Transportation Office, 2650 Great Neck Road, Copiague, NY 11726. If your child is new to the district, you must register at Student Services, as textbooks can be withheld without this registration.



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