

COPIAGUE *Connections*

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



ECRWSS
Resident
Copiague School District

www.copiague.k12.ny.us

Copiague Soars AT COMMUNITY SUMMIT

It was a morning of community pride, as the District hosted its annual Community Summit for more than 600 invited guests on March 16. Among those in attendance included the Copiague Board of Education, District administrators and staff, representatives of community organizations, local politicians and students and their families.

"The summit is an opportunity to showcase some of the things that are going on within our schools, celebrate the success we've had and collaborate on ways we can make things better," Board of Education trustee Brian

J. Sales noted in his address. Continuing, Mr. Sales shared a number of the district's and student's accomplishments.

"For this Board, our administration and staff, our top priority is putting children first," he said. "We are extremely proud of our results, we have spent or money wisely and effectively and we have delivered with excellent results."

Echoing Mr. Sales' message of success, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bannon presented her annual State of the Copiague Public Schools. During her address,

Dr. Bannon provided an overview of District highlights,



including various student accomplishments, expansion of the pre-K program and the completion of the community-approved capital project. She also provided an update on the budget process and the District's funding.

With the theme "Copiague Students Soar," the summit also featured student performances, spotlights on elementary, middle and high school programs, clubs and projects, and an introduction of the Class of 2019 top 10 students.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Laura Gavey, **President**

Doris Fischer, **Vice President** Rosemary Natoli, **2nd Vice President**

Christopher Madden Peter Robinson Brian J. Sales Kenneth Urban

Dr. Kathleen Bannon, **Superintendent of Schools**

Making Mathematical Thinkers

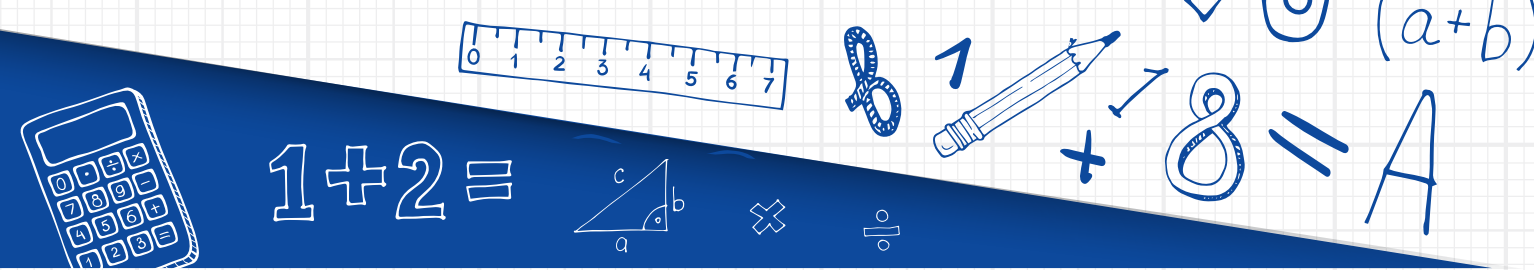
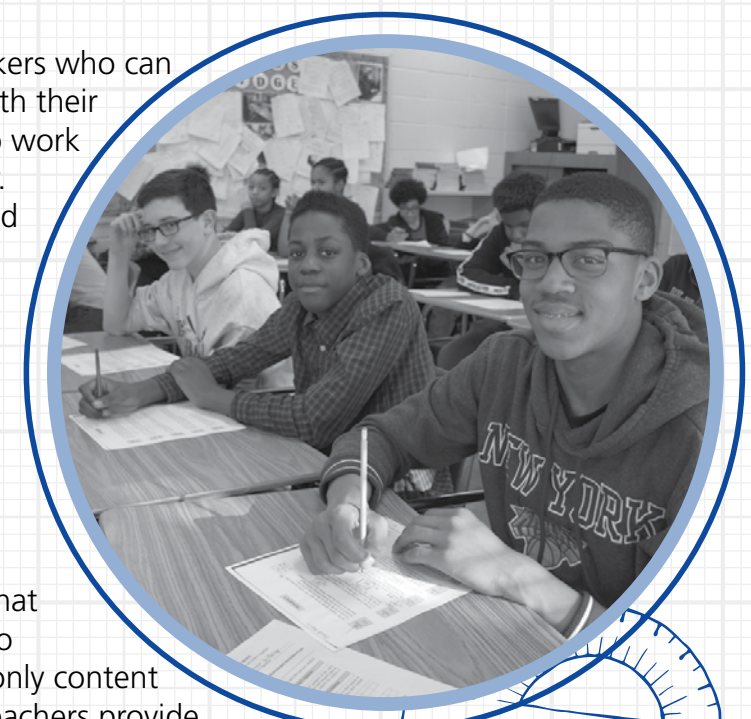
Over the last several years, Copiague School District has transformed the way students and educators approach their mathematics curriculum. Thinking, reasoning and working mathematically is an essential element of learning through mathematics. Students are learning to develop the ability to think and reason mathematically and to apply mathematics in a variety of situations.

Gone are the days of memorizing tables, equations and numerical philosophies. Educational practices have shifted to teaching students to become mathematical thinkers, in turn giving students the ability to become problem-solvers.

Developing students into powerful thinkers starts at the elementary level and progresses as the students continue their educational journey. Students learn how to problem-solve and start learning how to become

reflective thinkers who can collaborate with their peers and also work independently. Elementary and middle school students use games and online math activities to enhance their lessons.

Rather than lessons and assignments that ask students to demonstrate only content knowledge, teachers provide opportunities that allow students to challenge misconceptions, build evidence to support a claim or consider multiple strategies. These lessons help to create critical thinkers, problem-solvers and active learners.



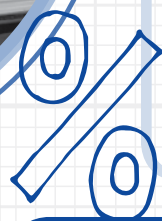
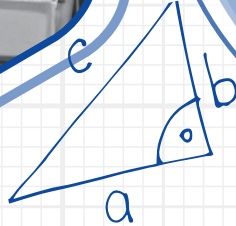
Problem-Solvers EQUALS LIFELONG LEARNERS



Third-graders are using technology to make learning both fun and interactive. Using software called Plickers, the students are each assigned their own QR code. After completing a lesson, the students will then take an online quiz as a class, holding up their unique code with the answer. The teacher can scan the QR code using a smartphone to see if it's correct and get real-time reporting on student progress.

$$(a+b)^2$$

Ten students from the high school and four from the middle school represented the district at the Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair at Hofstra University in March. Last year, two high school students were recognized with a gold and silver medal.



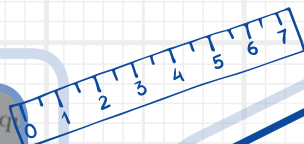
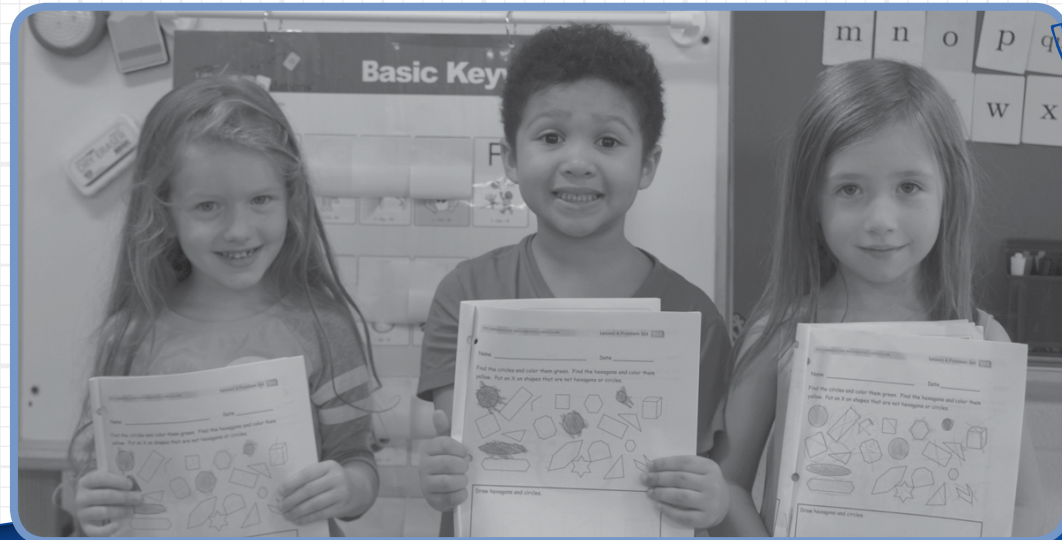
The middle school offers a peer-to-peer mathematical tutoring program after school four days a week. The tutors – and a few select super-tutors – are hand selected by members of the mathematics department and math department chair Dr. Natasha Murray. The middle school tutoring program has been in place for five years and approximately 30 eighth-graders are serving as tutors, overseen by teachers in the homework center.

Middle school students can get involved in after-school, math-based activities through the Math Club/Team. There, math researchers prepared and practiced their presentations for their math research papers for the All-County competition in March. The Math Club/Team is open to all students, where they can go to have fun with math while others practice for upcoming math team competitions.

Fifth-graders used their math and critical thinking skills to “break out.” Using Breakout EDU – which is the educational version of an escape room challenge – learning came alive as students worked in small groups to unlock clues for a series of locks on the boxes. Students used collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication to challenge themselves, all while having fun and learning at the same time.



$$8 = A$$



Ninth-graders in Timothy Montera's elective Math Research class put together a research paper and presentation for the Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair. Students conducted their own research, reaching out to industry experts for guidance on their topics. This year, five students placed in the medals round and will be attending the math fair finals at Hofstra University.



$$\sqrt{x+y}$$

$$x+y$$