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Resident
Copiague School District

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COPIAGUE *Connections*

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



ATHLETICS Make a Comeback

The fields, courts, mats and even the stands may look a little different this year, but coaches and athletes are excited to get back to playing their respective sports.

"I am very proud of the student-athletes that participated in this year's athletic program," said William Bennett, director of physical education and athletics. "We faced a myriad of challenges, yet our student-athletes overcame these challenges to be here and participate."

To date, 358 students are registered among the winter, fall and spring seasons. At the high school level, 22 teams have competed so far, and the spring teams have just gotten underway.

At the middle school level, which just completed the fall season, 130 middle school student-athletes are registered across six fall teams, and all teams are up and running. The spring teams just began their season.

Some season highlights for the high school student-athletes:

Boys Basketball: Malachi Moore – Top 100 player, All-League and All-County; Corey Allen-Jackson – All-League; Hananiah Damus – All-Academic

Girls Basketball: Brooke Last – All-League

Girls Winter Track: Jada Angel, Kerrice Harrison, Trinity Roberts – All-League

Football: Jeremiah Sims – All-County, All-Division; Brian Garcia – All-Division; Anthony Moore, Joel Plasencia, Xavier Ramirez – Second Team All-Division

Boys Soccer: Jose Diego Chavez Barahona – All-League; Leo Zelaya – All-Conference; Joshua Georges – Academic All-County

Girls Soccer: Gabriela Rivas – All-League

Gymnastics: Stephanie Campos, All-League Floor and Beam; Isabella Torres – All-League Honorable Mention; Caitlyn Carrington – Scholar-Athlete

Field Hockey: Leyla Sammon – All-Classification and Senior All-Star; Darlin Delcid – All-Division; Julianna Milonas – All-Division; Yessica Ortiz Max – SCFHCA Unsung Hero Award

Girls Tennis: Alice Fartushynska – Section XI League Tournament appearance

Boys Cross-Country: Jaheim Garcia – All-League; Kuba Szulejko – Second Team All-League

BRIGHT SPOTS LEAVE A

Lasting Impression

There's no doubt that the 2020-21 school year has been a challenging one for students, educators and parents alike. However, despite those challenges, the students in the Copiague School District have displayed resiliency and shown they can thrive.

Student-athletes are back on the fields. Student-

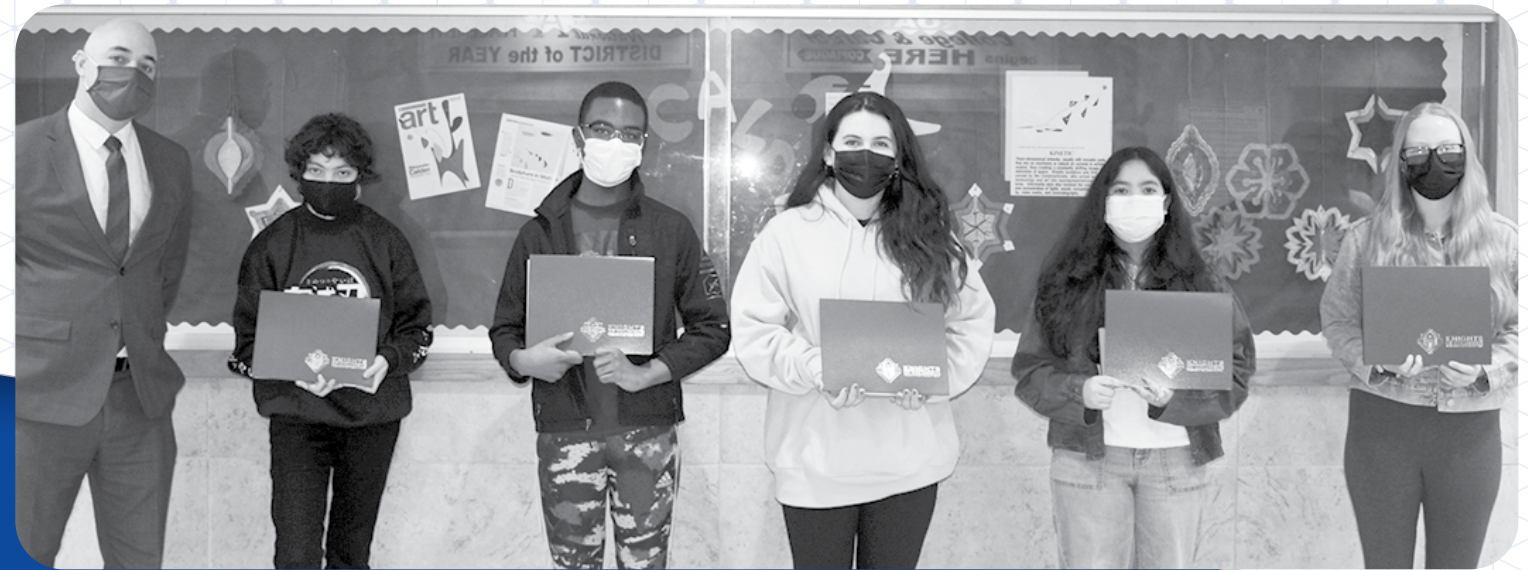
musicians are practicing and collaborating. Academically, the awards, accolades and achievements made this school year are remarkable. Showing their Copiague spirit, the students embraced new ways of learning and challenged themselves academically.

When it comes to giving back to their local community,

the district and its students stepped up to meet the challenges faced by all during this pandemic. A bright spot during a difficult time, the coming together of school and community showed just how important the connection has become. Inside are some of these highlights from the 2020-21 school year.



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brian J. Sales, *President*
Kenneth Urban, *1st Vice President* Rosemary Natoli, *2nd Vice President*
Paul Daubel Anthony S. Pepe Peter Robinson
Dr. Kathleen Bannon, *Superintendent of Schools*



ACADEMICS:

- Middle school students were recognized by members of the Knights of Columbus for their participation in the organization's annual essay contest, which focused on the importance of religious freedom to teach the students about tolerance.
- Senior Jada Angel has been named a recipient of the 2021 Billy Michal Student Leadership Award from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.
- The district launched a 1:1 Chromebook initiative.
- Two teams of students competed in the Town of Babylon "Go Fly a Kite Over Babylon" STEM-based contest at the beach, where students flew kites that they built as a team.
- Kindergartners at DGE, in conjunction with the Stony Brook University Trauma Center, held a virtual teddy bear clinic.
- Two seniors – No. 4-ranked Anna Carvajal and No. 7-ranked Samantha Gonzalez – were named QuestBridge Scholars.
- The College Board recognized 66 current seniors and Class of 2020 graduates as Advanced Placement Scholars.
- Fifth graders at DGW participated in a digital wax museum. Students studied biographies of a historical figure and recycled a bottle to emulate the historical figure as part of their presentation, or dressed up to portray the historical figure while they presented their knowledge.
- Senior Aidan Murphy was selected as a 2020-2021 National Hispanic Recognition Scholar by the College Board National Recognition Program.
- The guidance department hosted a Junior Road to College Night for juniors. The assistant vice president of enrollment services at Hofstra University spoke to juniors and their families about the college admissions process. They also hosted a spring financial aid workshop for sophomores and juniors.
- Students in seventh and eighth grade English classes are utilizing the Storyboard app as an option to retell and summarize independent reading from classroom novels. This app allows students to express their artistic ability as well as their understanding of graphic design to showcase the important components of the chapters they read in class and at home.
- In May, 213 students took 460 Advanced Placement exams.
- Students and social studies teachers at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School participated in the Long Island Student Forum. Students were given an opportunity to discuss issues regarding the pandemic, hybrid learning and social justice with educational leaders from the state. Two Copiague students were trained to be forum leaders as they led discussions in small breakout groups during the spring forum.

MUSIC:

- Four high school student-musicians were selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association's All-State Music Festival.
- High school band members, along with hundreds of other student-musicians from across New York State, participated in the annual New York State Field Band Conference Championship.
- Thirty-six student-musicians from the district were selected for inclusion in the Suffolk County School Music Educators' Association's All-County Festival.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- The Builders Club held a toy drive to benefit the John Theissen Children's Foundation. The team collected seven bags of toys to help children in need throughout Long Island. The club also held its annual holiday food drive, and all donations were made to the Copiague Eagle's Harvest food pantry.
- The district distributed produce, grocery bags, lunches and turkeys to members of the community during the holiday season. The district's food service program prepared, donated and distributed more than 2,000 individual lunches.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL NEEDS:

- The ENL department held monthly Parent University meetings for K-12 parents on a wide number of topics, including learning model options, technology training on ParentSquare and eSchool Parent Portal, ways to assist literacy development at home, graduation requirements and mental health for families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each month more than 100 families joined Zoom meetings presented by ENL teachers, bilingual teachers and PPS staff.
- Start With Hello Week was held at Susan E. Wiley Elementary School this year. All hybrid and remote students, as well as staff members, participated in the events promoting inclusion and cultivating an environment of belonging. Themed spirit days, daily announcements, lesson plans, recess activities, pledge cards and parent engagement resources were employed to translate this important message.
- For autism awareness week, Great Neck Road students were able to show what they are passionate about with a Flipgrid talent show or a show and tell. The classes streamed the videos, and students had the chance to see many talents and get to know each other in a different and unique way.

- National Junior Honor Society students held multiple Spirit Weeks and a Chipotle fundraiser program to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. They also organized a "Souper-Bowl" canned soup drive.
- Middle school student council members have spent all year engaged in a "Gratitude Project," where they show appreciation to those in our school community such as crossing guards, nurses and cafeteria staff.