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Resident
Copiague School District

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The soggy weather didn't dampen the spirits of the Copiague School District community as they came out in force to celebrate homecoming.

Spirits were high and Eagle pride soared during the pep rally to kick off the festivities on Friday. Even though the rain didn't stop in time for the parade, the varsity football game went on as scheduled against the Newfield Wolverines.

Students, staff, parents, community members, administrators and Board of Education members all made their way to the turf field to root on the Eagles. Despite their best efforts, the Eagles didn't capture the win.

During halftime, members of the homecoming court were introduced and featured performances by the varsity cheerleaders and step team.

The district also hosted its Hall of Achievement ceremony where five new members were honored for their achievements and contributions to the Copiague community. Congratulations to Robert Durgin (Class of 1977), Quashier Flood-Strouble (Class of 2000), Frank Giorgini (Class of 1965), Deborah Payton-Jones (Class of 1978) and Robert Waidler (Class of 1990).

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COPIAGUE *Connections*

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



SUPPORT SERVICES: *A Team Effort* in Copiague

Supporting the social and emotional needs of its students is top of mind in Copiague. The district understands that now, more than ever, the mental health and well-being of its student body remain top priorities. With that in mind, the district has enhanced its already robust support staff team, which now includes 40 members ranging from counselors and social workers to psychologists and more.

The district is working hard to address the unique needs of its students and their families at every level. Support

staff work with students to ensure a safe school environment and reinforce positive behaviors and decision making. The district's youngest students are encouraged to be role models for their peers. As they move to the middle school and high school, support services vary from social-emotional learning lessons to college and career planning.

Inside is a more in-depth look at some of the services offered by the Copiague support staff team.

STRONG SUPPORT *on All Levels*

During the last eight years, the district has increased the number of positions within pupil personnel support services by 60%. With that, the district has added many new programs and various levels of support within all the buildings. Here are some examples of Copiague's offerings:

Elementary support teams highlight monthly character traits and reinforce the messages throughout the month. Classroom push-in lessons also include activities such as Start With Hello, getting along with friends and regulating emotions.

Additional psychologists support the special education programs.

A district psychologist serves as a behavioral consultant and assists students and teachers. She also serves as a consultant to all the building teams to offer research-based behavioral techniques to support students.

A bilingual community resource guide is available on the district's website to help community members connect to various resources.

Every elementary school building has a full-time social worker, guidance counselor and psychologist.

Last year, the middle school has launched a character education program that recognizes those students who exhibit positive behaviors. Monthly activities are planned to celebrate those chosen each month.

All of the district's social workers are bilingual.

A full-time college and career counselor helps students with their applications and decision-making for their postsecondary plans. College fair participation has also become more robust, including those for historically Black colleges and universities, national Hispanic college fairs and partnerships with local colleges.

Through the enhancement of staff, opportunities exist for one-on-one counseling and group counseling sessions.