



COPIAGUE. Connections

Fall II 2014

COPIAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

**Demitrius Terrell - Grade 12,
President of the Hip Hop Club**

"At Copiague, I am learning how to work with different cultures and different types of people every day. I want to go into business, and that is an invaluable learning experience."



**Mikayla Victory
Grade 8**

"I value the opportunities I get at Copiague. I love science, and being involved with the science research program has helped me become a better student."



Josue Duran - Grade 5

"My favorite part of school, besides the education I receive, is making friends. The friends you make are very loyal. I love spending time here."



What Is the *Value* OF A COPIAGUE EDUCATION?

The Board of Education and administration are committed to providing Copiague's students with the resources they need to expand their educational horizons in an effort to successfully compete in the global economy

upon their graduation from Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School. A quality education encompasses a variety of components, including strong academics, special services that support students' individualized needs, a wide array of extracurricular activities, and comprehensive athletic, fine arts and performing arts programs.

Despite numerous program cuts throughout New York State, the District is still offering its students many educational and extracurricular programs. "We believe that affording our students all opportunities for success today will lead to success in the future," said Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig.

Value:

noun - relative worth, merit or importance

verb - to consider with respect to worth, excellence, usefulness or importance

Did YOU Know?

- The District's Advanced Placement Program has won National recognition by the College Board through its annual honor roll for the third time in five years. The distinction ranks the District's AP program as one of 547 programs across the nation and Canada (and only one of 7 on Long Island) that have expanded access to AP coursework while simultaneously increasing the percentage of students earning a score of 3 or higher on AP exams. Over the last 5 years we have increased enrollment by 37% and scores of 3 or higher by 92%.
- Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School has a ninety-three percent New York State Regents diploma graduation rate.
- Students who graduated from Copiague are currently attending such prestigious colleges and universities as Harvard, Stanford, Yale and the United States Naval Academy.
- Over the last three years, the College Board has recognized close to 150 Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School students as Advanced Placement Scholars.
 - The high school offers 13 Advanced Placement classes, including English language and composition, psychology, calculus, Spanish language and environmental science.
- More than \$150,000 in local scholarship monies have been awarded to graduating seniors since June 2012.
- In addition to individual awards, over the last three years, 59 athletic teams have been awarded sportsmanship and scholar-athlete team honors.
- Recognizing the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), the District now offers classes at the middle and high schools in science research, robotics and modern technology.
- Including varsity, junior varsity and middle school, there are 57 athletic teams in the District.
- At the four elementary schools, students are offered the opportunity to participate in more than 20 extracurricular activities. Clubs cater to a wide variety of interests, including science, technology, art and theater.
- Student-musicians have a strong yearly participation in NYSSMA Solo Festivals, All-County, All-State and All-National Honor Ensembles.
- Art students have qualified and attended Adelphi University's Saturday Program and received awards in contests including the Knights of Columbus, Colors of Long Island, Suffolk County Police, Congressional Art Contest and Photographer's Forum.
- The District hosts two large-scale musical productions a year - a fall middle school musical and a spring high school musical.

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Copiague, N.Y. 11726

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THE MECHANICS of Education

A quality education encompasses a variety of components, including strong academics, a wide array of extracurricular activities, and comprehensive athletic and arts programs. Like the gears in a well-oiled machine, each component can stand strong on its own, but reaches optimal performance when fully integrated into an organized system. Each gear can be engineered to meet an individual's needs and can create a strong foundation for success.

ACADEMICS

With many diverse opportunities and support services available for students, the District is focusing its efforts on continued student success. Through outstanding academic opportunities, including science research programs at both the middle school and high school, a technology integrated curriculum, support programs such as Read 180 and counseling services, each student is constantly encouraged to reach his/her full potential.

ARTS

Recognizing that a well-rounded education features offerings in music and art, students in Copiague are provided with a plethora of opportunities to put their talents to good use. Art programs provide students with the opportunity and environment to express their creativity, develop skills in critical thinking, demonstrate skills in art production, and understand the importance of the visual arts in all cultures. The courses and performing groups of the music department are designed to meet the needs, interests and talents of all students. Courses in music give students the opportunity to study, understand, appreciate and perform music of all styles, periods and cultures, consistent with the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts.

ATHLETICS

Upon entering middle and high school, students are afforded many new opportunities and challenges. An important part of the educational experience at this level is the extracurricular programs available to all students – in particular, the interscholastic athletic program. National studies have shown that students involved in extracurricular programs such as interscholastic sports achieve better grades, manage their time more effectively, have less discipline problems, and stay in school. The mission of the Copiague athletics program is to provide our student-athletes with an equal opportunity to compete and excel in a positive environment that encourages community values and sportsmanship. There are currently 57 athletic teams available to students in grades 7-12.

ACTIVITIES

Students in Copiague have access to an array of extracurricular activities. From sports, to clubs, to volunteer groups, extracurricular activities can be a way to enrich and enhance a students educational experience. Participation in the various activities offered at the District's six buildings allows students to learn valuable leadership and social skills, explore social, political and career interests, and build resumes for life after graduation.



Recognized for Service

In celebration of School Board Recognition Week, members of the Madrigal Choir showcased their vocal talents for the Board of Education prior to the Oct. 20 meeting. Under the direction of Gina Occhiogrosso, the students wowed the crowd with their version of a Haitian folk song and "Let It Go" from Disney's "Frozen." As an additional thank-you for their service, members of the National Art Honor Society and Art Club created artwork for the Board with assistance from teachers Lorraine Ciccotto, Damin Gomes, Christie

Layden and Deirdre Whiston.

During the ceremony, Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig praised the Board for their commitment to the students of Copiague. To thank them, members of the PTA Council, Copiague Teachers Association, Copiague Association of Principals, Copiague Supervisory Association, and Copiague Teacher Aides and Teaching Assistants donated funds to various charities, local organizations and scholarships in the name of each Board member.



ALUMNI Inducted

Every year, the District honors graduates who have succeeded in their careers and lives or have distinguished themselves by virtue of their contributions to the community. In celebration of the 18th year of the Hall of Achievement, two alumni were inducted during a special ceremony.

"The goal of the Hall of Achievement is to introduce positive role models to our school community," said Superintendent Charles A. Leunig.

This year's inductees were Toni Newman Clemens, Class of 1981, and Clare A. Hochreiter, M.D., Class of 1968.

Following her graduation, Ms. Clemens attended Nassau Community College, where she became a certified nursing assistant. A longtime resident of Copiague, Ms. Clemens is actively involved in both the schools and community. She has been involved in the PTA, Cub and Girl Scouts,



Booster Club, Copiague Youth League, and has served as a religious education teacher. Currently, she works as a teaching assistant in the District.

Dr. Hochreiter attended the University of Rochester, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in chemistry. She then attended Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, graduating in 1976 as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. Since 1983, Dr. Hochreiter has been a cardiologist at New York Hospital – Cornell University Medical Center and has been involved in patient care, cardiac imaging, medical research and teaching.

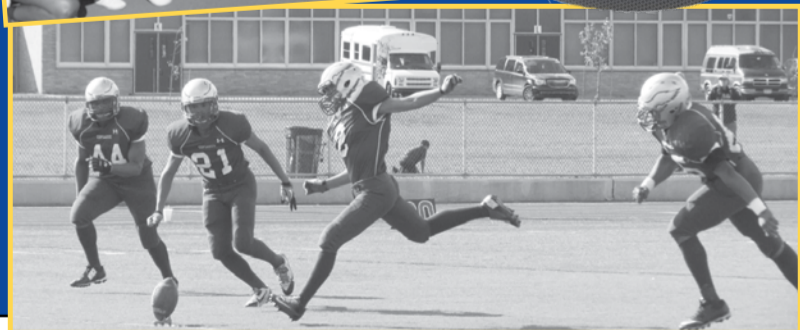


Homecoming Celebrated

The District kicked off Homecoming 2014 with the high school student body showing school spirit and pride at their annual pep rally. Blue and white were the colors of the day as the members of the fall varsity sports teams were announced.

The spirit continued into the weekend with a homecoming parade and fair. The streets were lined as the Board of Education and administration led the parade to the Walter Reese Football Field. Members of the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes showed off the floats they had designed. Also joining the parade were sports teams and student clubs. The afternoon continued as the varsity football team took on Newfield High School. Despite their best efforts, the Eagles were unable to defeat the Wolverines.

During halftime, the marching band, cheerleaders and step team treated the crowd to rousing performances and the 2014 homecoming court was announced, with seniors Aaron McFadden and Lisa Padilla named king and queen, respectively.



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Have you heard something around town about the Copiague Public Schools that doesn't sound right to you? Would you like clarification from the School District based on actual facts?

To send your questions to the Copiague School District, email wordonthestreet@copiague.net.

The Superintendent of Schools will review each question and respond on the Copiague School District website, www.copiague.k12.ny.us, or you will receive a direct email response. Please be advised that personnel or student matters cannot be discussed due to confidentiality and privacy laws.

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