



CURRICULUM UPDATES STRENGTHEN FOUNDATION *for Student Learning*

This year, the East Quogue Union Free School District has instituted numerous curriculum updates across content areas to align with the needs of all students through comprehensive lessons and the integration of research-based instruction.

Social Studies

Our social studies curriculum has been updated to enhance the ability of students to connect, experience and understand the world around them through engaging lessons and tailored instruction grounded in proven research. With a wealth of reliable teaching tools, the myWorld Interactive Social Studies curriculum encourages students to explore their world, expand their thinking and engage with instructional shifts suggested by the College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social

Studies State Standards. The instructional design of the myWorld curriculum balances direct instruction, small group interaction, hands-on practice, a variety of robust resources and scaffolded reading support to establish positive practices that develop strong reading comprehension skills.

Through the newly implemented curriculum, fifth-grade students were introduced to the Age of Exploration, in which they examined numerous primary resources from notable explorers, including journal passages from Christopher



Columbus' journey written when he was sailing west and letters from Hernán Cortés sent to King Charles V of Spain in 1520. As groups, the students analyzed the descriptive language used in each source and drew inferences about the

explorers' conquests.

Built in partnership with esteemed educators, the myWorld Interactive Curriculum applies the latest research and technology to effectively engage students in social studies through civic

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involvement and literacy. Students actively gain deeper understanding of the world around them while covering the core social studies standards through a highly flexible blend of print and digital materials to maximize student learning.

Science

For the second consecutive year, updates to our science curriculum allow us to implement the Next Generation Science Standards and STEM Teaching Tools to deliver a program which supports science inquiry, evidence-based reasoning, hands-on experimentation and student collaboration. In addition, each grade level will engage in challenging STEM activities to cultivate powerful learning experiences in science, technology, engineering and math.

Once again, our science program will be supplemented by a generous donation from Kevin Crowe that will allow every student at East Quogue Elementary School to participate in an enriching science-related field trip this school year. Through Mr. Crowe's generosity, each of our sixth-grade classes will participate in monthly field excursions, attend presentations from expert guest speakers or learn through in-house field trips.

Foreign Language: Spanish

During the development of the elementary foreign language



curriculum, led by Angelica Capolino, our new Foreign Language teacher, we created a comprehensive learning experience which guides kindergarten through sixth grade levels, to develop the confidence to communicate effectively in multilingual communities at home and around the world. The thematic-based framework supports student learning across grade levels, provides for a seamless transition from elementary to secondary school and meets both short- and long-term linguistic world readiness standards for language learning. Additionally, the curriculum fosters connections between culture and communication which prove valuable as students make connections and comparisons between local and global communities.

Music

This year, we welcome back the sixth-grade East Quogue Elementary World Drumming Ensemble – an initiative rooted in developing students' communication, listening, cooperative teamwork and respect for others through the exploration of various cultures and music. Expanding our music program, we have added a marimba band for sixth-grade students which will help to further strengthen the development of concentration, cooperation and listening skills. Marimbas are a percussion instrument composed of a refined set of wooden keys supported by the frame, built over resonators which enable the rich tones to come through as sound.



Continued Focus on Our Technology

The start of the 2018-2019 school year brought several innovative technology upgrades to our building, designed to increase the instructional capabilities of our classrooms and create a more efficient level of communication across the district.

Flourishing Through a Focus on Advanced Technology

This year, each first- and second-grade classroom is equipped with a full set of iPads, providing students with access to programs incorporated in curriculum lessons. In kindergarten, each class received five iPads to be utilized by groups of five students at a time. In these groups, kindergarten students will receive focused instructional support to become familiar with the device.

Using the eSpark Learning software, students from kindergarten through second grade will be assigned an individual learning plan based on their unique strengths to accelerate academic growth and support deeper thinking. Through the program, iPad apps are selected to sharpen skills in particular content areas, and at the completion of each unit, students will

create a video showcasing their knowledge.

For students in third through sixth grades, full class sets of Chromebooks have been incorporated into classroom instruction, where students harness the capabilities of the Google G Suite to work collaboratively with their peers. G Suite is a collection of Google software products that allow students to work cooperatively on projects from their individual devices. The use of these software applications has been proven to streamline instruction and foster skills that will extend throughout their academic careers.

In addition, the East Quogue Elementary School Library is undergoing a transformation to fulfill the needs of our 21st-century learners. This year, our library has transitioned from a book-only exchange to a comprehensive library



media center. Led by Mandy Abbatiello, our new certified library media specialist, we aim to establish a community of lifelong readers, digital citizens and skilled researchers through continuous opportunities for students. This school year, students will work to harness the academic capabilities of Chromebooks and SMART Boards and be introduced to 3D printing and coding, as well as participate in additional library lessons on information literacy, media literacy, KidOYO coding and Breakout EDU.

Throughout the school year, teachers and staff will participate in numerous professional development opportunities to remain informed of best practices for each new piece of educational technology.

Connecting Classroom and Community

To enhance communication throughout the school community, the district has added digital signs at the main entrance and the gallery entrance to display important dates and events and to showcase student work.

Further strengthening the school-home connection, the district has opened a Parent Portal, which allows users to access a personalized account that includes information on their child's attendance, class placement, report cards and various other items. In place of the prior SchoolMaster system, the eSchoolData Parent Portal establishes a place to locate pertinent information about a child's academic performance.

Postal Patron
East Quogue, New York 11942

www.eastquogue.k12.ny.us

Please remember to visit the district website to view all recent school news.



Security Enhancements to Our Building

In preparation for the start of the school year and to further secure our building, the district constructed a security vestibule that all visitors must enter to gain access to our building. All visitors will be greeted by our security guard and must share proper identification before being admitted. In addition to the guard who monitors the vestibule, another security guard patrols our premises during school hours.

As the safety of our students and staff remain a priority for our Board of Education and administration, further enhancements will be made to our security cameras and other areas of the campus.

Bond UPDATE

With the approval of the bond in March 2018, developments continue to progress as the district's architects finalize plans

and prepare to submit them to the New York State Education Department for approval. Our facilities subcommittee recently held a meeting to ensure the process remains on track, and the architects are planning to update

the Board of Education at an upcoming meeting. The district anticipates the bid process will begin this spring and plans to start construction this summer.

We will continue to update our community throughout the process.

Important Dates:

Kindergarten Registration and Screening
February 27, February 28 and March 1