



# TIDE



## AMITYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT ROLLS OUT **RULER Program for PreK-12**

The Amityville Union Free School District rolled out the RULER program for students in grades PreK-12.

The RULER program, based on a study conducted at Yale University, teaches the skills of emotional intelligence – those associated with Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing and Regulating Emotion. Decades of research shows that these skills are essential to effective teaching and learning, sound decision-making, physical and mental health and success in school and beyond.

Peter Paternostro, the District's administrator for pupil personnel services, and Karen Gross, the

District's transition coordinator, are spearheading the program. "In my 14 years here, I have not seen a program for PreK-12 where we're all speaking the same language," Mr. Paternostro said.

Research shows that schools that incorporate the RULER program see a positive shift in school climate, experience enhanced academic achievement, report better-quality relationships and experience less bullying and/or aggressive behaviors. Amityville's RULER Implementation Team comprises 25 faculty and staff members who will carry out the program at each school. In addition to instructional staff members, this includes school

monitors, security guards and custodians.

"It's our belief that any adult can interact with a child to help turn their life around," Mr. Paternostro said. "Research has shown that it can only take one adult to really make a difference in a child's life."

The RULER program features four main components: the Mood Meter, Charter, Meta-Moment and Blueprint. The Mood Meter helps build awareness of emotions in ourselves and others, expands our emotional vocabulary and helps us manage our emotions. The Charter is an agreement we make to act in ways that help us to feel the way we want to feel in our school or class. The Meta-Moment teaches us how to extend the time between feeling emotionally triggered and our reaction. The Blueprint provides a series of questions as a guide for reflecting on our thoughts and emotions during conflict.

Superintendent Fale said, "I am



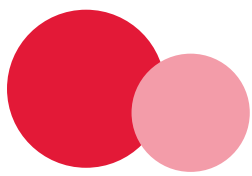
positive that with the District's emphasis on the staff and students' social and emotional health, the outcomes will reflect Amityville's greatness in the classrooms, on our fields, on the schools' stages and in the community."

Leaders of the RULER program will meet every month to monitor progress through the classroom Charters, Mood Meters posters in each classroom and Mood Meter check-ins.

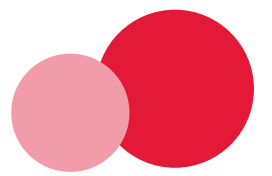
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# Welcome to Amityville!



## **Mary Stephens, High School Principal**

Mary Stephens has been named Amityville Memorial High School's principal. Ms. Stephens earned her bachelor's degree in English language at Binghamton University. She also received her Master of Science in Education degree at Hofstra University, and she earned her certificate of advanced study in educational administration from SUNY New Paltz. Ms. Stephens began working at the White Plains Public School District in 1998 as an ESL teacher, a position she held until 2003. She later worked as the supervisor of language programs at Nassau BOCES from 2005-2016. She arrived at the Amityville School District in September 2016 where she worked as the District's director of ENL and world languages.

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## **Angela Scaliotis-Garcia, Director of ENL and World Languages**

Angela Scaliotis-Garcia has been named Director of ENL and World Languages. An educator since 2000, Ms. Scaliotis-Garcia started her career as a fifth grade teacher at a parochial school in Astoria, Queens, for three years. In 2003, she started teaching for the New York City Department of Education at P.S. 16 in Corona, Queens, for 15 years. Ms. Scaliotis-Garcia was a dual language teacher, working side by side with another teacher who taught in Spanish. She taught grade five for three years, grade four for one year and grade three for 11 years. In 2017, she became an assistant principal at 138Q in Rosedale, Queens, for four years working with students from pre-K to eighth grade. On Aug. 11, Ms. Scaliotis-Garcia was hired in her current position at the Amityville School District.

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## **Dr. Stephanie Thomas, Director of Guidance**

Dr. Stephanie Thomas was named Director of Guidance. A lifelong resident of Amityville and graduate of Amityville Memorial High School, Dr. Thomas earned her bachelor's degree at Hofstra University. She also earned her Master of Science and certificate in advanced study from Hofstra University, a Master of Social Work from Stony Brook University, a master's certificate in human resources management from Cornell University and a doctorate in educational administration, leadership and technology from Dowling College.

Dr. Thomas has spent more than 20 years as a school guidance counselor, guidance chairperson and college adjunct instructor throughout her career in education. Her skills include program planning and development, master scheduling, data analysis and reporting. In her free time, she is an active member of the Suffolk Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

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## **Dr. John Cardone, Assistant Principal at Amityville Memorial High School**

Dr. John Cardone has been named assistant principal at Amityville Memorial High School. An educator in the Amityville School District for 15 years, Dr. Cardone began his career teaching physical and health education. Now in his eighth year as an administrator, Dr. Cardone served as the dean of students for six years, acting assistant principal for one year and now assistant principal at the High School. Additionally, he served as an attendance teacher, athletic director and interim assistant principal. In 2020, Dr. Cardone earned his Doctor of Education from St. John's University.

Dr. Cardone is passionate about providing the best education possible for Amityville's students and community. He is committed to supporting students, teachers and staff in making Amityville Memorial High School the best it can be. He wants to support all students not only in their education, but also in their social and emotional needs.

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## **Kenneth Coard, Assistant Principal at Amityville Memorial High School**

Kenneth Coard has also been named assistant principal at Amityville Memorial High School. Mr. Coard is a former stockbroker who started his educational career 23 years ago as a math teacher in the South Bronx.

After four years in the Bronx, Mr. Coard taught at boarding schools throughout the New England region as a math teacher and coached varsity basketball for seven years. Mr. Coard later made the decision to move his family back to New York and began stints as a leave replacement in numerous school districts on Long Island, which included Islip, Riverhead, South Country, Uniondale and William Floyd, before accepting a probationary math position in Amityville.

After two years in Amityville, Mr. Coard accepted a dean of students position in the Riverhead School District where he was also principal of its summer school. He is returning to Amityville as acting assistant principal at Amityville Memorial High School.

Mr. Coard received his bachelor's degree from Clarkson University where he was a double major in industrial marketing and management. He also received his Master of Science degree in school administration and supervision from Mercy College.



# Amityville Memorial High School Students Tour HBCU Programs

Students from Amityville Memorial High School recently visited seven schools in North Carolina during the school's annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour.

Track and field coach Reynolds Hawkins, High School Dean of Students Natasha Lim, Guidance Director Dr. Stephanie Thomas and Middle School teacher Nakia Williams accompanied 33 High School students on the annual college tour. During tours of the campuses students learned about admissions requirements, academic programs, extracurricular activities and sports, residential life, scholarship opportunities and tuition and fees. They interacted with current college students and experienced the culture of each campus. Students also visited the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro.

"I always put some sort of historical twist into this tour," said Mr. Hawkins, who helped to launch the program 15 years ago.

Hawkins, who was then a social worker at the High School, pitched the idea about the program to the District's administrators as an initiative to keep students actively involved. "We're the only High School

on Long Island to have a tour exclusively for HBCU schools," Mr. Hawkins said. "As an Amityville graduate and an HBCU graduate, this was a great opportunity for me to show students that there are other places to go outside of New York."

This year, students also visited Duke University and Queens University of Charlotte. At Duke students met with former Athletic Director Kevin White, who is an Amityville Memorial High School graduate. At Queens University, the group met with President Daniel Lugo, also an Amityville graduate.

"I want these kids to see people who have gone through the same route that they have and realize that they can accomplish great things as well," Mr. Hawkins said.

More than 90% of the High School students who took part in this tour have attended college, according to Hawkins. "I'd like to thank the District for supporting this program and financing the annual trip through the years," Mr. Hawkins said. "The feedback from the kids, the parents and the community have all been positive, so I hope that we can continue this program beyond my time here in Amityville."



## Developing Meaningful Instruction in the Amityville School District

This past summer, a team of Amityville School District's administrators, including Dr. Joan Lange, the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, focused on examining New York State's Next Generation Learning Standards and how to better prepare students for the future.

Supported through a grant funded by the New York State Department of Education, the District attended the UnboundEd Learning Institute to better support students of color throughout the District. UnboundEd centers its work on Black and Brown students so that all students have access to high-quality instruction. In its professional development, it addresses the historical implications of systemic racism and marginalization while also focusing on research-based instructional practices. The Institute believes in valuing cultural and academic identities in all students.

Amityville's team that will help roll out the

program includes Edmund W. Miles Middle School Principal Rose Hutcherson, assistant principals Paul Duguay and Lurdez Berrios, Academic Dean of Students David Mevs and Amityville Memorial High School Principal Mary Stephens.

"Education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world," Hutcherson said. "Therefore, as leaders, we must commit to lead with passion, compassion and conviction."

The District believes that the best way to support its students is to help teachers in creating grade-level lessons that are engaging and meaningful to all students.

"We must acknowledge that the achievement gap, the belief gap and the provision gap are our gaps," Hutcherson said.

"Our goal is that by the spring of 2023, we will notice a significant difference in our

students' academics results," Dr. Lange said. "The amazing faculty at the Middle School stands behind the team and are ready, willing and able to turn our results around."







*The Amityville Memorial High School Warriors varsity soccer team capped off their fall season by winning their third New York State championship.*

# Soccer Team Caps Off Amazing Fall Season FOR AMITYVILLE SPORTS

The fall sports season provided some memorable moments for Amityville Memorial High School's teams.

The biggest highlight of the fall season was the Warriors varsity soccer team which won their third New York State championship. On Nov. 13th, the Warriors defeated the Beacon High School Bulldogs 4-0 to win the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A championship at Middletown High School. The game was highlighted by the performance of senior striker Hugo Rodriguez, who finished the game with two goals and an assist. Senior goalkeeper Matthew Katz also played an outstanding game with five saves to secure a clean sheet. Led by head coach Michael Abbondondolo and assistant coach Chris Gannon, the Warriors finished their remarkable season with a record of 20-1-1.

The Warriors varsity football team also made great strides this season. The team was much more competitive than last season and came very close to making a playoff appearance, but fell short by one game. The Warriors finished their season with an overall record of 3-5. The varsity program has high hopes for the future as the team at Edmund W. Miles Middle School continues to grow. Additionally, the junior varsity program was able to field a competitive team.

The cross-country/track and field program at the High School enjoyed some amazing moments during the fall season. In September the track and field team competed in the Six Flags Wild Safari Invitational in New Jersey. Student-athlete Abed-Nego Compete finished in the top 30 in the Varsity Boys C race and earned a medal for his performance.

With the fall season in the books, the Amityville Union Free School District is proud of its student-athletes for their class both on and off the field.



*The Warriors varsity soccer team finished their remarkable season with a record of 20-1-1.*



*Student-athlete Abed-Nego Compete finished in the top 30 in the Varsity Boys C race and earned a medal for his performance at the Six Flags Wild Safari Invitational.*



*The Warriors varsity football team came very close to making the playoffs this fall.*



*The Warriors varsity track and field program competed in the Wild Safari Invitational at Six Flags in September.*