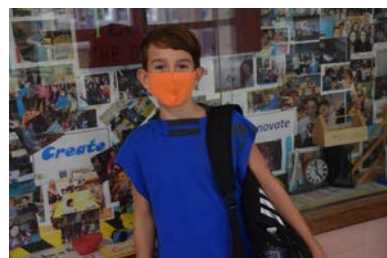
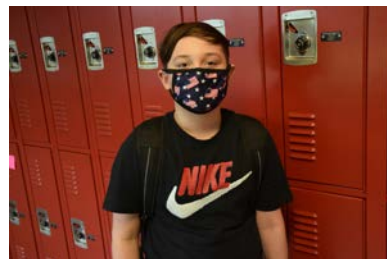
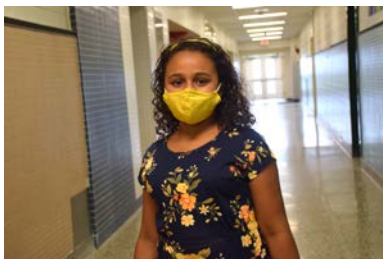




SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are Sachem

Our Story

#WeAreSachem





Video: A Look Inside Our Schools



This video was shared with families prior to the first day of school and represents a look inside of our schools showcasing several of the social distancing practices and prompts throughout our buildings to protect our students, staff and faculty.

District Welcomes New Administrators



Sachem Central School District Appoints Next Superintendent of Schools

Following a rigorous search and screening process, the Sachem Central School District Board of Education is proud to announce the appointment of the district's next Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christopher Pellettieri.

Prior to joining Sachem, Dr. Pellettieri served as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Rockville Centre Union Free School District for 12 years, where he led the district in implementing progressive curriculum and development initiatives which greatly enhanced the educational experience for students across grade levels. As part of his oversight of the district's instructional technology, Dr. Pellettieri successfully piloted a digital Earth Science Portal to replace the course textbook, spearheaded a 1:1 program utilizing iPads in grades 4-12 and led the district's recent Chromebooks initiative at the high school level. Additionally, he helped develop and maintain the district's Foreign Language Elementary Program and aided in the development of International Baccalaureate for all in junior-year English and social studies classes. Bolstering his impressive administrative résumé, Dr. Pellettieri worked closely with the Rockville Centre Education Foundation and has helped garner over \$500,000 in grants for the district, including the building of a STEAM lab, robotics programs K-12, an Innovation Lab at South Side High School and a weather station at South Side Middle School.

"After reviewing countless qualified candidates to serve as our district's next superintendent, it was clear Dr. Pellettieri possessed the progressive skillset and vision to continue our district's commitment to educational excellence and student success," said Sachem Central School District Board of Education President Alex Piccirillo. "We are proud to welcome him to our community and are confident he will serve our students, staff and families well."

Dr. Pellettieri has been an Education Policy Fellow at NYU's Teachers College, attended the Harvard Future of Learning program, is the immediate past president of Nassau Association of District Curriculum Officials, and is on both the Curriculum and Instruction Executive Council and the Digital Age Teaching and Education executive boards for Nassau BOCES. He also serves on several advisory boards at Molloy College, including ENL, Special Education and Teacher Preparation. Adding to his diverse collection of professional accolades, in 2014 he was honored as the Nassau BOCES Fred Podolski Leadership and Innovation in Technology Visionary Award recipient. Dr. Pellettieri's first article,

"Don't Fall in Love with Paper", a piece on leadership techniques, was published in Vanguard magazine in 2009. Dr. Pellettieri also teaches as an adjunct professor for Molloy College in its graduate education program for future administrators.

"It is with great honor and excitement that I now humbly join the Sachem Central School District family as superintendent of schools," Dr. Pellettieri said. "I am excited to work collaboratively with the Board of Education, administrators, staff and community stakeholders to continue to provide valuable educational opportunities and experiences to the students of Sachem."

Dr. Pellettieri earned his bachelor's and master's degrees and professional diploma in history, secondary education from Queens College and earned his doctorate in instructional leadership from St. John's University.



Sachem Welcomes New Executive Director for Special Education

The Sachem Central School District is proud to welcome Dennis McElheron as the district's new executive director for special education, filling the vacancy left by Michael Saidens.

Mr. McElheron joins the district after most recently serving as the district administrator for special education in the North Babylon Union Free School District for two years. There, he was responsible for staffing, supervision and evaluation of the special education department, including teachers, clerical staff, paraprofessionals, speech therapists, social workers and psychologists. Additionally, he led the district in the development and oversight of innovative programs to meet the needs of special education students in an educational and fiscally responsible manner. Prior to his time in the North Babylon Union Free School District, Mr. McElheron was the assistant to the coordinator of student services in the Sachem Central School District for five years, where he was responsible for the oversight of special education staff, including teachers, teacher assistants, psychologists and social workers. He also served as an integral participant in the organization of staff development opportunities. In addition to Mr. McElheron's expansive résumé as an educator, he also served as a school psychologist in the Sachem Central School District for 23 years.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Le Moyne College, a Master of Science degree in education from Queens College with a sixth-year professional diploma in school psychology, and an advanced graduate certificate in educational administration from Stony Brook University. He is pursuing his doctoral degree in administration and supervision from St. John's University.



Sachem High School North Welcomes New Principal

Following the completion of a competitive screening process, Andrew Larson, a longtime employee of the Sachem Central School District, has been named the new principal of Sachem High School North, filling the vacancy left by Patricia Trombetta who was recently appointed the new assistant superintendent for student support and administration.

Mr. Larson worked as an elementary classroom teacher for seven years at Waverly Avenue Elementary School before serving as an assistant personnel administrator at the Sachem District Office for one year. As part of his expansive administrative experience, Mr. Larson was an assistant principal at Sachem High School North for one year and was an assistant principal at Sachem High School East for five years, where he effectively supervised various departments, coordinated home teaching services and established a clear and consistent system of student support. Mr. Larson most recently served as the principal of Hiawatha Elementary School for one year.

Mr. Larson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in child study from St. Joseph's College and a Master of Science degree in education and educational administration and supervision from St. John's University. In addition, he has two New York State certifications: a permanent certification in pre-K to grade 6 and a professional certification in school building leadership.



Sachem Appoints New Principal of Hiawatha Elementary

The Sachem Central School District Board of Education appointed Joseph Watson as the new principal of Hiawatha Elementary School, filling the position left by Andrew Larson, who recently became the new principal of Sachem High School North.

Mr. Watson joins Hiawatha Elementary School after most recently serving as the assistant principal of Bellport Middle School in the South Country Central School District for two years. During his time at Bellport Middle School, he led the building as an instructional leader, sharing research-based best practices to create a student-centered learning environment, advancing 21st-century learning and critical thinking through the implementation of Chromebooks across classroom settings, supporting students through a meaningful social and emotional learning curriculum and facilitating professional development for staff members.

Prior to his time at Bellport Elementary School Mr. Watson was the administrative intern and lead assistant principal at Elmont Memorial High School in the Sewanhaka Central High School District, where he was also a social studies teacher for 15 years.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Molloy College, a Master of

Science degree in secondary education from Molloy College and a Master of Science degree in school leadership from Touro College.



Sachem Names New Leave Replacement Elementary Principal

The Sachem Central School District is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Brenda Almendarez-DeBello as the new leave replacement principal of Tamarac Elementary School. Dr. Almendarez-DeBello joins Tamarac after most recently serving as an assistant principal at Sachem High School East since 2017.

Prior to her time as an assistant principal at High School East, Dr. Almendarez-DeBello served as an administrative intern and a bilingual mathematics teacher in the Uniondale Union Free School District at the Lawrence Road Middle School for five years. Within these roles, she aided in creating measures to facilitate testing procedures for administration, proctor schedules and student accommodations as well as developed and provided various professional development workshops for teachers. Prior to this, Dr. Almendarez-DeBello taught mathematics for eight years at Intermediate School 93 for the New York City Department of Education.

She received her Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in psychology from

University at Albany, formerly the State University of New York at Albany, and her Master of Science in education from St. John's University, where she also completed an advanced certificate in school building leadership and received her Doctor of Education degree in educational administration and supervision in 2019.



Photographs shown in the graphic above were taken during previous school years

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Board of Education

The Board of Education is composed of nine community members elected by district residents to serve overlapping three-year terms of office. The Board has the responsibility to ensure that all students receive the best education possible, as well as to express and represent the views of the community in matters affecting education.



Upcoming Meetings

October 7, 2020

Will Air on 91.9 WSHR FM

7:30pm

[Click Here to View All Agendas and Minutes](#)

Mission Statement

The Sachem Family (students, parents, employees and residents) works interdependently to develop leaders of great character who are highly competent, confident and caring. Most importantly we are motivating our students to become the best possible version of themselves.

WE ARE SACHEM!

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