



WEST BABYLON  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Your Schools

## A Farewell Letter

FROM ANTHONY CACCIOLA...

It is bittersweet that I write this last message as your superintendent. My first day of work was on June 28, 1976. Since I was too young to have a driver's license, I rode my bike to the Junior High. In the blink of an eye, I can say without reservation, I've had a wonderful 38 and a half years. Given the fact that both of my parents worked for the district since 1963, I haven't experienced life without West Babylon. The district has not been a place where I work – it has been my home, my life. The West Babylon School District has literally put food on my family's table for the last 51 years. For this and for the opportunities I have been given, I am truly thankful.

Upon retiring in January, I will leave with a sense of pride and accomplishment and with the memories of experiences that have been rewarding and memorable. The district is fiscally sound and I am proud to have prepared 23 budgets during fiscally challenging times. We continue to provide our students with a well-rounded education and many extracurricular opportunities.

I am proud of my accomplishments outside of the school district, particularly in serving as president of the Suffolk County Association of School Business Officials in 2004-05, and as president-elect of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association in 2013-14.

Lastly, I am proud to be a graduate of the West Babylon School District. Although I am moving to Florida, I will always call West Babylon my home and will never forget the motto "Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle." The friends, colleagues and associates I have come to know are countless, and many will always be a part of my life.

In closing, I strongly feel that the future is bright for our district and know Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly is going to be a great superintendent. I wish you all the very best. Thanks for everything!

Your Superintendent of Schools,

Anthony Cacciola

## A Quick Hello, A Fond Goodbye

### YIENDHY FARRELLY APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly has been appointed superintendent of schools by the Board of Education, effective Jan. 10, 2015. Dr. Farrelly has served the district since 2006, first as director of student services and, since 2009, as assistant superintendent for human resources. She came to the district from the Valley Stream Central High School District, where she served as a grade 7-12 special education teacher, district CSE chairperson, head of Memorial Junior High School's special education department and principal of Valley Stream CHSD's summer program.

"I could not be happier with the Board's decision to appoint Dr. Farrelly as my successor," Superintendent Anthony Cacciola said. "She is a bright, energetic and hardworking individual and is the perfect fit for West Babylon. The district is truly fortunate to have Dr. Farrelly as its future leader."

Dr. Farrelly received a Bachelor of Science in elementary and K-12 special education from LIU Post and a Master of Science in teaching English as a second language at Queens College. She is fluent in Spanish. In addition, she received her professional degree in school and district administration from the College of Saint Rose and her doctorate in teaching and learning from Hofstra University.

Dr. Farrelly is married to Rashaan Farrelly and the couple has a 2-year-old daughter.

"We look forward to her educational innovations that will bring our students to a competitive level and enable them to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills," Board President Lucy Campasano said. "Dr. Farrelly has an innate ability to command respect without demanding it, and the entire Board of Education is excited about working with her in her new capacity as superintendent."



### SUPERINTENDENT ANTHONY CACCIOLA TO RETIRE

Superintendent of Schools Anthony Cacciola will step down for purposes of retirement, effective Jan. 10, 2015.

In his letter to the Board of Education, Mr. Cacciola said, "The past 38 years have been rewarding and memorable. The friends, colleagues and associates I have come to know are countless and many will always be a part of my life, but I am ready to begin a new chapter."

Mr. Cacciola, a graduate of West Babylon Senior High School, accepted his first position as custodian for the district when he was in 10th grade in 1976. He worked his way through the department holding the positions of head custodian, chief custodian and asbestos compliance officer, as well as superintendent of buildings and grounds before taking on the role of school business administrator in 1993. In 1995, Mr. Cacciola became assistant to the superintendent for finance, a position he held for five years until he became assistant superintendent for finance. In 2007, Mr. Cacciola was named the district's superintendent of schools.

Board of Education President Lucy Campasano said, "We share a common bond for the children of West Babylon and he will be truly missed."

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# A Message from YIENDHY FARRELLY...

I am excited and truly honored to serve as your future superintendent. I look forward to working with the West Babylon Board of Education, parents, community and staff members on our shared goal of educating, supporting and guiding all of our students.

It is essential that you know my vision as your future superintendent. It is pretty simple for it starts with positive relationships. Positive attitudes and relationships, collaboration, dedication and high expectations with clear goals are essential within a school district community. We need each other in order to effectively help our students progress academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

As an educator and parent, I am a firm believer that our words and actions can have a lasting impact on students and colleagues alike. Each and every one of us has an opportunity to impact someone positively within our school district and community.

I am eager to lead this effort as your new superintendent. My objective is that we all work together in a respectful, collegial manner with the common focus, vision and goals to continue to improve upon our students' performance, our workplace environment and our community. We already have wonderful employees and community members who care deeply about the well-being of our students and community. These buildings are where our students learn and our teachers teach, and where so many of us work and spend most of our time. As your future superintendent, I am privileged to stand beside you, support you and be your cheerleader as we continue to enhance what is already a wonderful school district. Throughout this journey, I will ask for your thoughts and carefully listen to your input and perspective.

I am eternally grateful to Mr. Cacciola for his support, guidance and friendship. I wish him all that his heart desires in retirement. Thank you to the Board of Education, faculty, staff and West Babylon community for your confidence and support. It is truly my honor to serve the West Babylon community. From my family to yours, have a wonderful and safe holiday season.



## Bond Forum: Jan. 6

Community residents are invited to attend a forum to learn more about the scope of the proposed capital project bond referendum for vote on Jan. 13, 2015. The forum will be held in Eagle Hall at the junior high school, 200 Farmingdale Road, on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.



## In Recognition of Their Voluntary Efforts

In celebration of the New York State School Boards Association's School Board Recognition Week, administrators, teachers and staff honored the district's trustees for their voluntary service, commitment and dedication to students during the Oct. 28 Board of Education meeting.

"There are nine individuals who work tirelessly for no salary," Superintendent of Schools Anthony Cacciola said. "They all work many hours to make sure that the students get the best services they can."

In appreciation of the trustees' efforts, New York State School Music Association All-State musicians Andrew Morrison and Alexa Lucchesse performed Robert Schumann's "Widmung" and Albert Hay Malotte's "The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm," respectively, accompanied by senior high school music teacher Barbara Kelly. Student artwork also decorated the walls for this special occasion.

## A Warm Welcome

In preparation for the 2014-15 school year, the district filled an administrative position and several teaching positions. The district welcomes these individuals to the community and wishes them much success in their new positions.

**Erik Forsythe**, special education teacher – Tooker Avenue

**Lauren Kuncman**, part-time school psychologist – Santapogue

**Christine Lawton**, special education teacher – Junior High School

**Autumn Matthews**, special education regular substitute teacher – Forest Avenue

**Daniel Powers**, part-time special education teacher – Junior High School

**Michele P. Psarakis**, executive director for finance and operations

**Jenna Rosiello**, part-time family and consumer science teacher – Junior High School

**Nicole White**, special education teacher – Junior High School

## STAR Registration **UPDATE**

More than 350 West Babylon homeowners have lost their STAR exemption because they did not file for STAR by the Dec. 31, 2013 deadline, as mandated under new state legislation. However, the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance is accepting late registrations.

Resident homeowners who qualified but lost their Basic STAR exemption must register in order to receive an exemption in 2015 and subsequent years, as well as a reimbursement for the 2014 STAR exemption. To register, log onto the Tax Department's website at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) or call 518-457-2036. Senior citizens must also register annually for Enhanced STAR (the Tax Dept. website states seniors receiving Enhanced STAR are not affected by the new registration requirement), and new homeowners must apply for STAR by phone or by accessing the website.



# College and Career Readiness

One of the district's priorities is to assist students in becoming college- and career-ready.

Advanced Placement courses are just one of the ways students can prepare for college. Students who score a 3 or higher on the AP final exam may be eligible to receive college credit. In addition to the 18 AP courses currently offered, the high school also offers five college courses for credit to qualifying students. Middle school students interested in taking the eighth-grade pre-AP social studies or Advanced English course must take an application exam in the spring of their seventh-grade year. A selection committee then selects students based on their application exam results, achievement in their English and social studies classes, and overall academic average.

This year, 77 high school students were named AP Scholars for exceptional achievement on the May 2014 national exams. Thirty-eight of those students qualified for the AP Scholar Award, 10 received the AP Scholar with Honor

Award, 20 qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, and nine received the highest designation of National AP Scholar.

In addition to AP and pre-AP classes, middle school students may apply for the math/science accelerated course based upon their sixth-grade math/science GPA and teacher recommendation. Students who complete the seventh-grade math/science accelerated course are then enrolled in the eighth-grade Regents-level algebra and earth science courses.

The guidance department also hosts several mini college fairs, venues where college representatives talk to students about qualifications, enrollment procedures and the benefits of attending their college or university.

Students preparing for the career world can enroll in the district's Diversified Cooperative Program, run and monitored through the business department. Through this program, students are matched with jobs in the community to assist them in acquiring and improving job skills.



## Kudos Corner

- The 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program named senior Jason Meurlin a Commended Student. In addition, Destiny Vernon was selected to participate in the 2015 National Achievement Scholarship Program for outstanding Black American high school students.



- The senior high school was named a WISE Blue Star School for the 12th-grade economics classes' outstanding success on the financial literacy examination. Four of the economics teachers were also named Blue Star Teachers for a 90 percent passing rate for students taking the financial literacy exam.
- Senior student-musicians Andrew Morrison and Alexa Lucchesse were selected by the New York State School Music Association to participate in All-State ensembles at the annual NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester, N.Y.



- Middle school students Jocelyn Hyner (first place), Victoria Hyndman (second and third place) and Kyle Baranovich (honorable mention) were selected as winners for photography in the Babylon Citizens Council on the Arts and Town of Babylon's annual Photography and Sculpture Show.
- Seven senior student-musicians were selected to participate in the NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County festivals at Hauppauge High School.



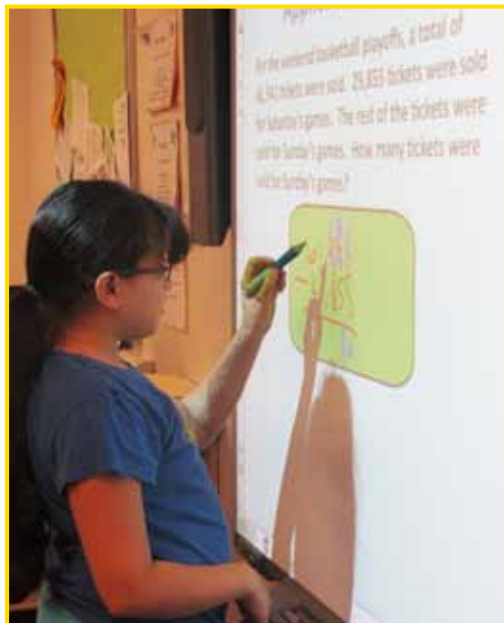
## Math Modules Implemented

The new Math Modules Program for grades K-5 is aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards and will prepare students for the higher demands of college. With concepts taught in a sequence of crafted subject matter modules, students have the ability to

master these concepts throughout the year and from one grade to the next.

In a typical fourth-grade math lesson, South Bay teacher Terence Egan's students reviewed whether certain large numbers were greater than or less than other numbers. After the class mastered the concept, Mr. Egan introduced a new concept, adding and subtracting large numbers to arrive at the precise answer and rounding the numbers to achieve the estimated answer. This lesson utilized previous concepts about place value and estimation. There was also much class discussion about the "givens" in the math problems, encouraging the students to draw from previously learned mathematical concepts.

Math Module Parent Guides are available on the district's website, [wbschools.org](http://wbschools.org), to help parents assist their children with math homework difficulties. The guides break down the math lessons into modules and lesson numbers and provide sample problems and solutions.





# HOMECOMING



The soggy, cold weather was not able to dampen Eagle spirits during the school district's annual homecoming on Nov. 1.

A fun-filled Friday afternoon pep rally in the high school gymnasium and broadcast to the PAC kicked off the weekend's events. New York State School Music Association All-State student Andrew Morrison led the student body in the singing of the national anthem, and NYSSMA All-State student Alexa Lucchesse sang "God Bless America." Sports teams were introduced to the student body, and students displayed their Eagle pride by dressing in school colors and cheering for their favorite athletes from the bleachers. The cheerleaders and dance team fueled the already-excited crowd with stellar performances, and the band

displayed its musical talent with a number of inspirational songs to match the occasion. The highlight of the afternoon, however, was the announcement of the homecoming court, which included Geo Amaya, Alison Barbero, Nico Cuzzi, Nadine Doerbecker, Nick Gilley, Erin Kenney, Nick Leone, Gabriella Nochese, Alexa Pulizzi and Rob Russo.

The constant downpours and high winds did not stop many community fans from attending the game against Half Hollow Hills High School East. The Eagles toughed it out on the field, but were unable to secure a victory.

The weekend ended on a positive note as students arrived at the homecoming dance in the high school gym. After an evening of dancing and socializing, Nadine Doerbecker was named homecoming queen and Rob Russo was named king.

## Pride Reigns



## Connect with Us

The district has launched its new website, [wbschools.org](http://wbschools.org), which was created to serve as a reliable source of information for parents, students, community residents and those interested in knowing more about the district. Visitors are encouraged to check the site often for up-to-date information on district activities, student achievements and access to important school information.

## Stay in Touch

We invite community members who do not have children enrolled in the district to sign up for our telephone call and email services. By signing up through the "Stay in Touch" link located on the district website, [wbschools.org](http://wbschools.org), you will be alerted and reminded of important districtwide events, such as budget votes, Board of Education meetings, community forums and emergency information. If you do not have computer access, please contact District Clerk Amy Jones at 631-376-7008.



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