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Tour Highlights West Islip's *Unique Offerings*

Showcasing the district's many unique and innovative offerings, the district hosted a tour with Sen. Alexis Weik and Bob Vecchio, executive director of Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association. Led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Romanelli, the West Islip administrative team and Board of Education members visited with teachers and students at West Islip High School during the morning tour.

Dr. Romanelli spoke about the shift in the future of education and how West Islip's programs are a true reflection of the recently developed profile of a graduate. The tour began with Dennis Pope, CTE teacher, and Brian Buonomo, lead teacher for engineering technology, who spoke about the many STEM offerings at the high school level including architecture/CAD, robotics, the automotive program, manufacturing partnerships and a state-of-the-art manufacturing lab on site.

The Little Lions preschool program was the next stop on the tour. Different from the district's universal

pre-kindergarten program, the purpose of Little Lions is to provide a well-rounded educational experience for children to learn, grow and form friendships while affording an opportunity for high school students enrolled in child study classes to work directly with young children. This program is open to 3- and 4-year-olds in the West Islip School District and is led by Nancy Silvestrini.

Teacher Tom Vitti showed off the high school's planetarium, which has served students throughout the district as well as community members since it opened its doors in 1966. Guests had the opportunity to see some of the many exciting features of the space. To close out the tour, teacher Ron Weber opened up the news studio to show off the many different opportunities students have to work the camera, audio, editing, photography and broadcasting via the daily announcements. West Islip focuses on teaching its students the many hands-on skills they need to set them up for success in their future career paths.

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THE LIONS PRIDE

WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PROFILE OF A WEST ISLIP GRADUATE A Roadmap for Success

A graduate profile can be defined as "an accessible, succinct description of what every graduate must know, understand, and be able to do," and thus can be applicable to every age, according to the book "Street Data." The overarching goal of West Islip School District is to ensure each student has the proper tools for a successful transition after high school, whatever path they may choose in learning, work and life.

From formulating the basis for an instructional vision to getting started with performance-based grading, graduate profiles clearly articulate outcomes for learners and provide guidance for the school district.

Starting at the beginning of their academic journey in West Islip and building through their high school career, the goal is to continue to build and reinforce the key elements of the profile. By the time students reach high school, they should be significantly dialed into their academic goals and aspirations.

To make certain every West Islip graduate is set up for success

as they venture to the next life stage, administrators, teachers, Board of Education members, students and community members collaborated to create a profile of a graduate.

"Beginning last year, the district curriculum committee identified a number of items through our research that we felt to be the most important areas of focus in preparing students for the future," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Romanelli. "We then asked staff, students and community members to narrow the field to six items."

With that in mind, six key criteria were identified and pulled out as the most important areas of focus in preparing students for the future. On the inside of this newsletter is a highlight of those key features and how West Islip is preparing its students for success.

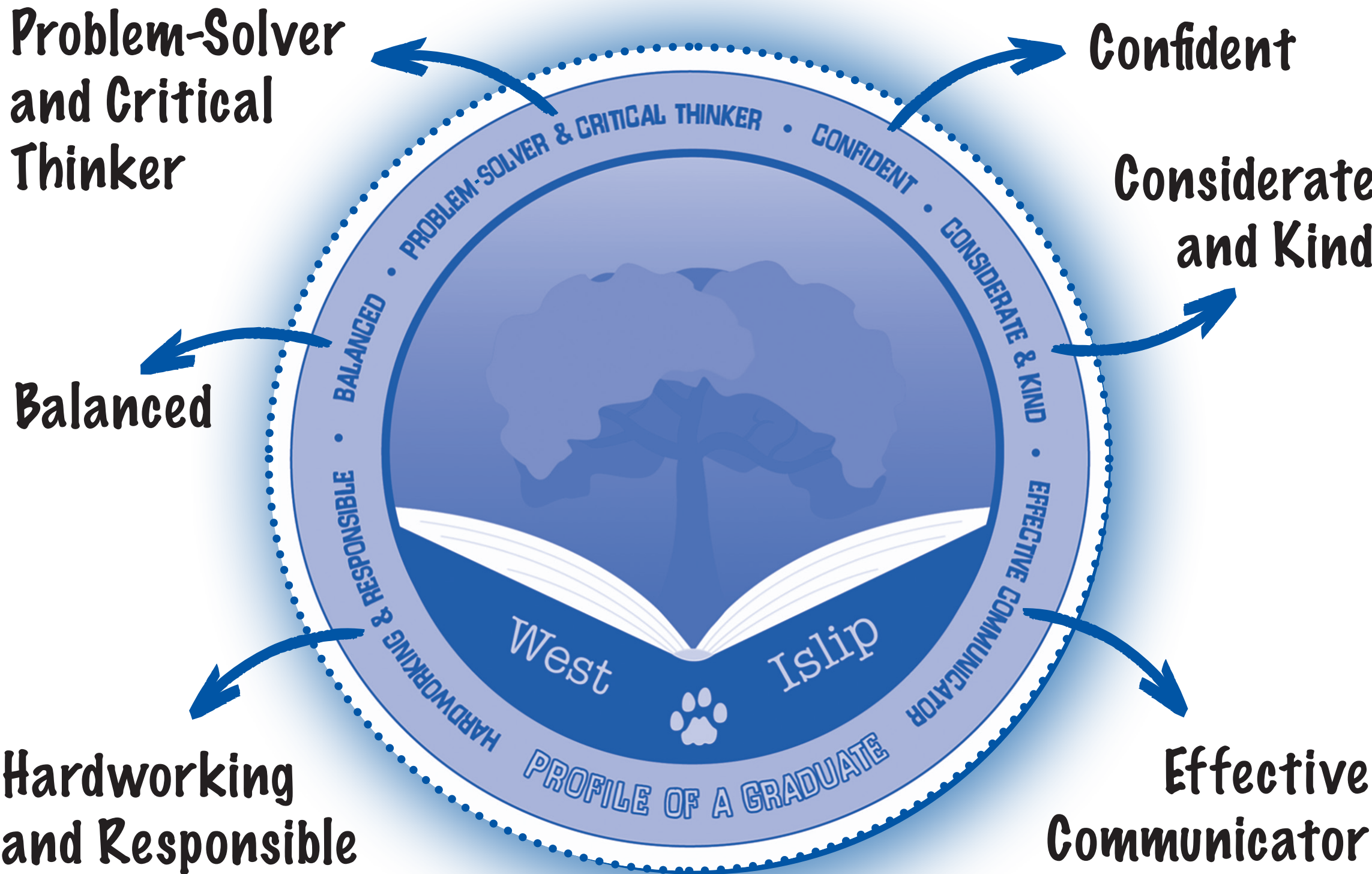


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Dr. Paul Romanelli
Superintendent of Schools

Six Elements of Focus

In the development of a profile of a graduate, the field was narrowed down to six items. Working with teacher Maria Cristantello, West Islip High School student artist Cheyanne Rosario-Sendra designed a logo for the profile of a graduate.

The following items were identified as the most important areas of focus for West Islip:



Laying the Groundwork

Last school year, the West Islip School District began to engage the community in shaping the future of the district and helping to create the profile of a graduate. Administrators and teachers did a book study of “What School Could Be” by Ted Dintersmith. The book offers a vision of what teachers and students can accomplish if trusted with the challenge of developing the skills and thinking needed to thrive in a world of technological change.

Continuing to work to reimagine education, the district held a community film screening of “Most Likely to Succeed” and panel discussion in March. The film offers an inspiring look at what students and teachers are capable of – if they have the vision and courage to transform their schools.

The purpose of this event was to foster meaningful discussion among educators, administrators, parents and students about how current obstacles can be overcome and steps toward change can be taken on a local level. Born out of these conversations is a community-wide commitment to moving forward; transformational initiatives are undertaken and real change is ignited.

What Lies Ahead

As a kickoff to the 2023-2024 school year on Superintendent’s Conference Day, the district began to share the informational campaign and spread the word about the profile of a graduate. Stakeholders are finalizing the definitions for each of the profile traits, including grade-level exemplar bands. They will then identify how these traits will be fostered in each content area.

The profile of a graduate will be used as a “North Star” for teaching and learning across the district, including observations, lesson planning and instructional practices. The district will work to develop programs to support the profile where needed.

One final piece includes speaking with graduates utilizing the profile regarding their educational experience in West Islip. At West Islip High School, administrators are tracking students who exemplify the profile of a graduate traits. High school students who are nominated for their exceptional traits will be receiving postcards throughout the year. Postcards will be delivered to high school students’ homes with a personalized message for each specific student, letting them know which teacher has nominated them and why.