

# THE LIONS PRIDE

## WEST ISLIP UFSD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Fostering a Love of Learning *Through the Arts*



West Islip continues to have a longstanding commitment to the visual and performing arts programs. The district's award-winning ensembles, student musicians and student artists continue to achieve at the local, county, state and national levels, which is truly reflective of the dedication of West Islip's outstanding art and music educators. West Islip has enhanced its curriculum with the latest technology, updated equipment and facilities, and varied course offerings in the arts such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, music technology and graphic design/advertising. For the past six years, West Islip has earned a national Best Communities for Music Education designation.



The arts are a core curriculum, firing up enthusiasm for learning, reinforcing reading, math and critical thinking skills, building self-confidence to flourish in other curriculums, accommodating a variety of learning types, and allowing for all students and abilities. In addition, the arts foster a positive attitude toward learning, unleashing the potential of students, and improving our communities by building pride and uniting people.

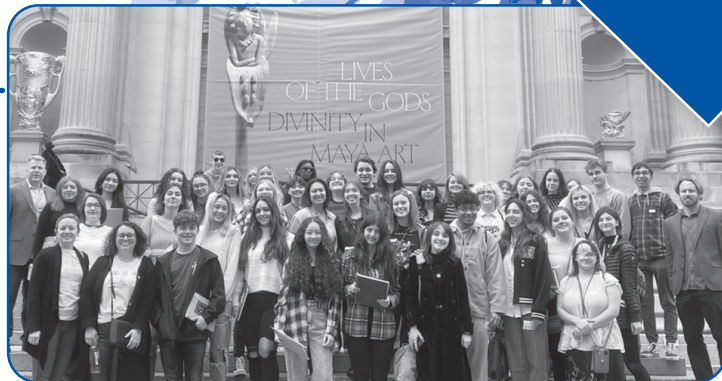
Many of these qualities can be directly related to those of the West Islip Profile of a Graduate, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, effective communication, confidence, balanced, and hardworking.



Arts education offers fulfillment over a lifetime. The ability to appreciate the aesthetic quality of the arts raises the joy of living and offers a foundation to become a happy, well-adjusted and productive citizen. Performance-based instruction and authentic assessment requires highly developed mental and physical disciplines. Furthermore, the visual and performing arts help develop cooperation, improve self-expression and provide unlimited opportunities.



# Artists Excel in the Classroom, Community and Beyond



The visual arts program in West Islip allows students to immerse themselves in a traditional art class beginning in kindergarten through their middle school years. A variety of mediums are offered such as drawing, painting, three-dimensional projects, oil pastels, ceramics and collages, just to name a few. As an enrichment opportunity, all buildings K-12 offer an art club outside of the regular school day to expand students' interests and explore additional mediums.

As the students move on to the high school, the typical West Islip art sequence consists of Studio Art, drawing and painting, oil and water painting, and Advanced Placement art and design. To supplement their overall art education, West Islip High School offers several courses in graphic design, advertising and advanced advertising, which prepares students for many career options in the graphic arts field. These courses are taught in the state-of-the-art Mac lab, which features the most advanced software and hardware options that are continually updated each year. The graphic design/advertising classes are continually providing professional artwork throughout the district, such

as the West Islip Profile of a Graduate, newly designed concert program covers, professional posters for musical productions, new logos/designs for the district branding project, and step and repeat backdrop designs for student recognition photos.

Students take field trips to local art museums as well as the Metropolitan Museum of Art each year. The West Islip chapter of the National Art Honor Society affords advanced students an additional opportunity to foster their professional growth in portfolio building, media and the arts.

As a result of their tremendous talent, numerous students have been selected for various prestigious art exhibitions, competitions and poster contests throughout Suffolk County. In addition, more than 600 student artists in grades K-12 will be featured in the annual District Art Show. Community projects include collaboration between the art and technology departments to provide Good Samaritan Hospital a design for Code Lavender as well as new promotional artwork for the annual West Islip Country Fair.

The district's music program offers a wide array of options for students to explore their particular interests and immerse themselves in the many courses that are offered at each level.

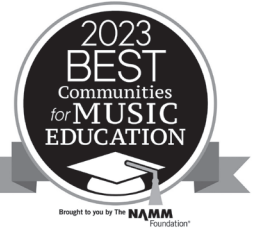
In addition to traditional performance ensembles, such as band, orchestra and chorus, K-6 students are enrolled in general music classes that provide instruction on recorders, keyboards, ukuleles and through classroom music activities. Music technology plays a vital role in primary music classes, and every student has access to various software programs on their iPads and Chromebooks to enhance their music education from the classroom. Performance opportunities range from winter and spring concerts, to singing and performing at special school and community events, as well as the annual West Islip Music Festival, District Jazz Night and Vocal Motion Family and Friends.

Enrichment opportunities include a chamber ensemble at the elementary level; chamber orchestra, vocal ensemble and jazz ensemble at the middle schools; and a wide selection of clubs and activities at West Islip High School, such as brass ensemble, marching band, pep band, pit orchestra, carolers, two jazz ensembles and numerous chamber groups. To complement its four chorus ensembles, three orchestral ensembles and three band ensembles, West Islip High School offers academic music

courses in music technology, music theory, Advanced Placement music theory and International Baccalaureate music classes. Students can also participate in the Conservatory program where they typically take two music courses per year.

Dozens of additional opportunities are provided to enhance the music education program, such as participation in the annual New York State School Music Association ratings festivals (both as an individual and within their entire ensemble) as well as local, county, state and regional honors ensembles. The West Islip chapter of the Tri-M National Music Honor Society recognizes advanced musicians and their high academic achievement with special events and activities throughout the year.

The West Islip music department also provides a vast variety of educational field trips for students that include theater/dance workshops and Broadway shows in New York City, regional theater on Long Island, Long Island Music Festival adjudications, Music in the Parks trip to Dorney Park, and performances and workshops at Disney World.



# Student Musicians Shine



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# MUSICAL MEMORIES

Beach Street Middle School, Udall Road Middle School and West Islip High School recently presented spectacular, full-scale musical productions that involved several hundred student actors and actresses, pit musicians, artists, set designers, lighting and sound crew, and prop/costume managers. The

talented students showed their skills in three different productions. Beach Street Middle School presented "Mean Girls," while Udall Road Middle School traveled to a faraway land in "The Wizard of Oz." The high school musical production brought a Disney film to life with "Anastasia."