

THE LIONS PRIDE

WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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DISTRICT NAMES

New Assistant Principal & Director of Intervention Services



Craig Gielarowski has been hired as the new assistant principal at the high school. Prior to coming to West Islip, Gielarowski worked for 12 years in the New York City Department of Education as dean of students, curriculum coordinator and science teacher, winning numerous educational awards. While balancing career, family and school, he also dedicated 17 years of service as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician.

"It is my sincere pleasure to become a member of this wonderful school community," said Gielarowski. "I am truly honored to be appointed to this position and am looking forward to working with the dedicated staff and community to provide the best possible educational program for our students."

The district has named Michelle Walsh as director of intervention services. In this role, she will support the implementation of

several districtwide programs, with responsibilities including the response to intervention process, homebound instruction, English as a new language services, and reading and math intervention. She will also supervise several departments in the district and provide professional support to new teachers.

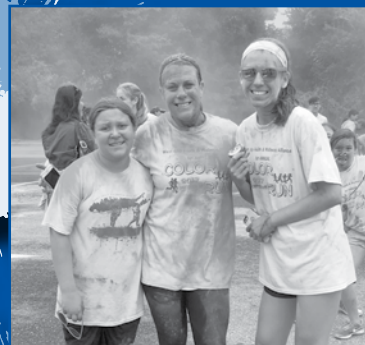
Walsh, a Garden City resident, worked for the last two years as intervention services coordinator for West Islip. She was previously employed by the Jericho School District as a special educator, reading specialist and elementary classroom teacher. She began her career in public and private schools in New York City.

"As a parent and educator, I understand the impact that schools and the bigger society can have on the development of a child," said Walsh. "Thus, I strive every day to create meaningful districtwide and schoolwide supports that help children and families reach success."



A 'Color'ful COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Close to 900 members of the community recently participated in the first annual West Islip Health and Wellness Alliance Color Run, held at the high school. Proceeds from the event will support health and wellness initiatives as well as substance abuse prevention.





BOND WORK UPDATE

As of December 2017, the district has completed numerous bond work projects in phases 1, 2a and 2b:

WEST ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL:

- Roof replacement.
- Gym bleacher replacements.
- Duct and coil cleaning.
- New generator and pool liner.
- Pump room equipment repairs.

BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- Gym floor and wall pad replacement, and volleyball post sleeve installation.

MANETUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- Roof replacement.
- Playground replacement.
- Gym wall pad replacement and volleyball post sleeve installation.

OQUENOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- Gym wall pad replacement and volleyball post sleeve installation.

PAUL J. BELLEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- Auditorium seating, flooring, ceiling and lighting replacement; wall refurbishing; and stage refinishing.
- Roof replacement.
- Playground replacement.
- Cafeteria ceiling and lighting replacement.
- Gym floor and wall pad replacement, and volleyball post sleeve installation.

The following bond projects are underway:

BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Gym bleacher replacements.

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Gym bleacher replacements.

DISTRICTWIDE:

- Gym window repairs.

The following bond projects are scheduled for later completion during phase 3:

WEST ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL:

- New Barberry turf field with new bleachers, new permanent lights at existing turf field, and new synthetic turf infield for varsity baseball.
- Lighting system renovation of the planetarium.
- Fitness center exterior step repair.
- Flooring, wall repair and painting, stage floor replacement, and sound and lighting upgrades at the Performing Arts Center.
- Masonry reconstruction, restoration of girls gym ceiling, repair of terrazzo stair treads, and repair or replacement of storm drain covers.

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Roof replacement.
- New building signage.
- Track replacement and new concrete bleacher pads.
- New front concrete sidewalk and rear asphalt paving.
- Band room renovations and wood flooring and riser repairs.
- Duct and coil cleaning.
- Classroom and corridor ceiling and lighting, repair of corridor expansion joints, window air conditioning unit and RTU, and dust collection system replacements.

BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Roof replacement.
- New building signage.
- New concrete bleacher pads.
- Masonry repairs at district office lobby window.
- Band room renovations.
- Duct and coil cleaning.
- Classroom and corridor ceiling and lighting, and window air conditioning unit and RTU replacements.



FACILITIES USE

The Board desires that district residents have the benefit of the use of school facilities, insofar as this is feasible without interfering with the regular school program or school-related activities. Such use must be limited to activities approved under state law and are primarily for the benefit of district residents. To this end, policies and regulations have been developed to ensure that the instructional and extracurricular programs can proceed unfettered, and district assets are protected and maintained.

Such guidelines include the following, which are offered to remind community members that it is everyone's responsibility to protect the district's most valuable assets, its children, and second, its facilities. If you see something that does not seem right, call security at 631-893-3347. This number is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Visitors are required to report to the main office upon arrival at any school and state their business.
- The public may use the district's facilities during hours when facilities are available for public use. However, all buildings and grounds are closed to the public when school is in session and when school grounds are closed for the night. The district is evaluating current gate access to ensure the most secure environment possible is maintained for students and staff when school is in session.
- All motorized vehicles are prohibited on school grounds except in authorized areas and purposes.
- Elementary school playgrounds are reserved for the use of children between the ages of 5 and 11.
- To maintain safe and healthy conditions for children attending our schools, walking dogs on school grounds is strictly prohibited.
- It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess any weapon or dangerous instrument, firearm, or chemical or explosive device, without the express written authorization of the superintendent.
- Alcohol and other intoxicating substances may not be used by any spectator, student or adult at any event sponsored by the district or any individual or organization using school facilities.

REMEMBER...

if you see something, say something.

Getting **GOOGLE** IN THE **CLASSROOM**

The district is committed to providing a learning climate for students that recognizes and supports the need to adapt to an evolving and ever-changing world, utilizing technology to provide skills and knowledge that empower all learners. To that end, West Islip launched our own Google platform using G Suite, a cloud-based service that provides our schools with a whole new way to work together online – not just using email and chat, but via videoconferences and real-time document collaborations.

Developed by Google and launched in 2006, the G Suite platform comprises Calendar; Gmail for communication; Drive for storage; and Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms and Sites for collaboration. West Islip began planning the 1:1 initiative two years ago to facilitate training and budgeting for devices. The district's decision was inspired by research that shows that a 1:1 computing environment is the most cost-effective way to implement technology, and that continuous access to a computing device for every student leads to increased academic achievement and financial benefits for the district.

Last year, each teacher was offered a Chromebook to use after attending two full days of training. Once teachers began to feel comfortable with this new technology, its use was introduced to students in a successful pilot program in our middle schools with various teachers, grade levels and content areas. In November 2017, each student in grades 6, 7

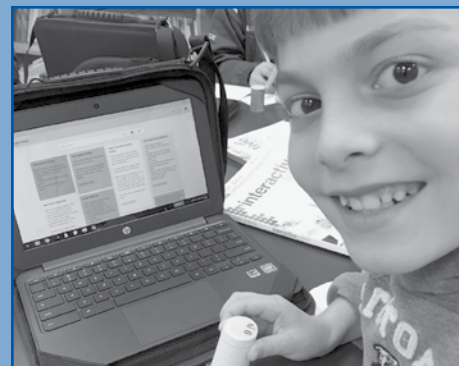
and 8 received a Chromebook to support their learning, using the West Islip Google platform. The Chromebook implementation supports the district's vision and goals, and develops 21st century skills for career and college readiness.

The benefits of using a Chromebook to redefine instruction include personalized learning with differentiated instruction; enhancing student engagement, motivation and ownership for learning; more opportunities for group and project-based learning; opportunities for collaboration, within and outside the school and district; access by teachers to student work to facilitate ongoing formative assessment; and 1:1 technology to improve student work flow.

The district also embraced the Substitution, Augmentation, Modification and Redefinition (or SAMR) model, which supports and enables teachers to design and develop digital learning experiences that utilize technology. With the SAMR approach, technology is truly a tool and not a learning outcome.

So what's next? The 1:1 Chromebook initiative will expand annually. For 2017-2018, Chromebook carts are available for classroom use for grades K-5 and 9-12. Ongoing training and professional development will continue for faculty, staff and students.

Most importantly, the district will continue to work towards fulfilling the promise that West Islip has 2020 Vision!



HELPING TO ENSURE *'Every Student Succeeds'*

Replacing No Child Left Behind, the Every Student Succeeds Act gives the district a new opportunity to examine how well our schools are doing and provide additional supports to schools that need them. The ESSA plan emphasizes the importance of fostering equity in education for all students and expands measures for school support and accountability.

There have also been important changes for our students and teachers in standards, curriculum and evaluation. New York State Commissioner

of Education MaryEllen Elia has worked towards addressing the concerns regarding educational reform initiatives that were implemented in 2012. Based on the concerns shared by parents and educators, a moratorium was placed on coupling state-provided growth scores with teacher evaluation through the 2019-2020 school year. The State Education Department made significant changes to the tests, which now have fewer questions, are untimed and were developed with greater teacher involvement.

Additionally, the Next Generation Learning Standards in English language arts and mathematics are the culmination of a two-year-long review process that included more than 4,000 public comments and the input of committees made up of 130 parents and teachers. West Islip was instrumental in ensuring that our teachers' voices were heard by providing time for teachers to complete the survey that included a review of each standard by grade level. The Board of Regents adopted the newly revised standards on Sept. 11.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES INCLUDE:

- Testing has been reduced to two sessions for each test.
- All texts are from authentic, grade-level works.
- The length of texts has been reduced to grade-appropriate lengths.
- There is an option for computer-based testing.
- Guidance has been provided for students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Roadmaps have been developed that guide the implementation process.

THE PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS OVER THE COMING YEARS IS:

- September 2017: Adoption of Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Awareness Building – 2017-2018 School Year: Two-day assessments measuring the current standards; professional development on Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Capacity Building – 2018-2019 School Year: Two-day assessments measuring the current standards; professional development continuing on Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Capacity Building – 2019-2020 School Year: Two-day assessments measuring the current standards; professional development continuing on Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Full Implementation – September 2020: Full implementation of the Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Spring 2021: New grade 3-8 tests measuring Next Generation Learning Standards.

Assessment is a critical component of any program and is used to assess academic growth of our children as well as the educational programs in our schools. We ask for your patience during these transitional years and your support for the district in our efforts to assess all of our students.

West Islip School District
Freyer Administration Building
100 Sherman Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795

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West Islip, New York 11795

PAWS Update

The PAWS Foundation is busy crafting new and creative ways for you to make a difference in West Islip education:

- ▶ Join your building PTA and volunteer to help your children's school whenever you can.
- ▶ Write to local, state and federal legislators to ask them to keep education funding a priority.
- ▶ Attend Board of Education meetings (a complete schedule can be found on the district website).

PAWS continues to run a brick purchasing campaign to help landscape the area surrounding the high school turf field. Bricks may be purchased by individuals, families, sports teams and businesses by ordering at www.wipaws.org/pdf/Brick%20Form%2009.pdf.

Stay tuned for more information about future PAWS activities.

Spotlight on SECURITY

The district approaches security issues with seriousness and vigilance, using planning and drills – while updating its methods and facilities regularly – to ensure the safety of students. State-of-the-art security cameras enable us to monitor buildings and surrounding grounds. All exterior doors are locked and only those with electronic access may enter; all visitors are also monitored via current sign-in and sign-out procedures.

Each district building has developed an emergency response plan, which includes information on weather-related emergencies, intruders, fire, bomb threats and other serious incidents. District representatives participate in conferences during the year relating to these plans, implementing recommendations from the United States Department of Homeland Security as well as national

and state departments of education.

Another integral part of the district's emergency procedures is the lockdown drill, utilized in situations where students and staff need to be sheltered from an immediate threat.

All West Islip students and staff have been trained and drill regularly in this procedure. Further, the district has established a course of action during community incidents that pose an imminent concern. During a lockout, no one is permitted to enter or leave a school building during the period of time in which an outside danger is present; the primary objective is to quickly ensure all staff, students and visitors are secure in the school. In the near future, all pedestrian gates will be locked during school hours. Additional information is forthcoming.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Students who are legal residents of the school district and who reside with parents or guardians within the school district at the time of the opening day of school must be 5 years of age or more on Dec. 1, 2018, to register for kindergarten. The following is required:

- An original document that provides evidence of the child's birth date.
- A certificate of immunization signed by a physician or health clinic, or a passport or other acceptable document.
- Proof of residency.
- Proof of guardianship.

Registration of eligible kindergarten students took place in each elementary school in early November. Timely kindergarten registration is critical for accurate budget development and transportation planning. Late registrants may not find space available in their home schools. If you missed registration, call the district registrar at 631-930-1585 to set up an appointment.

