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The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

the Reporter



Three Village Central School District
200 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

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Frank J. Carasiti
Superintendent of Schools

It is hard to believe that the summer has passed by so quickly and that we have successfully begun another new school year. The opening of school this year marked the implementation of several new programs and procedures across our district. Our elementary schools adopted the long-awaited unified school day for students in grades K-6, while Ward Melville's execution of a ten period school day proved to help alleviate some of the congestion and traffic challenges we have been facing for years.

In the short time that school has been open our students have already received recognition at both the state and national levels for their academic and musical achievements, bringing additional accolades and prestige to our district. We applaud our students for all of their hard work and are anxious to witness the great things to come this year.

The road that lies ahead is paved with many exciting opportunities as well as some foreseeable challenges for our district. Two years ago we discussed with a great sense of excitement, about the possibility of a capital improvement project that would have called for adding much-needed space to our high school, possibility reconfiguring grades 6-12, and most importantly, investing in our facilities in order to maintain their integrity and value. After much deliberation and study those plans were put on hold. However, the challenges we faced then are still present today. Currently, the Board of Education and district administrators are working to examine methods of addressing these issues with a plan that is both effective and cost efficient and intends to discuss a solution with the community during several public work sessions, the first of which will be held October 20.

I encourage our parents and the entire school community to stay involved in our district. I am committed, as I know the Board of Education is, to maintaining the reputation of the Three Village School District. I look forward to another successful school year.

New Faces *In High Places*

The start of the 2005-2006 school year brought new students, new teachers, and two new district administrators to the Three Village School District. Dr. Mara Bollettieri and Stephen Bilyk were welcomed to the district by the Board of Education and fellow administrators just before the start of school.

Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services

With a plethora of experience, Dr. Bollettieri joins the district as the new Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services. Dr. Bollettieri comes to the district from the Harborfields School District, where she served as an assistant principal at the high school before assuming the position of Executive Director for Human Resources and Funded Programs.

"I am extremely excited about working in this district," stated Dr. Bollettieri. "Everyone has been so welcoming and accommodating - I'm truly grateful for the tremendous support I have been given and anxiously look forward to the year ahead."

Noting that the previous districts she has worked with were considerably smaller in size Dr. Bollettieri said, "I'm up for the challenge and feel that I have many things to bring to the table. My focus is and will always be on the education that we provide to students. My goal is to make a concerted effort to become acquainted with all of our teaching professionals as well to as work diligently to hire staff that will support and encourage our students."

Dr. Bollettieri earned a Professional Diploma in Administration and Leadership from Long Island University at C.W. Post, a Doctor of Psychology and Masters in School Psychology from Yeshiva University's Ferkauf School of Psychology, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Long Island University at C.W. Post where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/Psychology.



Mr. Stephen Bilyk, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

Well known in the educational field for a commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability, Stephen Bilyk is a welcomed addition to the district as the new Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. Having worked with many school districts across the island as a business official, including Rocky Point, Miller Place, Shoreham-Wading River, and Hauppauge, in both a permanent and transitional capacity, Mr. Bilyk comes to the district with a wide-range of experience and expertise in the area of school finances.

"I am really looking forward to working with the Three Village staff this year," stated Mr. Bilyk. "I am here to help the school district through this transitional period until they are able to hire a permanent professional." When addressing

what he feels to be the year's biggest challenge, Mr. Bilyk stated, "It is the challenge that is facing every school district on Long Island - being able to balance program needs with the community's ability to fund those needs. My goal is to help provide the district with the financial tools needed to benefit all of the district's students."

Mr. Bilyk received his certification in Educational Administration with a minor in Educational Finance and Management as well as his Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Syracuse University, completed graduate studies in educational administration at Temple University, and graduated from Bloomsburg State College with an undergraduate degree in Accounting.



New Year, New Opportunities

The Three Village School District is well known for its dedication to academic excellence, the myriad of educational and extracurricular opportunities offered to students, and for preparing students for the world after high school.

Last year, in support of its comprehensive vision for students, the district welcomed its first-ever, non-voting, student member to the Board of Education, Emily Corso. Recognizing the added benefits associated with having a student member and the insight gained into the high school atmosphere, following Emily's graduation from Ward Melville, the district extended an invitation for a current Ward Melville High School student to join the Board of Education for the 2005-2006 school year.

Ashley Louise, a current senior, was appointed to the Board this summer during the district's annual organizational meeting. Ashley is President of the high school's Student Government, Vice President of the Key Club, competes on the Girls Varsity Soccer and Golf Teams, and is a member of Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor

Society, and the Stony Brook Soccer Club. Ashley also dances with the Spotlight Dance Academy and is a Long Island Junior Soccer League Referee. Additionally, she is an active member in the community, volunteering her time as a Lector/Minister for St. James Church's Youth Ministry and interning in the office of New York State Assemblyman Steven Englebright. Now, in addition to her numerous extracurricular activities, Ashley will have the opportunity to bring the thoughts and concerns of Ward Melville students to the Board for their review and possible executive action.

"I'm both nervous and excited about representing the entire Ward Melville High School student body on the Board of Education. I've been given a great opportunity in being allowed to have a front row seat to watch, and hopefully participate in, the operation of our district," stated Ashley.

"The Board of Education is an institution formed to do what is best for the students in the district and it is my intent to inform the Board of the happenings at Ward Melville, in order to further make more

"I'm both nervous and excited about representing the entire Ward Melville High School student body on the Board of Education. I've been given a great opportunity ..."

- Ashley Louise, Student Member Of The Board of Education

informed and accurate decisions concerning the school. I'm honored that I have been chosen to represent my school, and I'm enthusiastic to bring the heart of the Ward Melville students to the school board."

The district proudly welcomes Ashley Louise to the Board of Education and is confident she will help them further serve students' needs.



THREE VILLAGE RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AS AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL DISTRICT

The district is pleased to announce that it has been presented the honorable "Gold Medal School District" award of distinction from *Expansion Management* magazine, an award that designates the district as one of the most outstanding school districts in America and ranks them among the top 16% of school districts nationally.

For 14th annual *Education Quotient* issue, *Expansion Management* magazine, a monthly publication distributed to more than 45,000 Chief Executive Officers, Vice Presidents, as well as prospective parents looking for the best school districts, assessed more than 2,800 secondary school districts across the country, with a minimum total enrollment of 3,300 students, on how well they prepare students to enter and be part of the work force after graduation. With a primary focus on students' academic performance, the publication rated the district in three categories on a scale of 1 (the lowest) to 99 (the

highest). Out of the more than 2,800 school districts assessed, Three Village was ranked in the 98th percentile.

"We are extremely pleased and proud that our district performed well and was acknowledged with this national mark of excellence," said Superintendent of Schools Frank J. Carasiti. "This award is validation for all the years of hard work our teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents have dedicated toward making sure our children have a bright future."

This award not only recognizes the district's commitment to providing its students with a strong academic foundation but also recognizes it as a district that provides parents and business leaders with what they want from a community in which they live and work in.



The district's new secondary school teachers gained insight into the school district during a two-day orientation program conducted over the summer.



The newest elementary school teachers in the district gathered during a two-day orientation program to share ideas about effective teaching and to learn about their new district.

District Welcomes New Teachers

The approaching of a new school year not only marks the end of summer and the arrival of students to the district schools; it also marks the arrival of new teachers. In an effort to provide its newest faculty members with an overview of the district, an extensive two-day new teacher summer orientation program was conducted.

After enjoying a delicious continental breakfast provided by the Three Village Teachers Association (TVTA) at the Old Field Club, Board of Education President William F. Connors Jr. and Superintendent of Schools Frank J. Carasiti began the program by welcoming the new teachers, sharing their excitement for the year ahead, and introducing Georgette Bowling and Kristianna Martindale, two full-time district teacher leaders, who conducted the remainder of the program.

During the orientation program, the new staff learned about the state-mandated curriculum, were presented with a copy of the district's *Essentials of Learning Guide*, instructed on different methods of assessment and classroom management, given access to their e-mail accounts, and informed of district policies. The orientation program also included time for the new teachers to tour their respective schools, meet with their "building buddies," and ask any lingering questions they had about the schools or the district.

The district extends a warm welcome to its new teachers for the 2005-2006 school year and looks forward to a successful year together.

DISTRICT TEACHERS SET THE BAR

The mark of a superior school district is not only in the achievements of its students but also in the achievements of its dedicated professionals. Recently, three Ward Melville High School teachers were recognized by the state and asked to present on the programs they teach during the 29th Annual Statewide Conference for Law Related and Civic Education. The conference, which takes place in Albany, is sponsored by the Law Youth & Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association.

Ward Melville law teachers Megan Stringer and Carol Donovan, who is also the Chair of the Social Studies Department, are invited to present a program about the curriculum and lesson plans for the high school course *You & The Law*. Over the years both professionals have adapted the curriculum in order to better engage students in the subject. The course, which is offered to students in grades 10-12, provides an up-close look at the nation's criminal justice system using a method that enables students to experience the subject through field trips and guest speakers.

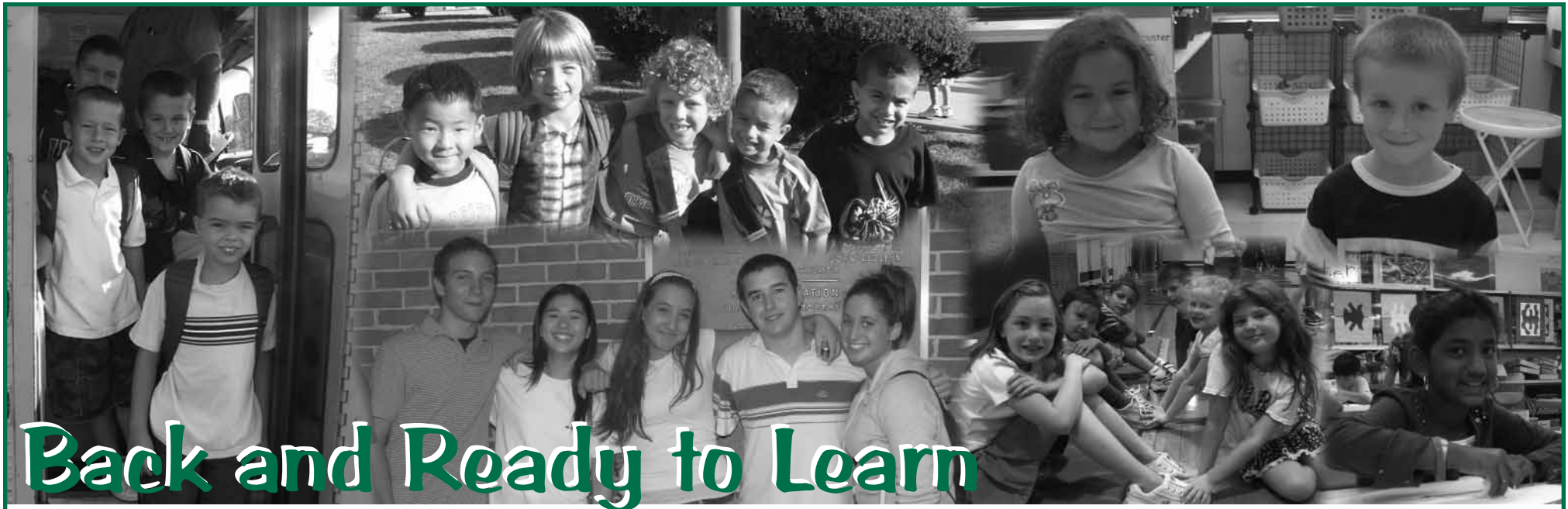
Joining Ms. Stringer and Ms. Donovan in Albany will be Ward Melville Civics Teacher Ira Sterne, who will be presenting the civic education program *We the People...Project Citizen*, a congressionally funded program that introduces students to and educates them on the methods and procedures used in the political process with the hopes of developing their commitment to active citizenship and governance. The program enables students to tackle and research a public issue that involves the use of public money, examine alternatives to existing policies, create their own policies, and often enables students to present their findings at the state or even international level.

"It is the mission of our school district to support our students as they become active, responsible citizens and encourage them to become involved in their community," stated Ms. Donovan. "I am extremely pleased that my colleagues and I will have the opportunity to present two programs that help to fulfill that mission."

COMMUNICATION AWARD RECEIVED FOR VIDEO PRODUCTION

It is not only the district's students who receive high praise and commendation from respected organizations. The Three Village Teachers Association (TVTA) has recently been recognized for outstanding achievement in educational communication by the New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA) with an award of Honor for their video production titled "The Three Village I Know," a piece detailing the outstanding aspects of the district.

The contest drew more than 600 entries from across New York State, which were judged by a panel of judges from throughout the United States. Award winning recipients in NYSPRA's 26th Annual Communications Contest will be honored on Oct. 28, 2005 at the annual NYSPRA Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the 2005 New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) Convention in Buffalo, New York.



Back and Ready to Learn

The familiar scene of yellow school buses rolling through the streets in town and students anxiously waiting at bus stops carrying bright new backpacks marked the end of the hot summer months and the start of a new school year in the district.

Well rested and ready to begin the new year, students arrived at their respective

buildings filled with an array of emotions. Younger students said tearful good-byes to parents and prepared to start their academic journey, while high school students, excited to be back with old friends, geared up for the nearing conclusion of their time in the district. Students arrived at their decorated schools

and were greeted by smiling and welcoming teachers and administrators, ready to assist with first-day adjustments and ease the common first-day jitters.

The students' adaptation to being back in school was seamless districtwide, making for a smooth and successful start to another new school year.



A Promising New Year *"I can't wait to meet new people and have a new level of independence."* - Seventh grader Samantha Jacobson

On one of the last days of summer vacation, Ward Melville High School and P.J. Gelinus and R.C. Murphy Junior High Schools opened their doors to the incoming tenth- and seventh-grade classes for a summer walk-through orientation. The informal orientation was designed to allow the students to acclimate to the new buildings that will become their second home for the next three years.

Upon arriving at the junior high schools, students were provided with a copy of their schedule, locker combination, and a map of the school. Volunteer upperclassmen, acting as tour guides, helped the new students map out the best route to their classes. Ward Melville High School students received their class schedules and locker assignments in the mail prior to the orientation and embarked on self-guided walking

tours with friends upon arriving at the school.

RC Murphy's Student Government, under the leadership of Kerri Golini and John Black, organized a social event in the cafeteria to provide the students with added time to get to know their classmates, catch up with friends, and purchase school-themed clothing and accessories from the school's PTO. The Student Government also provided coffee, tea, and pastries for parents and deliciously refreshing Italian ices for the students.

"I was really nervous about starting junior high, but Megan, an upperclassman Student Government volunteer, really helped ease my fears," stated R.C. Murphy seventh grader Erica Newberg. "I'm really excited to start seventh grade this year," stated P.J. Gelinus seventh grader Samantha Jacobson. "I can't wait to meet new people and have a new level of independence."



New Students Welcomed *During Breakfast Orientation*

To kick-off the new school year and welcome the newest members of the P.J. Gelinus and R.C. Murphy Junior High School communities, the buildings held welcome breakfasts organized by the schools' Student Governments. The district's new students enjoyed a breakfast buffet complete with bagels, juice, fruit, and pastries while socializing

with peers and learning about the schools from the Student Government volunteers.

Gelinus Principal Gustave Hueber stated that the program "is an extension of our seventh-grade orientation curriculum, designed to further acclimate new students to our building." Murphy Principal Vincent Vizzo added that, "In addition to helping

familiarize the students with their new school, the program helps tie their academic responsibilities to the social offerings of the school."

Student Government representatives were present during the breakfast to answer questions the new students had and to organize and moderate "ice breaker" games.



"In addition to helping familiarize the students with their new school, the program helps tie their academic responsibilities to the social offerings of the school."

- Murphy Principal Vincent Vizzo



WHAT'S NEW IN THREE V

NEW FACE OF 3-8 TESTING

Beginning this year the mandates established by New York State regarding English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics testing will be modified in order to test a wider group of students. Instead of beginning to administer these important assessments in the fourth-grade, third-grade students will now be included in the mandated testing schedule. Additionally, the test will be expanded to include grades five, six, and seven as well as the previously tested eighth-grade students.

"The expanded testing will be a beneficial tool for the district to monitor students as they progress through our schools and gauge how we can better assist them in the learning process," stated Executive Director for Elementary Education Deborah Blair.

In order to ensure the students would be prepared to take the new tests, which will be administered this January, district administrators and teachers took time over the summer to examine and rework the current curriculum and lessons plans to align them not only across the district, but also with the new state assessments.

"The summer workshops and recent training from BOCES has helped our teachers prepare for the new tests," stated Executive Director of Secondary Education Elise Russo Ed.D. "The method of preparation that we will be following, although, thematically aligned across our district, has room for differentiation, enabling teachers to customize the test preparation for their classroom environment."

The new curriculum implements different areas included in the new state assessments and reassigns learning skills sets to the grades in which they will be tested. At the elementary level, two math enrichment classes, taught by teachers other than the students' general studies teacher, have been added to the students' schedules, providing them the opportunity to experience new teaching approaches and practice math skills two additional times per week. Additionally, the district examined how to integrate test preparation into the literacy class curriculum. Through ELA workshops led by district literacy coordinators, the district established a methodology to include test preparation as a subject area, during which teachers will discuss with students strategies on how to be a good test taker – a skill that will help them throughout life.



WHAT DO THE NEW 3-8 TESTING STATE ASSESSMENTS LOOK LIKE?

Grade	English Language Arts	Math
3	2 Sections Multiple choice literary and informational reading passage Listening passage – literary editing task January 9 – 13	Multiple choice Extended response: students write an answer to open-ended questions, must show their work, and explain in writing how they arrived at their responses. March 6 – 10
4	3 Sections Multiple choice literary and informational reading passage Listening passage – literary extended response writing questions January 9 – 13	Multiple choice Extended response: students write an answer to open-ended questions, must show their work, and explain in writing how they arrived at their responses. March 6 – 10
5	2 Sections Multiple choice literary and informational reading passage Listening passages – informational editing task January 9 – 13	Multiple choice Extended response: students write an answer to open-ended questions, must show their work, and explain in writing how they arrived at their responses. March 6 – 10
6	3 Sections Multiple choice literary and informational reading passage Listening passages – literary extended response writing question January 17 – 20	Multiple choice Extended response: students write an answer to open-ended questions, must show their work, and explain in writing how they arrived at their responses. March 13 – 17
7	2 Sections Multiple choice literary and informational reading passage Listening passages – informational editing task January 17 – 20	Multiple choice Extended response: students write an answer to open-ended questions, must show their work, and explain in writing how they arrived at their responses. March 13 – 17
8	3 Sections Multiple choice literary and informational reading passage Listening passages – informational extended response writing questions January 17 - 20	Multiple choice Extended response: students write an answer to open-ended questions, must show their work, and explain in writing how they arrived at their responses. March 13 – 17



TECHNOLOG



A New Course...

With the ever-changing and evolving technology sector, it has become more and more imperative that secondary school-aged students receive comprehensive technology instruction. Computer and Career Essentials, or Computer Literacy as it is often called, was a course previously offered as a requirement for graduation at the high school level and is now, for the first time, being introduced at the junior high level this year.

The program, which is conducted in computer labs that were constructed over the summer in each library at the two junior high schools, is a hands-on 1/2 credit course requirement for all district ninth-grade students. The course strives to provide students with a deep understanding of basic technology inventions and instruction on

Making A Connection Through New Innovations

In an effort to increase the lines of communication and reduce the amount of paper traffic in this busy day and age, the district has implemented two state-of-the-art, cutting edge, technological resources.

Recognizing the need for a more timely method of reaching district parents and guardians, ConnectED, a calling notification system, has been adopted by the district. The program enables administrators to record, schedule, send, and track personalized voice messages to thousands of parents in minutes, efficiently improving student safety, parental involvement, staff communications, and student attendance.

The district began using the system during the second week of school to remind parents of important school events and will be used throughout the year to convey information such as weather related school closings and delays, testing date reminders, and attendance notifications.

Additionally, Infinite Campus, the district's student management program that made its New York State debut in the Three Village School District, is preparing to open the Parent Portal, a section of the system that will connect parents/guardians to their child's data online, anytime, from any Internet accessible computer. Infinite Campus, a web-based program, is currently used daily in the district for student attendance, scheduling, grade reporting, staff communication, and to provide teachers with easy access to student information, including health alerts, schedules, and parent contact information.

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal will allow parents to securely access information about only their child's junior and senior high school schedules, grades, attendance, assessment scores, and contact information via the Internet. The portal was successfully piloted last year to a select group of parents and is expected to be launched to district parents this month.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SUPPORT

With a strong focus on meeting the needs of all district students and the start of a new school year on the horizon, district administrators worked with the Three Village Teachers Association (TVTA) to establish a program that improves the current methodology for student support and professional development.

As part of this effort, the district has included a slotted section of the day called The Professional Period, a daily preparation period during which teachers work to better serving the needs of students. Two of the five weekly periods are designed for extra help for students who, based upon performance and a set of criteria established by the teacher, are in need of extra help. During this special time, teachers are able to work with small groups of students, which as a rule of thumb are not to exceed five pupils per session, to help increase comprehension in subject areas and alleviate confusion. The other three sections of The Professional Period are a designated time in which the teacher can use to confer with colleagues about students who are experiencing difficulty, connect with parents regarding their child's progress and educational development, or take part in mentoring activities.

"The Professional Period will provide teachers with the ability to dedicate time to students who are experiencing difficulty in certain subject areas as well as grant them time to collaborate with colleagues and meet with parents," stated Executive Director of Secondary Education Elise Russo Ed.D. "The small-sized, extra help settings will afford teachers the ability to connect with students and tailor lessons to the individualized manner in which they learn. In the long run, the Professional Period will provide teachers with the time needed to better serve the district's students"



"In the long run, the Professional Period will provide teachers with the time needed to better serve our district's students."
- Executive Director of Secondary Education Elise Russo Ed. D

LONGER DAYS

Provide Enhanced Learning

The start of the new school year was not only filled with new classrooms, new buildings, and new lessons. This year start of school was filled with several organizational changes throughout the district.

At the elementary level, this year marked the implementation of the long-awaited unified school day for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Unlike last year, this year's school days mark the first time that all elementary school students arrive and are dismissed at the same time. Designed to provide additional instructional time, the unified school day also provides staff members with the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues to discuss teaching and learning methods to best serve students' needs.

"The benefits of a unified school day for elementary aged students are plentiful," stated Elementary Education Executive Director Deborah Blair. "In short, the added instructional time over the course of a school year can equate to days – days that will ultimately benefit our students' education in the long haul."

In addition to the added instructional time at the elementary level, the district also implemented a ten period school day at Ward Melville High School. The structure, which calls for sophomores and juniors to follow an 1-9 period day and seniors to follow a 2-10 period schedule, was developed with the aim of alleviating the over subscribed classroom space in the building and ease traffic congestion during arrival and dismissal times.

The ten period day, which was planned and developed through many discussions with key district administrators, parents, students, and the Board of Education, is currently serving 245 seniors, translating to approximately 40% of the class. In order to ensure that underclassmen are not missing the opportunity to enroll in a desired course selection, only senior core subjects in the areas of math, science, English, social studies, and senior electives associated with these areas are offered during tenth period. Additionally, all extra curricular clubs and activities have moved their meeting times to the end of tenth period to ensure that seniors have the opportunity to continue to be involved members of the school community.

"The feedback that I have received from both the students and the faculty members has been extremely positive," stated Ward Melville High School Principal Thomas Colletti. "The seniors are enjoying arriving at school a little later and the morning and afternoon traffic congestion has been greatly alleviated – the process was a smooth transition."

PREPARING FOR A NEW GENERATION

popular software applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and database applications. Emphasis is also placed on the multiple functions of the Internet and the importance of improving keyboarding skills.

"Offering a course of this magnitude at the junior high level is outstanding," stated P.J. Gelinis Computer Literacy Teacher Heather Servedio. "It is a wonderful opportunity to lay the foundation for students to excel in the area of technology – something all students are required to be at this time in order to be successful."

In order to prepare for the transition from a high school course to a junior high requirement, district teachers and administrators met over the summer to update the course curriculum and discuss methods of integrating key areas of the ninth-grade basic curriculum with the software applications in order to develop and create relevant and meaningful projects for students.

....And New Educational Opportunities

Moving the technology course to the junior high level has opened a new door for high school students. With the availability of the computer lab at the high school, the district has worked to transition some of the

traditional study halls into electronic study halls, or E-Halls. The main goal of the E-Halls is to make more efficient use of students' downtime and increase access to the district's electronic resources that help with research, test preparation, and subject review.

Two of the programs currently available through E-Halls are *SAT Online*, a web-based program developed by the CollegeBoard designed to familiarize students with and practice the new SAT exam, and *School Island*, a website that provides both students and teachers with review resources in academic subject areas.

"The E-Hall is a terrific concept that not only better prepares students for exams but also helps to ensure that they are making effective use of their downtime," stated Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Dr. Lorna Lewis.



Same Programs, Different Look

Ward Melville High School is filled with numerous extracurricular activities and student organizations, but none reach as many and as diverse a population as the school's Education & Business Advisory Alliance (EBAA) and Student Government. However, due to district budgetary constraints, these organizations have had to be revamped for the current school year.

With the generous support of Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher and the Suffolk County Boys and Girls Club, the EBAA has been able to remain at the high school under the leadership of Jeanne Schnupp. Although it has had to scale back on its events quite a bit, the organization is still planning on hosting a power brunch, career fair, and the ever popular job shadow day this year – events all focused on increasing student exposure to the business world and job fields that are of interest to them. In addition to lending her expertise to Ward Melville's EBAA, Ms. Schnupp has reached out to two other local school districts, hoping to collaborate and share experiences in order to increase the scope of the resources offered to students. "The alliance not only fosters career exploration, it provides students with an abundance of educational opportunities," stated Ms. Schnupp.

The Student Government is the driving force behind many of the big events held at the high school. This year's organization, rather than being under the advisement of two mentors, is operating under the direction of one, Ilene Littman. The organization, which requires a tremendous amount of time, energy, and effort, is an undertaking that Ms. Littman is very excited about. Among the school and community events planned by the organization this year at to host a blood drive with the help of Long Island Blood Services in order to help combat the nation's blood shortage, the annual Trick-or-Treat Street for the younger members of the community, and the school's Talent Show.

NATIONAL PROGRAM REWARDS SENIORS

The district is proud to recognize fourteen exceptionally talented Ward Melville High School seniors who were recently announced as Semifinalists in this year's National Merit Scholarship Program. The students were congratulated and commended for their academic achievements and presented with the opportunity to continue in the competition against 16,000 other talented high school seniors nationally for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards, totaling \$33 million. Approximately 90% of this year's 51st Annual National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists are expected to be named Finalists this spring, and roughly half of the Finalists will be chosen as Merit Scholarship winners.

In order to advance to the final level the students must now complete several steps. The

Semifinalists must present an academic record of advanced performance, supply an exceptional recommendation from their high school principal, earn SAT scores to support their earlier testing performance, and submit a detailed scholarship application, including an individual essay and information regarding the applicant's academic and community activities.

Ward Melville High School Principal Thomas Colletti, Ward Melville High School Guidance Department Chairperson Linda Bergson, and the entire Three Village School District community congratulate the following students for their outstanding accomplishments and wish them luck on the next level of competition.



Mary Auner	Benjamin Solomon
Ming Min Hui	Curt Swike
Loren Loiacono	Patrick Van Nieuwenhuiz
Alexander Luryi	Connie Wang
Dustin McKinley	Jenny Wang
Margherita McNair	Harley Zhang
Paul Rademacher	
James Smithy	

MELODIC MUSIC MASTERS

Whether it is one of Mozart's grand symphonies or a pop culture musical arrangement, the district's music students are always ready to give an award-winning performance. Many of these talented and dedicated students have recently been acknowledged at the state level for their exceptional ensemble and individual musical talents.

This year, several Ward Melville High School students have been selected to perform during the 2005 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Conference in Rochester, New York, December 1-4, 2005. The students' hard work, determination, and musical capabilities are evident during school and county vocal, orchestral,

and band ensemble performances, and are deserving of high praise and commendation.

In addition to the students who will be playing during the NYSSMA All-State Winter Conference, three Three Village student composers will have the opportunity to hear their original pieces performed. Out of the more than 100 submissions received by NYSSMA, only 18 were selected for performance at the conference. The Seventh Annual NYSSMA Young Composer Honors Concert will feature "Bagatelle," by W.S. Mount Elementary School sixth grader Carolyn Chen, "H2O," by R.C. Murphy Junior High School seventh grader Curtis Chen, and "String Trio No. 2," by Ward Melville High School senior Loren Loiacono.

The Tenth Annual NYSSMA Student Electronic Music Composition Showcase will also feature "Bugs," composed by Curtis Chen. In addition to their pieces being performed during the concert, the students will participate in a series of workshops with prominent composers and teachers at the conference. Additionally, Three Village composition students Tiffany Chang, Jess Xing, Rosa Zhang, Roxana Mata, Jenny Kate Schlagel, and Eva Simpson-Abrams were recognized as finalists.

The district congratulates the composition students on their outstanding accomplishments and this year's NYSSMA All-State musicians and alternates:

Lights, Camera, Action

What does Fred Ester have in common with students in the Three Village School District? Well for one thing, a love of music and of performing. More than 200 students, from schools across the district, dedicated four weeks of their summer vacation to be a part of something special – The Three Village Summer Musical Theatre Program.

Under the direction of the Anthony Pollera, R.C. Murphy Junior High School Chorus and Theater Arts teacher, and the choreography of Lauren Horn, Minnesauke Elementary School Teacher, these talented students practiced and prepared every step, note, and word of their performances, ensuring that their audiences would not be disappointed.

Students in grades 5-12 took to the R.C. Murphy Junior High School stage to perform three sold out shows before proud parents, friends, and community members. The variety show production, entitled "Summer Starlight," showcased the students' vocal, dancing, and comedic talents. Select excerpts from famous Broadway plays captivated the audience in the district's musical review. Each student was featured in several numbers and was excited to showcase their outstanding musical and theatrical talents.



Mary Auner	Violoncello, Orchestra - <i>Alternate</i>
Rebecca Brown	Soprano, Chorus - <i>Alternate</i>
Jaime Jerome	Violin, Symphony Orchestra
Hillary Lin	Violin, String Orchestra
Loren Loiacono	Oboe, Wind Ensemble
	Jazz Piano, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble - <i>Alternate</i>
Cecilia Madariaga	Violoncello, String Orchestra
Hannah Parker	Soprano, Women's Chorus
	Jazz Soprano Voice, Vocal Jazz Ensemble - <i>Alternate</i>
Chris Parles	Flute, Band - <i>Alternate</i>
Matthew Salzberg	Jazz Tenor Voice, Vocal Jazz Ensemble - <i>Alternate</i>
Curt Swike	Euphonium, Symphonic Band
Sarah Tan	Violin, Symphony Orchestra
Christopher Tranchino	Mallet Percussion, Symphony Orchestra
	Percussion, Wind Ensemble
Shaul Yahil	Violin, Symphony Orchestra
Karen Yeh	Violoncello, Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Yu	Violin, Symphony Orchestra
Harley Zhang	Viola, String Orchestra

Students Spend Summer Studying Music

While the summer months were filled with relaxing days by the pool and hanging out with friends for some Three Village students, more than 400 district students, ages eight to seventeen, spent their summer vacation participating in the Three Village Summer Music Program, a five-week program centered around music education sponsored by Brookhaven Art and Music, a nonprofit organization.

Within classrooms at P.J. Gelinas Junior High School the students, under the direction of district music department faculty members, received small group lessons, divided according to experience level, and participated in large

Within classrooms at P.J. Gelinas Junior High School the students, under the direction of music department faculty members, received small group lessons, divided according to experience level, and participated in large ensemble group rehearsals.

ensemble group rehearsals. This year's program marked the continuation of the orchestra, concert band, jazz band, and chorus groups as well as the guitar program, which more than doubled in participation from its introduction last summer. A strong interest was also shown in a new music theory class that was introduced for the first time this summer.

A concert, at the conclusion of the summer program, was conducted in front of an audience filled with proud friends and family and community members who enjoyed listening to the talented students perform spectacular musical selections.

Surf's Up During Local Beach Clean Up

With the sun shining high above their heads, more than 200 volunteers from the Three Village community, 135 of which were students and staff members from P.J. Gelinas Junior High School, arrived at West Meadow Beach with one thing on their minds – helping to beautify the beach that surrounded them. As they have done for many years now, members of the P.J. Gelinas school family teamed up to participate in International Coastal Cleanup Day.

This ecologically centered day serves not only as a community service opportunity for the students but also as a real-life science lesson. Throughout the two-hour documented clean-up teams of participants collected and recorded the type of debris found on the beach, which was then sent to the Center for Marine Conservation and processed to help develop solutions and stop the dumping of trash in the coastal environment.

"This is an outstanding event that brings our community, both locally and nationally, together and teaches the students very worthy lessons in the areas of character education, environmental science, and social responsibility," stated Science Department Chair Gary Vorwald. "This is a day that I look forward to each year."

This year's program was coordinated by Pete Schuchman and Gary Vorwald, from the P.J. Gelinas Junior High School Science Department, along with the help of Kate Passaretti of Setauket. In addition to the junior high school

student volunteers, representatives from the Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Stony Brook University, and students from the district's elementary schools were on hand, helping to pitch in. After all their hard work, the hungry volunteers all enjoyed fresh-picked apples donated by Ann Marie's farm stand of Setauket.

In 2003, more than 10,000 volunteers cleaned and documented over 334,421 pounds of debris at 351 beaches across New York State.

"This is an outstanding event that brings our community, both locally and nationally, together and teaches the students very worthy lessons in the areas of character education, environmental science, and social responsibility."

-Science Department Chair Gary Vorwald



WARD MELVILLE RANKED IN NATION'S TOP 10 AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

The School of Business at Ward Melville High School is proud to recognize members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organization for their outstanding accomplishments at the annual National Leadership Conference held in Orlando, Florida.

Under the direction of FBLA advisor Ilene Littman, these talented students surpassed their peers during the state competition, receiving first and second place and an invitation to compete at the National Leadership Conference, where Ward

Melville students Brian Krausz and James McMath placed in their individual areas of competition.

Brian captured 10th place in the nation for Technology Concepts and James placed 10th in the nation for Computer Concepts.

The district congratulates Brian and James on their hard work and outstanding display of academic excellence.

