



**THREE VILLAGE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The mission of the Three Village Central School District, in concert with its families and community, is to provide an educational environment which will enable each student to achieve a high level of academic proficiency and to become a well-rounded individual who is an involved, responsible citizen.

Marnie Kula, Ph.D.
Coordinator, InSTAR® Science Research
mkula@3villagecsd.org

INSTAR® PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Thank you for your interest regarding the InSTAR® program at Ward Melville High School. InSTAR® is a three-year program for students interested in scientific research. It culminates in the senior year with the *required* submission of independent work to the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

Through involvement with InSTAR® students learn about the basics of scientific investigation including hypothesis design and testing, data collection and analysis, the use of statistical methods, and the presentation of research projects in professional oral and written forms suitable for publication in scientific journals. This is accomplished through a combination of traditional instruction, “hands-on” experimentation, seminars, laboratory research and field trips. Student involvement in several science competitions including the Long Island Science & Engineering Fair, New York State Science and Engineering Fair, NSPC Health Sciences Competition, Long Island Science Congress, Toshiba ExploraVision, the Brookhaven National Lab Bridge Building Competition, and ultimately the Regeneron Science Talent Search is expected.

Successful participation in the InSTAR® program requires a great deal of personal commitment and motivation. Most of the work takes place outside of the classroom. In fact the ‘*in*’ in InSTAR stands for “independent.” The time required often includes weekends, vacations and summers which is especially true for the completion of your senior-year independent research project. Grades for InSTAR® are determined by the effort put forth and the timely submission of projects and assignments.

Due to the popularity of InSTAR® and staffing requirements, admission is selective and a limited number of students are accepted each year. The following pages contain the application instructions and supporting documents.

Principal: William Bernhard **Assistant Principals:** Joanna Cadolino, Erin Connelly, Andrea Canestro

380 Old Town Road ■ East Setauket, New York 11733-3499 ■ Telephone: 631-730-4900 ■ Fax: 631-730-4901

Cheryl Pedisich, **Superintendent of Schools**
Kevin Scanlon, **Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services**
Jeffrey Carlson, **Assistant Superintendent for Business Services**
Gary B. Dabrsky, Ed.D., **Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources**

InSTAR® application instructions:

1. Please print and complete the attached Parent/Guardian Statement.
2. Complete all student information using the link to a Google form below.
<https://forms.gle/mGzH8DiKG8VaE57k8>
3. Send the following link to a science teacher, math teacher and humanities (English or social studies) teacher who has agreed to fill out the recommendation. **Must be completed using district e-mail.**
<https://forms.gle/JXzT5UPdxEddcYC58>
4. Do this *as soon as possible* so these can be completed by the deadline.
5. Submit the following (stapled, *in the order given below*) to your Guidance Office as a single packet **no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, January 8, 2020:**
 - a. An essay (**500 words maximum**) discussing a major scientific question or problem of interest to you. Please discuss how you might propose a solution that could have a significant impact over the next 20 years. Be specific and state why you feel it is important. Cite scientific sources where possible. Your essay must include your name and be in a *12-point font, double-spaced with 1" margins on top, bottom and sides*. Essays not meeting these criteria will result in point deductions.
 - b. Copies of your final report card from 8th grade and your current 9th grade 1st quarter transcript. Note that your course levels and grades in math, science and English are very important in the selection process since you must be skilled in these basic areas to successfully undertake the additional work required for InSTAR®.
6. Print and attach the signed *Parent/Guardian Statement* to the top of your application packet with a paperclip.

If you have any questions about the application procedure or the program, please contact me. I thank you for your interest in joining InSTAR® and wish you success in your application! You will be notified regarding your admission before the February break in 2020.

Sincerely,



Marnie Kula, Ph.D.
InSTAR® Program Coordinator



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STUDENT APPLICANT'S NAME (Please Print) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child is applying to the InSTAR® Science Research Program at Ward Melville High School. This is a demanding program designed for motivated students interested in independent research. The popularity of this program requires an admission process to select the students who will enter next fall.

Grades in science, math and English are important considerations for admission. Due to scheduling requirements, selections must be made early in the school year, often before the 2nd quarter grades are available. *If your child is accepted to InSTAR®, please be aware this admission is contingent on his/her maintained scholastic performance for the remainder of the current school year.*

Students whose grades drop may be removed from the acceptance list so they are able to devote more time to their core courses. They will be notified immediately if this occurs. Students may also re-apply to the program in their sophomore year for admission as a junior. Please sign the following statement and have your child include it with the application packet:

I, _____ (Parent/Guardian's printed name) understand and agree that my child's acceptance to the InSTAR® science research program is contingent on his/her *maintained* academic performance for the remainder of the school year. If my child's academic standing drops, he/she may be removed from the acceptance list. If accepted, my child may still be unable to enter the program due to scheduling conflicts or staffing reductions. I understand the possibility that not every course request can be satisfied.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Please ensure this statement is included with your child's application packet. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this policy or the application procedure in general.

Best regards,

Marnie Kula, Ph.D.
Coordinator, InSTAR® Science Research