

Highlights

of the Sayville School District

December 2007

District Newsletter
Volume 22.3

<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

Newsorthy

Thank you for your support!

Two Propositions Passed.
Voters approved the two propositions that were put to a vote on November 29th.

- Proposition One allows the District to bond up to \$12,100,000 for needed capital projects and improvements to the District's buildings.
- Proposition Two gives the District the right to sell two properties (the library when it is vacated and the Tyler Avenue maintenance facility).

VOTE TALLY:

Proposition One: 430 to 292

Proposition Two: 492 to 203

HOLIDAY MUSIC PUT THE DISTRICT IN THE HOLIDAY MOOD

Thanks to the exceptional direction of our Music Department, our students of all ages showcased their vocal, orchestral, and band talents during a variety of Holiday Concerts. Samples of some music will be available on the school website.



Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Valuable Gifts



DECEMBER 2007

Dear Parents and Community Members,

It seems like the Holidays came a little early to Sayville this year. The community gave our students and themselves a wonderful gift by approving two referendums that will enhance our educational programs with minimal impact to the taxpayer. With this action, Sayville Public Schools will be able to move forward with the gift that keeps on giving.

While we are talking about gifts that have lasting value, please consider the value of the presents you may give to your own children or grandchildren during the holiday season. The "value" of a gift does not necessarily refer to the cost. It really refers to a gift that has an effect on the developing heart or mind of a child. Beyond the commercial gimmicks and gizmos with which we are all inundated, there are simple pleasures that children can gain when the gift matches their interests or touches their imagination.

I would encourage you to consider giving some of the more simple gifts that would complement their classroom lessons. Students who love what they learn and extend their learning outside the classroom are more successful both in school and in life. Why not consider including a world globe, a wall map, books on a variety of topics, science project kits, art supplies, models, and puzzles? Sometimes the simplest toy affords the greatest creativity.

As partners in educating young people, we want to instill in our children what is valued most around the world – their creative spirit. Gifts that spark this spirit will have lasting value.

I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and all good things in the New Year!

Warm regards,

Rosemary F. Jones, Ed. D.
Sayville Superintendent of Schools



Sayville School District Highlights **NOW** has a web presence! Check out the WEB Highlights (sayville.k12.ny.us) for the most current school news coverage!



DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

Board of Education

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KEITH KOLAR

RAYMOND J. NELSON

DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT

AT THE DECEMBER 6TH BOE MEETING

STUDENT RECOGNITION was
 given to Lincoln Avenue students
(see right)

DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
REPORTED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. State Aid
2. 403B Tax Shelter Regulations
3. Changes in Medicaid
4. Town of Islip Use of Facilities
5. Maritime Museum After School Program
6. Replacement of Xerox Copier Equipment
7. Status of Sayville Public Library
8. 2008-2009 Calendar
9. Uniforms Survey
10. Scope Before School Program
11. January 5 Advocacy Meeting

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

1. Policy Review Committee
2. Board Self-Evaluation
3. 2008-2009 Budget

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 21 – JANUARY 2

Schools closed for Winter Recess

JANUARY 3 Schools open

JANUARY 3 Board of Education
 Workshop Meeting
 7 p.m.

JANUARY 10 Board of Education
 Meeting, 8 p.m.

AT THE OCTOBER 18TH
 BOE MEETING

RECOGNITION WAS GIVEN TO:

- Sayville Board of Education members by the New York State School Board Association for fulfilling their commitment to the education of our Sayville students.
- All-County Musicians (*not all were present for BOE Mtg photo*) for the 2007-2008 school year:



Sarah Bartlett, Joseph Hailey, Douglas Jones, Gary Jones, Kristie Lankowicz, Melissa LaPinta, Jared Linehan, Megha Marwaha, Dayna Montalto, Brendan Phelps, Jacqueline Potts, Adam Rizzo, Patricia Yale, Roxanne York

AT THE DECEMBER 6TH
 BOE MEETING

RECOGNITION WAS GIVEN
 TO THE FOLLOWING
 LINCOLN AVENUE STUDENTS

Kayleigh Mullaney,
 Kara Intermesoli,
 Julianne Johnston,
 Alexa Levin, Ashley Coia,
 Erin Gunther, Jillian Estelle,



- For raising \$3,300.00 from a four-hour, one-day bake sale and donating the proceeds to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in honor of their beloved teacher, Mrs. Erin Halliday Duffy:

MUSICAL PRESENTATION at the BOARD OF EDUCATION Meeting



Rockin' Rudy (Jill Gallina) and *Jingle Bell Rock* (arranged by Mac Huff) were performed by the Lincoln Avenue Singers under the direction of Music teacher Christine Senatore. The lively music lightened the hearts of all who attended the December Board meeting.

Check the Web Highlights for the performance

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION New York State Education Law Section 409-H requires all public and nonpublic schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the periodic and potential use of pesticides throughout the school year.

New York State requires school districts to issue a notification 48 hours prior to each pesticide application during the course of the year to faculty, staff, and parents who request it. If you would like to receive this notification, please send a written request with your

name, address, and phone number to:
Office of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds,
 99 Greeley Avenue
 Sayville, New York 11782.

Check sayville.k12.ny.us periodically for updates.

Sayville Board Of Education Recognizes Ninety-Three

Sayville Students and Staff who participated in the 2007 Sayville Summer Series.

To promote Wellness last spring, the Sayville School District had invited students and staff of all ages to run or walk in the 2007 Sayville Summer Series, with the additional incentive that participants would receive Board of Education recognition. (See previous article, "FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE," Web Highlights, September 2007 Archive.)

Ninety-three responded to this call for wellness.

During the summer, Sayville Personnel Director Rosemary Camilleri, both an accomplished runner and participant of the Summer Series herself, had "tracked" the students and staff who logged in for each of the four events. The list of participants was impressive.

As promised, these 2007 Summer Series participants were

invited to the **November 8th Sayville Board of Education Meeting** to receive their citations.

After thanking the BOE for their support, Ms. Camilleri invited each building principal to announce their students and staff members who accepted the challenge to run or walk in the 2007 Summer Series.

In addition, Ms. Camilleri highlighted for the Board some of the runners' accomplishments (see *Web Highlights* for details).

In all weather they came out to run or walk in at least one of the four races, proving they were ready and fit to accept the challenge. Congratulations to all the Sayville students and staff who strutted their stuff for worthy causes.

For the 2007 Sayville Summer Series results go to Sayvillesummerseries.com.



SOME SAYVILLE SUMMER SERIES STATISTICS

- Youngest Runner was Lincoln Avenue's Gracie Scribner, 7 years old.
- High School Technology Teacher Rick Caskey placed Fourth overall in his age group of 45 runners.
- Lincoln Avenue's Ms. Barbara Barone took 2nd overall in her age group of 75 runners.
- In the Male 1-14 age group, out of 66 runners: Middle School's Kevin Hart (14) placed 3rd; Shane Sullivan (11) placed 4th; and Pat Smith (11) placed 1st.
- In the Female 1-14 age group, out of 48 runners: Sarah Pellegrini (14) placed 2nd; Erin MacDonnell (11) placed 3rd, Kayleigh Mullaney (10) placed 4th; Kerry Barret (10) placed 5th; and Mary Barrett (14) placed 1st overall in the age group and 4th overall on Long Island.
- Other participants included Sayville Board Member Keith Kolar and Kathy Finn, secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Business John Belmonte.

What is a Delayed School Opening?

•What is a delayed school opening?

When regular starting time for a school is changed because of weather-related problems.

•Why is it necessary to have a delayed school opening? To allow the Town and School District additional time to sand the roads, sidewalks, etc., ensuring a safer trip to school for our students and staff.

•Would all Sayville private, parochial, and public school students be subject to the delayed opening regardless of the school attended? Yes

•If a delayed opening were necessary, would dismissal time be the same? Yes

•How would parents know about a delayed school opening?

In addition to the District's website, www.sayville.k12.ny.us, check with radio stations WBLI 106.1, WBAB 102.3, WALK 97.5, and television's News 12 Long Island.

•If my child attends a private or parochial school outside the District and that school starts at the regular time, does my child still get picked up on a two-hour delay? Yes

•If my child attends a Regional BOCES school, would he/she be subject to a delayed school opening? Since BOCES schools do not use delayed school openings, either the school is open or closed. All BOCES Regional students

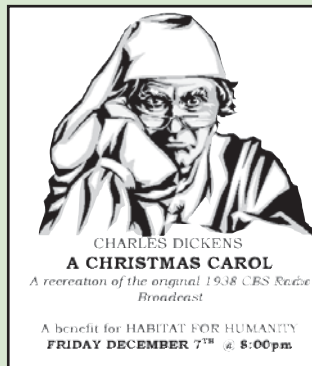
There may be days when school is either closed or delayed due to inclement weather. Sayville Schools rarely uses delayed openings, but as Long Island weather patterns change, we must also be prepared to change to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The decision to close or delay school is based on many factors, including the following:

- condition of the roads
- availability of our bus transportation
- conditions of the school buildings and grounds

Questions for BOCES Regional Programs should be directed to Pat Martell, Transportation Administrator: (631) 472-6840.

would be picked up at their regularly scheduled times as per BOCES Regional Directives.

Did You Hear?



WSAY Radio and the Social Studies Faculty presented a real holiday treat...

Assisted by WSAY/music department staff, history faculty, and select students presented a thoroughly enjoyable recreation of the 1938 CBS Radio Broadcast: *A Christmas Carol* before a live audience in the High School Auditorium. Proceeds of the ticket sales went to HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.

While the performance was simultaneously aired on www.wsayradio.com for the whole world to hear, you can catch the rebroadcast by checking the wsayradio.com schedule.

FROST VALLEY

This year's Eighth-graders returned from Frost Valley Education Center with amazing experience, greater appreciation for the natural world, and warmer friendships.

Light snow and mildly cold temperatures did not deter the students from enjoying the great outdoors to learn orientation using a compass, forest ecology, geology, resource management, stream studies, soil exploration, and astronomy during Night Awareness.

Indoor entertainment included live animal demonstrations, and mealtimes were wholesome and nutritious. Everyone loved it!

Could you ask for anything more?

When it comes to Our School Buses, SAFETY IS A TOPMOST PRIORITY

For all Sayville students, learning bus safety is an ongoing part of the District curriculum. In conjunction with the district's contracted bus service, Suffolk Transportation, numerous classroom safety lessons and two drills are practiced early in the school year, and a third drill—as a reminder—is held in the spring.

Whether or not they ride the bus, all students participate in these drills during the school hours. Our teachers instruct the students on the do's and don'ts of:

- Waiting at the bus stop in a safe manner
- Inclement weather and the dangers of poor visibility, icy conditions, and strong winds,
- Boarding the bus
- The hazards of running for the bus
- Behavior on the bus and proper seating
- Emergency situations which include knowing the location of all emergency exits, emergency equipment, and how to evacuate the bus in an orderly fashion. (*Check the Web Highlights for more information.*)

In addition to Sayville District's lessons, Suffolk Transportation sends out to all bus families safety tips with the bus schedules in August.

Dedicated to providing the safest service available, Suffolk Transportation has strict guidelines for their school bus drivers. Each of the drivers is required to have the following:

- An in-depth interview and personal evaluation
- A clean pre-employment drug test and ongoing random drug and alcohol testing
- Fingerprinting and a criminal background check
- Good character references
- A commercial driver's license and a clean motor vehicle record
- Up to 60 hours of in-house classroom/road training
- Internal and external Road Reviews and a Peer System Review
- Annual recertification, physical exams, and road supervision
- Complete annual training and refresher courses.

This November, Suffolk Transportation has added five new 66-passenger buses to the Sayville fleet. These new buses are equipped with video cameras as a safety precaution for our students. This enhanced safety program is part of the new initiative in bus safety. Not only will the digital video cameras that record pictures and sound serve as a deterrent to misbehavior on buses, it will allow for timely and effective disciplinary response, as evidenced by the recordings, to those rare occasions when incidents do occur. By law [8 BYCRR #156.9(d)(1)], school districts can use video cameras on school buses to ensure the safety of the drivers and passengers.

Suffolk Transportation would also like to assure the District that it regularly addresses another aspect of safety—sanitation of the vehicles. Routine school bus cleaning is done to environmental surfaces so as to reduce levels of bacteria.

So, next time those yellow school buses roll by, the Sayville community can feel confident. Bus safety is indeed a topmost priority in Sayville School District, thanks to Suffolk Transportation's bus service.



Question: WHAT DO PUMPKINS, LEGOS®, AND GOOD CHARACTER HAVE IN COMMON?

The newly formed Sayville Advocacy for Initiatives in Learning (SAIL) has been established by community members as a foundation to supplement student enrichment in Sayville. Through fundraising, private donations, endowments, and corporate sponsorships, SAIL plans to give Sayville students enhanced academic programs and expanded after-school activities not financed by annual school budgets.

At the beginning of this academic year, SAIL Grants were given to three applicants from Sayville Middle School.

- In a pilot program last year, technology teachers Jeff Goodman and Sam Kruse had Middle School students participating in the exciting “Pumpkin Fling Catapult contest,” offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension-Suffolk County Farm and Education Center. Contest participants of all ages and groups designed, constructed, and competed by propelling pumpkins into a field with a working catapult. Contestants were judged on distance, accuracy, and most innovative/creative design. During their first competition last

year, the SMS team’s pumpkin was the only one to hit the bulls-eye at 177.4 feet. Thanks to their SAIL grant, the SMS Pumpkin Flingers will be able to make or break new records in the future.

- To enhance the current seventh-grade technology program, teacher Jim McLoughlin needed to upgrade and acquire additional equipment for his pre-engineering LEGO® MINDSTORMS® segment of the curriculum. The SAIL grant has provided funding for the purchase of better equipment, enabling the students to design, build, and program fully functional and more complex models, as well as stimulating an interest in the Lego First League. This league, open to all students, participates in the Lego Challenge Masters Robotic programs that begin in November, with the goal of competing in a regional competition sometime in mid-January.

- With the financial support of SAIL, Middle School Assistant Principal Tom Murray has launched two new Character Education

Answer: SAIL SUPPORT!

The Sayville Advocacy for Initiatives in Learning Corp.

programs at the Middle School. Twice a year, the school will hold a “Breakfast with the Stars” to recognize students who have demonstrated positive qualities of character, independent of school-related academic, athletics, or artistic achievements. The other initiative is called the Friendship Patch Program, aimed at fostering positive social interaction. During lunch time, students will be encouraged to get acquainted with other students who are outside their normal circle of friends. Friendship Patches will be exchanged as emblems of these new associations.

Thanks to SAIL, the community is “stepping up to support our schools in a new way. In a fiscal climate of cutbacks and tax concerns that plagues virtually all Long Island school districts, the need to educate, to enlighten our young people, has never been more critical in a fast-paced, ‘smaller’ world” as stated on the SAIL website. For more about SAIL, check out the website <http://www.sailgiving.org>



(r-l) SAIL Co-presidents Robert T. Quarte and Kathleen M. Keeney, along with Middle School Principal Dr. Walter Schartner, present SAIL Grants to Middle School recipients Jim McLoughlin, Jeff Goodman, Sam Kruse, and Assistant Principal Tom Murray to support their successful enrichment programs.

WEB Highlights

Go to sayville.k12.ny.us, Quick Links

Here are some of the school news items on the website:

Sayville Public Schools website offers full stories, lots of **color** photos, and slide presentations.

If you haven't been checking the Web Highlights,

you don't know what you're missing!



WHITEBOARDS TO THE RESCUE

AN EXAMPLE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY ENHANCING INSTRUCTION IN THE SAYVILLE CLASSROOMS!

The sky grew unusually dark. Thunder rumbled. The classroom lights flickered. "A level of nervousness crossed the room," explained

Mrs. Duggan (Cherry Avenue), "as the children anticipated walking home in the rain, now pouring outside the window." To alleviate the tension, Mrs. Duggan presented her students with a teachable moment. Accessing the Weather Channel website on their new interactive

whiteboard (IWB) in their classroom, everyone watched the current weather radar over the Sayville area and saw that the thunderstorm would be over shortly—most likely before their dismissal. Relieved, her class went on to discuss scientific topics related to weather.

SAYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL "GREEN TEAM" HELD A BOOK DRIVE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.



Word-of-mouth in the community resulted in donations from Sayville's own Runaway Bay Books, as well as a local Barnes and Noble. Thanks to the snowballing generosity of the Middle School students, faculty, and staff, the Green Team was able to collect over 600 new books for children with cancer.

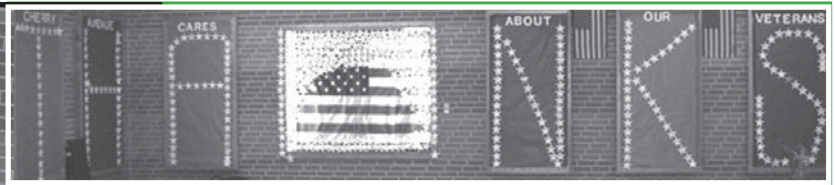
Recognizing Athletes IN SECOND SAYVILLE HALL OF FAME

The Second Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony not only coincided with the exciting Homecoming Weekend events, but also with the completion of the Hall of Fame display case in the gym lobby. This year the Ceremony honored fifteen individual inductees and an entire family (see the Web Highlights) for their exemplary contributions worthy of permanent recognition in the Hall of Fame.



History Club Thrilled for Darfur Donations

On Saturday, Oct 27th, precisely at 6 pm, members of the History Club at Sayville High School participated in the largest simultaneous Thriller dance festival and raised \$110 for Darfur at the same time.



Spelling Out "Thanks" with stars for Veterans in Cherry Avenue lobby.

Do You Know A Veteran?

To honor all our U.S. Veterans, Third-grade teacher Ms. Geraldine Batterberry invited her students and the entire Cherry Avenue community to create a star for each Veteran they knew.

PLACING FIRST AT THE PUMPKIN FLING

Young engineers from Sayville Middle School competed in the Annual Pumpkin Fling at Cornell Cooperative Extension's Suffolk County Farm. Their catapult pulled First Place in the "12 and Under Youth Category" for the farthest pumpkin launch at 148 feet! (View additional photos and video at the Web Highlights site.)



Pumpkin Counters at Cherry

A team effort between Mrs. Kearney's First-grade and Mrs. Duggan's Fifth-grade had students using math and science skills to explore the inner world of pumpkins!

HOME COMING!

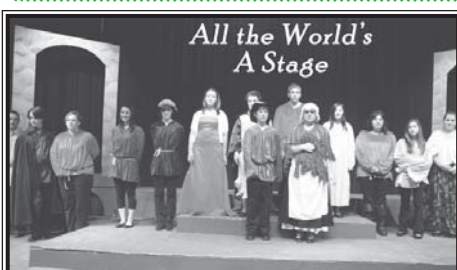


With this year's theme of "holidays," imaginative floats were decorated for Christmas (Freshmen), Mardi Gras (Sophomores), New Year's Eve (Juniors), and Halloween (Seniors), serving as backdrops to skits (seniors: photo left) performed on the rain-drenched football field before the game and during halftime.

(See color slide presentation online at Web Highlights.)

SAYVILLE STUDENT ARTWORKS CONVERTED TO BILLBOARDS

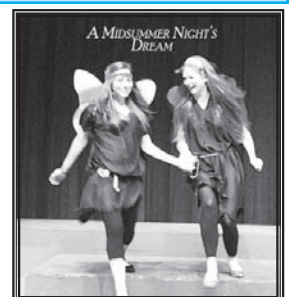
Congratulations to Art Department faculty member Bobbie Dalpiaz and her former Mixed Media Art students Angela Fattaruso (Class of '09) and Deanna Esposito (Class of '07). Both Angela and Deanna focused their designs on the idea of UNITY, and their works were selected for inclusion in the Embracing Our Differences—Long Island project.



Shakespeare's Stage and Dream

Recently, the Sayville Players presented the works of William Shakespeare: in two, back-to-back productions held in the Backstage Theatre.

(View the video presentation online: MUSIC CREDIT: "25 Years" Contemporary "Renaissance" music by Blackmore's Night.)



•Fall Athletic Achievements•

Another banner year for our Sayville High School athletes!

Congratulations to the following

individual team members for their All-County or higher accomplishments:

VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

KaraCaulfield • All-County
Jordan Lite • All-County
Judith Lite • All-County
Nadine Ebo • All-County
Lauren Skolnick • All-County
Cassie Gomes • All-County
Corinne Chatterton • All-County

VARSITY BOYS GOLF

Awards decided and given in spring

VARSITY GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

Jackie Kaste • All-County
Sarah Pellegrini • All-County

VARSITY BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

Colin Culhane • All-County
Joseph McNulty • All-County

VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY

Brianna Lind • All-County, All-Long Island
Erin Finnen • All-County, All-Long Island

VARSITY FOOTBALL

Billy O'Connor • All-Long Island & All-County,
Collotta Award for Suffolk's top linebacker
Charlie Podgurski • All-County
Dillon Boos • All-County

VARSITY GIRLS SWIMMING/DIVING

Kim Larson • All-County, All-Long Island, All-State, & All-American
Michelle Fountain • All-State, All-Long Island, & All-County
Joan Weaver • All-State, All-Long Island, & All-County
Katie LaPorta • All-State, All-Long Island, & All-County
Kylie Kremer • All-State, All-Long Island, & All-County
Carly Fullam • All-State, All-Long Island, & All-County Team for Diving & Suffolk County Champion

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

Domenica Hodak • All-American Nominee, All-State, All-Long Island & All-County, & Small School Player of the Year
Jasmine DePompeo • All-State & All-County
Hanah Lee • All-County
Meredith Gudesblatt • All-County Academic

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

Craig Santangelo • All-Region Nominee, All-State, All-County & League V Player of the Year
Will Slevin • All-State & All-County
Chris Kucera • All-County
Evan Martel • All-County Academic Team

The Following Coaches Received Awards:

Beth Bolger • League V Coach of the Year for Varsity Girls' Soccer
Val Winter • League V Coach of the Year for Varsity Boys' Soccer
John Schroeder • New York State Writers Association Coach of the Year for Female Sports
Betty Martin • Coach of the Year, (Field Hockey)

Congratulations to the following Teams

VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

- Suffolk County Finalist
- League Champion
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY BOYS GOLF

- League Champion
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team
- Playoffs will be decided in the spring

VARSITY GIRLS SWIMMING/ DIVING

- Suffolk County Finalist
- League Champion
- #2 in New York State
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

- 2nd Place in League V
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

- Suffolk County Division Champion
- 2nd Place in League V
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY BOYS VOLLEYBALL

- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

- Suffolk County Class A Finalist
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

- Undefeated League Champion
- Suffolk County Class A Champion
- Long Island Class A Champion
- NYS Class A Semifinalist
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.Scholar-Athlete Team

VARSITY FOOTBALL

- Suffolk County Division III Semifinalist
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar Athlete Team
- Division III Big 4 Champion

VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY

- Suffolk County Class A Finalist
- Division II Champion
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar Athlete Team

VARSITY CHEERLEADING

- L.I.C.C.A. Tournament Champions – Babylon Event
- This team is not eligible for state scholar-athlete award because they are a member of L.I.C.C.A. but they had an unweighted team average of 91.22

of the Sayville School District
HIGHLIGHTS

School Tax Code 566

DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
99 Greeley Avenue
Sayville, New York 11782

SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
Linda A. Mittiga mittigal@sayville.k12.ny.us

****ECRWSS****

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