



Bulletin Board

Middle Country Central School District

ISSUE III OF DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

MUSIC AND ARTS AT MIDDLE COUNTRY: BUILDING A CREATIVE FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

Welcome to the art, music and theatre highlights edition of the Middle Country Bulletin Board! In this edition we would like to share with you the opportunities and successes our amazing arts department has had in helping students excel as artists, musicians and thespians. We believe every student can learn to express themselves through the arts, and that through the arts, they learn skills they can use throughout their lives. The first QR code will bring you to additional highlights of the programs. The second QR code will bring you to our Arts Calendar, which is updated often to keep you informed of our most recent concerts, theatrical performances, and our districtwide art exhibit. Please save this issue and check back often for updates! If you need any assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Cook at dcook@mccsd.net. We cannot wait to see you at our events—both in school and throughout our community!

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



ARTS CALENDAR



NYSSMA All-State Musicians



For a music student, performing as an All-State Musician is the highest honor they can receive in New York State. Students are selected based on achieving the highest scores on the most difficult level six NYSSMA pieces each spring, their placement on the state's proficiency list, and their music teacher recommendation. This year, we congratulate Centereach High School senior **Finn Taich** and Newfield High School seniors **Cameron Unger** and **Eli Horowitz!** Finn will be singing Bass 1 in the NYSSMA All-State Mixed Chorus, Cameron will be playing trombone in the NYSSMA All-State Symphonic Band and Eli is a NYSSMA All-State Chorus Alternate, Bass 1! They will perform some of the highest caliber music under the batons of some of the greatest conductors at the Eastman Theatre in Rochester in December.

Long Island Merit Scholar Artists

The Long Island Arts Alliance (LIAA) honors the most extraordinary senior musicians, artists, media, theatre and dance students on Long Island—scholars with an unweighted GPA over 90. This is a very competitive award, with only 40 total seniors selected in each of the five arts areas from all of Long Island. Several Middle Country students have been honored with these awards over the years. To apply, students must create a portfolio of their outstanding grades, artwork, videos, teacher recommendations, etc. Congratulations to our 2022 LIAA Long Island Scholar Artists Merit Artist Recipients: Centereach High School seniors **Finn Taich** in the area of theatre and **Natalie Godinez** in the area of visual arts!



Long Island's Best Art Exhibit



Long Island's Best Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum is the only juried exhibition on Long Island that offers high school students the opportunity to showcase their work in a museum. Hundreds of works of art are submitted from schools across Nassau and Suffolk counties; only around 80 are chosen for display. Congratulations to Newfield High School senior **Zakariyah Hanif**, who had his work on display at the Heckscher Museum this past spring as one of Long Island's Best Young Artists.

"I am so impressed by the level of musicianship in all of our music students. The concerts continuously sound fantastic!"

- Dawn Sharrock, BOE President

"I love attending our Middle Country Districtwide Art Exhibit every year! Our student artists at every grade level create such amazing pieces!"

- Arlene Barresi, BOE Trustee

NEWFIELD THEATRE HONORED AT THE EAST END ARTS COUNCIL'S TEENY AWARDS

Newfield High School Theatre Arts cast and crew of this past spring's musical, *Disney's The Little Mermaid* walked the red carpet at East End Arts Council's Teeny Awards. Newfield High School was selected to be the guest performers at the awards ceremony. Sophomore Jasmine Recova was awarded a full scholarship to attend the Long Island Musical Theatre Festival in the summer. Jasmine had the opportunity to work with the world-renowned composer Stephen Schwartz.

"Our Middle Country Theatre Productions are like watching a Broadway caliber show, right in our own backyard! Our theatre students are just so very talented."

- Deborah Mann-Rodriguez, BOE Trustee



NHS SENIOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP



Newfield High School senior Austin Pelissier was selected this past June for a Suffolk New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) Senior Scholarship. Austin was one of only nine seniors selected for this award in Suffolk County.

JOIN THE MIDDLE COUNTRY FRIENDS OF MUSIC!

The Middle Country Friends of Music, founded in 1981, comprises volunteers who work in conjunction with the Middle Country music department to promote the talents of our children. The Friends of Music cosponsor the annual POPS concert along with other fund-raising ventures—at the elementary, middle and high school level—which allow us to offer our music students scholarships, teacher mini-grants, and more. The Friends of Music also advocate for the preservation of music and music related programs in our district.



"Working with the Friends of Music has been such a pleasure. We provide support for programs, certificates of excellence, and scholarships to the students of Middle Country."

- Lettice Washington, Friends of Music President

MUSIC AND ARTS AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL

At the elementary level, students are introduced to varying styles of music and kinesthetic movement through music and performing. General music classes focus on keeping a steady beat, playing classroom instruments, and singing by themselves and with others. In third grade, students play a recorder as their first wind instrument and the ukulele as the first string instrument. In fourth and fifth grades, students can perform in the band or orchestra and chorus, which rehearse once or twice weekly and have small group lessons. Fourth and fifth grade students can also sing in the chorus in addition to playing an instrument. These groups perform one to two concerts per year to showcase their amazing progress and musicianship. Art is offered once a week K-5. Students study the Elements of Art and work in various mediums including 2D and 3D work while studying many influential artists.

“Art is important because it helps you share your true feelings in colors.”

- Victoria Flores, Oxhead Road Elementary School, 4th Grade

“My favorite part about music is playing the instruments and learning the dances.”

- Lily Brady, Holbrook Road Elementary School, 4th Grade

MUSIC AND ARTS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL

In middle school, students continue to hone their musical skills in ensembles of band, chorus, and orchestra. Students rehearse with their musical ensembles every other day, and instrumental students continue to have small group lessons. Students perform in two concerts per year. For those students who are not in an ensemble, a general music class is available. After school, there are opportunities for students to continue performing, including in jazz ensembles, chamber orchestra and vocal ensembles. After school, students also have the ability to audition to perform in the school musical. All middle school students take art in 10-week blocks, one quarter per grade level. Art students continue to explore the Elements and Principles of Art as they apply these concepts to their artwork. There is also an after-school art club.



“I love music because it’s fun and calming. You learn a lot but it doesn’t feel like work because you’re doing something you enjoy.”

- Dom Lourdes,
Selden Middle School, 8th Grade

“Drama is really fun! It gave me a chance to apply a lot of my talents and when I got to see a completed piece with all of my friends putting our best into one project, it was breathtaking! Last year’s show was one of my core moments that I’ll never forget.”

- Alicia Robles, Dawnwood Middle School, 8th Grade

“I like art because I like being able to explore my imagination and being creative in my own way, making my own unique artwork.”

- Francesca Bayer,
Selden Middle School, 8th Grade

Middle Country Board of Education Trustee Kathy Walsh watches a trumpet lesson in the bond-renovated music room.



“The community outreach by our Middle Country Music, Theatre and Art Departments is second to none. Performances by our students at nursing homes, libraries and fire departments are just the beginning. In-house concerts, art exhibits and musicals that invite community members into our schools add another dimension to the excitement and creativity of our student artists and performers.”

- Robert Feeney, Middle Country School District Board of Education Vice President

MUSIC AND ARTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

In high school, there are multiple ensembles for our students to join in each area of band, orchestra and chorus. Ensembles meet daily and perform 2 to 3 times per year in concerts and competitions. Small group lessons are taught in every ensemble. For those students who are not in an ensemble, they may opt to study Music in Our Lives to satisfy their arts elective credit. Students also reinforce their musicianship in College Music Theory I and Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory. These classes are in conjunction with Suffolk Community College and students are able to earn up to seven college credits per year. Theatre classes are also available including an introduction to theatre class and a more advanced class as well as a dance class. There is also jazz improv and class voice.

Co-curricular include the jazz ensembles, pep band, chamber orchestra and various choruses. Music and Theatre students can also apply to be in our Tri-M Music Honor Society or Thespian Theatre Honor Society. There are many opportunities for community service and public performances. Our Theatre Arts program includes a drama and musical each year, that are well renowned and highly regarded in the community. In high school art, after completing Studio in Art, students have many opportunities to specialize in the art they most wish to explore including classes in drawing and painting, computer graphics, photography and sculpture/ceramics. College credits can be taken through Advanced Computer Graphics. Advanced Placement classes are offered in Studio in Art and Art History. After school, students can further explore their studies through art club or apply to be inducted into the National Art Honor Society.

“Music is truly a special place. Everyone is so kind, welcoming and accepting. The Music Department is the best place to be!”

- Thomas Lasher,
Newfield High School, Sophomore

“What I like about theatre is the friendly atmosphere. For me, it’s a creative outlet. You have a family for life and friends to depend on for your high school years and beyond.”

- Cody Clackett,
Newfield High School, Junior

“I love taking art classes because it helps me be creative in school and out. Sculpture class helps me think outside the box and Drawing and Painting makes me challenge myself.”

- Kinteyah Thompson,
Centreach High School, Senior

NEWFIELD HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE STUDENTS PERFORM AT SENIOR CITIZENS’ TEA

Art, music, and theatre have always been wonderful avenues with which to give back to the community. Theatre students in Middle Country understand this, which is why they are so enthusiastic about inviting the senior citizens to a senior citizens’ tea and theatre performance each year. In this picture, Newfield’s students invited the senior citizens for some tea and cookies and a preview of *Disney’s The Little Mermaid*. Volunteers from the National Honor Society and Board of Education assisted serving at the tea while the theatre students put on a wonderful show that was enjoyed by all.

