



SEAFOED EDUCATION *Spotlight*

www.seaford.k12.ny.us

FALL 2024

Soaring Valor Trip an Honor of a Lifetime

20 Juniors, Seniors Accompany WWII Veterans to National Museum

Seaford High School students connected with “the greatest generation” near the end of summer vacation, when 20 juniors and seniors traveled to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans with 14 World War II veterans.

The trip was sponsored by the Gary Sinise Foundation. Seaford students arrived at the TWA Hotel at JFK Airport on the evening of Aug. 20 to meet the veterans. The following day, they boarded an American Airlines plane to Louisiana. The send-off included music by NYPD bagpipers and a performance of the national anthem by a West Point cadet. On Aug. 22, students accompanied the veterans during a full-day tour of the museum.

“This experience just brought everything out,” senior Anthony Fernandez said, noting

the personal and emotion-filled stories that the veterans shared throughout the museum visit.

In addition to one or two Seaford students, each veteran was also accompanied by their guardian – a family member, friend or caregiver – and a tour guide. The museum had different rooms for the specific battles fought in Europe and the Pacific.

Olivia Anzelone said that the entire experience really personalized lessons from history classes, because “the veterans told you stuff you don’t learn in textbooks.”

Many memories from the trip stood out for the Seaford seniors, like seeing the Victory Belles greet the veterans upon arrival in New Orleans, watching a 4D movie that provided insight on each branch of the military and

chatting with one of the veterans for an hour and a half on his birthday. On the plane ride back to New York there was a mail call, in which the letters that Seaford students wrote to the veterans were shared.

“It was really great to let them know that they’re appreciated,” Megan Reder said.

Students were accompanied on the trip by eight chaperones – Superintendent Dr. Adele Pecora, Principal Nicole Schnabel, Assistant Principal Alex Mantay and teachers Diana Arichabala, Keri Degnan, Lindsay Garnicarz, Shari Raduazzo and Michael Sheedy.

Mr. Sheedy, a social studies teacher, said that learning history in class pales in comparison to hearing a story from someone who lived it.



continued on Page 4...

Facilities Enhancements Across the District

Demonstrating our school community's unwavering support and investment in our schools, the district is excited to share recent facilities improvement projects that have been completed. Highlights include upgrades to the athletic complex, providing enhanced comfort for spectators and athletes, and two state-of-the-art library media centers, designed to support both collaborative and independent learning. These improvements are part of our ongoing commitment to creating outstanding spaces that foster student growth and success.



The gymnasium floor at Seaford Middle School was completely refinished with new game lines, stain and Vikings logo at center court.

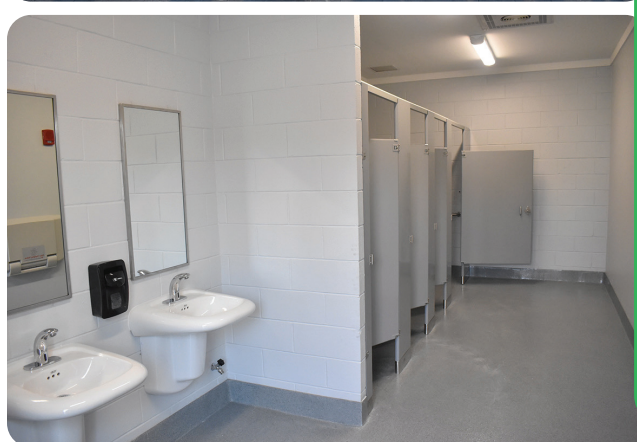
Renovations to the Seaford High School auditorium included new floors for both the main seating area and stage, new stage curtains and a projector which drops down from the ceiling.



The junior and senior cafeteria at the high school was renovated with new floors and paint, as well as multiple seating options. The Viking Café, being constructed in an adjoining, unused space, is expected to be ready in the winter.



A new comfort station opened at the Seaford High School athletic complex, situated between the two turf fields to serve both athletes and spectators. It includes handicapped-accessible men's and women's bathrooms and a concession stand, which will be run by the Booster Club. It was mostly funded through a \$1 million grant secured by former State Sen. John Brooks and current State Sen. Steve Rhoads. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Aug. 26. Also added was a stamped concrete walkway from the parking lot to the track and football field.



Harbor Library



Manor Library



The library media centers at Seaford Harbor and Manor elementary schools were renovated to support the LIFT program – Library, Innovation, Fitness and Technology. The upgrades included new bookshelves, ceilings and lighting, electronic display boards, flooring and flexible furniture.

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Dr. Adele V. Pecora
Superintendent of Schools

...continued from Page 1

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"It really brings everything to life for them and humanizes the situation," he said. "You see the full spectrum of emotions that are involved in war."

The veterans ranged from 94 to 103 years old. Science teacher Keri Degnan noted that when they went to war, they weren't much older than Seaford's juniors and seniors are now. She was truly impressed by how students conducted themselves throughout the trip.

"They made Seaford really proud," she said. "They embraced the veterans and they were so respectful."

When the trip ended, both the students and the veterans found it difficult to say goodbye, but they have stayed in touch since. The students noted that the veterans were very humble, and were very interested in learning about the teens' interests, goals and dreams.

"They don't see themselves as heroes," Jayne said, "but we definitely do."



**News
&
Notes**

Sign Up for District Email Notifications

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Notice to Residents:

As a reminder to all community residents, dogs are not permitted on school properties. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.