



EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

◆ EI Is All In ◆



East Islip’s students are ALL IN this school year, putting in maximum effort and excelling in all areas from academics to the arts and athletics. Their accolades speak for themselves, confirming that great things happen when the entire school community unites to provide students with the tools and support to help them achieve their best.

ACADEMICS

◆ EIHS Announces American Math Competition Winners

East Islip High School recently announced the winners of the American Math Competition, the first in a series of rigorous competitions that eventually lead to the International Mathematical Olympiad. Sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America, the AMC 10 and AMC 12 are 25-question, 75-minute, multiple-choice exams in high school math, designed to promote problem-solving skills. The AMC 10 is for students in 10th grade or below, the AMC 12 for students in grades 12 and below. East Islip had a total of 66 participants, 16 for the AMC 10 and 50 for the AMC 12. East Islip’s AMC 10 first-place winner was James Ritter, with Matt Freisem and Sharon Lin tied for second. The school’s AMC 12 first-place winner was Erica Huang, with Niko Stavropoulos and Patrick Vasquez tied for second.



winning rounds against Babylon, Deer Park, Kings Park and West Islip and qualifying for the playoffs. They won the Sweet 16 on March 13, then advanced to the Suffolk County quarterfinals on March 20, where East Islip finished in the top eight in the county. The New York State High School Mock Trial Program is an educational competition in which high school students gain firsthand knowledge of law and courtroom procedures while acting as attorneys and witnesses in a criminal trial.



◆ Middle School Robotics Students Advance to FLL Championship

The Galactic Jedi Space Bot Masters team – consisting of East Islip Middle School eighth graders John Haanraads, Sachin Kamath and Nicholas Selvaggio along with three friends from other schools – successfully competed against 117 other teams in the FIRST



◆ Mock Trial Team Finishes in Top Eight in Suffolk County

East Islip High School’s mock trial team had an exciting and highly successful 2023-2024 season,

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Message *from the* SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

As we reflect on East Islip School Community being “all in,” it is clear that our commitment to excellence in education, athletics and fine arts sets East Islip Schools apart as truly exceptional. With a curriculum that challenges and inspires, a robust athletics program and a thriving fine arts department, we provide our students with unparalleled opportunities to gain experiences and succeed.

As we approach the end of the year, let us rally together and

finish strong. Let us celebrate the achievements and growth of our students at the culminating events that will be taking place over the next several weeks. Let us show our East Islip pride and support each other as we continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. We are East Islip, and together, we can achieve greatness.

Warm regards,
Paul E. Manzo
Superintendent of Schools

Message *from a* BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEE

As my first year on the Board of Education comes to a close, it is important to reflect back on things that have been accomplished, but even more important to look toward the future and see what other work needs to be done.

I am so proud of the students we have honored, programs we have begun and positive changes that have been made.

That being said, I will continue to work tirelessly to be a voice for our children and continue to support active parent engagement in the areas of education and social-emotional learning. My goals are to continue to put what is best for children first. Any program, whether it be sports, arts, academics, etc., if it brings a smile to a child’s face and gives

them a sense of purpose, I am all for it. Together with my fellow board members we are going to continue to strive for excellence within the East Islip School District. My 23 years of teaching experience have taught me that we need to make sure that things are child-centered and knowledge driven.

I am excited to continue my work with this Board of Education and our administration. I hope to see more faces at our meetings in the coming year. Thank you for this opportunity, and I will continue to do my best to serve this community.

Sincerely,
Jessica Ciampi
Board of Education Trustee

ARTS & MUSIC

Board of Ed Recognizes More Than 70 Accomplished Musicians

More than 70 accomplished student musicians were recognized at the East Islip School District Board of Education’s Feb. 15 meeting, presented by Art and Music Director Dr. Rob Wottawa, for their selection to the Long Island String Festival Association’s honor orchestras and the Suffolk County Music Educators’ Association All-County Festival.



High School Artists Awarded for Excellence at Go APE Exhibition

Three talented East Islip High School student-artists – seniors Jackie Arevalo-Carrillo, Delilah Bauer and Sophia LoMonaco – were chosen to participate in the 17th annual Go APE Advanced Placement Exhibition at the Art League of Long Island. The gallery show, highlighting exceptional work by 103 art students from all over Long Island, ran from Feb. 24 to March 9 at the Art League’s Jeanie Tengelsen Gallery in Dix Hills. The trio are all enrolled in Dan Figliozzi’s AP Art and Design course.



East Islip Sends 50 Students to SCMEA All-County Festival

Reflecting the district’s strong music education programming and support provided by teachers, 50 East Islip student musicians from East Islip High School, East Islip Middle School, John F. Kennedy Elementary School and Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School were chosen for the Suffolk County Music Educators’ Association All-County Festival. These students rehearsed with the respective SCMEA ensembles in early March before performing in SCMEA concerts on March 10.

Winter Track Teams Win First-Ever County Championships

The varsity boys and girls winter track teams both won the Suffolk County championship for the first time in school history.

At the girls meet, Grace Micali won the triple jump, Chloe Garatina won the long jump, and Brianna Tucci won the 1,500-meter racewalk in only her third time competing in the event, with senior captain Jaelyn Scandale earning sixth. Danielle Simonetti ran in three events in 45 minutes, winning the 600-meter race and taking third in the 300-meter. The 4x200-meter relay team of Carly Amato, Maya Brown, Chloe Garatina and Kaylee Garatina finished fourth, while the 4x400-meter relay team of Danielle Birner, Micali, Simonetti and Danika Tidridge beat the top-ranked team in the state and set a new county meet record time. At the individual state qualifier, the 4x400-meter relay team took first place for the second consecutive season, and Simonetti finished first in the 600-meter run.

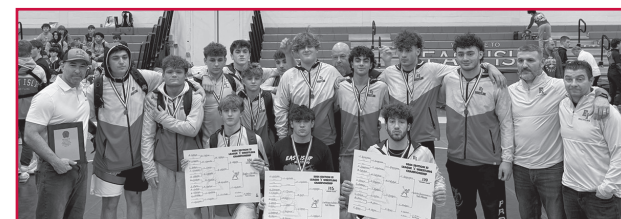
At the boys meet, Jake Sambo finished fourth in the 55-meter hurdles, James Terhune took fourth and Julani Ellis finished second in the long jump, Ellis won fifth in the triple jump, and Charlie Heffernen won third in shot put. The 4x200-meter relay team of Ellis, Chris Maynard, Aidan McConnell and Sambo finished fifth, Joseph Norrby won second in the 600-meter run and first in the high jump, making him a three-time winner in the latter event. In the 300-meter dash, Jack Kalinowski finished fifth. Matt McIntee won the 300-



meter dash, beating the No. 1 seed. The 4x400-meter relay team lit up the track, dominating the competition to finish first. At the individual state qualifier meet, five EI athletes earned a spot at states. McIntee won the 300-meter dash, Norrby took second in the 600-meter dash and fourth in the high jump, and the 4x400-meter relay team defeated longtime rivals Longwood. At the state championships, McIntee ran 34.92 in the finals of the 300-meter dash, finishing in fourth place. In the finals, the 4x400-meter relay team of Kalinowski, McConnell, McIntee and Norrby captured fifth place in the state and earned All-State honors.

Wrestlers Capture League Title and Rocky Gilmore Classic

The varsity wrestling team won the 36th annual Rocky Gilmore Classic for the second consecutive year, boasting 13 place winners and totaling 212.5 team points. The team captured the League V championship tournament title for the third time in the past three years and the 11th time in program history, placing first overall as a team with 229 total points. The Redmen had 13 overall place winners who earned All-League honors and qualified for the Suffolk County High School Division 1 individual wrestling championships. The Redmen finished fifth overall in the county, and four wrestlers earned All-County honors: senior Anthony Avitabile was named county champion, Christopher Coleman and Nick Groneman both placed fourth, while Rocco Destefano finished in third. Avitabile and Destefano both qualified for the New York State championships.



EI Bowlers Repeat as Doubles Champs, Help Suffolk All-Stars Earn State Title

Varsity girls bowlers Kailyn Bloch and Dakota Collins repeated as champions, shooting a combined 910 over two games to capture the Suffolk Class A girls doubles tournament title. The two student-athletes have also finished in the top six in the county on average. Meanwhile, the Section XI boys All-Star team – consisting of the top six bowlers in Suffolk County, including East Islip’s Andrew Jacobsen and Matthew Sundberg – captured the New York State championship. The team had an extraordinary total pin fall of 6,801 over the six games, an average of 1,133 pins per game. Jacobsen finished 17th in the state, with an average of 214.8 on the day, and Sundberg finished 20th, with an average of 211.6. Sundberg also notched the fifth-highest game of the tournament, shooting 269.



Junior Gymnast Sophia Pepe Competes at States

East Islip High School junior Sophia Pepe competed at the New York State Gymnastics Championship on March 2, leading the Section XI team to an impressive third-place finish.



ATHLETICS

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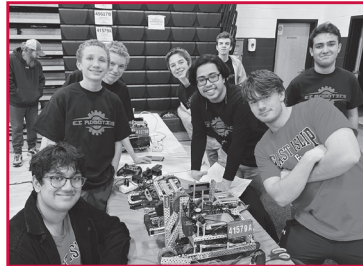
ACADEMICS

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Lego League robotics qualifying tournament, held on Feb. 11. They earned two first-place awards for Robot Performance, for the team that scores the most points during the robot game, and Core Values, which goes to the team that displays extraordinary enthusiasm and shows each other and other teams respect at all times. Their exceptional performance advanced the team to the FIRST Long Island FLL Challenge Championship in March.

HS Robotics Team Competes at VEX Over Under Game

East Islip High School’s robotics team competed in the VEX Robotics Over Under game on Jan. 27, an all-day event featuring over 45 Tri-State area teams. This year’s tournament was played on a 12x12 square field. Two alliances – one “red” and one “blue” team each



– competed in two-minute matches to attain a higher score. East Islip team captains Kaitlyn McCall and Jishnu Roy Chowhuri led the squad to a sixth-place finish at the end of the qualification matches, and robot driver Matt Collins was 5-1 in competition play.

LEGO Girls Excel at Robotics Competition

East Islip’s LEGO Girls robotics team of JFK fifth graders Jayne Elliott, Sonali Kamath and Antonia Rezza excelled at the FIRST Lego League Long Island Qualifier event, earning two awards and an invitation to compete in the Long Island championships. The trio of students created an innovative and immersive presentation that worked to solve the challenge of “talent hesitation” in arts and other clubs, talked about their robot and coding, and shared their core values stories.



STAY CONNECTED!



To help community members keep informed of district happenings, upcoming events and more, we invite you to sign up for our East Islip School District Community Contact email blast and follow us on social media!

Scan the QR code to the left to join our community email blast. If you are a parent of a current student you are already enrolled in our district eblast system.

Be sure to hit the like, follow and subscribe button for each of our social media pages. They include the following:



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This newsletter is published by the Board of Education as a community service to inform the public of school news and business. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 631-224-2000 or fax 631-581-1617.