



EAST ISLIP

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

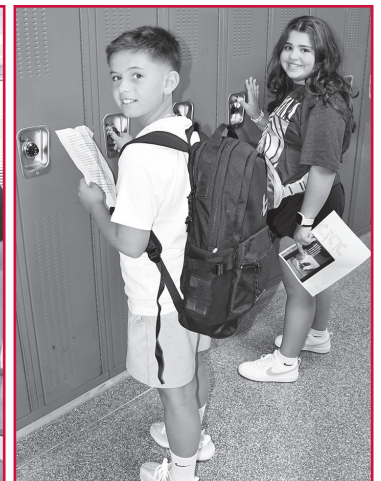
FALL NEWSLETTER 2024



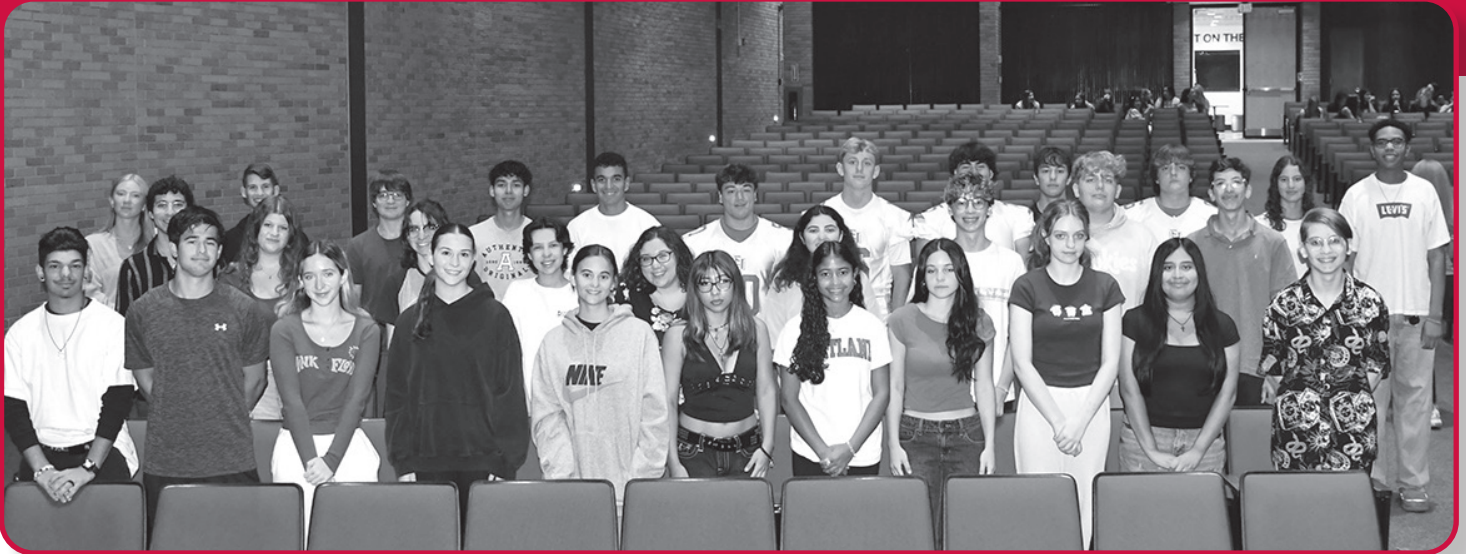
Inspiring Growth **TOGETHER!**

“Inspiring growth within our school community means fostering a culture of support, collaboration and continuous learning for both students and staff,” Superintendent Paul Manzo said. “By empowering our teachers with the resources and opportunities they need to grow, we create an environment where everyone can reach their full potential, together.”

Included in the pages of this publication are several highlights of how the district is working to embrace this mantra and provide enriching experiences for students.



EIHS RECOGNIZES 70 Proud 2024 AP Scholars as Program Continues to Grow



East Islip High School recognized 70 current students for earning the College Board's AP Scholar designation for 2024, recognizing their academic excellence and diligence in college-level achievement in AP courses and exams. The Advanced Placement Program recognizes several different award levels. Thirty-five seniors – Venti Ammenwerth, Sally Attard, Juliana Banville, Amanda Bolen, Holly Brophy, Taha Canan, Daniel Carroll, Evan Casdia, Tyler Cato, Keith Evans, Stephanie Finley, Anna Franchi, Olivia Giugliano, Jack Gravano, Gio Green, Lucas Guadagno, Jadelyn Harrynarine, Samuel Henderson, Andrew Jacobsen, Ella Johnston, Elyse Kearney, Peyton Klipp, Johanna LeRoux, Jowell Lopez, Michael Matos, Brendan McCaffrey, Adam Menendez, Lucas Monroi, Sarai Murria, Dev Patel, Olivia Quintero, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Jordan Schumacher, Kyla Timmer and Drew Walendowski – and junior Liam Eichler were named AP Scholars, granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. Thirteen seniors – Sameer Ali, Jake Ballou, Danielle Birner, Ryan Flad, Lilyana Graney, Georgia Hodge, Brendan Kolensky, Christian Kozak, McKayla Mahon, Meeghan Mahon, Michael Mignone, Vanessa Rossa and Valerie Tamayo – were named AP Scholars with Honor, granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Twenty-one seniors – Nathalie Atiencia, Jennfier Ballou, Tammy Chen, Lee Daubaras, Jake DeLisi, Nicolette Diemer, Erin Fredrickson, Kayla Glick, Keira Higgins, Jesse Hodge, Erica

Huang, Clara Kupstas, Annelise Marra, Erin McCarthy, Natalia Mendolia, Sophia Pepe, Eric Ritter, Harmony Rocco, James Terhune, Brianna Tucci and Gabriella Zimmitti – were named AP Scholars with Distinction, granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. In additional AP Scholar honors, seven East Islip seniors – Stephanie Finley, Lilyana Graney, McKayla Mahon, Meeghan Mahon, Michael Mignone, Sophia Pepe and Valerie Tamayo – will graduate next June with AP Capstone Diplomas, and 11 seniors – Keith Evans, Anna Franchi, Jadelyn Harrynarine, Samuel Henderson, Georgia Hodge, Christian Kozak, Clara Kupstas, Erin McCarthy, Natalia Mendolia, Harmony Rocco and Brianna Tucci – will graduate with AP Seminar and Research Certificates.

“We have more students than ever before who have taken on the challenge of AP coursework,” Director of World Languages, ENL and Assessments Christian Seifert said. “With a cohort of 32 more students, the increase is over a whole class in size. We also administered more exams last year than in any other previous year. What we are most proud of, however, is the 90% or greater passing rate on five different AP exams that were offered in 2024.”

“As a district, we continue to increase enrollment in advanced courses,” Director of Careers and Student Services Dr. Jason Stanton said. “Our students’ continued success is a testament to our dedicated teaching staff.”

Updated VE Room at EIHS Provides Students a TASTE OF THE BUSINESS WORLD



The new, updated virtual enterprise classroom at East Islip High School has proven to be a solid success, taking students in the program to the next level in terms of both physical resources and modeling the real business world. Phase 1 of the VE room update was completed over the summer, with the second phase – including a new floor and monitors around the room for presentations – scheduled for summer 2025.

“We wanted to build a space that was like a next-generation office or startup with the ability to have meetings, flexible spaces for the kids to work and high-speed computers to do a lot of the accounting,” Director of Careers and Student Services Dr. Jason Stanton said. “Basically, a room to run a full-scale

business for the virtual enterprise program. We designed the room with the VE teachers to get their input on what businesses look like today and what the kids really need to have experience with when they get out of college and into the real world.”

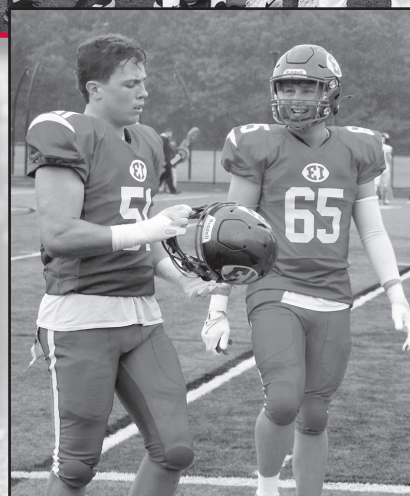
The new VE room – also utilized by classes such as accounting, digital communications and health information network systems – has garnered significant attention and sparked interest in the program itself.

“Students that didn’t previously sign up for our VE classes have walked by the room and summarily signed up for the classes,” Dr. Stanton said. “We are looking forward to having more students participate in the VE programs next year.”

EAST ISLIP COMMUNITY STANDS TOGETHER FOR SPLENDID HOMECOMING

East Islip enjoyed a splendid homecoming on Sept. 28, ignoring the occasional rain shower to demonstrate outstanding pride and community spirit. After a short but sweet parade down Main Street ending at the fire department, students and families enjoyed a food truck festival experience and a spectacular football game. Led by star quarterback Thomas Costarelli and spurred by fervent fans in the stands, the undefeated Redmen crushed Smithtown West by a lopsided 41-14 score. Excelling at the quarterback keeper, Costarelli ran for East Islip's first three touchdowns, and threw a 13-yard pass to Niko Meyers for the team's final TD of the day. Ryan Parker added a rushing TD, while Jack Kalinowski scored on a 37-yard interception. Brendan McCaffrey and Jaden Schmidt earned one sack apiece, while kicker Anthony Mariani was a perfect six-for-six on extra points. At halftime, viewers were treated to cheerleading and kickline performances, and Daniel Carroll and Lauren Glynn were crowned as homecoming king and queen, respectively. The homecoming court was rounded out by Julianna Azzizzo, Anna Franchi, Erin McCarthy, Annalise Piano, Joseph Shiano and Romeo Soriano.

"Teamwork makes the dream work, and there's nothing more powerful than a community that stands together to support its students," Superintendent Paul Manzo said.



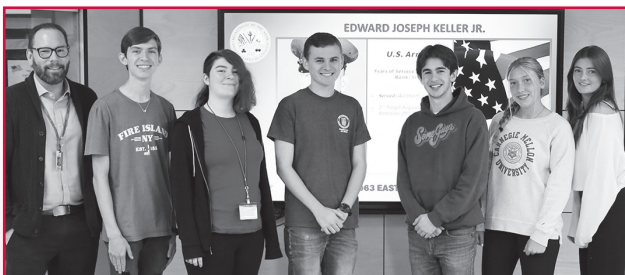
FTK DONATES BOOK VENDING MACHINES to *Elementary Schools*

The For the Kids Foundation recently donated book vending machines to each of the four elementary schools in the district to promote reading. Each student at Connetquot, JFK, RCK and Timber Point will have the opportunity to choose a book to keep on their birthday with the use of special Birthday Tokens, helping them connect with reading. FTK will keep the machines stocked all year with a variety of exciting titles. “The district is so excited that FTK has supported our ‘Inspiring Growth Together’ theme and generously donated book vending machines to all of our elementary schools, sparking excitement and a renewed love for reading among

our young students,” Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Lisa Belz said. “These innovative machines provide a fun and engaging way for students to discover new books, fostering a lifelong passion for learning. The book vending machines offer students the opportunity to explore and choose books from their preferred genres, allowing for a more personalized and enjoyable reading experience. This incredible donation is not only a wonderful addition to our schools but also an inspiration to our students, encouraging them to explore the joy of reading in a unique and interactive way.”

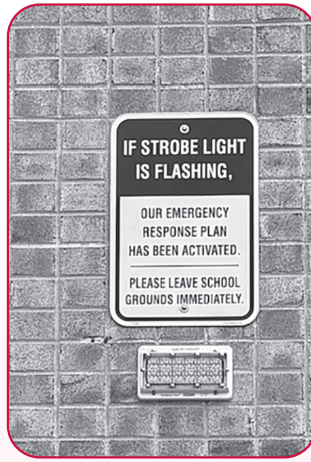


Student Musicians Display Commitment to Success



Five fantastic students from East Islip High School were recently named All-State musicians by the New York State School Music Association. During the NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester from Dec. 5-8, Ella Tantillo (French horn) will perform with the All-State Wind Ensemble; Ryan Flad (trumpet) will perform with the All-State Symphonic Band; Erin Ackerman (soprano) and Tyler Hilms (tenor) will perform with the All-State Mixed Chorus; and Emily McIntee (alto) will perform with the All-State Treble Choir. Student Ethan Jensen (tenor) was selected as an All-State alternate.

Additionally, 14 East Islip High School students – Erin Ackerman (soprano), Venti Ammenwerth (soprano), Julianna Azzizzo (alto), Angelina Codispoti (soprano), Julianna D’Addario (soprano), Ryan Flad (trumpet), Florence Gonzalez (soprano), Tyler Hilms (tenor), Ethan Jensen (tenor), Keith Klein (tenor), Emily McIntee (alto), Gianna Monroi (soprano), Olivia Quintero (viola) and Ella Tantillo (French horn) – were selected by the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education for All-County honors. The NYSCAME High School All-County Festival performance will take place on Nov. 15 at Hauppauge High School.



KEEPING SCHOOL SAFETY AT THE FOREFRONT

School and student safety remains a paramount issue for the district, and new initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year continue this emphasis.

“Over the past several weeks, our safety team has been meeting regularly to assess and strengthen security across the district,” Superintendent Paul Manzo said. “As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, staff and community, we have implemented several additional security measures. These updates include enhanced surveillance systems, card access point readers in all buildings and an increase in security personnel throughout the district, allowing for more comprehensive coverage and vigilance at our schools.”

Traffic control bumps were recently installed at the middle school and Timber Point, and the Blue Light lockdown system featuring exterior strobe lights was added to the already enhanced interior and exterior door access system in each building.

“With all the new parking lots that were recently refurbished across the district, we decided to add some speed bumps in various locations, designed to reduce vehicle speeds and for added safety for pedestrians walking through the parking lots,” Facilities Administrator Anthony Gagliano said. “The district decided to add a Blue Light system so that in the event of a lockdown, pressing a button located in a building’s main

lobbies results in all doors being in the locked position and the activation of a blue flashing light on the exterior of the building at specific entrance doors notifying anyone trying to enter the building that they are not to enter and to leave school grounds immediately.”

Several new safety policies were also implemented, including a state mandate to inform parents of lockdown/emergency drills and a student cellphone use plan. For the latter, cellphones and electronic devices must be off and away during the school day for all students in grades K-8, and no ear buds are allowed. At the high school, students can only use cellphones in the hallway during passing time (without ear buds), and in the cafeteria during scheduled lunch period, study hall and library during noninstructional time (with ear buds allowed). High schoolers are not permitted to use cellphones or electronic devices during classroom instructional time, suspension and detention; or in bathrooms, locker rooms and physical education classes.

“We also take great pride in our partnerships with law enforcement, which includes utilizing resources that provide direct access to Suffolk County dispatch for emergencies,” Manzo said. “We remain dedicated to continuously evaluating our safety protocols to ensure that we are providing the most secure environment possible for everyone, and thank the community for its continued support as we work together to keep our schools safe.”

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Upcoming Events

NOV. 7

Board of Education Meeting at 7 p.m.
in District Office

NOV. 13

ENL Parent Night & Commanding
Ceremony at 6 p.m. at ECC

NOV. 15

School Business Partnership
General Meeting at 8 a.m.
in ECC Cafeteria

STUDENT MUSICIANS AND COMMUNITY CONTINUE *FTK Carnival Tradition*

East Islip kicked off the annual FTK Carnival on Sept. 20 with a special opening ceremony featuring musical performances from current JFK and RCK chorus and string students as well as alumni from both schools. Fourth and fifth graders sang “The Star-Spangled Banner,” led by RCK music teacher Danielle Post and accompanied by JFK music teacher Michael Fernandez on piano. Fifth graders and alumni played “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” on their string instruments under the direction of music teachers Jaime DeMaria of JFK and Angela Stewart of RCK. Held by the For the Kids Foundation on the grounds of Timber Point, the three-day event offers games and rides for district families.



Secondary Schools Celebrate Constitution Day



Our secondary schools celebrated Constitution Day on Sept. 17. Each student in the seventh, eighth, 11th and 12th grades received their very own copy of the Constitution to work with in their social studies classrooms. Constitution Day, established in 2004, recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens, and is normally observed on the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

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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Visit our website at www.eischools.org

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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.