



WESTBURY UFSD

Westbury Focuses in on Social-Emotional Health in 2022

District Implements Several Programs to Address Social-Emotional Health of Students

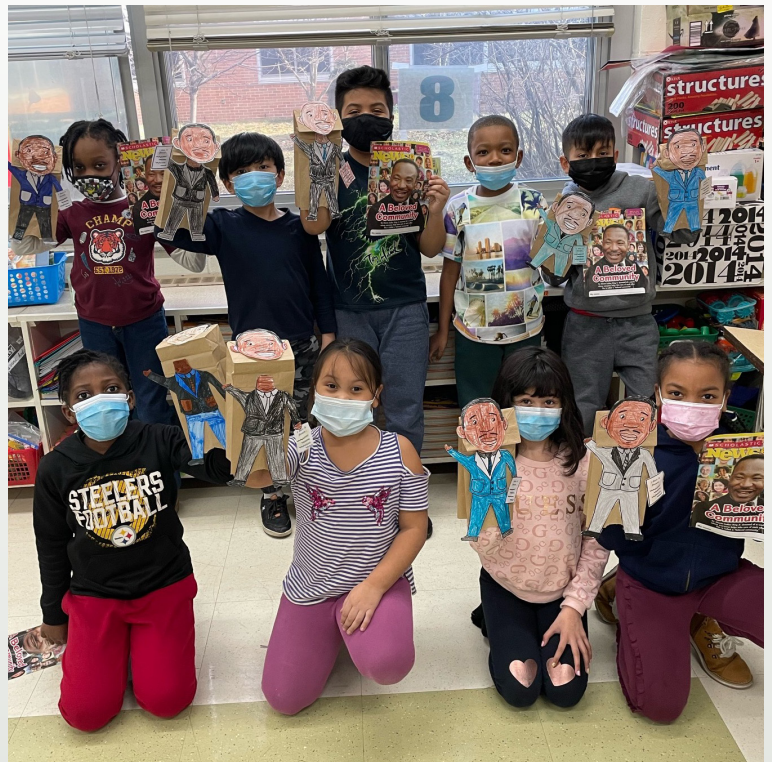
At the Westbury School District, teachers are emphasizing a holistic approach to educating students. We are not focusing solely on students' grades or aptitude on tests; we want to make sure we nurture their social emotional and physical health as well. Only with all disciplines working in concert can students truly receive a full education.

Given the enormous mental and emotional challenges the pandemic has wrought, Westbury is keying in on the social-emotional wellness of our students this year. It is our firm belief that doing so is equally as important as creating an engaging, rigorous curriculum for our students to master. As such, social-emotional health and support have been at the heart of academic success for students and since the very start of the 2021-2022 academic year. We've implemented a number of programs and activities that build upon this, including informative workshops, facilitated by the District, to help parents engage in to better support their children.

“Social-emotional learning must be woven into the very fabric that makes up our great District, as it is a core tenant that allows our students to feel nurtured and supported to learn,” said Dr. Tahira DuPree-Chase, Superintendent of Schools.

One program that has been particularly successful is our monthly character themes. Each month, the District observes a different theme that represents a crucial aspect of students being supported emotionally in the academic process. In October, the theme was “self-awareness”; in November, “gratitude;” in December it was _____; and in January it was _____. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to participate in monthly workshops led by Good Morning America contributor and Board certified therapist, Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams.

By placing such a heavy emphasis on social-emotional well-being and mental health, we can create an environment in schools were students feel safe, comfortable, and empowered to learn.



WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL EARNS PRESTIGIOUS 2021 AP COMPUTER SCIENCE FEMALE DIVERSITY AWARD

We talk so much about the importance of diversity in our schools. A quality education requires voices from all walks of life and backgrounds to be whole. Certainly, this is true in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) classes as well, a field that for far too long women were unrepresented in or not encouraged to pursue. All educators in Westbury have worked tirelessly to reverse this trend, and it so wonderful to see our labors pay off in the form of the prestigious AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award.

Across the country, only 1,020 schools earned their distinction, with only 760 schools, such as Westbury High School, earning it for AP Computer Science Principals (CSP). The awards are distributed by the CollegeBoard.

The honor recognizes the outstanding work Westbury High School is doing to engage more female students and expanding young women's access to AP CSP. Official award certificates were sent to the high school to commentate our school's achievement.

"Congratulations to Westbury High School, and its tremendous teachers, for this wonderful award," said Dr. Tahira DuPree-Chase, Superintendent of Schools. "We have made it our mission to champion young women and let them know that there are no barriers for them at Westbury. This award is just further proof that our hard work in this area is successful."



HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Westbury High School's Student Council Earns the National Gold Council of Excellence Award for Second Year in a Row

Here in Westbury, we have no shortage of exemplary students, staff, and student-run organizations. And their quality and success hasn't gone unnoticed: for the second year in a row, the Westbury High School's Student Council has earned the National Gold Council of Excellence Award for the second year in a row.

The National Council of Excellence Award recognizes and celebrates middle school and high school student councils that meet the high standards set by the National Student Council (NatStuCo.org), an organization dedicated to helping student councils across the nation. There are two levels of the award, the National Council of Excellence, and the National Gold Council of Excellence.

To be awarded the National Council of Excellence Award, a student council must meet a variety of criteria. In addition to basic requirements such as a written constitution, regular meetings, and a democratic election process, a council must demonstrate successful sponsorship and participation in activities such as leadership development and service to its school and community. To be awarded the gold level, which Westbury has earned this year as well as for the 2020-2021 school year, a council must demonstrate the highest levels of leadership.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

America's Future Voters Practice Politics at Drexel

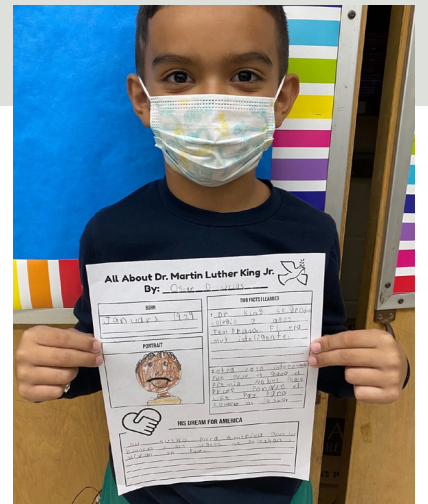
Just because the students at Drexel Elementary School aren't yet ready to vote, that doesn't mean they aren't busy on election day. Last fall, as adults all over America took to the polls, Drexel students created mock campaign posters for themselves in an effort to convince their classmates to "vote" for them! Featuring slogans like "your brightest idea" and "believe in me", the posters looked just like the real thing—and taught students about the powers of persuasion, the need to champion oneself, and the importance of making a difference.



DRYDEN STREET STORY TO COME

Park Avenue School Commemorate the Life and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

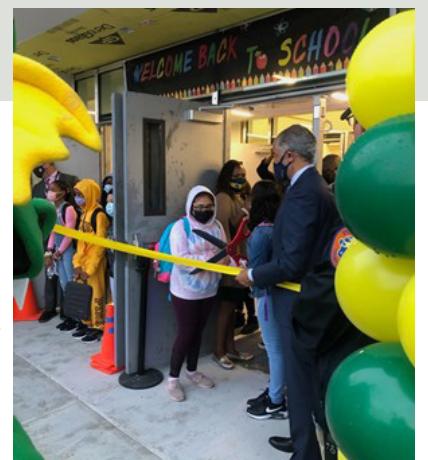
Every January, our country pauses to remember one of the most important Americans: the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many classes in our schools at the Westbury School District commemorate the holiday in unique ways. At Park Avenue Elementary School, for example, children completed worksheets about Dr. King and created posters that displayed the lessons they've learned from Dr. King and detailed the ways in which the students want to act under his example. Take a look at some of the artwork from this important day in class.



POWELL'S LANE STORY TO COME

The First Year in our New Middle School Sixth Grade Wing is Going Great!

Students need state-of-the-art school facility and which to learn. Thankfully, that's just what sixth graders at Westbury Middle School have. Last fall, after years of preparation and months of construction, the Westbury School District welcomed its sixth-grade students back for in-person instruction with newest addition to Westbury Middle School's grounds. The new building is used an additional learning environment for sixth-grade students as well as office spaces for administrators and secretarial staff. With the increase in student population during recent years, Westbury Middle School's expanded academic capabilities ensures that all students will continue to receive the quality education that is expected of the District. After four months in the new building, we can say for certain: It was worth the wait!



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MUSIC AND ARTS

For the First Time Ever, a Westbury High School Student is Selected to be Part of the Exclusive NYSSMA All-State Performing Ensemble

Our talented student-musicians never cease to amaze us! Oscar Munguia, a senior at Westbury High School, was recently selected to be part of the 2022 NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) All-State Performing Ensemble as an All-State jazz baritone saxophone player. Oscar is the first-ever Westbury High School student to be selected for any musical ensemble! His accomplishment is especially significant because NYSSMA only selects ONE baritone saxophone player for the entire state. (By comparison, they take 50 approximately trumpet players for the various ensembles.) Oscar will soon be going up to Albany for two days for rehearsals and performances at the state capital for the NYSSMA Day in Albany, which NYSSMA conducts for advocacy for the arts. This is an unprecedented accomplishment for our school. Congratulations, Oscar!

**PICTURE
OF OSCAR
TO COME**

SPORTS NEWS

Westbury Athlete Wins Player of the Year; Coach wins Nassau Coach of the Year

A big-time congratulations are in order for Westbury's varsity boys soccer player Edison Arias Velasquez, who won *Newsday's* player of the year award for 2021. Additionally, we want to shout out to Chris Valentini, who won Nassau County's coach of the year honors. Congratulations, Edison and Coach Valentini.

**PICTURES
OF EDISON
AND COACH
VALENTINI**

Westbury Remembers Ed Krinsky

**Ed
Krinsky
Photo**

Last fall, Westbury mourned the passing of one of our finest, Ed Krinsky. Mr. Krinsky was a beloved basketball coach in our great District, best known for having discovered the talented Knicks player, Anthony Mason. While many remember Ed for having discovered a basketball great, the Westbury community remembers Ed for that and so much more. Ed was best known for his kind heart, warm smile, and encouraging demeanor. His positive impact on student-athletes, coaches and other members of the community was an inspiration to us all. He was truly an example of what amazing things can happen when students feel supported and encouraged to reach their full potential. His legacy lives on in the halls of our District and on the basketball court where he not only coached players to work as a team but where he gave students the confidence to become the exceptional individuals, they are capable of being. Amazing, well-rounded students graduate from the Westbury Union Free School District every day. This is, in large part, due to professionals such as Ed who challenged students to dig deep, both academically and athletically, and to move through life with the same courage and

strength displayed on the basketball court. We will miss you, Ed.