



WESTBURY UFSD

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

New York State Recognizes Westbury School District for Exceeding New Academic Standards

Investments In Future-Ready Initiatives Are Paying Off

The Westbury School District has been recognized by New York State as being in “Academic Good Standing” for the 2018-2019 school year. This recognition was received as a result of each of the District’s schools performing at or above the State’s Standards on NYSED assessments.

“We are proud to receive this acknowledgement from the State,” said Eudes Budhai, Westbury Superintendent of Schools. “This recognition validates the commitment the community made to our students by passing the budget in each of the last six years.”

Scores on the 2017-2018 statewide ELA Assessments for grades 3-8 increased more than 10 percent compared to last year—**one of the highest increases in New York State**. In addition, scores on the Mathematics Assessments for grades 3-8 increased by five percent compared to last year.

Fifty-seven percent of our eighth graders scored at the highest proficiency levels on the Algebra assessment, compared to thirty percent for students across the state who took a math assessment test.

The High School was recognized as one of ten schools in New York State graduating students of color above the state average.

These accomplishments are a testament to the District’s initiatives to prepare students for success both today and in the future by taking advantage of state-of-the-art technology (see pages 2 and 3), creating smaller learning environments, forging a strong relationship through family and community engagement and sustaining a high level of expectations towards student achievement.



Each of the District’s schools performed at or above the State Standard

Statewide ELA Assessments for grades 3-8 rose more than 10 percent

Statewide Mathematic Assessment scores increased 5 percent for grades 3-8



“We look forward to continuing to build on these successes in the years to come and we thank the community for its support.”

— Westbury Board of Education

Peek into the Future

The Westbury School District is harnessing the power of technology to transform instruction.

Walk into a classroom in any elementary school or in the middle and high schools and you will see rows of students using Google Chromebooks to learn coding or music editing; manipulating iPads to use augmented reality to learn about the solar system; or engaging with state-of-the-art Nureva walls, supersized smart boards that literally put

the world's knowledge at the fingertips of our students. It's an exhilarating time to be a student in the Westbury School District. On the next two pages, we give you a sneak peek of some of the amazing work done by our students using some amazing tools.

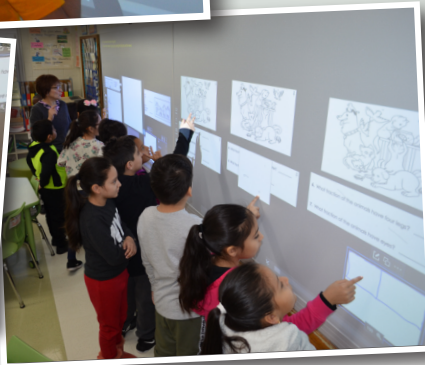
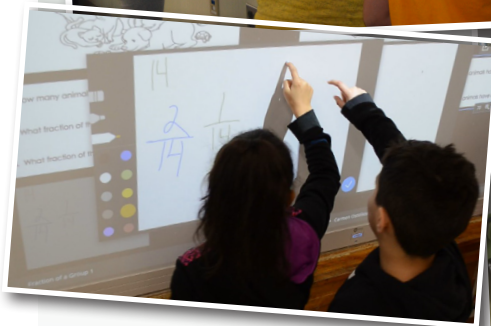
Google Chromebooks

Students in all levels in all buildings have access to easy-to-use, powerful Google Chromebooks. Teachers can use these tools to augment education and instruction. On these computers, students can access programs that give them individualized instruction. If, for example, a student is struggling with one particular part of a math lesson, he or she can work with software that targets and reinforces that particular problem area, helping our teachers to ensure that no student is left behind.



Nureva Boards

Welcome to the next level of Nureva boards. In several classrooms in multiple schools, students can interact with Nureva walls, giant, interactive digital working walls—think of an iPad the size of a billboard and you'll start to have an idea of the magnitude of these walls. The Nureva walls are frequently set up in common areas of schools—in makerspaces, for example—so as many students as possible can engage with them to collaboratively solve a complex problem, perform research for a science project, or break down letter-by-letter the forms of a sentence.



Computer Labs

In order to best prepare our students for a modern workplace, we must teach the career skills that are in demand now and into the future. Coding, graphic design, sound and video editing, web design—these are areas in which the 21st century-student must be adept. Our educators do not take this responsibility lightly; in computer labs, libraries and makerspaces throughout the District, our students are learning to build digital content from the ground up, ensuring that each of them will be prepared for the industries of the near future.



Augmented Reality & Robotics

The tools many of our students have access to rise almost to the level of science fiction. In these photos, one group of students used augmented reality applications to learn about the solar system. Augmented reality is an interactive learning tool in which objects in a real-world environment are augmented by computer-generated graphics and information. Users can access additional and important information faster and engage with the learning in exhilarating ways. Other students pictured are using principles of coding to design and manipulate a small robot, displaying a dazzling proficiency in a discipline that could soon reshape many industries.

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DISTRICT NEWS BULLETIN



Reid-Robeson Classic: An Annual Westbury Tradition that Honors the Memories of Two Heroes

Each winter, the junior varsity and boys and girls varsity Green Dragons play a game of basketball called the Reid-Robeson Classic. It isn't just any old game of hoops, however; this game pays tribute to two heroes. One local, and one national.

Martin "Bunky" Reid, who passed away in 1993, was a leader among leaders and a hero to young people in our community. Bunky was a person whose dedication and commitment to education continues to be an inspiration to all who came in contact with this unique and inspirational man.

After graduating from Westbury High School in 1969, Bunky earned his B.A. at SUNY Oswego and later taught English at the middle and high schools. In 1979, he became the boys' varsity basketball coach and his team won a New York State and Nassau County title. He was respected by his fellow coaches, not only for his exceptional coaching ability, but also for the way his teams conducted themselves on and off the court. After earning his M.A. in School Administration, Bunky became acting assistant principal at the high school in 1985, and was appointed to the position in 1988. He left a unique stamp on the lives of innumerable people.

Years before the civil rights movement, Paul B. Robeson campaigned and struggled for social justice. Born the son of a slave in Princeton, New Jersey in 1898, Robeson is notable for many accomplishments, including becoming the first African American to receive an athletic scholarship to Rutgers University. At Rutgers, he excelled in four sports: football, basketball, track and field and boxing. But his accomplishments were not limited to athletics; at Rutgers, Robeson was the valedictorian of his graduating class and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the National College Honor Society. In 1923, Robeson received his degree from the prestigious Columbia Law School. He died in 1976 in Philadelphia. We remember the way he strived to better society by pointing out the injustices and challenging us to correct them.

Through the Reid-Robeson Classic, we are reminded that there are heroes among us everywhere. No matter if you are a world class athlete or a teacher at the high school, you can make a difference. Thank you to everyone who attended, and to the young men and women who participated in this very special day.

