



# SEAFORD EDUCATION *Spotlight*

[www.seaford.k12.ny.us](http://www.seaford.k12.ny.us)

WINTER 2025

## ENHANCEMENTS SUPPORT *Success of Seaford Scholars*

From the District's youngest learners to its soon-to-graduate, students are benefiting from new and expanded offerings in the 2024-2025 school year. The Seaford School District remains committed to ensuring that its students can pursue their interests and passions while attaining the skills and tools necessary for success beyond high school.

Reconfigured elementary school libraries outfitted with new resources are fostering imagination and innovation in the LIFT (library, innovation, fitness and technology) program. Middle school students are learning about

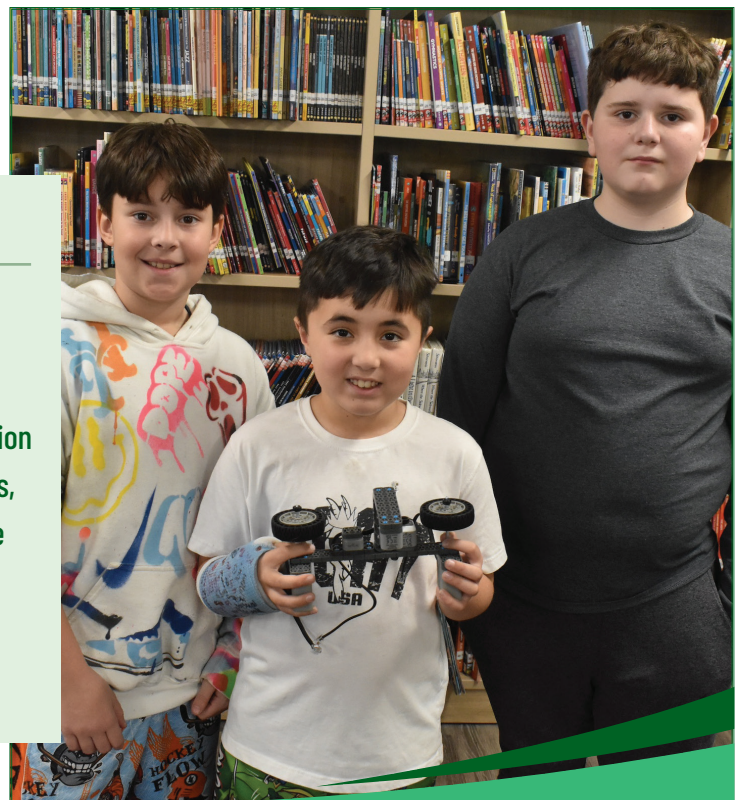
the growing world of computer programming, while the high school's second-year Electrical Training Center doubled its enrollment following a successful debut.

Throughout the District, schools continue to incorporate the 10 Seaford Scholars traits into daily life. Program enhancements aim to promote these characteristics that reflect lifelong skills.

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“Our District is proud to provide innovative programs and opportunities that empower our Seaford Scholars, from their first day in kindergarten to their final walk across the graduation stage. By offering diverse pathways and hands-on experiences, we are shaping a generation of confident, curious and capable learners ready to thrive in a rapidly changing world.”

**Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adele V. Pecora**





# Students Embrace Robotics in LIFT

The elementary LIFT program, now in its third year, is an interdisciplinary program that combines library, innovation, fitness and technology. Vex Robotics kits have been introduced for fourth and fifth graders at Harbor and Manor schools through Project Lead The Way.

Students began exploring robotics shortly before the holiday break and started by building robots that will eventually complete different challenges. The remote-controlled robots include input and output devices, lights, motors, sensors and wheels, and young engineers can scan a QR code with an iPad to access step-by-step building instructions.

“It hits on every component that we emphasize – critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork,” LIFT educator, Daniel Maricondo, said. “It captures the concepts of innovation and technology very well.”

Mr. Maricondo, who teaches the program along with Leah Kukla and Jennifer Rosenberg, said the students have some prior experience with robotics, having used Sphero robots last year as third and fourth graders. The Vex kits will help them build on their knowledge through more complex projects.

“Students develop problem-solving and STEM skills while designing, building and programming robots,” Ms. Kukla said. “As they tackle challenges, they gain confidence, perseverance and a passion for innovation, all while having fun.”

For the younger students, LIFT now features a communication unit in kindergarten, first and second grade. Whatever the activity, children are enjoying the revitalized spaces that foster curiosity and innovation. Book shelves were rearranged to create more open space in the elementary libraries, and flexible furniture means the rooms can easily be reconfigured based on the activity. Library skills remain a key element of the revamped program and time for book checkout is included during each class visit to LIFT.

“This program empowers our young learners to explore their potential and inspires them to become the innovators of tomorrow,” said Manor Principal, Joann Krudis.



LIFT teacher Jennifer Rosenberg working with students on robotics.



## A NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS

Seaford Middle School, which last year was named to the Essential Elements: Schools to Watch list, debuted a computer science course this year for all sixth graders. In the every-other-day class, students learn how to code using JavaScript.

Students began by making simple animations and will advance to game design. Later in the year, they will use 3D printers to output objects they create in Tinkercad. Additionally, they will take apart old computers to see their components and better understand how they work.

“By creating with computers, they are bringing their ideas to life with technology,” said teacher, Alex Merola, who added that the goal is to expose students to the concepts of computer science, while introducing them to emerging technologies.

Mr. Merola explained that an understanding of coding helps students with logical thinking and planning, life skills that are used beyond computer science.



# ELECTRICAL TRAINING CENTER *GROWS*

Following last year's debut of the Electrical Training Center at Seaford High School, enrollment doubled this year. The 18 students in the program spend four periods a day in the dedicated classroom so they can complete 450 hours of required training by the end of the school year.

With 10 additional slots offered this year, students are able to take part in the vocational training program that allows them to remain at the high school for a full day. Instructor, Raymond Kuck, said the course begins with identifying materials, learning about building and electrical codes and gaining an understanding of general construction. They then move on to various wiring projects that simulate the work electricians do in the field.

"The No. 1 concept we teach them is safe wiring," Mr. Kuck said, adding that the program includes a 10-hour OSHA training course.



Senior, Peter Tietz, enrolled in the program and hopes to follow in the footsteps of his father. Additionally, his sister took the course last year in the inaugural class.

"I've learned a lot about wiring and how to make the lights turn on," he said. "This is a great stepping stone to become an electrician."

"I thought it was a great opportunity to thrive and learn new skills for the future," added 12th grader, Gavin Suppes.



## Manor Morning News Informs



Fifth graders are giving the scoop to their peers at Seaford Manor Elementary School following the launch of Manor Morning News. For each broadcast, students take on the roles of anchor, reporter, writer and production assistant. Rich Schwartz, Assistant Principal, oversees the program and rotates crews to ensure that everyone is able to participate as demand was very high.

Each show consists of several segments. In addition to important school news and announcements, there is a sports report on both the Vikings and New York sports

teams. Field reports highlight exciting classroom activities and "Shine the Spotlight On" features interviews of administrators, teachers, staff and students. "Off the Word Wall" introduces students to relevant words. There is also "This Date in History," "What's Trending," student council updates and a Seaford Scholar spotlight.

Their studio is the entire school, but many segments will be filmed in front of the green screen in the LIFT studio. Shows are edited using WeVideo and then shared with teachers to play for their classes.

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**Superintendent of Schools**

## **PRIORITIZING COMMUNICATION THROUGH MODERN PLATFORMS**

The District introduced ParentSquare as a new communication platform to engage with parents, students and staff. It offers a centralized place for announcements, messaging, calendar events, forms and payments, while also supporting two-way communication through direct messaging and engagement tools.

Parents can download the app on their phones and sign up for emails, text and app notifications to receive important messages. The District website, [www.seaford.k12.ny.us](http://www.seaford.k12.ny.us), features an Introduction to ParentSquare Quick Start Guide to help parents navigate the sign-up process.

A revamped website launched in the fall through Finalsite. More visually appealing and user friendly, the site is a valuable resource for information about the District and its four schools. Features include an events calendar, news and announcements, and social media feed. Website visitors can also find the new Viking POPs videos, which capture points of pride around the District.

## **Special Education Enhancements**

The goal of the Pupil Personnel Services department is to have as many Seaford children as possible educated within Seaford schools. Guided by that philosophy, a new 8-1-2 kindergarten class (up to eight students with one teacher and two aides) was added this year to support youngsters with more intensive needs.

Mary Catherine Culella-Sun, Executive Director for Student Support Services, noted that this increases access to their general peers, such as during lunch, recess, special area classes and schoolwide events, and supports the goal of inclusiveness.

“It allows us to meet the needs of more of our learners in the District and in their community-based school,” Ms. Culella-Sun said of the class which is housed at Manor but open to youngsters from both elementary schools. “No one can service our children as well as we can.”

This year, students in the Career Development Program are running the Viking Cove café at Seaford High School, open during select periods on Thursdays and Fridays. Students do the shopping, prepare and sell the food, and do deliveries around the school.

The department has a focus on wellness and behavioral health practices this year, and is supporting teachers with additional training by working with licensed clinical social worker David Hymowitz. Additionally, the PPS department has launched its new Pulse newsletter and @Seaford\_PPS\_Pulse Instagram account.

## **GOLF TEAM *Tees Up***



The new coed Vikings golf team debuted in the fall season, with 15 players from grades 7-12 competing under the direction of Coach Nick Isgro. Matches took place against other local high schools at Bethpage State Park, with students teeing up on the same greens that have hosted many professional golfers. Each match was nine holes.

Kevin Witt, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, explained that the creation of a golf team expanded fall sports options for Seaford's middle school and high school students. He added that it was a highly successful inaugural season and the team members showed great commitment to the sport.

“It was a new opportunity for our athletes and it was an awesome experience,” Mr. Witt said.