



Spotlight

NEW:
MUSIC INSTRUMENT SERVICE

**Esthetics program
for *ADULTS***

Assisting East End Employers

**CIT Summer Program
*has arrived!***

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Cadets Ace Military Inspection

The Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC), an ESBOCES in-district program housed at William Floyd High School, provides students with a valuable opportunity to develop life skills, including the importance of citizenship, service, and personal responsibility. A major milestone each school year is the Annual Military Inspection and Pass-in-Review, a formal event that serves to evaluate the cadets' progress in their military studies.

During this event, cadets undergo a Pass-in-Review Inspection, where they are formally examined to ensure they are in proper uniform and prepared to demonstrate their proficiency in military drill and discipline. This procedure is led by Senior Chief Andrew DiDonato and Chief Paul Bloess.



The cadets then marched in formation and executed their drills with precision and coordination. With family and friends in attendance to observe and support, the cadets marched before NJROTC Development Area Two Manager Commander Eric Humphreys and successfully passed the review with high marks.

This event not only highlights the cadets' dedication to their training, but also serves as a reminder of the core values instilled by NJROTC: discipline, leadership, teamwork, and respect for tradition.



Game Changer: Music Instrument Program Offers Districts Advantages

The upcoming Instructional Musical Instrument Service (IMIS) offers districts a new way to acquire and maintain first-rate instruments for music programs.

Scheduled to launch in the 2025-26 school year, the program provides districts with affordable access to high-quality instruments, professional development for music educators, and an efficient inventory management system. Districts can recover a portion of the funds they spend based on their aid ratio through state funding, easing the financial expenditure.

Districts with limited music budgets can now access these instruments with financing options, making the cost more manageable and providing the opportunity for students to play these instruments.

This program is intended to level the playing field by providing students from all districts with the same high-quality instruments, allowing them to compete on equal terms at events such as the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) festivals.

IMIS encompasses a range of services. The vendor will deliver and set up the instruments, eliminating the need for districts to unpack and inventory them. Maintenance and repair services for the first year are also included. Districts can upgrade or replace instruments over time.

The recovered funds can be reinvested into the music department or other areas of the district. This could mean expanding existing programs or funding new initiatives, such as pit bands for school plays or jazz band ensembles.

"By providing districts with the tools they need to offer superior musical education, the program aims to ensure that every student, regardless of their district's financial situation, has access to the resources required for musical success," said Administrative Coordinator for Arts-in-Education Loretta Corbisiero-Drakos.

To learn more, contact Loretta Corbisiero-Drakos at lcorbisi@esboces.org or 631-286-6988.

A NEW COLLABORATION DELIVERS ADAPTED TOYS FOR STUDENTS

The collaboration between the Brookhaven Learning Center at Samoset Middle School's therapy team and Milliken Technical Center (MTC) instructors is a prime example of what makes ESBOCES a special place. Since September, MTC's Electrical Trade and Alternative Energy program, along with the HVAC program, has been modifying and adapting toys that are then donated to Samoset. This initiative helps special education students gain greater independence in controlling the toys, fostering self-expression.

The partnership began when Amber Bragas's class at Samoset created 3D-printed button switches. These switches were sent to MTC, where students modified the circuits, sensors, and components. The adjustments included enhancing sensory features like sound and vibration, as well as simplifying the operation to make the toys more accessible and engaging. The MTC students' expertise in electricity, troubleshooting, and wiring was crucial to successfully adapting the toys to meet the needs of special education students.

As a result, the special education students are now able to play more independently, giving them greater control and allowing them to enjoy the experience without requiring hand-over-hand assistance from adults.

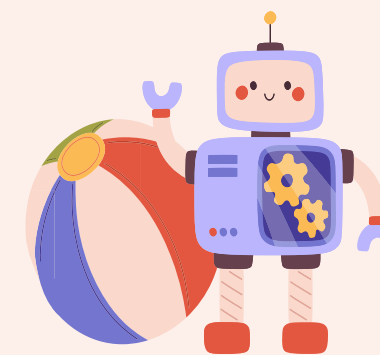
"It's nice to see students helping students," said Christina Scafuri, physical therapist at Samoset. "We're seeing our kids' personalities shine through more. Some are little jokesters, trying to hit a football all the way up to the ceiling."



These breakthroughs have been from the full team effort led by the sensory-motor committee at Samoset, which includes all the school's therapists and the vision teacher. Christine Neuberger, speech therapist; Zoey Speed, occupational therapist; and Karen Scheck, physical therapist; have been key contributors.

"Every week, MTC sends over new toys that our kids can't wait to play with," Scafuri added. "It's become the highlight of their day. They're having so much fun and expressing themselves more comfortably. Some favorites include the football launcher, a ball popper, bubble machine, and plush musical toys."

With new toys being modified and delivered each week, this partnership remains ongoing. Samoset is already planning how MTC students can adapt toys for their annual Special Olympics event later this school year. "We come up with ideas, and they are able to bring them to life," Scafuri added.



Classroom Happenings

Face Time

Adult Education Esthetics students recently practiced giving facials and waxing and shaping eyebrows. They demonstrated an acne clarifying facial, which helps reduce breakouts and oil production, and used facial mapping to determine how to correctly contour eyebrows.



Handling Anesthetic Syringes

In Natalie Amaya's Dental Chairside Assisting class at BTC, students practiced handling syringes, selecting the correct anesthetic and needle length, and safely assembling and disassembling the syringe. They also learned about medical conditions that prevent the use of anesthesia, ensuring patient safety and procedural efficiency. These hands-on skills are essential for supporting dentists effectively while managing patient needs in a safe and professional manner.



Celebrating Chinese Culture

Tecumseh Elementary students explored Chinese culture by learning about its holidays, food, and the panda as a national symbol. They also created vibrant Chinese lion heads, commonly seen in festive parades. This allowed them to express their creativity while developing an appreciation for another culture in a fun and engaging way.



Cookies by the Thousands

Lauren Daquet's Food Prep class at ICC baked nearly 3,150 cookies in six days, creating a variety of flavors such as chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, snickerdoodle, blondies, and rainbow cookies. Students applied key baking techniques, including precise ingredient measurement, creaming butter and sugar, mixing wet and dry ingredients, and ensuring the cookies baked to a perfect golden color, showcasing their skills and progress in class.

Storytelling

Storytelling is a staple in Early Childhood Education, and the students in Kelley Rogers' class at Milliken Tech are learning new ways to engage preschoolers by creating felt boards. Students craft storybook characters from felt or flannel and use these props to tell the tale without books. Characters make fun visuals, they stick to boards made from the same material, and youngsters are excited to see something new.



Recipe for Success

After hearing the fable, "Stone Soup," Bellport Academic students participated in a community-building exercise by listing the things they contribute to their school on pieces of stone-shaped paper. Students identified traits such as kindness, respect, and supportiveness. The paper stones were placed into a giant paper pot and hung on the atrium wall, allowing everyone to see how they all make a difference.

Auto Repair Work

Richard Urhan has his Vehicle Maintenance & Light Repair students at ICC working on multiple projects. After learning to use a professional tire changer, some students practiced, while others worked on customer cars. During a multipoint inspection, they discovered one vehicle was leaking oil and began searching for the source.



Creating Classroom-to-Industry Pipelines

In a collaborative approach to supercharge career trajectories for CTE students and address skilled labor shortages on Long Island's East End, the Academy has aligned itself with regional employers to create a direct pipeline from the classroom to the workforce.

Students in two in-district CTE programs – Clinical Medical Assisting and Carpentry – which were developed in partnership with the Academy and the Southampton UFSD, are reaping the benefits of these alliances.

In-district programs use state-approved Academy curriculum and instructors, but are held within the partnering district and not Academy Tech Centers. This eliminates the long commute for East End students to Academy locations, and saves districts transportation expenditures. Districts may even open seats within these programs to students from neighboring districts.

The Clinical Medical Assistant Program is exceptional for yet another reason – the half-day class is held at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital as opposed to the high school. Daily interaction with medical professionals in a healthcare environment offers students the chance to complete coursework in a real-world setting and work alongside healthcare professionals. Students gain hands-on experience in the hospital and participate in required work-based learning experiences through this partnership.

Said Michael Viviano, administrative coordinator for in-district CTE programs, "The goal is to not only educate students but also to create a pathway to employment, filling gaps in the healthcare workforce. The hospital is actively involved in the program, ensuring that students meet the standards required for employment in the field."



Students in the Carpentry/Residential Construction and Home Improvement Program, held at Southampton High School, recently toured a construction jobsite and met with Ed Bulgin. Bulgin is the founder and VP of Bulgin & Associates, one of the largest residential construction companies on the East End. He discussed career paths and opportunities for entry-level employment with students. Bulgin is also one of several co-founders of the Construction Career Charitable Fund, a non-profit organization that provides scholarships to students pursuing careers in the building trades.

This organization's goal is to support students on or near the South Fork who are interested in the trades by offering scholarships and to connect them with local subcontractors within the company's network that are hiring. Bulgin explained that the skills gap is especially pronounced on the Forks due to the traffic and long commute from other parts of the Island.

"The program provides students with the opportunity to earn competitive salaries while gaining hands-on experience," he said.

These educational-industry partnerships are changing the way students and employers think about workforce development, providing tangible solutions to the skills gap, while offering students a clear pathway to stable, rewarding careers. Some carpentry students have already found employment in the industry this way.

Said Viviano, "We are building a pipeline. The intent is that we're providing a solution for regional employers who may not be able to source a full and talented workforce. Because we have the training platforms and programs already established, it was just a natural fit to work together in this manner."

Unlock Your Entrepreneurial Future

ESBOCES now offers Adult Education Literacy students the opportunity to earn an Entrepreneurship and Small Business certification through the Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education program. This program not only helps students improve their English skills, but also equips them with the entrepreneurial knowledge necessary to successfully start and run a business.

The ESB certification covers essential business areas such as marketing, finance, and operations, preparing students for self-employment or careers in small business management. Students are provided with tailored resources, including practice tests and course materials, to support their success. This program is ideal for individuals looking to launch their own ventures, manage family businesses, or explore freelance opportunities.

ESBOCES' commitment to adapting its programs based on current employment trends ensures that students are equipped with the tools they need to confidently enter the world of entrepreneurship and achieve their career goals.

To learn more, contact the Adult Education office at 631-286-6585



Caring for the Community

Students in the Pre-vocational Department at Westhampton Beach Learning Center took what they learned about the importance of self-care and made it the focus of an act of community service.

Students collected hundreds of donated travel-sized personal care products from classmates and staff, and then categorized, counted, and recorded amounts, using that information to compile kits for community organizations.

Said Special Education Teacher Samantha Hassan, who headed up the project, "Tying this lesson about selfcare into an act of service provided students with the opportunity to use valuable social and organizational skills."

The Pre-vocational Department at Westhampton Beach Learning Center, which is part of the Special Education Program, focuses on teaching independent living and employment skills. To gain experience, students rotate through working in the school store, the supply room, and other areas around the school.



New: Counselor in Training Program for Summer 2025

The Summer Enrichment Program is now accepting applications for CITs – **Counselors in Training**.

This new position for students in grades 9 and above will prepare them to become enthusiastic leaders and enhance their communication and problem-solving skills.

The Summer Enrichment Program provides hands-on STEAM offerings for campers, field trips to destinations such as LI Ducks games and Splish Splash Water Park, along with reading, math, and cultural art projects.

CITs will help facilitate activities with small groups of younger students alongside certified teachers and camp counselors.

The program will take place at our Comsewogue school district location. An additional pilot program may become available in Bayport-Blue Point, contingent upon interest and enrollment.

Registration information will be forthcoming. In the interim, email SummerEnrichment@esboces.org and provide your preferred location, your name, email address, phone, and child's name/grade to reserve a spot.

Questions? Call 631-244-4293



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