



Bulletin Board

Middle Country Central School District

ISSUE XI OF DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SECONDARY STUDENT

Secondary school plays a vital role in shaping students' futures, providing them with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to succeed later in life. Whether students choose to pursue higher education, a specific career path, serve in the military, or enter the workforce, the Middle Country Central School District aims to make them feel supported. When entering Selden and Dawnwood middle schools, our students embark on a secondary educational journey that prepares them for the world around them. At Centereach and Newfield high schools, that education continues, and students are met with new challenges and adventures that encourage academic growth, personal development, and exploration. Through rigorous coursework, engaging extracurricular activities, and dedicated guidance from our educators and staff, secondary schooling helps lay the foundation for lifelong success.

Students Experience Government in Action on Legislative Trip



On February 4, a group of 26 Middle Country students had the exciting opportunity to step into the world of public service and advocacy during a special legislative trip. This experience was designed to teach students about lobbying and civic engagement, offering an up-close look at how legislative offices function and how advocacy plays a crucial role in securing resources for schools.

Assemblyman Doug Smith, a member of the Board of Education's Legislative and Community Outreach Committee, worked with students to provide insight into the legislative process, helping them understand how policies are shaped and decisions are made. Students from AP government and the committee gained firsthand knowledge of the power of civic involvement. As part of the day's activities, students met with various legislators and gained an inside perspective on government in action.



This trip not only aligns with the District's commitment to civic education, but also supports students working toward the Seal of Civic Readiness, a distinction on the high school diploma that signifies a student's proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, and civic experiences. Through this experience, students developed essential skills in leadership, advocacy, and public service, helping them become informed and engaged citizens of the future.

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At Centereach and Newfield High Schools...

Homecoming and Pep Rally Show School Pride

The annual Homecoming game and pep rally is a longstanding tradition full of school pride and unity. The celebration brings an air of excitement with it, as students come together each fall to cheer on the football team, the marching band, and the cheerleaders, and take part in fun activities. Students, parents, and staff collaborate to create memorable experiences and form impressive displays of school spirit and community pride.



PTSA Fashion Show Displays Student Creativity

Every spring, Middle Country high schoolers are invited to show off their fashion sense at the PTSA Fashion Show. With a variety of colorful prom dresses and snazzy suits on display, our students showcase their fun senses of style. The fashion show is more than just a creative showcase—it's an enjoyable event that brings students together, promotes personal expression, and raises funds for senior scholarships.

Unified Basketball Brings Students Together

Centereach and Newfield high schools have embraced the Unified Basketball program, which highlights the importance of inclusion and the power of sports to unite the community. The initiative brings together students with and without disabilities to promote teamwork and inclusivity through a friendly game of basketball. Students hone their skills and build camaraderie on the court. Unified Sports not only encourages physical activity, but also strengthens bonds among students, creating a culture of acceptance and collaboration.



Cultural Celebrations Around the District

Our high schoolers learn about the intricacies of cultures around the world through the District's cultural celebrations, including those for Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Students studied the history, language, and achievements of different cultures through interactive assemblies and engaging lessons. They used art, literature, music, and food to explore the different countries' cultures and expand their horizons.

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At Centereach and Newfield High Schools...

BOCES Programs Provide Valuable Opportunities

Middle Country students have the opportunity to gain real-world experience through Middle Country and BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that provide hands-on training in a variety of exciting career fields. From culinary arts and cosmetology to welding, autotech, aviation, and dental hygienist training, these programs equip students with valuable skills and industry knowledge. By exploring these career pathways in high school, students turn their passions into future professions while receiving expert instruction and practical experience.



Trick or Treat Street Halloween Celebration

Centereach and Newfield high school students got into the spooky spirit by hosting Trick or Treat Street, a festive event where children of all ages enjoyed creative displays and Halloween fun. From eerie decorations to thrilling surprises, the event brought the community together for a safe and exciting way to celebrate the holiday. The event also serves as a fundraiser for the National Honor Society at Newfield High School. At Centereach, students conduct a food drive to benefit the community.

Mock Trial

Newfield High School students met with a panel of women who work at the Cohalan Court Complex in Central Islip to participate in Women in Law Day on March 5. The students learned about pursuing careers in law and conversed with judges, a lawyer, a court officer, a court clerk, an assistant to a judge, and a court stenographer. Mock trial helps promote an understanding and appreciation of the American judicial system through different opportunities for students.



Celebrating Culture and Community at International Night

Middle Country students, families, and staff came together for a vibrant International Night, celebrating the rich diversity of the community. The event featured cultural displays, traditional music, and delicious cuisine from around the world, giving attendees a chance to experience and appreciate different traditions. It was a wonderful evening of learning, connection, and celebration.

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At Centereach and Newfield High Schools...

Fall Coffeehouse Wows Guests

Each fall, our high school students' musical talents are on full display at the Fall Coffeehouse. The cafeteria was filled with the sound of classic and modern tunes as the audience cheered on students while they played instruments and sang their hearts out. It always proves to be a fun showing of talent for our high schoolers.



Dinner and a Show for Senior Citizens

The senior citizens in the community are treated to special showings of the high schools' musical productions for an event that brings the community together to enjoy a night of music, art, and theater. Whether it's *Hairspray*, *Newsies*, or another compelling musical, students take pride in rehearsing their lines, practicing their choreography, and performing for the senior citizens.



AP Classes and College Preparedness

Many of our high school students enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) classes and other courses, from which they can receive college credit. This not only provides them with rigorous coursework and challenging lessons that prepare them for college-level work, but also gives them a step ahead toward their futures.

"The ability to take Advanced Placement and college classes broadens the course to expand beyond the material. You are driven to think outside the box, extending beyond the concept while learning to apply the fundamentals to solve other problems. It is great prep for higher studies as one is being rooted in the fundamentals early on."

- Diya John,
Newfield High School senior

"Taking college classes in high school allows you to get a feel for what taking a real college class is like. The pacing of the class is faster than your average class but you get a more personal experience. You're able to ask more questions than you would in a typical college lecture class. You can also earn college credits so you won't have to take as many classes in college and the cost will be cheaper."

- Joelle Washington,
Centereach High School senior

"The opportunities that Middle Country provides students to earn college credits while in high school gives our students a distinct advantage when applying to colleges. Students can earn college credits through our partnerships with local colleges and universities, proving that they are capable of doing college level work. This, coupled with their achievements on nationwide Advanced Placement exams, proves to college recruiters that our students will be successful at the next level."

- Thomas Bell,
Centereach High School principal

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At Dawnwood and Selden Middle Schools...

Placing an Emphasis on History Studies for National History Day

Each year, Dawnwood and Selden middle school students conduct research for special projects to be displayed at a local National History Day Symposium. By exploring different themes each year, participating students dive deep into their history studies and use their creativity to complete projects in a variety of formats, including websites, papers, and digital presentations. Some students are even invited to take part in Long Island History Day at Hofstra University.



Discovering Innovation at the Offshore Wind Energy Symposium

A group of middle school students visited Stony Brook University to explore the future of wind energy at the Offshore Wind Energy Symposium. They spoke with experts in the field, including engineers, who educated them on offshore wind energy. This hands-on experience gave students a deeper understanding of renewable energy and its impact on the future.



Honing Skills at Math Competitions

Dawnwood and Selden middle school students put their problem-solving skills to the test during the schools' math competitions. Competing against their peers, they tackled difficult equations and mathematical puzzles, demonstrating their dedication and enthusiasm for learning. It was a great opportunity for students to sharpen their skills and celebrate their love of math.



Exploring Topics in Biology and Universal Algebra

At Dawnwood and Selden middle schools, carefully crafted curriculum and pacing guides and supports targeted instruction, preparing students for accelerated enrollment in Regents-level Biology and Algebra 1. Almost every one of the 736 students currently in 8th grade between these two schools is currently enrolled in both courses! Upon successful completion of these classes, students earn high school credit towards graduation. In addition, these students have extra room in their high school schedules to challenge themselves with advanced courses in mathematics and science.



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At Dawnwood and Selden Middle Schools...

School Spirit Soars with Cheerleading and Interscholastic Athletics

Our middle school cheerleading teams bring energy and dedication to every game they attend. Rallying excitement on the sidelines, they embody a contagious sense of school pride that extends to others in attendance. The same passion is brought forth by our interscholastic athletic teams, which promote hard work and sportsmanship. These sports teams not only keep students active and promote fitness, but they also provide opportunities for competition, with determination and skill on full display.



Spirit Week: Grinch Day

Spirit Week brings our middle schoolers together to show off their school pride, whether it's for College Day, Favorite Sports Team Day, or another festive theme. During the winter, students and teachers celebrated Grinch Day—and it was a hit! Pulling inspiration from the classic Dr. Seuss book, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, people dressed up as their favorite Grinch characters. It was a great way to spread the holiday spirit!

Lego Club Fun

Assembling Legos is a fun, hands-on way for students to become familiar with the basic building blocks of structures and gain interest in engineering. The Lego Club provides a supportive environment where students can construct Legos and use their imagination to create models of buildings and other structures. Some students recently participated in experiments that demonstrated how force and energy work. One structure, pictured at right, could even hold the weight of a middle schooler!



Spooky Fun at the Halloween Dance

Middle school students celebrated the spooky season in style at the annual Halloween Dance, enjoying a night of music, costumes, and festive fun. With creative outfits, lively dancing, and a spirited atmosphere, the event brought students together for a memorable evening. Students were even welcome to walk through "Spooky Town," a scary—yet fun—haunted house! It was an exciting way to embrace the Halloween spirit and make lasting memories.

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At Dawnwood and Selden Middle Schools...

Personifying Literary Prowess at Poetry Day

Poetry Day brings Selden Middle School students together once per year for a celebration of the literary genre. The day invites students to share their works of poetry with one another and learn about figurative language and poetic devices such as imagery, personification, and alliteration. Critical analysis of poetry is known to enhance one's critical thinking skills, deepen understanding of language, and foster creativity while encouraging the interpretation and exploration of complex themes and emotions.



Red and White Night

At Selden Middle School, students are split into two houses—red and white—and compete throughout the year to see who will come out on top. They compete against each other during fundraisers, food drives, and other events, culminating in Red and White Night. The teams take part in rousing relay races to ultimately be named the winning house for the year. Good luck to all!

Break the Fast

The middle schools' annual Break the Fast Ramadan Community Celebration marks the breaking of the fast of Ramadan. The event welcomes people of all faiths to join for an evening of community and celebration. A moment of reflection is shared, followed by a large communal meal enjoyed by all attendees.



Best Buddies



The Middle Country Best Buddies program is a shining example of the power of friendship, inclusion, and teamwork, bringing together students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. At Selden and Dawnwood middle schools, students in the Best Buddies Clubs create meaningful connections while engaging in fun and interactive activities. Through these activities, Best Buddies strengthens friendships, builds confidence, and cultivates a welcoming environment where all students feel valued.

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Graduation, Scholarships Highlight Student Achievement

At the end of each school year, our high schoolers celebrate the culmination of their academic careers during special commencement ceremonies. It is a time of celebration; teachers and staff are joined by students' families to recognize our scholars' hard work over the years. Graduation serves as a time to reflect on one's achievements, recognizing both academic accomplishments and personal growth along the way. As our students wrap up this chapter of their journeys, the members of this District look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future. Congratulations to each of our graduating seniors!

Middle Country students are also recognized for their hard work and dedication through a variety of scholarships, helping them take the next step toward their future goals. These scholarships not only celebrate academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement but also provide valuable support for higher education. Congratulations to our students for their well-earned recognition.

