



# SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Adele V. Pecora, Superintendent of Schools

August 2025

Dear Seaford Families,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer with family and friends. We are eager to welcome our students back to school on September 2, 2025! As a prelude to the opening of school, we are proud to present a new 2025-26 season of Viking POPS (Points of Pride Snapshots) videos. This episode highlights our academic and extracurricular programs from this past school year. Click here to view it: [VIKING POPS!](#)

I deeply appreciate the tireless efforts of our school administrators, teachers and clerical teams who have been preparing for the start of our schools. As you enter our schools, you may notice many wonderful enhancements that were made to our campuses. The projects by our Facilities Department this summer are impressive. Our custodial/buildings and grounds staff have done an outstanding job managing elaborate construction work while preparing the schools for September. Additional gratitude is extended to Mr. Russell Costa, our Director of Facilities, and Ms. Rhonda Meserole, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, for their leadership and guidance. Seaford High School looks fantastic with the new Freshman/Sophomore cafeteria, while at Seaford Middle School, the major construction project was the replacement of the roof and the gym ceiling. In addition, Middle School students will also enjoy a gorgeous new library which will be a hub of exploration, and our CDP classroom has been completely refurbished. The Harbor School has new, first-floor student bathrooms and the large playground at the Manor School will have new turf. We are also in the process of building an inclusive playground in between the B and C wings at the Manor.

The summer has been a busy time in our Human Resources Department. I greatly appreciate the outstanding work done by Dr. Sheena Jacob and Ms. Lori Umamo to ensure that we recruit and hire amazing new faculty and staff. This work could not have been done without parents, teachers and administrators who volunteered to serve on interview committees. A new face participating in some of these hiring processes is Ms. Riana DiPalma, our new Executive Director for Humanities. We are grateful to Dr. Charles Leone, her predecessor, for the dedication that he extended to students, faculty and staff over the last six years, and wish him the best in his retirement.

Many of our current initiatives are an extension of the outstanding work that we began over the last several years. We will continue to emphasize the Seaford Scholars Profile which fosters skill development, supporting our students in becoming successful learners and the leaders of today and tomorrow. This summer, Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano and the curriculum team have been leading our curriculum projects with dedicated teachers. Our work focuses on 20 curricular projects, some of which include: building our new High School Journalism and Broadcast Journalism courses, transitioning to the new science standards, refining our new Social Studies Grades 3-5 curriculum, building a districtwide K-5 Art sequence, supporting the rollout of our new Math K-5 program and incorporating our new KidOYO platform into our Computer Science courses.

Another tremendous improvement to our instructional programs is the implementation of our full-time, Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) model (K-5) at the Harbor and Manor Elementary Schools. The Pupil Personnel team, led by Ms. Mary Catherine Culella-Sun, building administrators and teachers, are

commended for their work on establishing this new program which will provide wonderful learning opportunities for our elementary learners.

As a reminder, students will not be allowed to have internet-enabled devices at school throughout the instructional day. On July 18, 2025, I wrote to the community regarding the New York Distraction Free Schools Law that became effective on August 1, 2025. According to this new law, internet-enabled devices “include smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, or any other device that can connect to the internet and allow the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications.” All principals have also provided families with information regarding the specific procedures for the storage of devices in their respective schools. We realize that emergencies do occur and if you need to contact your child, you are welcome to call the main office of the school. Understandably, this is a significant change, and some students may be frustrated. We ask for your assistance in working with your children to comply with this legal requirement.

This year, we remain deeply committed to supporting the social, emotional, and mental well-being of every child. In all schools, we are undertaking an exciting initiative to enhance our K–12 Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts through intentional curriculum writing and thoughtful integration of evidence-based programs. Our goal is to create a seamless social-emotional learning (SEL) experience for students across all grade levels that promotes responsible decision-making, resilience, empathy, and strong interpersonal skills. We will be blending several key programs, including Lions Quest, Seaford Scholars, RULER, and Habits of Mind into a unified SEL framework.

In addition to curriculum enhancements, all staff members will be trained in Mental Health First Aid, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to recognize signs of emotional distress and provide timely and compassionate support to students. We continue to partner with Northwell for the 25-26 school year to support our students and families. Recognizing the vital role families play in students’ development, we are launching a series of family workshops and learning opportunities designed to strengthen the home-school connection. These sessions will focus on important topics such as fostering positive decision-making, promoting mental wellness, and understanding the benefits and challenges of social media in students’ lives.

As always, the safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. Every year the district budgets for security projects. Last year at both elementary schools, we installed door ajar systems that signal an alarm and activate a camera if a secured door is open. This same system will be installed in the Middle School and High School over the next several months. We also updated our employee badge swipe security system. It has been a focus to expand the number of security cameras throughout the district and by the end of this year, our district will have close to 200 cameras on our campuses. Consistently, Nassau County Police have stated that locked doors and the wearing of ID badges are critical in securing the perimeters of our schools. Ensuring a safe and secure learning environment continues to be our overarching goal.

At the heart of all these efforts is the shared belief that when schools, families, and communities work together, students thrive. We are grateful for your partnership as we continue building a school culture rooted in empathy, respect, academic excellence and the unwavering support of the whole child. We are very excited to start the school year and look forward to seeing our students and families.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer and ... **Go Vikings!**

Yours in Seaford Pride,

Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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