Fall 2025

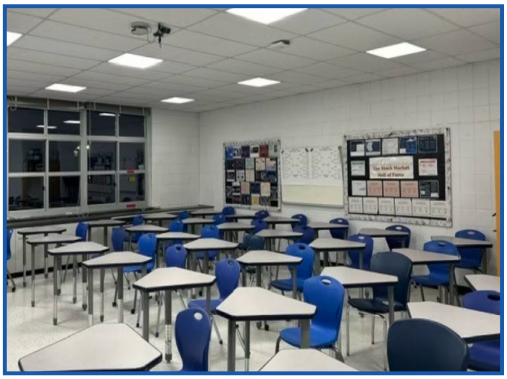
EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District News

Districtwide Projects and Renovations







The District continues to make significant progress on the Energy Performance Contract (EPC) projects designed to improve energy efficiency and comfort, along with other capital improvements across all schools. Several projects have already been completed, while others are ongoing and expected to be finished during the 2025–2026 school year.

Project highlights include:

- **Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School:** Installation of air conditioning; new patio at the comfort station; tennis court repairs; partial roof replacement; and installation of solar steel piers
- **Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School:** Bathroom renovations and boiler upgrades
- **Howard B. Mattlin Middle School:** Energy-efficient ceiling and lighting upgrades
- **Stratford Road Elementary School:** Parking lot replacement and stage lighting enhancements
- **Districtwide:** Lighting upgrades and ongoing solar panel installations

These initiatives reflect the District's strong commitment to maintaining safe, efficient and comfortable learning environments for all students and staff, while being financially responsible.









Get Connected!

Join the POB Schools email list!
Two ways to get connected:
https://www.pobschools.org/about/community-communication-opt-in
or scan the QR code to register for District Announcements.

Spotlight on the Varsity Girls Volleyball Team!

The Plainview-Old Bethpage varsity girls volleyball team is having an outstanding season. Building on last year's county championship run, the team finished the regular season with a 14-0 record and has captured multiple titles, including first place at the Smithtown Tournament, where they defeated the reigning state champions in straight sets, and a second consecutive victory at the LuHi invitational.

Their consistent excellence has earned them the No. 1 state ranking as they head into the playoffs. The team is led by All-State captains Dylan Katz and Emily Layton, with All-County seniors Bella Sallie and Jayden Axelrod contributing nearly 110 kills each this season. Plainview-Old Bethpage also tied for the highest number of players named to Newsday's Top 100 Girls Volleyball Players list, highlighting the program's exceptional talent.









National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School is proud to share that six Class of 2026 students have been named semifinalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Competition. The honored students are Matthew Fitzgerald, Seok Hoon Lee, Soha Jhaveri, Claire Lim, Dylan Stal and Ethan Torres.

Each year, more than 1.3 million students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). From that group, 16,000 of the nation's top scorers – representing less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors – are recognized as semifinalists. Semifinalists who meet academic and program requirements will advance to finalist standing, making them eligible to compete for nearly 6,390 scholarships valued at more than $26 million.

Twenty-two POBJFKHS students were also named among 34,000 Commended Students in the 2025-2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are Udayjot Bhullar, Isaac Chen, Riya Dalal, Katelyn DeLuca, Nanda Guntupalli, Kloe Kaplan, Olivia Kim, Jack Koppelman, Juee Kotwal, Daniel Lee, Madison Lee, Grace Lu, Dhruv Maheshwari, Pranav Mohankumar, Anthony Moratti, Yamato Ohashi, Maria Rountos, Matilda Saltiel, Rushabh Sanghvi, Mingshen Shi, Maya Stromer and Michael Zuckerman.

These Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers on the 2024 PSAT/NMQST.



Commended Students



Matthew Fitzgerald



Seok Hoon Lee



Soha Jhaveri



Claire Lim



Dylan Stal



Ethan Torres



Let Grow Initiative: Celebrating Independence Across Our Elementary Schools

Plainview-Old Bethpage's elementary schools are participating in the *Let Grow Initiative* through *Try it Tuesdays,* which are filled with activities designed to help students build independence by trying new activities on their own, from running an errand to making a meal. These experiences help students develop confidence, responsibility and valuable life skills.

In September, students across POB elementary schools embraced the theme, "Get Out of Your Comfort Zone," which focused on growing independence and trying new challenges. The activities encouraged students to take small, meaningful steps toward doing things on their own, whether it's drawing chalk art on the sidewalk, making their own lunch, playing in the park, walking to a friend's house, or even buying ingredients and baking a cake.

For October, students built on the independence they developed in September and took the next step with the theme, "Spreading Your Wings."

We are proud of the students who took on this challenge and shared their experiences, and we look forward to the upcoming months of *Let Grow* activities.







Shared Learning Experiences – All Are Welcome!

The District is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for parents, students and community members to engage and learn together. These shared learning experiences are designed to strengthen connections and further ongoing conversations that support our schools and one another.

In September, families participated in programs exploring artificial intelligence (AI) in education, and Parent University in October shared strategies for finding balance in a digital world. We invite you to join us for the next events in the series.



Upcoming Shared Learning Opportunities:

• Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m.
"We Got This," featuring author Cornelius Minor
Hosted by the EIB Committee and PTA Council

• Jan. 29, JFKHS: Holocaust Remembrance Night.

• Feb. 11 at 7:00 p.m. EIB Community Forum

Learn and grow alongside our faculty, staff and PTA!





Plainview-Old Bethpage Community Cele

Students, staff and families across the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District filled the community with energy and pride during this year's homecoming festivities. Varsity teams visited the elementary schools to participate in recess with students; and the week ended with pep rallies at Howard B. Mattlin Middle School, Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School and Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School.

Homecoming day kicked off with the annual parade, led by members of the Board of Education, the marching band and the color guard. Cheerleaders, kickline performers, and varsity athletes, along with representatives from student government and students from schools throughout the District, marched with POB pride.

Following the parade, student-run organizations including Stacy's Warriors and DECA hosted informational tables, while clubs such as the National Art Honor Society offered merchandise and crafts. A student-led photoshoot gave participants the chance to capture memories with homecoming-themed props and frames.

With the help of high school student volunteers, POB SEPTA hosted a sensory tent to provide a space for students to take a break. The POB Athletic Booster Club kept the hot dogs, sodas and barbeque going throughout the afternoon, serving hundreds. Attendees enjoyed sitting on the newly constructed patio and seating at the comfort station.

On the football field, performances by the cheerleading team, the marching band and color guard, and the kickline team earned enthusiastic cheers from the stands as the Hawks varsity football team closed out the day with an impressive 28-12 victory over Hicksville. Seniors Ocean Lee and Alexis Vitagliano were









brates Homecoming With Spirit and Pride

crowned homecoming king and queen.

“Homecoming brought out the very best of our schools and our community,” Dr. Heather Dvorak, principal of POBJFKHS, said. “From the energy in the hallways to the incredible showcase of talent, service, and spirit, it was inspiriting to see student, staff and families come together to celebrate what makes POB schools so special.”







AROUND THE DISTRICT

Deke Sharon Visits Choirs and A Cappella Groups at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

Deke Sharon, the music director and arranger for the "Pitch Perfect" series, vocal producer for NBC's "The Sing-Off" and co-creator, music director and arranger for Disney's "DCappella," visited Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School to work with student choirs and a cappella groups. The mixed and treble choirs came together to premiere and workshop Sharon's arrangement of "APT"; and throughout the day, all eight student-run a cappella groups, along with the school's teacher-led group, received personalized coaching sessions.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School Fifth and Seventh Graders Become Heimlich Heroes

Fifth and seventh graders at POBMS learned how to perform the Heimlich maneuver through interactive virtual lessons from HeimlichHeroes.com and follow-up discussions in their health classes. Students explored how to respond to different choking emergencies and practiced the recommended steps to help someone in need. As the first health lesson of the year, it empowered students with valuable first aid skills and the confidence to take action and potentially save a life.



Old Bethpage Elementary School Students Learn About Fire Safety

Throughout Fire Prevention Week in October, the Plainview Fire Department visited the Plainview-Old Bethpage elementary schools to teach students important fire safety skills. Students learned about the role of smoke detectors, how to dial 911 in an emergency, and how to stay safe in case of a fire. Students learned what to do if their clothing ever catches fire, including how to use the "stop, drop, and roll" technique. Firefighters also demonstrated their protective gear so students could recognize what they look like during an emergency and feel comfortable approaching them for help. The visit reinforced important fire safety lessons, such as never playing with matches, lighters, or other dangerous items. The District is grateful to the Plainview Fire Department for its continued partnership and commitment to keeping our students safe.





Mattlin Middle School Begins the School Year With Annual Fifth Grade Barbecue

The fifth grade barbecue at Mattlin Middle School was a great success! Students enjoyed delicious hot dogs, burgers and Italian ices while spending time with friends, participating in activities and yard games, and having fun throughout the afternoon. A big thank you to the Mattlin teachers, staff, guidance counselors, parents and PTA members who visited and helped make the event a special celebration for our fifth graders.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Judy Jacobs-Parkway Elementary School PTA Hosts Welcome Back Social

Families, students and staff enjoyed an evening full of fun and community spirit thanks to the JJP PTA. Students had the chance to design their own custom airbrushed shirts, personalized on the spot by Graff Lab Studio, while Playground Athletes kept the energy high with exciting tournament-style games and competitions. To top it all off, delicious pizza from Serpico's Pizza food truck was available, making it a memorable night of creativity, teamwork and togetherness to kick off the new school year.



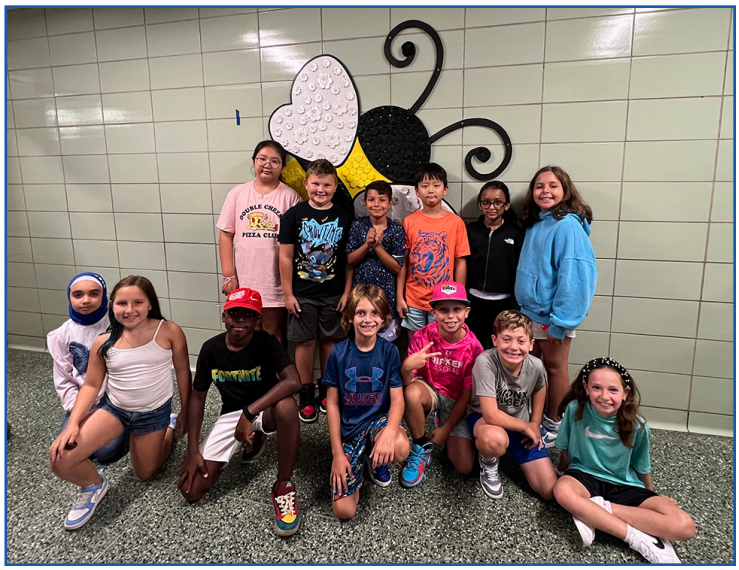
Pasadena Elementary School Fourth Graders 'Tour' Long Island Stations During Long Island Unit

Pasadena Elementary School's fourth grade classes teamed up for their Long Island Unit by creating a "tour" of Long Island. As students rotated through the five classrooms to explore the region in a hands-on way, each room featured a different "station" of Long Island, including communities, history and beaches, transportation, geography and agriculture. To make the experience even more engaging, students carried tickets and boarding passes that were stamped after each station before boarding the "Pasadena LIRR" to travel to their next classroom destination. The Long Island tour gave students a deeper appreciation for Long Island's geography, history and culture through an interactive learning experience.



Stratford Road Elementary School Fourth Graders Unveil Legacy Bee

During the opening week of school, Stratford Road Elementary School's fourth graders unveiled their "Legacy Bee" project. Last year, as third graders, they worked with guest artist Cathy Russell to create a vibrant mosaic bee, with each student designing and crafting a unique ceramic tile. The tiles were then combined to form a single, collaborative artwork. Legacy projects are a cherished part of third grade at Stratford Road, allowing students to contribute to a shared piece of art and see it revealed at the start of fourth grade. The unveiling featured a stunning mosaic that celebrates creativity, community and the lasting impact of student contributions. Thank you to the PTA for their support through the Arts-in-Ed program.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
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www.pobschools.org

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15 POBJFKHS Students Named
All-State Participants and Alternates

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School is proud to announce that 15 students have been selected as participants or alternates for the 2025 NYSSMA All-State Performing Ensembles. The festival will take place Dec. 4-7 in Rochester, New York, bringing together top student musicians from across New York State.

Congratulations to Brady Bedell, Nicholas Chacko, Emily Gutterman, Lucas Jin, Surya Krishnan, Dennis Lim, Zhuokun (Kevin) Liu, Alexa Philip, Vinisha Sheth, Dylan Stall, Marissa Vollweiler, Mia Fins (alternate), Liam Ha (alternate), Lauren Kang (alternate) and Ryan Lanzisera (alternate) on this incredible accomplishment.

Thousands of students auditioned last spring for the NYSSMA All-State Festival, making this an impressive accomplishment for our POB musicians. The District also thanks their ensemble teachers, Mr. Dustin Bartley, Dr. Brian Carter and Mr. Adam Paltrowitz, for their dedication and support.



Smarter Schools, Greener Future

Through the EPC, we're upgrading equipment and systems to be more efficient, without using new tax dollars.

Learn more by reviewing the EPC Frequently Asked Questions, which can be found by scanning the QR code below.

POBJFKHS Named
2024-2025 School of Distinction

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School has been named 1 of 35 Long Island schools to receive the School of Distinction designation from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for 2024-2025.

The award, the highest honor in the Scholar-Athlete program, recognizes schools where every varsity team earns the Scholar-Athlete Team Award. To qualify, at least 75% of athletes on each team must maintain a 90% or higher GPA, reflecting the District's commitment to excellence both on the field and in the classroom.

NYSPHSAA
SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

This year, 331 schools statewide were recognized as Schools of Distinction or Schools of Excellence, celebrating the achievements of student-athletes, coaches and school communities. This honor highlights the dedication of POBJFKHS athletes, coaches, teachers and staff.