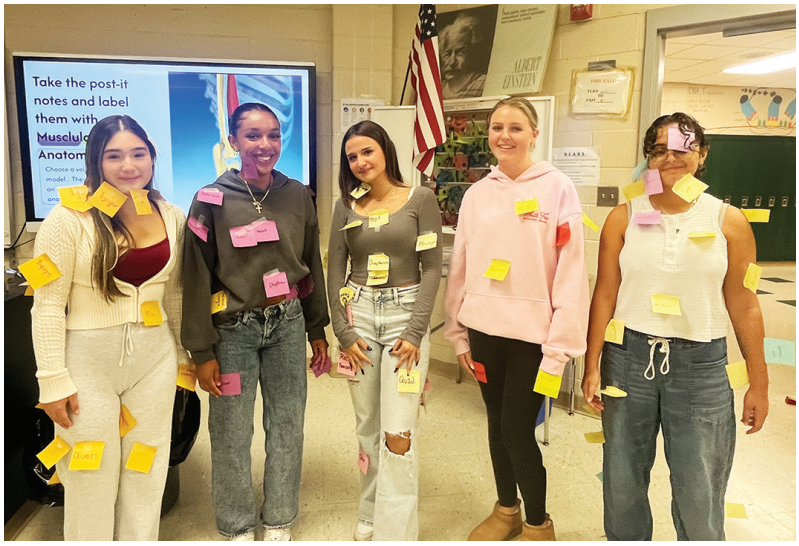
BREWSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Inside Brewster

EVERY STUDENT A SUCCESS • FALL 2025

Exploring Our Health



BHS STUDENTS WHO THINK THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER HAVE A NEW OPPORTUNITY THIS YEAR: Health Science & Careers, a yearlong science elective. The course, which is co-taught by the dynamic duo Lisa Vlicky and Nicole Sweeney, will provide students the opportunity to explore various healthcare careers, as they receive an overview of anatomy, physiology, and basic medical terminology. Health Science and Career students will also engage in hands-on experiences for skill development.

Vlicky, a science teacher, and Sweeney, a Health and PE teacher and personal trainer, bring their own special training and expertise to the classroom.

"We like to make things engaging as students learn," said Vlicky.

A recent *Game of the Day*, "Post-It Parts," was meant to teach students about the musculoskeletal system.

"In small groups, try to identify as many muscle groups as possible. With over 600 it will be impossible to get them all," said Sweeney.

Without using Google, students got to work identifying muscles, labeling and sticking post-its onto a classmate volunteer.

"Remember, body movements are accomplished by muscles moving our skeleton," said Vlicky.

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BOARD'S CORNER

Dear Brewster Community,

Welcome back to our students, teachers, staff and families!

Our District has so many things to look forward to this year, including the capital project that will continue to advance the educational experience for our students and the safety of everyone on our campus.

We hope you have all had the chance to walk our new track or watch our student-athletes and musicians perform on the turf. Building renovations are underway for CV Starr's cafetorium and Brewster High School's fieldhouse. We are also thrilled that our students will enjoy the renovated STEM Lab and NJROTC next school year.

This year, the District is continuing to focus on our students' well-being. We are committed to ensuring that each and every student feels valued and connected to their school community. The emotional and physical safety of our students is at the forefront of everything we do.

We are thankful for our dedicated teachers and staff who work tirelessly to help our students reach their potential. We also thank our parents and guardians who play a vital role in the success of our students. We are a team, and we look forward to continuing to work together to help our students reach their goals and potential.

The Board's policies and agendas, meeting minutes and videos can be found on the Board's webpage on the District's website. You can contact the Board and the Superintendent at boe@brewsterschools.org.

Kerry Cunningham

ON BEHALF OF THE BCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Exploring Our Health

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As students discussed and identified muscles, they wrote down the common names, and Vlicky and Sweeney, walking from group to group, explained the scientific name and function of each: jaw (masseter muscle–responsible for closing the jaw and chewing food); calf (gastrocnemius and soleus–runs from the back of the knee to the foot and responsible for walking and jumping); fingers (flexor digitorum profundus–flexes all the finger joints); shoulder (deltoid-made up of three components); and arms (triceps and biceps brachii–responsible for a wide range of movements, including flexion, extension, and supination). When students slowed down on identifying major muscles, Sweeney and Vlicky let them use Google.

The students were clearly engaged. The activity was hands-on and of special interest. For the most part, students in the class have a passion for the subject matter.

"I want to be a nurse," said Rebecca Anderson.

"I want to be an ultrasound technician," said Adriana Milazzo, "I feel like this class will give me a better understanding."

"I want to work in nursing," said Daniella Howell. "My mom works in a hospital-related field–I talk to her every day after class about what we are learning."

"My guidance counselor suggested this course because I am interested in this field in general," said Deni Hulaj.

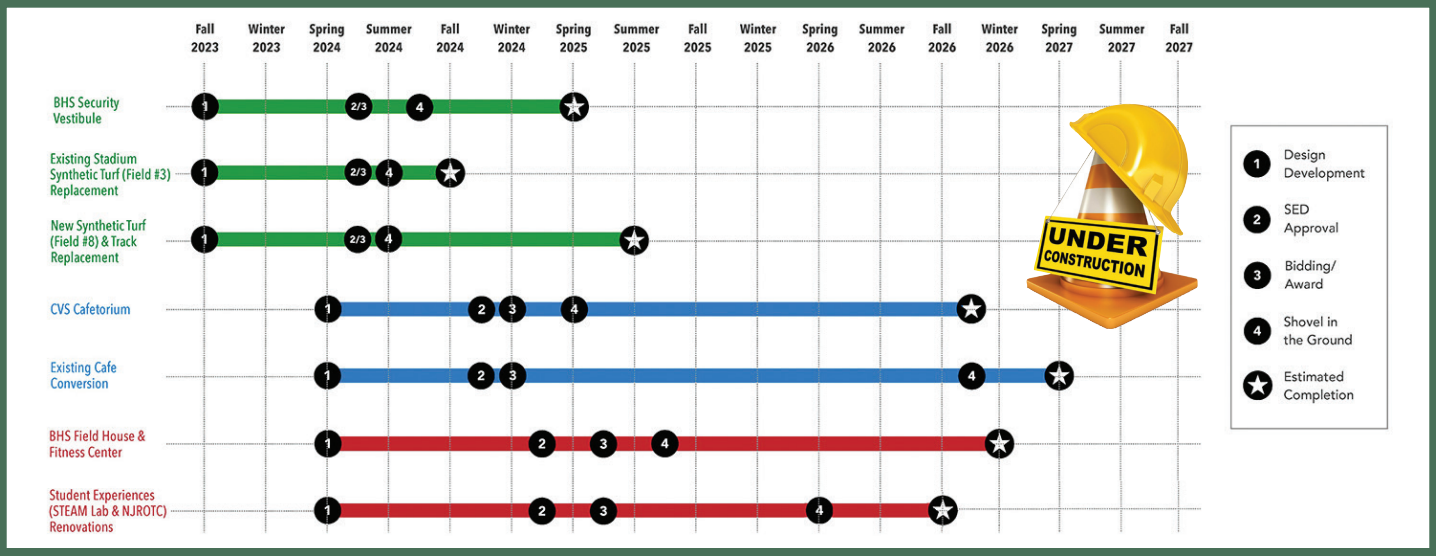
"I know I am interested in the health care field, I am just not sure what," said Taylor Shkreli.

The fact that these students have an interest in the health care field and that there is a new class exploring the field is no coincidence. Each year students set a career goal in *SchooLinks*–a college and career planning platform that connects students with future goals. After polling students, administrators saw an interest in the cluster of healthcare and human services courses at the high school and decided to offer this exploratory course to help students learn more about the healthcare field and its associated careers.

"I do think taking the Health Science & Careers class benefits interested students, by giving them opportunities to learn about clinical, administrative, and public health roles, while they are still in high school," said Vlicky.

At the end, five student volunteers-Mia Espinoza, Rebecca Lacayo, Adriana Milazzo, Maddie Regan and Finn Garcia–stood at the front of the room covered from head to toe in Post-It Notes. The students are ready for their next assignment: taping volunteers' muscles and tendons for ankle injuries as would-be athletic trainers.

BREWSTER VISION CAPITAL PROJECT SCHEDULE



WE'RE THRILLED TO SHARE THAT THE DISTRICT'S CAPITAL PROJECT CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET — GREAT NEWS FOR OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY! Bears Field, along with the newly completed track and turf field, are both finished and look absolutely beautiful. Construction is also well underway on the CV Starr Cafetorium and the BHS Fieldhouse, both progressing on schedule. Looking ahead, we're on schedule for the new NJROTC and STEM labs which students should be able to enjoy in the next school year. Construction updates will continue to be provided at Board of Education meetings throughout the year, as well as through our various means of print and digital media.

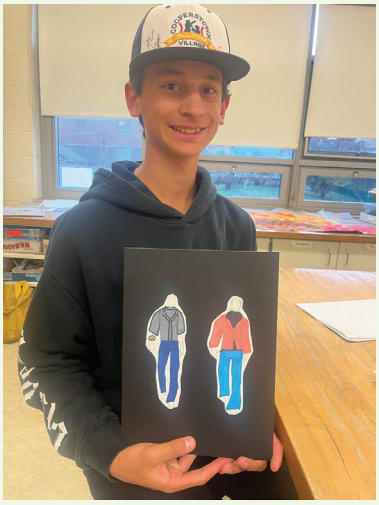


STRIKE A POSE!



THERE'S A NEW FASHION CLASS AT WELLS, AND "IT'S FIRE."

The blurb for Fashion and Design Thinking reads: *Unleash your inner designer by joining this dynamic course where creativity meets style. You'll learn how fashion designers transform ideas into reality, from trend research to creating unique sketches. In this course, you'll discover how to create professional mood boards, develop your own illustration style, explore sneaker design and licensing, and understand garment elements. Experience hands-on construction to bring 2D designs to life in a collaborative setting. Whether you aim to become a designer or simply enjoy fashion, this course shows how imagination becomes reality. By the end, you'll have a portfolio filled with your illustrations, mood boards, and design projects.*







Megan Naclerio, the art teacher, designed the class and could not be better suited to teach fashion. She graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC and spent ten years working as a designer.

The class is for eighth graders who must apply and submit a portfolio.

"My dream is to be a fashion designer and have my own line of clothing," said Charlene Monroy Posadas.

"I am taking the class to get a gist of fashion and the industry," said Cinthya Licona Martinez.





The assignment on a recent morning is to create a fashion illustration, followed by a short, reflective "gallery walk" activity.

For their illustrations, students were given free reign regarding era and style: 80's dressy, 50's glam, 90's grunge. They learned about the color wheel and what colors go best together, figure drawings, and shading. Then they got to work creating two original looks which combined garment elements. Once completed, the drawings were cut out and placed on a stark black background, making a dramatic statement.





Naclerio then handed out cards with descriptive words: edgy, playful, utilitarian, polished, opulent, dramatic, luminious, minimalist, and romantic. Students discussed the descriptions and placed them next to the designs they felt best matched the words.

As students walked from look to look, there were discussions about each fashion era and what was happening in the world at the time, which morphed into a lesson in American Studies in addition to design and fashion.





The fashion class is part of the new Art Capstones, which include specialized art classes for eighth grade students that combine research, art-making, teamwork and artistic reflection. Students explore new techniques, mediums, and dive into art history as well as contemporary creative careers.

"The Art Capstones are a unique opportunity for students to dive into more specialized creative processes, learning all about the multitude of creative careers along the way," said Naclerio. "OVA, Fashion and Design Thinking all take what students have learned in general art classes thus far and levels it up. Students conduct research, incorporate deeper idea development, and learn to work as a team – just like they would in the real world!"

Coding for the Future

IF YOU WALK INTO MATT TARBY'S FOURTH PERIOD P-TECH CYBERSECURITY CLASS, you will find the room alive with activity–groups collaborating, measurements being made, and orb-shaped robots zooming around the floor.

The class covers computer science fundamentals and basic programming skills, including writing code, cybersecurity fundamentals, and cryptography, an application of cybersecurity. The 15 Sphero robots are a new addition to the class this year.

"The robots are great because students can visualize their code–students are asked to write basic programming with loops and conditionals, and the robots actually exhibit the code they are writing," said Tarby. They can actually see that using the loop code is more efficient than coding without the loop."



Students work in pairs, figuring how to get the robots to move around the outline of six different shapes, from a square to a nonagon.

Jeniffer Martinez and Claudia Marcos Jacinto worked on moving their robot around an octagon. It was all about trial and error–working through and working out problems.

"First we have to measure the angle with the protractor, then multiply that by however many angles there are–in this case, there are eight angles," said Claudia.

After entering in the code, they watched the orb zoom way off before making a right jag.

"Whoops. That angle is way too wide–back to the drawing board," said Jeniffer.

After a couple of attempts, the robot moved as directed–around eight angles over the shape of the octagon.

Another student, Mason Nordstrom had quickly learned about the trial-and-error process and was onto his next shape.

"I just put in the block code for the robot to go forward and rotate, and repeated that," said Mason.

He is enrolled in the P-TECH program because he is interested in electronics and believes the program will help him get into college and earn free credits.

"I think I want to do electronics, but this is cool too. Taking these classes is going to help me explore more things, like jobs in engineering and cybersecurity."

The P-TECH program, which is in its second year, is thriving. It now has over 100 enrolled students, 55 freshmen who are taking STEM exploratory classes and 48 sophomores who are taking new classes, including Introduction to Technology, an engineering class, and Computer Information Systems–making good on the promise of an authentic and dynamic learning experience which fits squarely within Brewster Vision 2026.

A GIANT DAY FOR UNIFIED FOOTBALL

ON SEPTEMBER 30TH, SECTION ONE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW YORK GIANTS AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW YORK, HOSTED AN UNFORGETTABLE KICKOFF EVENT FOR UNIFIED FOOTBALL TEAMS AT METLIFE STADIUM.



Athletes enjoyed lunch and an exclusive tour of the Giants' locker room before experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime moment — walking through the Players' Tunnel and stepping onto the MetLife field under the stadium lights.

Adding to the excitement, Eli Manning, two-time Super Bowl champion, joined Lil'Jordan Humphrey and Elijah Garcia to meet the athletes, pose for photos, and run drills with players from Brewster High School and other Section One teams.

Coach Donna Schneider, who led the effort to bring Unified Flag Football to Brewster High School this year, shared, "The graciousness and respect were two-way. The New York Giants are a class act." Assistant Coach Rob Daly added, "The day had so much meaning. Players and partners experienced a small part of the professional athlete's world — the drills, the coaching, the energy. Eli Manning even threw a pass to each athlete — a moment none of us will forget."

It was a day of teamwork, inspiration, and true unity on the field.

An Apple A Day

WHICH APPLE DO YOU LIKE BEST? ¿CUAL MANZANA TE GUSTO MAS?



The lesson at first glance seems simple: which apple tastes best: Red, green, yellow? ¿Roja, verde, amarillo?

But stepping back, the lesson contains so much more. In two classrooms at the exact same time, students in the JFK Dual Language program were learning vocabulary in English and Spanish–red, roja; science–the life cycle of an apple; literacy–reading "Our Apple Tree" by Gorel Kristina Naslund; and math–at the end of the lesson students graphed and counted how many liked which color apples.

"We try to make our lessons engaging so that students have fun and make connections," said Spanish Zone teacher Victoria DeJesus. "By making connections between languages and subjects, students can better retain information and become more confident, lifelong learners."

Brewster's Bilingual Bears two-way dual language program is in its third year. Beginning in kindergarten, students receive instruction in both English and Spanish through a 50/50 weekly rotation. This innovative program helps build strong academic foundations in both languages while preparing students to thrive in a diverse, global community.

Students are seated at round tables with three bowls in the middle containing slices of red apples, green apples, and yellow apples. They are instructed to taste the red apple first, then the yellow, followed by the green. After that, depending on their preference–the students color in a happy face, medium face or a frown-y face in the color of that apple.

"Me gusta la manzana roja," said Cameron Hart.

Jacob Vega puckers his mouth–"how do you say sour in Spanish?"

DeJesus loves the opportunity for new vocabulary.

"'Agrio!' That's a great word!"

"The green apple is sour. La manzana verde es agria," said classroom aide, AnnaKaren Juarez.

The lesson was a big hit, no matter how the apple was sliced–students used their senses, learned about apples and enjoyed this tasty aspect of the harvest season.

WHAT'S COOKING?

DO YOU ENJOY ART? DO YOU ENJOY YUMMY TREATS? THEN ARTS & EATS IS THE CLUB FOR YOU! The club is one of C.V. Starr's many after school offerings. In total, there are three intramural activities and ten different clubs offered that include: gardening, line dancing, strategic games, lend a paw, soccer, mindfulness, origami nest, science and sewing. And, as a great bonus for parents, busing home is included.

There are approximately 30 students that meet on Thursdays for the Arts & Eats club, which is run by Kathryn Marchionno and Michelle Marzziotti. So far this fall, they have made apples out of cupcakes and acorns out of Nilla wafers and Hershey kisses.

Why is the club so popular?

"It's an opportunity for kids to be kids," said Marchionno, "They have fun, socialize, get creative, and can see how sweet their success is!"

The anticipation builds as students try to guess what they are going to make and eat: will it be a spooky treat or a fall flavor? There is a dramatic reveal–students drum-roll the cafeteria lunch tables with their hands.

Marzziotti holds up a picture of a delicious treat:"We are making dirt!"

The classic kids' delicacy is made of chocolate pudding, gummy worms, candy corn and crumbled Oreos.

Student helpers hand out the ingredients and students get to work building their dirt dessert-scooping, pounding and mixing.

"If I don't eat this here, my sister will definitely eat it at home," said Matilda Nisianaskis.

"Hey, look at my dirt–my worms have the perfect living conditions," said Jacob Hernandez, "I rate this dish a 10 out of 10!"



BREWSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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