



Bulletin Board

Middle Country Central School District

ISSUE XII OF DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS: *Partnerships for Community and Growth*

The Middle Country Central School District launched the 2025-2026 school year on September 3, welcoming students back for an exciting year of discovery and growth. The energy was high as students, staff, and educators geared up for an engaging season—one that brought fresh opportunities to learn, new experiences to explore, and lasting friendships. The back-to-school excitement carried into our Parent-Teacher Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTA/PTSA) units, who have been busy planning for the year ahead. Parents, guardians, students, and staff: Get involved in your PTA/PTSA today!

The Middle Country School District thrives with the support of an active Parent-Teacher Association, which plays a key role in enriching the school experience for students, families, and staff. Through creative events and hands-on involvement, our PTA units help build a strong, connected community. The PTAs champion literacy through initiatives such as the Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) events, where students shop for books at the Scholastic Book Fair and enjoy crafts and other activities designed to spark a lifelong love of reading. The PTAs' generosity directly impacts students every day. Through fundraisers, students are able to secure scholarships to pursue their studies beyond high school. With every initiative, the PTA continues to foster a positive, engaging school environment where students can learn, grow, and thrive with the support of the community.

While the Middle Country PTA/PTSA Council supports all of our PTA and PTSA units, each building has their own unit. The PRIDE PTSA is a welcoming group of parents/guardians, teachers, and community members who support students and families in the belief that every child deserves to know they belong as their authentic selves. Through regular meetings and open conversations, the PRIDE PTSA builds a strong network that helps every child grow—academically, socially, and emotionally. Another unit, the Special Education Parent Teacher Association—otherwise known as SEPTA—supports the unique needs of students with challenges. Participants work as a team to create an inclusive, understanding environment by sharing resources, offering support, and hosting events that help both families and staff.



“The Middle Country PTA/PTSA Council supports all of our PTA and PTSA units in our schools and our districtwide events such as the Humanities Expo and the STEM Celebration. Joining a PTA/PTSA isn’t just about volunteering and fundraising—it’s about advocating. Aren’t our kids worth it? Every membership advocates for our kids, so please join. Your membership means a lot!”



- Vicki Algieri, Middle Country PTA/PTSA Council
President 2025-26, Middle Country PRIDE PTSA
Vice President 2025-26, Newfield High School PTSA Treasurer
2025-26, Suffolk Region PTA Associate Director 2025-26

PTA/PTSA: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

Bicycle Path Pre-K/Kindergarten Center

In the Halloween spirit, the Bicycle Path Pre-K/Kindergarten Center PTA hosted their annual Trick or Treat Street Food Drive. Students and their families were invited to enjoy some treats and dancing at Bicycle Path, donning their best costumes. Families donated nonperishable and canned food items to help families in need. The PTA also sponsored a pumpkin patch for all the students. They sprinkled magic pumpkin dust and...voila! Pumpkins grew overnight!



“Volunteering with your school’s PTA is a great way to contribute to the school community where your children attend. When I was the Bicycle Path PTA president, I loved volunteering to help at my daughter’s school. That’s where I got my start, and now I’m honored to be the president of the Board of Education—a voluntary position in which we can have the greatest impact on every student’s education in Middle Country.”

- Dawn Sharrock, President, Middle Country Board of Education

Unity Drive Pre-K/Kindergarten Center

The Unity Drive PTA unit has been involved in supporting the Arts in Education program as well as fun family-friendly events such as our back-to-school picnic and our end-of-the-year send-off. PTA members also help facilitate the annual field day for some of our youngest students, making it extra special by providing free T-shirts for students and staff and delicious hydrating treats for students. Throughout the school year, donations, including school supplies, are collected and given to families in need. The Unity Drive PTA is committed to partnering with the district to enhance students’ first school experiences in Middle Country.



PTA/PTSA: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

Hawkins Path Elementary School

Through the Arts in Education program, the Hawkins Path PTA recently hosted author Peter Catalanotto as part of the school's annual Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) celebration. The event encouraged young students to read books and explore their creativity. Fundraising events have also been going well. Second grader Aliyah Baker won "Principal for the Day" for her fundraising efforts during the Hawkins Path PTA annual Boosterthon fundraiser. Great job, Aliyah!



Friends of Music



Founded in 1981, the Middle Country Friends of Music is a group of volunteers who work in conjunction with the music department to promote the talents of our student-musicians and advocate for the preservation of music and music-related programs in the district. The Friends of Music co-sponsors the annual POPS concert along with other fundraising efforts that allow the district to offer music students scholarships and awards. Student of the Trimester Awards are distributed to elementary school students annually while middle schoolers and high schoolers who participate in musical ensembles may receive scholarships. Last year, the Friends of Music secured \$11,400 in scholarships for students! The group also awards \$3,000 mini grants to teachers who apply for program enhancements and student enrichment opportunities.

New Lane Memorial Elementary School

Last year, the New Lane Elementary School PTA purchased a costume for the school's mascot. A vote was held to name him, and Tucker won! He now joins for important events to say hello and get students excited. The PTA also sponsored a Harlem Wizards game at Newfield High School on November 5th. The New Lane staff played against the Harlem Wizards in a very fun, entertaining game. All who attended had a great time!



PTA/PTSA: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

North Coleman Road Elementary School

The North Coleman Road PTA hosts annual events such as the Winter Wonderland, featuring festive, winter-themed stations for students to explore, bringing joy and excitement to the school year. Beyond engaging events and activities, the PTA is funding the installation of a brand-new Gaga ball pit this year. The ball pit is for all students to enjoy during recess and encourages active play, teamwork, and outdoor fun.



Eugene Auer Memorial Elementary School

Eugene Auer Memorial Elementary School's PTA unit sponsors many exciting events each month for both students and families. One of "Auer" favorites is always Summer Bash in June. Students took part in fun activities, enjoyed treats, and played in a foam party. The Centereach Fire Department joined to help hose down the kids and cool them off. The easygoing setting allowed students to connect and enjoy time spent with friends. This year, the Eugene Auer PTA and Principal Bernardino were thrilled to introduce the Cougar as the school's new mascot on the first day back to school. They also look forward to enhancing the Arts in Education program choices to provide students with the best possible learning experience—one that's engaging, creative, and fun. Work hard, be kind; that's "Auer" power!



PTA/PTSA: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

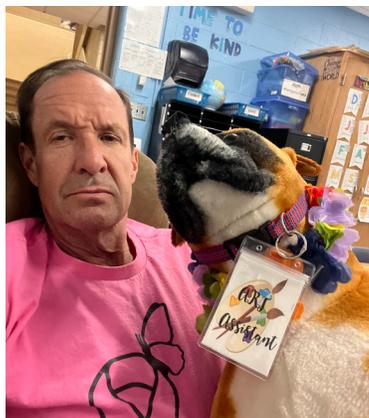
Jericho Elementary School

Happy fall from Jericho Elementary School's PTA! The PTA hosted the annual Fall Harvest Festival, where students were treated to fall crafts, a pumpkin patch, spider and ghost relay races, and a spooky mad scientist lab. Thanks to all of the parents and guardians who volunteered at the event.



Holbrook Road Elementary School

Our PTA Arts in Education initiative at Holbrook Road Elementary School treated children to an awe-inspiring performance from Binghamtonics, an a cappella group of college students from Binghamton University. The visitors sang songs and got the children involved in the fun. Students also took part in the Color Run, the school's culminating event for its annual Boosterthon Fundraiser, to support the Arts in Education program and scholarships for students. Fun, fall-themed stations like skeleton jumping jacks were featured. As an added incentive for the Boosterthon Fundraiser, Principal Dr. Craig Unkenholz promised to stay in the school overnight, like Night at the Museum, if the \$12,000 goal was met. The Holbrook community crushed the goal, raising about \$18,000!



PTA/PTSA: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

Oxhead Road Elementary School

The Oxhead Road PTA welcomed back students and families for the start of the school year with their annual picnic. Students and parents joined for a fun night of dancing and playing games and shared treats such as pizza and ice cream. There was even a coffee cart for the parents to enjoy! In addition to the Welcome Back Picnic, the PTA hosts other exciting events, including the Holiday Pajama Party and Movie Night, Trunk-or-Treat for Halloween, Family Fun Night Game Show Edition, and Hello Summer Bash! The celebrations are a great way to support family engagement in the school.



Stagecoach Elementary School

The school year at Stagecoach Elementary School kicked off with a sweet treat and some laughs at the annual PTA-sponsored event "Popsicles on the Playground." Every September, students join for this special celebration, giving them the perfect opportunity to spend time with classmates, catch up about their summer vacations, play on the playground, and enjoy popsicles provided by the PTA.



PTA/PTSA: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

Dawnwood Middle School

The Dawnwood Middle School PTA traditionally sponsors the eighth grade breakfast each spring, bringing students together to mingle and transition to the warmer season. The tradition is expected to continue this year, and our current eighth graders are excited to participate. The Dawnwood PTA also sponsors Arts in Education programs and student scholarships through various fundraisers.



Selden Middle School

At Selden Middle School, PTA members brought the spirit of the fall season into the school by setting up festive cornstalks near the building entrance. Donated by Home Depot, the plants bring the season to life as the leaves change colors around us and the days become shorter and cooler. In the arts world, PTA members invited artist Rob Surette to perform his engaging, hour-long show, *Amazing Hero Art*. This interactive speed-painting show imparted important messages about believing in yourself, spreading kindness, following your dreams, and fulfilling your potential. Students left feeling inspired by his words and paintings.



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PTA/PTSA: PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

Centereach High School



The Centereach High School PTSA Fashion Show is an annual event that dazzles all who attend. All of the proceeds go to student scholarships for graduating seniors. CHS seniors come together to show off their best-dressed styles and strut on the “runway.” It’s a festive activity that brings students together before they attend prom to conclude the school year.

Newfield High School



The Newfield High School PTSA hosts fundraisers that directly support students. The PTSA also organizes Arts in Education programs, coordinates the annual pre-prom fashion show, and helped offset the cost of last year’s musical production.

PTA/PTSA Scholarships

Student PTSA members, Joelle Washington, of Centereach High School, and Thomas Lasher, of Newfield High School, received PTSA awards. Student input on the PTAs is highly encouraged, serving as a valuable voice for students. Last year, the Newfield PTSA raised \$6,500 while the Centereach PTSA raised \$9,500 for scholarships, boosting financial aid for students’ college studies.



PTA Memberships