

PM RAIDER CONNECTION

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS BUILD REAL-WORLD BUSINESS SKILLS THROUGH VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

When it comes to business, there is no experience quite like real-world experience. That's what makes Virtual Enterprise classes so innovative. Just like the real thing, they offer students immersive, hands-on business experience in which they design, launch, and manage their own companies. In the Patchogue-Medford School District, our Virtual Enterprise, or VE, class is led by Mr. Siracusano, who guides students as they develop practical skills in entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, and leadership while assuming roles such as CEO, CFO, marketing director, and sales representative. They collaborate daily to operate their businesses and participate in trade shows, networking opportunities, and competitions with peers from other schools.

This year, Patchogue-Medford students ran two firms: Hit the Kitchen and Concept VR.

- Hit the Kitchen, led by CEO Rae Ann Hess, featured a backyard game that combined elements of pickleball and cornhole, creating a fun, social, and competitive experience.
- Concept VR, under the leadership of CEO Oscar Mercedes, explored cutting-edge virtual and augmented reality technology, and was focused on innovative hardware and immersive digital platforms designed for career exploration.

Both companies earned the prestigious Gold Firm designation from Virtual Enterprises International—the program's highest honor—awarded to teams that successfully meet rigorous operational benchmarks and demonstrate excellence across all aspects of business development.

Additionally, both firms ranked in the top percentile nationwide in the Elevator Pitch Competition. Concept VR was named a Top 50 firm in the Northeast Region for the Business Plan Competition, and students participated in multiple trade shows where they refined their sales and networking skills. The program continues to equip students with essential real-world experience, strengthening their leadership abilities, confidence, and professional communication skills in preparation for college and future careers.



STUDENT CONCEPT UNVEILED AT EXPO

WHAT IS VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE?

Curious about what exactly Virtual Enterprise (VE) is? Growing in popularity and expanding to schools all over the country in the mid-2000s, VE is a year-long high school program that transforms the classroom into a functioning business. Students take on professional roles and oversee daily operations, including marketing, finance, human resources, and sales.

Through a realistic simulation, students build business plans, launch online stores, and trade with thousands of student-run companies worldwide using a virtual banking system. The program strengthens communication, technology, and financial skills while preparing students for college and future careers in a dynamic, hands-on environment.

EXPLORING, EXPRESSING, AND EXCELLING

Throughout the winter and spring months, students at every level in the Patchogue-Medford School District embraced a variety of programs and activities, applying their trademark zeal and enthusiasm to excel in ways that truly inspire. The trend looks poised to continue, as new and upcoming classes and programs spell great things for the months and years ahead. Read on to see what we've been doing—and where we are headed next.

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD MATH OLYMPIAD INSPIRES YOUNG MINDS AND CELEBRATES PROBLEM-SOLVING



Just a few weeks after the Winter Olympics dazzled sports fans around the world, Patchogue-Medford hosted its own version of the famous games, albeit on a much smaller scale and with calculators instead of skis. The Patchogue-Medford Math Olympiad brought together students in grades 4-8 to challenge their mathematical and problem-solving skills; strengthen their intuition; and explore often difficult concepts in fun, creative ways.

Organized by the elementary STEM department under director Dr. Tania Dalley and chairperson Jessica Purcher, and supported by the secondary STEM department and director Louis Stellato and chairperson Tom Anello, the Math Olympiad gave students the chance to dive deep into math beyond the classroom. Each school had faculty advisors guiding students before or after school. Elementary advisors included Krista Reid at Bay Elementary, Jen Carroll and Christine Sammy at Barton Elementary, Kristen Cassella and Ashley Lyman at Canaan Elementary, Nathan Scott at Eagle Elementary, Danielle Kaiser at Medford Elementary, Jeffrey Peterson at River Elementary, and Christine Bonura and Ryan Crabtree at Tremont Elementary. Sixth grade advisors included Maria Guttieri at Oregon Middle School, Adam Warshaw at Saxton Middle School, and Lauren Wolf at South Ocean Middle School.



Seventh and eighth grade students were advised by Laura Dilandro at Oregon Middle School, Jessica Guerra at Saxton Middle School, and Alanna McClancy at South Ocean Middle School.

Held once a month over five competitions, students tackled problems designed to stretch their minds and teach strategies for creative, flexible, and confident problem-solving. Beyond learning new concepts, the Olympiad fostered a love of math, the thrill of overcoming challenges, and the satisfaction of discovering solutions independently and as a team.

The season culminated on March 11 at Saxton Middle School, where students in grades 6-8 competed together in the library for the final showdown. Trophies were awarded to the highest individual scorers at each building, with honorable mentions recognizing standout effort and perseverance. And while the Winter Olympics may close with the extinguishing of a flame, Patchogue-Medford celebrated in style with a pizza party, capping off a season of learning, collaboration, and fun.

From the first problem to the last slice, the Math Olympiad proved that with curiosity, creativity, and teamwork, math can inspire achievement and joy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP SCORERS:

Oregon

Grade 6 - Shea Covais

Grades 7 and 8 - Keith Wong

Saxton

Grade 6 - Brayden Beach & Christer Espiritu (tied)

Grade - 7 and 8 Claire Orfin

South Ocean

Grade 6 - Logan Parris

Grade 7 and 8 - Devin Reed

TEEN VOICES CLUB EMPOWERS STUDENTS TO SHARE THEIR STORIES



At Patchogue-Medford High School, the Teen Voices Club is giving students a powerful platform to express who they are through the written and spoken word. Guided by the theme “This Is Me: Write, Record, Inspire,” this creative writing program invites students to craft original pieces—ranging from poetry and personal essays to short stories, memoirs, and opinion writing—that explore identity, life experiences, and future aspirations.

Open to all students, the club meets every Thursday from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. in Room 242 and is co-advised by Ms. Blaney and Ms. Hannaford of the Social Studies and ENL departments, respectively. The program is proudly supported through a partnership with the Patchogue-Medford Library, expanding opportunities for students beyond the classroom.

Each submission, typically between 250 and 500 words, is written in the student’s authentic voice. Through a formal agreement with the library, these works are preserved indefinitely and may be featured in showcases, publications, and on digital platforms. Importantly, students retain full copyright of their writing. To ensure accessibility, all materials are available in both English and Spanish.

The club culminated in a “This Is Me” Teen Voices Story Listening Party on March 18 at the Patchogue-Medford Library, where students shared their work with families and the community.

NEW ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY COURSE TO LAUNCH AT PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Patchogue-Medford High School will expand its science offerings in the fall of 2026 with the introduction of a new Anatomy and Physiology course, designed for students in grades 10 through 12. The course will be led by teacher Ms. Minerva, with support from secondary STEM director Lou Stellato and secondary STEM chairperson Tom Anello.

Created to meet growing student interest in health and medical careers, the class will provide an in-depth exploration of the human body, equipping students with essential knowledge of its systems and functions. The goal is to give students a strong academic foundation while helping them become more competitive candidates for college programs in fields such as medicine, nursing, and allied health professions.

By offering this specialized course, the District continues to invest in forward-thinking opportunities that prepare students for success beyond high school, particularly in high-demand and rapidly evolving career pathways.

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD STUDENTS TACKLE REAL-WORLD ISSUES IN CIVICS CLASS



Since 2019, Patchogue-Medford High School has offered the Civics/Generation Citizen class, giving students a hands-on opportunity to turn ideas into action. This year, students were divided into four teams and tasked with identifying an issue, either within the school or in the local community, and developing a solution that could make a real difference.

Mr. Carlson's period 7 class focused on boosting student engagement by creating a school app. The tool will allow students to select which clubs, events, or sporting events they want to receive notifications about, aiming to increase attendance and school pride. The project has progressed quickly, with the CEO of MOOV collaborating with the school's Director of Technology to bring the app closer to reality. Meanwhile, in period 4, students concentrated on a neighborhood safety issue at the intersection of Short Street and Apple Lane. Students identified speeding and visibility concerns and advocated for improvements. Their efforts already led to tangible results: two streetlights were repaired, and the local 5th Precinct installed a new speeding sign to protect drivers and pedestrians alike.

Both classes showcased their work at Generation Citizen Civics Day in New York City and at the high school's local Civics Day in January. Four students represented the school in New York City, impressing audiences with well-prepared proposals and professional presentations. These projects highlight the power of civic engagement, showing that with creativity, research, and persistence, students can make meaningful changes in their school and community.

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD LAUNCHES FIRST-YEAR MOCK TRIAL CLUB WITH BIG IMPACT



Patchogue-Medford High School's brand-new Mock Trial club is off to an impressive start in its inaugural year. Led by advisors Schuyler Dorchak, an ENL/ELA teacher, and Teresa Perez, a teaching CTE instructor, the Mock Trial club gives students hands-on experience in the legal world. Students are also guided by local attorney Anne Marie Bowler, who has provided expert insight and coaching along the way. Learning courtroom procedures, preparing and presenting cases as attorneys, courtroom etiquette and more—the Mock Trial club truly embodies what it's like to work in the legal field.

Students have embraced their roles with enthusiasm and professionalism. In their first trial, student-attorneys Yousef Elmasri, Michael DeMasi, and Emily Search led the charge, while witnesses Devanni Morabito-Smith, Sophia Hatch, and Milley Bacilio delivered standout performances. Team members Mollie Signer, Andrew Sanchez, Naomi McKinley, Liam Datz, Julianna Florea, and Kieran Cowell also contributed, showing that teamwork really does make the dream work. The second trial saw new lineups shine as well. Attorneys Yousef Elmasri, Michael DeMasi, and Julianna Florea argued the case with confidence, while Liam Datz, Andrew Sanchez, and Naomi McKinley provided compelling witness testimony.

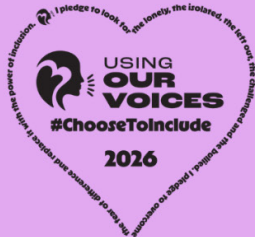
Meeting once a week, the club dedicates countless hours in and out of the classroom to perfect their presentations, sharpen their skills, and collaborate effectively as a team. Their hard work, dedication, and passion for learning about the legal system have made this first year a resounding success—and set a high bar for years to come.

STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY

Join us for our Fourth Annual Mental Health Run Series on May 17

The annual Using Our Voices Mental Health Run Series continues to grow as a powerful, student-driven initiative promoting awareness, inclusion, and advocacy. What began as a single effort has expanded into a collaborative movement uniting three districts—Patchogue-Medford, North Babylon, and Connetquot—under a shared mission of supporting student well-being. The event will take place on Sunday, May 17 at Patchogue-Medford High School, featuring a kids fun run, a mile run, and a 5K. Planned and executed entirely by students, the series offers meaningful opportunities for leadership, teamwork, and civic engagement. Participants focus on reducing stress and anxiety while strengthening relationships and supporting both mental and physical wellness through movement. The initiative also contributes to students' progress toward the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness, highlighting its impact beyond race day. Funds raised benefit organizations dedicated to youth mental health across Long Island.

PRESENTED BY:



- 5K RUN/WALK
- 1 MILE RUN
- KIDS FUN RUN
- UNIFIED RUN

Mental Health Run Series

Patchogue-Medford, North Babylon, & Connetquot, invite **YOU** to Choose to Include with us in this fun & free event dedicated to mental health awareness!

We are excited to invite you to our FREE FOR STUDENTS fourth annual student-led 5k series! The series is inspired by PS I Love You Day and aims to spread awareness for mental health by sharing positive coping skills of the impact of movement and helping others! It is a Choosing to Include unified event for individuals with and without disabilities to participate together in order to promote social inclusion through sports!

EVENT DATES

- 4/19 North Babylon
- 5/3 Connetquot
- 5/17 Patchogue-Medford

Using the code: UOV2026, students run FREE! See sponsorship opportunities to sponsor students! All proceeds go to students' participation, and our local mental health organizations!

REGISTER!



JOIN US!

Awards, Refreshments, DJ, Raffles, Resources and FUN!

8:30AM

17

MAY

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

181 BUFFALO AVE
PATCHOGUE, NY 11772



SPONSOR US!



ARTS NEWS

A RETRO HIT: PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD THEATER BROUGHT *LEADER OF THE PACK* TO LIFE

Patchogue-Medford High School's theater department delivered a vibrant, community-powered production of *Leader of the Pack*, transporting audiences to the sounds and spirit of the 1950s and '60s.

Performances ran Feb. 5-7 following a lively, sold-out fundraiser kickoff at Millie's Smash Bar in early January, where cast and pit musicians performed selections while supporters gathered in celebration.

Directed and choreographed by Ms. Sweda-Abrescia, with vocal direction by Mr. Reich and pit direction by Mr. Zarchy, the production featured a 32-student cast spanning all grade levels. Student leaders—including seniors Joseph LaMartina, Kiersten Schafer, and Katelyn Oterson—helped guide younger performers while embracing their own standout roles. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team, including producers Megan Space and Michelle Mars and stage crew leaders Francis Altamirano and Justin Schram, ensured a polished performance.

The jukebox musical chronicled the life of songwriter Ellie Greenwich, whose hits such as "Be My Baby" and "Chapel of Love" defined a generation. Students immersed themselves in the era through music study, costuming inspired by vintage photography, and character-driven storytelling.

Supported by the broader community, the production highlighted both artistic excellence and collaboration, uniting audiences of all ages through timeless music and an empowering story of creativity, resilience, and self-discovery.



Patchogue-Medford Schools

241 South Ocean Avenue
Patchogue, New York 11772
www.pmschools.org

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SPORTS NEWS

NEW PE COURSES AND WRESTLING SUCCESS HIGHLIGHT STUDENT STRENGTH AT PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD

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Patchogue-Medford High School is expanding its physical education (PE) programs, offering students more dynamic and inclusive ways to stay active. New full-year courses include group fitness, a non-competitive option emphasizing wellness, stress management, and confidence through activities such as yoga, Pilates, dance, and group workouts. Strength and conditioning provides a structured approach to building muscular strength and endurance, with a focus on proper technique, injury prevention, and long-term fitness habits. Additionally, the school’s popular spin class will now count for PE credit, broadening student choice while promoting cardiovascular health.

Meanwhile, the girls wrestling program continues to excel. Sophomore Olivia Anello earned third place in New York State, becoming a two-time Suffolk County champion and All-State wrestler. Freshman Coral Moors placed fourth in Suffolk County. Competing alongside Bellport, the team captured both the Suffolk County Dual Meet and Tournament titles for the second straight year, finishing second in New York State.



Olivia Anello

PAT-MED FLAG FOOTBALL STANDOUTS EARN LONG ISLAND RECOGNITION



Patchogue-Medford High School is celebrating two standout student-athletes who are making waves on the field. Senior quarterback Mackenzie Hughes and junior wide receiver/linebacker Ella Melo were both named to *Newsday’s* list of the Top 50 Long Island flag football players for the 2026 season—an exciting honor that reflects their hard work and leadership. The duo, who were also chosen by their teammates as team captains, are ready to build on an incredible 2025 season that saw the Raiders go undefeated in the regular season and capture the league championship.

Hughes, known for her powerful and precise arm, had a standout year with 3,756 passing yards and 59 touchdowns, along with 246 rushing yards, earning all-Long Island and all-county honors. Melo made her mark on both sides of the ball, recording 110 flag pulls and eight interceptions on defense, while adding 36 receptions for 217 yards and nine touchdowns on offense. With their talent and determination leading the way, the Raiders are gearing up for another exciting and competitive season ahead.