SEAFORD EDUCATION Spotlight

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SPRING 2026



THE VIKING EFFECT:

Small Acts and Big Ideas Make a Lasting Impact

"The Viking Effect" can be seen from the strength of our curriculum to the care we place on social and emotional learning. When our teachers and staff take small moments to show our students kindness and encouragement, curiosity and confidence is sparked. Simple acts of positivity can shape a child's path and help set them on a trajectory for growth and success."

– Dr. Adele Pecora, Superintendent

The ability of one small act to have a tremendous impact through a series of subsequent actions is the premise of the butterfly effect and the inspiration for this year's theme in the Seaford School District, "The Viking Effect." Through unique school initiatives and strong community partnerships, Seaford's scholars are poised for large outcomes.

"The Viking Effect" is evident throughout the district daily, from a strong curriculum to social and emotional learning programs. Introduced at Superintendent's Conference Day in August, teachers are asked to perform small acts of kindness toward students that can inspire curiosity and growth. The journeys of Seaford children – the knowledge they acquire, the individuals they become and the lives that they go on to influence – often began with an act of support or guidance by a teacher.

The Seaford Scholars profile, which identifies 10 traits students should develop for lifelong success, has quickly become embedded into the fabric of the district. Being principled, reflective and mindful, are three dispositions that contribute to the Seaford Scholar Viking Effect.

THE VIKING EFFECT

VIKING VISION DAY

Students aspired to large outcomes during Seaford High School's annual Viking Vision Day on Jan. 30. The theme for the forward-looking program was "Seaford Scholars: All In."

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors attended a curriculum fair, during which each department showcased its course offerings in advance of scheduling for the 2026-2027 school year. This was supported by Counselor Connection as students met with their guidance counselors to discuss goals.

A Seaford Scholars Assembly featured a Family Feud-style game. Teams earned points by guessing answers related to the 10 Seaford Scholar traits, and responses were based on a poll of National Honor Society members.

To help students make responsible choices now and in the future, students attended a powerful assembly about the dangers of using their phones while driving. Jacy Good and her husband, Steve Johnson, presented



"Hang Up and Drive." Ms. Good told the story of a 2008 head-on crash that left her partially paralyzed and killed her parents because of a man talking on the phone while driving. By telling her story, she hoped to influence young drivers to put their phones away before driving.

Eighth graders from Seaford Middle School came for Practice Run Day. They toured the building, attended an extracurricular fair and explored the high school's academic program.

PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES FREE HEART SCREENINGS

The district partnered with the Louis J. Acompora Memorial Foundation and Dominic A. Murray 21 Memorial Foundation to provide free heart screenings to teenagers and young adults on Feb. 7 at Seaford Middle School. Through the Heart Screen New York initiative, 198 people aged 12-24 received thorough cardiovascular exams. The program was brought to the district's attention by the Seaford Wellness Council.

After submitting a heart history form, participants went into the gymnasium for a blood pressure check. After having their height and weight measured confidentially, they underwent an EKG test that records the electrical activity of the heart, followed by an analysis of heart sound. If medical professionals determined a need for further evaluation, participants were then given an echocardiogram. The test creates images of a heart's structure and function using sound waves, and is a crucial life-saving detection tool.



Results were discussed during consultations with cardiologists. Two participants were referred for further testing, meaning they could potentially receive life-saving treatment. Before leaving, everyone learned CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator, another way of fulfilling the event's life-saving mission.

"This was a great opportunity to get the youngsters in our community a thorough heart examination," said Kevin Witt, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics. "This goes beyond a routine check-up."



DISTRICT SHARES INNOVATIONS AT AASA CONFERENCE

Seaford educators presented at the 2026 National Conference on Education, sponsored by AASA, The School Superintendents Association, from Feb. 12-14 in Nashville. "We Have LIFT Off" highlighted the district's unique elementary program that merges library, innovation, technology and fitness.

A few years ago, the traditional library program for students in grades K-5 was replaced by a cutting-edge program that engages students through exploratory learning. Children still check out books and learn research skills, but they also participate in Project Lead the Way science units, explore technology through robotics and learn simple but effective ways to stay physically fit.

Presenting at the conference were Superintendent Dr. Adele Pecora, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Instructional Support Dr. Sheena Jacob and LIFT teacher Leah Kukla. A program developed by a small suburban school district could have large outcomes as they connected with dozens of educators from across the country.

HONOR SOCIETY BRIDGES GENERATIONS WITH SENIOR BRUNCH

Seaford High School's National Honor Society recently hosted its first senior brunch, an event that students and staff hope becomes an annual tradition.

Newly inducted honor society members were asked to identify a service project that could be implemented before the end of the school year. Anthony Mitarotonda suggested a senior brunch, drawing inspiration from the many grade-level events that happen throughout the year. Honor Society officers selected this idea from numerous submissions, and the service project became a reality.



Senior class members of the Honor Society invited their grandparents to the event, Brunch and Bingo Bash, on March 22. With throwback music playing in the background and a catered brunch from Calvert Manor Bagels, students had a nice day bonding with their grandparents while playing Bingo and competing in a trivia competition.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOSTS HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SPEAKER

Seaford Middle School has continued its partnership with Nassau County's Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center. As part of the Holocaust education program for sixth graders, they heard from the museum's director of education, Donna Rosenblum, on Feb. 5 and 6 during programs in the library.

Sixth graders read "Jacob's Rescue," a historical fiction novel by Malka Drucker and Michael Halperin, and completed research projects on Holocaust heroes. Ms. Rosenblum's visit supported lessons in English Language Arts and social studies classes, and followed Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27. She spoke about the museum's purpose, gave an overview of the Holocaust and provided the



testimony of a Holocaust survivor, Irving Roth, who emigrated to the United States in 1947 and eventually settled on Long Island.

The presentation focused on the dangerous path created by hate. Ms. Rosenblum encouraged students to reject discrimination, to speak up against injustice and to be informed, active citizens. She concluded each visit with a question-and-answer session, filled with thought-provoking inquiry that will leave a lasting impact.

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VIKING Kudos

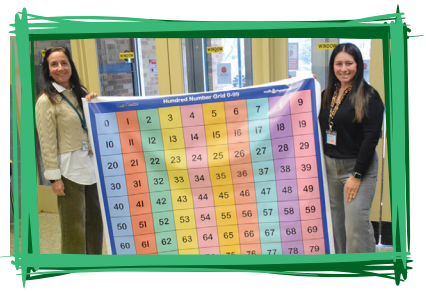
Senior is National Merit Finalist



Seaford High School senior Matthew Kind has been named a finalist in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is among approximately 15,000 top-performing seniors nationwide to reach finalist status and will compete for one of 6,930 scholarships, worth more than $26 million, to be awarded in the spring.

Matthew is the Class of 2026 valedictorian and student ex officio member of the Board of Education.

Math Specialists Receive Grants



Alexa Livingston and Amy McCoyd, elementary math AIS specialists in the district, each received $500 grants through Jovia's Funding Your Ideas Teacher Grant program, which were used for math mats.

The large floor mats help reinforce mathematical concepts through movement. Students can hop, skip and jump their way across the mats while verbally repeating numbers. Ms. Livingston is the math AIS specialist at Seaford Manor Elementary School, and Ms. McCoyd is at Seaford Harbor Elementary School.



Two Second-Place Finishes for Dance Team

It was a successful season for Seaford High School's Vikingettes dance team. This was their second year on the competitive circuit, attending two Long Island Dance Team Association events at Nassau Community College. Their pom routine, which was set to a compilation of music by Pit Bull, earned second place, as did a jazz number to "Hit the Road Jack." The Vikingettes consists of 17 members under the direction of coach Samantha Wimmer.

Nine Straight Titles for Boys Bowling

The Seaford High School boys varsity bowling team captured its ninth consecutive Nassau County Division II title and advanced to the state championship. Senior Andrew Ceraulo received the Todd Heimer Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Award and was also named to Newsday's list of Top 20 Long Island boys bowlers for the winter 2026 season.



HOBY Ambassadors

Recognized for their leadership potential, five Seaford High School sophomores will join other aspiring student leaders at a regional conference this spring. Catherine Clasen, Morgan DaSilva, Jimmy Hurson, Finley Kirrane and Luciana Sacco have been selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth leadership seminar from June 5-7 at Adelphi University.

Nine students were nominated by Seaford High School teachers. After submitting essays, they were interviewed by the HOBY Leadership Committee, consisting of administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and past HOBY seminar participants. At the conference, the five selected students will attend workshops led by distinguished leaders in business, government, education and other professions to discuss present and future issues.

