Seaford Education Spotlight

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Fall 2026



"This distinction is a great honor for our school community because it affirms our deep commitment to middle level education and continuous improvement. As we look ahead, we will keep embracing that spirit of working together to make the middle level experience as meaningful as possible for every student."

Principal Dr. Raphael Morey

Middle School Earns Prestigious AMLE Distinction

The Association for Middle Level Education has named Seaford Middle School a 2026 School of Distinction. Only 39 schools internationally received this designation this year, including three on Long Island.

The AMLE Schools of Distinction program honors schools that exemplify best practices in middle level education while guiding them through a strategic vision-setting process to drive continuous improvement. Seaford Middle School earned this prestigious honor through a rigorous review process, including a comprehensive schoolwide assessment, continuous improvement plan and a virtual site visit.

The recognition follows an extensive application process that included teacher and student surveys. During the one-day virtual site visit in May, evaluators spoke with multiple stakeholders, including Central and building administrators, teachers, support staff, students and parents.

Seaford Middle School will be recognized during a Schools of Distinction reception and dinner at AMLE's 53rd annual Conference for Middle Level Education in Nashville in November. Superintendent Dr. Adele Pecora, Dr. Morey, Assistant Principal Joseph Polite and teachers Shannon Digney and Carly Frank will present a workshop at the conference. The topic will be how committees and shared leadership have continued Seaford Middle School's continuous improvement by turning staff ideas into meaningful initiatives that strengthen teaching and learning, student success and school culture.

In addition to the AMLE School of Distinction designation, Seaford Middle School is in the process of renewing its Essential Elements: Schools-to-Watch designation. Seaford was first recognized with this honor in the 2023-2024 school year.



Twenty-Five Years Later,

Seaford Continues Pledge to Always Remember

There was a strong display of unity and patriotism at Seaford High School on Sept. 11, as more than 1,000 people came together to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. A large American flag was draped from a Seaford Fire Department ladder truck, the field of American flags was once again in place on the front lawn, and miniature flags, handed out by high school student council members, were clutched in hands.

The ceremony was a partnership between the District and the Seaford 9/11 Memorial Committee, continuing a quarter-century tradition in the community to honor all victims, including the five Seaford High School alumni killed in the attacks – Timothy Haskell (Class of 1982), Thomas Haskell (1985), John Perry (1982), Robert Sliwak (1977) and Michael Wittenstein (1985). The community also paid tribute to people who have since died of 9/11-related illnesses.

After the colors were presented by the Nassau County Police Department, Superintendent Dr. Adele Pecora led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Seaford High School marching band playing the national anthem. The ceremony featured numerous speakers, including Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, former Congressman Peter King, Col. David Haskell and 9/11 Memorial Committee President Kenneth Haskell.



Several past recipients of the Patriot Award were in attendance for a presentation that included service pledges from Seaford students and a $3,000 donation to offset costs for seniors to take a trip to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in Manhattan. Among them was 2026 graduate Michelle Evangelista, who shared the history and meaning of Seaford's 9/11 memorial in front of the high school. Bells were tolled in honor of the five Seaford alumni and all victims, as well as other special intentions, and the Seaford High School chorus performed "God Bless America" to close out the ceremony.













District Welcomes Trio of *New Administrators*



Dr. Robert Drysielski, Executive Director of Humanities

As Executive Director of Humanities, Dr. Robert Drysielski oversees the English Language Arts, social studies, world language and English as a new language programs. He comes to Seaford from the Islip School District, where he was the director of K-12 social studies and business for the past decade. Prior to that, he was at St. Dominic High School in Oyster Bay for six years, holding various positions including assistant principal of academics, dean of students, summer school principal, English and social studies chairperson, and history teacher. His teaching career began in 2004 as a middle school social studies teacher at Saint Mary's Elementary & Middle School in Manhasset. He is an adjunct professor at Molloy University and a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National, New York State and Long Island chapters of the National Council for the Social Studies.



Frank Cannella, Coordinator of Fine and Applied Arts

Frank Cannella supervises several programs, including art, business, family and consumer sciences, music and technology education as the new Coordinator of Fine and Applied Arts. He joins Seaford from the South Huntington School District and has extensive teaching and performance experience. He served as the band director at the Silas Woods Sixth Grade Center for the past 10 years. As a percussionist in the Henry Mancini Orchestra, Mr. Cannella performed with Terrence Blanchard, Christine Ebersole, Monica Mancini, John Secada and others. He recorded an original movie soundtrack for "A Change of Heart" with Gloria Estefan in 2016 and performed internationally in Dublin, Ireland; Bogata, Colombia; Thessaloniki, Greece; and Trinidad and Tobago.



Nicole Schimpf, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services (PK-8)

Dr. Nicole Schimpf is the new Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services (PK-8), a role in which she oversees special education and related services for students in grades pre-K to 8. She brings more than 25 years of experience in special education leadership. She most recently was the executive director of special education and pupil personnel services in Cold Spring Harbor Schools for three years, and prior to that was director of special services in Valley Stream District 30 for a dozen years. Her career began as a school psychologist, working with the nonprofit Institute for Student Achievement in Manhasset, and assigned to school districts on Long Island and in Westchester.

New Class of Educators Welcomed

New faculty members have joined the Seaford School District this year, and they received a warm welcome at a two-day orientation program at the high school. They work across the district, teaching a variety of grade levels and subject areas.

After welcoming remarks from Superintendent Dr. Adele Pecora and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Instructional Support Dr. Sheena Jacob on Aug. 19, new teachers took part in a long-standing tradition of boarding a yellow school bus for an hourlong trip around the district, guided by Dr. Jacob. The tour, which departed from the high school, also included Seaford Middle School, Harbor and Manor elementary schools, and other notable Seaford landmarks.

The two-day orientation program included information sessions on curriculum, technology and the Seaford Scholars profile, meetings with their respective administrators and a welcome from the United Teachers of Seaford.



Seaford Union Free School District
Seaford, New York 11783

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Dr. Adele V. Pecora
Superintendent of Schools



Seaford Spirit and a Viking Victory!











