



Observer

WINTER 2024

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Oyster Bay-East Norwich Community,

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year. As I reflect on all the accomplishments of our students, I am so pleased with the direction our district is heading. Each day, I continue to be impressed with the talent of our students and the dedication of our staff. They have worked hard to embrace the many initiatives that we have implemented, and their passion, talent and drive extend beyond the classroom.

As you will read in this issue of the Observer, we have many exciting initiatives happening within our schools. From special projects such as the renovation of the Oyster Bay High School Alumni Wall, to achievements in the areas of athletics, art and science, there is so much to be proud of.

Although it is a new year, our district vision remains the same: "Empowering All Students to Achieve Excellence." This would not be possible without our strong partnership with our families and community members. Your dedication and commitment to our students and schools is invaluable, and I look forward to continue working with all of you in making the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District the great place that it is today.

Sincerely,
Francesco Ianni, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Baymen of the Past Grace the Walls OF OYSTER BAY HIGH SCHOOL

When you step into Oyster Bay High School, you are stepping into history. Outside the courtyard doors is the Alumni Wall, a beautiful black and white display of photographs featuring the Baymen who used to walk the halls of the high school.

For years, students, staff and visitors would admire the wall which included graduating classes between 1938 and 1961. However, many of Oyster Bay High School's graduating classes were noticeably missing. Since our students are the heart of our schools, it is important for every graduate to be represented.

Determined to fill in the missing gaps, Christopher Weber, Oyster Bay High School's library media specialist, led the process

of locating photographs of the missing graduation classes and creating composites. This in-house project was a group effort with Margaret Mastrogiamomo, Oyster Bay High School library teaching assistant; Scott Boris, Oyster Bay High School art teacher; and Samuel Lingen, Oyster Bay High School alumnus Class of 2021, helping with the renovation.

Today as you pass the Alumni Wall, all generations of Baymen are smiling back. Students and visitors enjoy finding photographs of family and friends and reflecting on the people of our small town. This treasured, museumlike feature will expand with each graduating class and continue to be a celebration of our students for generations to come.

Student-Athletes Rack Up Awards During Fall Season

Our athletic teams had an outstanding fall season, resulting in broken records and championship titles. Best of all, every fall team at Oyster Bay High School qualified for the postseason.

The boys cross-country team maintained a top five ranking for Class C throughout the season and was named Nassau County champion, with senior Christopher Tardugno earning the individual county championship award. Both the boys and girls cross-country teams competed at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association State Championships where the boys successfully placed sixth. This was a monumental moment as this was the highest placement ever for a Nassau County Class C team.

The football team made strides this season as it qualified for the playoffs for the first



time since 2006. The team was also named Most Improved Team for Conference 4 and earned honorable mention in the New York State rankings for Class C.

The boys soccer team made the Nassau County semifinals and the girls soccer team received its first victory since 2019. This year also marked the girls' first as county

finalists, and they received the highest team GPA of Oyster Bay High School's scholar athlete teams.

To close out an incredible season, the girls volleyball team had an undefeated season and was named repeat Nassau County champion for the third year.

Congratulations to all our fall athletes!

Fostering Young Scientists and Engineers

Science is the way of the future, and each school year we strive to challenge our students and provide them with opportunities to enhance their critical thinking skills and knowledge. This year, students across the district have been engaged in authentic data collection using hands-on and minds-on experiments to make sense of phenomena. The district has also been embracing community partnerships to help further student learning.

At James H. Vernon School, fourth graders participated in their first of four lessons from the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center, known

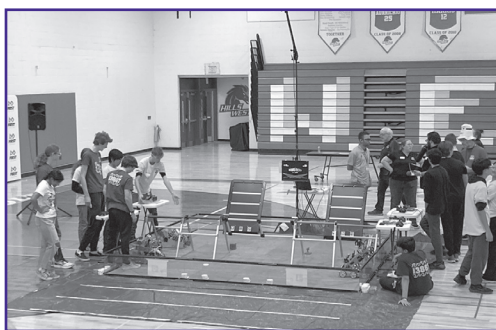
as For The Birds. Students took on the role of field ornithologists to practice identifying local avian species before their field excursions this spring. James H. Vernon School has also partnered with Mad Science of Long Island and the Long Island Children's Museum for special events such as the school's annual STEM Night.

Aside from community organizations coming into our district, our students are also sharing their love of science with school communities outside our area. Oyster Bay High School's extracurricular robotics program has been a great way for students to enhance their programming and engineering skills while connecting with students from other schools. The high schoolers prepare for multiple competitions a year and have designed, built and programmed their robot to work autonomously, as well as with a remote control. The team, known as the BayBots, competed this past December at Half Hollow Hills West High School and will be competing again this February.



In addition, Oyster Bay High School also has a FIRST Lego League team for robotics enthusiasts in seventh and eighth grade. These members are preparing for their upcoming Long Island Regional competition, hosted by FIRST Long Island, formerly School-Business Partnerships of Long Island Inc. They have been practicing in Oyster Bay High School's new Innovation Lab before and after school with their robots, gearing up for the competition.

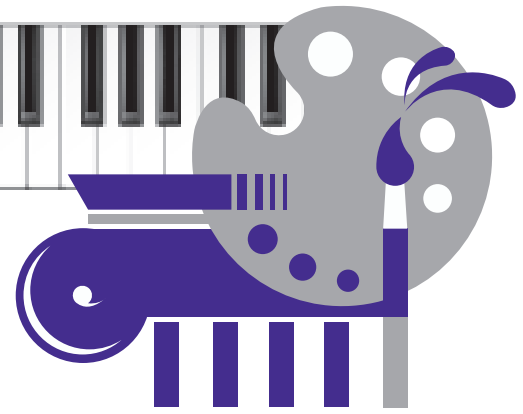
We look forward to seeing our students continue to shine in science!





NEW AROUND THE SCHOOLS:

Fine, Performing and Media Arts Department



The district's fine, performing and media arts department has continued to make strides this school year as our students find new ways to express themselves, think creatively and share their talents within the community and beyond. With the unwavering support of Erica Giglio Pac, director of fine, performing and media arts, and the department's talented teachers and staff, our students have been able to shine brighter than ever before. We look forward to seeing all that they achieve during the second half of the year.



2023-2024 Fine, Performing and Media Arts Highlights

- Student musicians in the James H. Vernon School Sixth Grade Advanced Band performed for music legend and Oyster Bay resident Billy Joel. The performance was part of a street dedication ceremony which the Town of Oyster Bay held for Joel outside his shop, 20th Century Cycles.
- The Middle School Band performed during the halftime show at the Empire Classic basketball game at Madison Square Garden.
- Oyster Bay High School senior Ava DeAngelis was honored in The Art Guild's 2023 Nassau County High School Student Juried Art Competition & Exhibition. She earned second place and was awarded \$200 for her cut paper 13-by-16-inch piece, "A Pearl."
- Seven winter concerts were held throughout the district during December and January, showcasing our student musicians' talents for family and friends.
- Student productions have been held throughout the district to the delight of community members. Thus far, students at James H. Vernon School performed "Finding Nemo Jr." and students at Oyster Bay High School performed "Peter and The Starcatcher." Save the date for Oyster Bay High School's musical production of "Chicago" on March 8 at 7 p.m. and March 9 at 5 p.m. The cast and crew are hard at work preparing for a spectacular show.
- The kindergarten wing at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School went through a transformation. The old alphabet letters on the wall received a makeover. The entire alphabet is now

on display and each letter has a small picture nearby. Inside each frame is a unique piece of student artwork that starts with that letter. The artwork will be changed throughout the school year, giving every student the chance to have their masterpiece proudly displayed.

- The bands at Oyster Bay High School will be performing at Carnegie Hall on April 18 and have been practicing hard for their performance.
- This March, the district's music department will host the level 1-4 NYSSMA Solo Festival at Oyster Bay High School. More than 600 student musicians from Syosset, Jericho, and Cold Spring Harbor will be in attendance.



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Senior Earns Second in National Student Competition

Oyster Bay High School senior Kyra Sansone was awarded second place in the division II news story category of the 2023 Student Television Network Fall Nationals. Kyra was recognized for her news story, "Senior Parking Problems," which she produced in Alex Dollin's Digital Reporting class.



High school students from across the country submitted their best work from the fall semester into the contest, and submissions were scored and critiqued by industry professionals. Kyra's video highlighted Oyster Bay High School's senior parking lot. She planned out the video, shot her own b-roll and conducted interviews with students and building administrators.

The judges applauded Kyra for her "really nice visuals" and thought she told her story well.

"You had some great perspectives in this piece," they said in their feedback.

As a result of her second-place win, Kyra will receive a plaque from the Student Television Network and a certificate. Congratulations, Kyra!

2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration is now open in the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District. Children of district residents who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2024, are eligible to attend kindergarten.

Applications can be found at www.obenschools.org (select DISTRICT and then CENTRAL REGISTRATION), or paper applications can be picked up from the Administration Building at 1 McCouns Lane, Oyster Bay.

Please contact Ms. Teresa Bussi, Central Registrar, at (516) 624-6555 or tbussi@obenschools.org to schedule an appointment after completing an application. There will be an orientation day for incoming kindergarten students in the spring.

Please scan the QR code for the link to the application.

