



Observer

WINTER 2023

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Oyster Bay-East Norwich Community,

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that we are already in 2023. It seems like only yesterday that our students returned for the first day of school.

December was a busy month filled with wonderful winter concerts and special holiday performances at venues like the Life Enrichment Center at Oyster Bay and Radio City Music Hall. I am so proud of our students for sharing their gift of music with others.

As 2022 drew to a close, we also celebrated some wonderful athletic milestones. From championship titles to individual accolades, I applaud our Fall athletes for their dedication and hard work. You have represented the Baymen proudly.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to our Class of 2023 valedictorian Sophia Dean and salutatorian Zachary Lachman. These two exceptional seniors have made their mark on the high school and will be sorely missed when they graduate this spring.

As we approach the halfway point of the school year, I would like to thank our school community for supporting our vision of "Empowering ALL Students to Achieve Excellence." Our students continue to impress me each day as I visit the buildings. I look forward to seeing all that they achieve during these winter months.

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

Meet the Class of 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Seniors Sophia Dean and Zachary Lachman were named the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the Oyster Bay High School Class of 2023. Aside from their exceptional academic skills, both have been valued members of the Oyster Bay student body.

Sophia is a member of the school's Science Honor Society, treasurer of the Foreign Language Honor Society and the secretary of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and the National Honor Society. As a junior, she was recognized as an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and has received many accolades throughout her high school career. This includes the Renaissance Award for Citizenship and excellence awards in English, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Language.

With a strong passion for dance, Sophia has been part of Mossa Dance Academy throughout high school and has received many awards for her performances. She is also the team captain of the Oyster Bay High School Varsity Cross-Country team and Spring and Winter Track teams. Aside from her athletic abilities, she is a valued member of the school's Interact Club, Birthday Wishes Club and is the social media coordinator and treasurer for the student council. Sophia is also a student mentee at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. She will be attending Brown University in the fall.

Zachary is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and has taken eight AP courses at Oyster Bay High School. He is taking four more during his senior year. He is also the president of the Science Honor Society and the Math



Valedictorian
Sophia Dean

Salutatorian
Zachary Lachman

Honor Society. Zachary has earned many awards for his academic excellence. This includes the Rensselaer Medal for outstanding academic achievement in Mathematics and Science, and awards for excellence in Mathematics and Science.

Apart from his academic skills, Zachary is a true leader. He is a member of the leadership board at St. Dominic's Church Youth Group, the captain of the school's Varsity Basketball team and the captain of the Mathletes team. This past summer, he attended the National Student Leadership Conference where he created a startup business and presented it to the leadership class. In addition, Zachary has tutored his peers in various high school mathematics and science subjects and is also a member of the Varsity Track and Field team. He will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Congratulations to both Sophia and Zachary! We know your futures are bright and we cannot wait to see how you make your mark on the world.



A Celebration of the Arts



Students at James H. Vernon School performed "Moana Jr." this past November.



The Oyster Bay High School Chamber Singers traveled to Manhattan to open for the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall.



Second graders from Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School created sea creature artwork as part of their Under the Sea Blacklight Project.

The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District is a proud supporter of the Arts and the importance that it plays in one's education. Students across all three buildings have showcased their talents in fine, multimedia and performance art this school year.

This past November, students from James H. Vernon School took audiences on an epic voyage with their production of Disney's "Moana Jr." With captivating stage design, lighting and music, the students beautifully told the story of a young island girl named Moana and her mission to save her people and home. The cast kept audiences entertained during the performances with touches of humor and outstanding musical numbers.

Student performances continued into December as our Oyster Bay High School Chamber Singers received the opportunity of a lifetime. Under the direction of Christopher Fludd, the singers took the stage at Radio City Music Hall and served as the opening act for the Rockettes. They performed a five-minute, a cappella set before the curtain opened on the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. After their performance, the students watched the entire Christmas Spectacular show with 86 members of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich community, including their classmates, teachers and members of the Board of Education and administration.

"Seeing our students on the Radio City Stage was a moment I will never forget and one I hope the students always treasure," said Erica Giglio Pac, K-12 Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts. "Their performance reminded me of how magical the holiday season can be."

December was also filled with spectacular winter concerts. Family, friends, staff and students enjoyed the performances which were made possible by the hard work of our music department.

Aside from musical performances, Oyster Bay High School's Art Wing was recently refreshed to highlight not only the artwork from talented alumni, but current art students as well. The school beautifully archived the student murals from 2016 and 2017 by taking photos of the work and framing them for the wing. The walls then received a fresh coat of white paint, and gallery-style hardware was installed to create a rotating gallery of student art. A range of fine and digital artwork will circulate for the community to admire, while also paying tribute to alumni with their art pieces.

Our young artists at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School have also been busy creating and showcasing their artwork. Second graders completed an Under the Sea Blacklight Project to be featured in the school's art gallery. Using neon-colored paint, they created their own sea creatures. Art

teacher Meredith Brustman displayed them in a dark room with only blacklights on, and students watched in delight as their artwork glowed.

Apart from fine and performing arts, the District has also embraced Multimedia and Broadcast Journalism this school year. Oyster Bay High School students in the Baymen Backstage club are responsible for livestreaming the Board of Education meetings. In addition, two new courses, Investigative Reporting and TV Production: Bay News Now, are offered this year for high schoolers.

Led by teacher Alex Dollin, broadcast students immerse themselves in the role of a reporter and learn how to conduct research, strengthen their newswriting skills, interview effectively and more. "Bay News Now" is the school's student-run newscast which was launched this past fall. Each day, students film after school, sharing important news around the school and a weather report. The broadcast is shown the following morning at the start of each school day.

"In class they get the chance to research, write, shoot and edit stories created from their own ideas," Mr. Dollin said. "They should feel a huge sense of accomplishment seeing their story move from paper to the edit floor. Plus, they are helping to inform the Oyster Bay-East Norwich school community."

Although still in its early stages, "Bay News Now" has

a bright future ahead of it. TV Production students will soon take over the channel and be able to film in a new studio which will be completed during the summer months. To follow along with "Bay News Now," please subscribe to BayNewsNow on YouTube.

In addition, Oyster Bay High School offers a Sports Broadcasting Club, Baymen TV. Led by adviser Brian Donohue, students conduct live broadcasts on YouTube (baymentv4552) of home games in the District. They serve as true sportscasters, commenting on games and interviewing players and coaches. The students are also responsible for the camerawork and camera switch software. Baymen TV gives them an introduction to a possible career path.

"Whether it is as a camera operator, video editor or a sports broadcaster, this ground-level experience is important for future careers," Mr. Donohue said. "In the past, our Journalism program has had graduates go on to do some amazing things. We can include Emmy winners as alumni of our school who were once a part of our Journalism program. I hope to one day see my students on ESPN or CBS Sports calling games."

Whether it is broadcasting, performing or creating a fine art piece, each medium allows our Oyster Bay-East Norwich students to shine and express themselves. We look forward to seeing our students continue to grow in the arts.



Oyster Bay High School's new art wing features an array of beautiful artwork from current students and alumni.



Students at Oyster Bay High School film Bay News Now after school.



Students from Baymen TV work together to livestream one of Oyster Bay High School's home games.

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A Successful Athletic Season

Student-athletes from Oyster Bay High School marked the end of a successful fall season as several of the school's teams won league, conference and county championships.

The Girls Field Hockey Team was named the League 3 Undeclared Champions, the Girls Tennis Team took home the title of Conference 3 Champions and the Girls Volleyball Team won the Nassau County Class C Championship for the second consecutive year. In addition, the Boys Cross-Country team was named the undefeated Division 4B Champions and the undefeated Conference 4 Champions. They also finished eighth as a team at the New York State Championship.

Junior Chris Tardugno on the Boys Cross-Country Team performed exceptionally well this fall. He was named the Nassau County Class 3 Champion and the winner of the New York State qualifying race. He also finished fifth in the New York State Championship.

Our athletes also achieved greatness in the classroom. The District was thrilled to have seven fall athletic teams earn the Scholar-Athlete title. When a high school team achieves a grade point average of 90 or above, they are designated as a Scholar-Athlete Team by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Congratulations to the following Fall 2022 teams for earning this recognition: Boys Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Football, Girls Cross-Country, Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis and Girls Volleyball.



The Oyster Bay High School Girls Volleyball Team won the Nassau County Class C Championship for the second consecutive year.

Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District

2023-2024 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 December 1, 2023, 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, New York.

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 on May 5, 2023.

