



Observer

FALL 2022



Construction began this summer on the high school's new turf field.



The nearly completed turf field at Oyster Bay High School.

A Focus ON THE *Future*

DISTRICT BEGINS 21ST-CENTURY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The summer of 2022 was a busy and productive time in the district as construction took place outside of Oyster Bay High School. Phase 1 of the district's bond projects was underway, which featured the installation of a new turf field at the high school.

Last December, Oyster Bay-East Norwich residents approved the district's bond referendum which featured 21st-century improvement projects to benefit current and future students at each of the school buildings. During the winter and spring of 2022, the

district prepared for the new high school turf field and construction crews worked diligently during the summer to bring the project to life. The area was previously a grass field with the high school softball field nestled in the corner.

"Our high school turf field is located in the middle of a residential area which can cause some obstacles such as noise and possible disruptions," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni said. "Our goal was to have most of the installation work completed before the start of

school so as to not disrupt classes. It was also important for us to not disturb residents as construction was taking place. Our crew worked efficiently and remained respectful to our neighbors during the process, which was fantastic. We are so thankful for their hard work."

As part of the installation, construction crews created a handicap-accessible ramp, removed some trees and shrubs to increase field space, built retaining walls and created a new and improved softball field.

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A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear OBEN Family,

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start. I have enjoyed seeing our students back in the buildings, interacting with teachers, connecting with their peers and experiencing the thrill of learning. “Empowering All Students to Achieve Excellence” remains our vision and I want to thank the entire Oyster Bay-East Norwich school community for their unwavering support.

Last school year set the foundation for high expectations and student achievement. Our graduation rate increased, and many of our students earned honors and recognition in all disciplines. Moving forward, we aim to continue reaching new heights and help students reach their full potential. Staff members worked diligently throughout the summer months to develop and prepare a curriculum that would not only meet the criteria for state assessments, but that would also encourage our students to challenge themselves.

Aside from the exceptional work that I know our students will produce this year, I am looking forward to seeing the district continue to transform as work is being completed to benefit our students and their school experience. As showcased on Page 1 of this newsletter, our high school turf field has reached the final stage of completion. We are excited to begin the next phases of our 21st Century Capital Improvement Projects, which can be found on Pages 2 and 3 of this edition.

I am confident that together we will make this a fantastic school year!

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



Oyster Bay High School's innovation lab will be a flexible learning space for collaborative learning to flourish.



As part of the second phase of capital improvement projects, a new broadcasting studio will be created on the second floor of the high school to enhance learning opportunities.



One of the new 21st-century classrooms that will be created on the second floor of the high school to promote collaborative and innovative learning.



The cafeteria at James H. Vernon School will be modernized and include booth seating.

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A Focus ON THE *Future*

DISTRICT BEGINS 21ST-CENTURY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Moving forward, the district is now concluding the planning stage for phase 2 of the capital improvement projects. With the help and feedback of administrators and teachers, the design of a new innovation lab by the Oyster Bay High School library was established. The lab will replace the conference room and storage area that is currently behind the school library. The exciting new addition will feature flexible areas for small-group instruction and portable seating. It will also include a robotics studio with ample storage for materials. The space will promote collaborative learning through the installation of retractable glass walls to create a larger learning space when needed.

Phase 2 also includes the transformation of existing classrooms to fit the 21st-century learner. At Oyster Bay High School, three classrooms on the second floor will be renovated into 21st-century classrooms to encourage collaboration and innovative student work. There will be a broadcasting studio which will feature a control room, green screen, desktop computers for editing, lighting and more. This modernized space will provide new learning experiences for our Oyster Bay-East Norwich students. Another classroom will have flexible seating and portable white boards, and like the innovation lab, will have a retractable

glass wall which will open to the adjacent 21st-century classroom to allow for flexibility. This other classroom will also contain flexible seating and a giant whiteboard wall for collaborative learning.

Continuing with the projects at the high school, phase 2 will also include the creation of a more prominent front entrance for Oyster Bay High School. The entrance will feature a new sign and additional overhang but will still maintain the architectural design of the building.

James H. Vernon School and Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School will see major improvements, which are nearing the end of the planning process. The James H. Vernon cafeteria will be expanded to provide a larger group space with some new seating options. The school will also see the transformation of the music wing to provide more space for our talented student-musicians.

At Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, a new two-story addition off the back of the school will provide much-needed space for eight new classrooms, support rooms and office spaces. The design will match the current exterior of the building. All the phase 2 projects are anticipated to begin on July 1, 2023. The district looks forward to bringing these new spaces to life for all our Oyster Bay-East Norwich students.



Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School will have a second addition to the building to increase instructional spaces.



The front entrance of Oyster Bay High School will receive an update.

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STUDENTS DANCE INTO National Hispanic Heritage Month

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, students throughout the district immersed themselves in Hispanic culture and dance with Maria Loreta, founder and artistic director of Sol y Sombra Spanish Dance Company. Ms. Loreta visited Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, James H. Vernon School and Oyster Bay High School to teach students different Latin dances and techniques and to share their rich history.

Second graders from Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School and third graders from James H. Vernon School participated in a flamenco workshop where Ms. Loreta taught them how to play castanets and execute the proper footwork. Students from both schools were fully engaged in the workshop and had fun learning a short, choreographed dance.

At Oyster Bay High School, seventh grade social studies classes visited the school auditorium to meet with Ms. Loreta for a Latin dance workshop. They took the stage and followed Ms. Loreta's lead as she taught them basic steps for dances such as the merengue, the bachata and the salsa.

"It's important to expose kids to all facets of the arts...I really wanted to see the students get up and have the ability to move," said Erica Giglio-Pac, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts, K-12. "It's not just about the dance, though. It's also about the heritage and where these dances came from, how they evolved and the music associated with them."

The dance residency with Sol y Sombra Spanish Dance Company was a great way to educate students on Hispanic culture and dance during this special time of the year.



Oyster Bay High School seventh graders learned the basic steps of different Latin dances with Maria Loreta from Sol y Sombra Spanish Dance Company (right).



Theodore Roosevelt second graders participated in a flamenco workshop with Maria Loreta from Sol y Sombra Spanish Dance Company.



Third graders at James H. Vernon School learned a choreographed dance during the Sol y Sombra dance residency.