



Observer

FALL 2023



Students and staff are enjoying the new terrazzo outside of Oyster Bay High School.

21st-Century Improvement Projects Reach Second Phase

In December 2021, the community approved a bond referendum to make 21st-century improvements to buildings throughout the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District. Construction began in the summer of 2022 and Phase 1 was completed during the previous school year. This included the new turf field at Oyster Bay High School, which has been a wonderful new addition for our students and community.

The district is now in Phase 2 of its plans which

consists of many other exciting 21st-century improvement projects. At the start of this school year, Oyster Bay High School's entrance received an upgrade with improvements to the main entrance.

Inside the high school, work has been completed on new educational spaces. This includes the school's new Innovation Lab, Broadcast Studio, and "cOllaB" space. The broadcast studio features a control room, green screen, desktop computer for editing, lighting, and

more. The studio will be used for the school's three broadcasting courses and for the "Bay News Now" morning broadcast.

Located near Oyster Bay High School's library is the new Innovation Lab. This unique space features a robotics studio, three flexible rooms for multipurpose use and a "genius bar." Another area geared toward student exploration, innovation and creation is the school's new "cOllaB" space. This is housed on the second floor of the high school where the

broadcast studio is located. It features flexible seating and a white board wall, which students can write on. It also features a retractable glass wall which opens to an adjacent 21st-century learning classroom to allow for flexibility.

Phase 2 also consists of projects at the elementary level. At James H. Vernon School, the old playground was replaced with a new one in the rear of the building which students are already enjoying during their recess

continued on Page 2...



Oyster Bay High School's new Innovation Lab is a modern space that classes of all disciplines can use for exploration, innovation and creation.



The new playground at James H. Vernon School, in its Oyster Bay-East Norwich purple and yellow, is being utilized to the fullest by students.

...continued from Page 1

21st-Century Improvement Projects Reach Second Phase



Oyster Bay High School's new entrance features an additional overhang while maintaining the architectural style of the building.

periods and after school.

Still in the construction phase is Vernon's new and improved cafeteria and music wing. Both are in the process of a much-needed expansion and renovation.

The construction continues at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School where our crews are working hard on a building extension, without interfering with our students' school day. This new two-story addition will match the current school

exterior and is located off the back of the school. It will provide space for eight new classrooms, support rooms and office spaces. The outer shell of the extension will be completed this school year.

To stay up to date on the process of the 21st-century improvement projects, please follow the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The handles can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.



The "cOllaB" space at Oyster Bay High School features flexible seating for students to work together.



Oyster Bay High School's new broadcast studio will be used for the school's three broadcasting courses, as well as for the "Bay News Now" morning broadcast.

INTRODUCING OYSTER BAY HIGH SCHOOL'S *Valedictorian and Salutatorian*

Seniors Ania Kelly and Deanna Besart were named Oyster Bay High School's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the Class of 2024. These high-achieving students are not only at the top of their class, but they are also close friends.

Both are enrolled in a rigorous course load of Advanced Placement classes and have many of the same interests. They share a passion for science as members of the high school's science research program and are part of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Program. Ania and Deanna are also involved in the school's wind ensemble, student council, various honor societies and the crew team, where they were rowing partners for four years and were both crowned state champions.

Their busy schedules have not slowed them down from pursuing leadership roles. Ania is the president of the National Honor Society and is the founder and president of the French

Club. She is also an SAT volunteer tutor and has been a ski instructor for four years. Deanna is the co-founder of the school's Science Olympiad Club, president of the National Science Honor Society, historian of the Rho Kappa Honor Society, and is vice president of the Math and Music Honor Societies and the Robotics Club.

Aside from their heavy involvement around Oyster Bay High School, the two scholars excel in the classroom. Ania was recognized as a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Competition and has received several school academic awards throughout her high school career. As a junior, Deanna received the 2023 Achievement Award in Writing by the National Council of Teachers of English and earned gold two



years in a row for her New York State School Music Association All-State solo on the baritone saxophone.

Both students plan to pursue a degree in the science field. Ania plans on studying biochemistry, while Deanna plans on studying bioengineering/biomedical. Congratulations, Ania and Deanna!

OYSTER BAY HIGH SCHOOL MAKES *2023 AP School Honor Roll*

Oyster Bay High School proudly earned silver recognition on College Board's 2023 Advanced Placement School Honor Roll and received the AP Access Award.

According to College Board, "the AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to welcome more students into AP courses and support them on the path to college success." AP courses prepare high school students for the future with college-level work. Oyster Bay High School offers 22 AP courses for its students in different areas of study, setting them up for success.

To be selected for the AP School Honor Roll, College Board looks at a school's college culture (percent of students

in the graduating class who took an AP exam), college credit (percent of students in the graduating class who scored 3 or higher on any AP exam) and college optimization (percent of students in the graduating class who took five or more AP exams, where at least one exam was taken in ninth or tenth grade).

In addition to its Honor Roll status, Oyster Bay High School received the AP Access Award for equally providing all students the chance to participate in AP courses, including students of underrepresented populations.

Both recognitions are a true testament to the hard work and dedication of Oyster Bay High School's students, teachers, administrators and staff.

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VERNON MUSICIANS HELP *HONOR MUSIC LEGEND BILLY JOEL*

Student musicians in the James H. Vernon School Sixth Grade Advanced Band received the opportunity of a lifetime as they performed for music legend and Oyster Bay resident Billy Joel on Oct. 19. The performance was part of a street dedication ceremony which the Town of Oyster Bay held for Joel outside his shop, 20th Century Cycles.

Town of Oyster Bay officials and members of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District were among the invited guests for the celebration. To kick off the ceremony, Nate Bradley, a sixth grade advanced band student from James H. Vernon School, had the honor of leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

With excited Vernon musicians and fans before him, Joel spoke about his love for Oyster Bay and growing up on

Long Island. He also addressed the band students by sharing that he too was in band in sixth grade and played the French horn.

After his remarks, Vernon band director Lauren Macy, band teacher Joe Devassy and chorus director Louis Costidis led the student musicians in two songs. They performed "Top Secret," which was followed by a chorus performance of the Billy Joel classic, "Piano Man."

Following the musical performance, the new street sign outside of Joel's 20th Century Cycles shop was officially revealed as "Billy Joel Way" to the delight of the community. In addition, it was announced that Oct. 19 is now Billy Joel Day in Oyster Bay as he received a key to the town.

