

OUR SCHOOLS

Winter
2021

Official Publication of the
NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHAT DEFINES Our Educational Program?

From kindergarten until senior year, helping students find their unique passions has always been a key factor of the school district's educational program. "The focus is really on instilling a love of learning in every child," Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dana Boshnack said. "We work to identify and support unique learning needs so that students can develop an inherent love of education."

At the high school, the breadth of the educational program is clear from even a first glance at the course catalog. Courses include Academy of Finance, Academy of Information Technology, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and a wide array of language, art, music and athletic opportunities. With such variety, students can explore numerous paths to guide their passions and help inform their future.

"Diverse opportunities at the high school are really important for students to have an awareness of who they are as a learner," Dr. Boshnack said. "If we can support students in being independent thinkers and learners, they can better set goals and maximize their success."

In the middle schools, students begin getting their first taste of the incredible opportunities that await them at the high school. Exploring different areas of technology, art, family consumer science and more helps them have an awareness of different areas and identify their personal strengths and areas of growth. Middle schoolers in the accelerated math and science programs also get

their first taste of advanced courses, setting them up for a future of learning beyond the traditional classroom.

In the elementary schools, the educational program is focused on both student experience and ensuring that our students have strong literacy and math skills. Through Responsive Classroom they are involved in daily practices that reinforce positive social interactions with peers and community building. All Northport-East Northport elementary teachers receive professional development in specialized approaches, such as Responsive Classroom and guided practices for literacy and math. These approaches are designed to help teachers provide individualized instruction to our students. "Students learn best when teachers are able to identify their strengths and areas of growth early on, and then adapt their teaching to meet those unique learning needs," Tara Gaiss, instructional coordinator of AIS, RtI and reading, said.

Across all grade levels, our special education program focuses on the individual needs of our students academically and socially through a broad range of programming that reinforces an environment of inclusion. Extracurricular opportunities such as Unified Basketball and Bowling, to name a few, provide opportunities for our students to showcase their abilities, build connections and be recognized by the larger school community.

As the district prepares for the 2021-2022 school year, it is continuing to evaluate ways to improve the educational program and promote student success.



Third graders planning and carrying out a scientific investigation in the "What Happened to the Dinosaurs?" unit.



A PLTW engineering student uses a 3D mill to construct a rapid prototype.

Students Giving Back

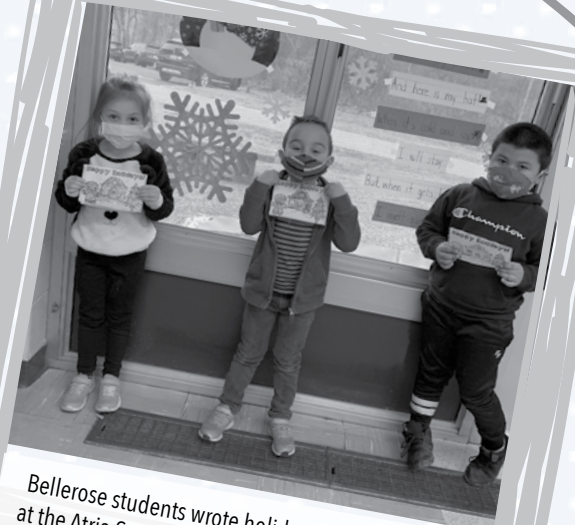
Students across the district have stepped up during difficult times to support their schools and the greater community.



High school students host their annual toy drive supporting Miss Minnie's Kids Jamaica Project USA.



Fifth grader Jack Cromeyn drops off cereal for the Ramon's Place food pantry at the high school.



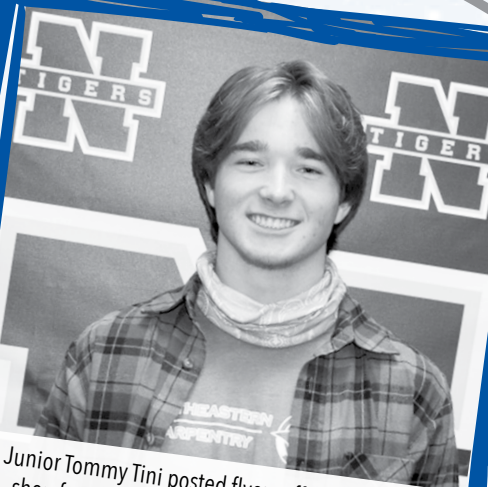
Bellerose students wrote holiday cards for residents at the Atria Senior Living center, hoping to raise their spirits during the season.



Middle schoolers supported the annual toy drive as well, collecting items to donate.



Lia Edlin Miller continues to make and sell her unique, reversible masks. Profits from her sales go to local nonprofits, including the school's food pantry. She has made over 4,500 masks so far!



Junior Tommy Tini posted flyers offering to grocery shop for elderly community members who were quarantining in their homes due to the pandemic.



Junior Brandon Thomas and his friends adopted "little brothers" from an underprivileged school in the Bronx, purchasing holiday gifts for the young students.



Kaitlyn Zenyuh and Violet Wendol made and sold holiday ornaments, using the profits to support families in need through the Students for 60,000 partnership with A.B.L.E. Families in Kermit, West Virginia.

FUTURE STUDY: Next Steps

Following the Dec. 3 meeting, the Board of Education motioned to approve the scenario called "Adapted Scenario A" of the Future Study. This involves closing Dickinson Avenue School and Bellerose Avenue School, housing grades kindergarten through fourth in the remaining four elementary schools and transitioning the two middle schools to grades five through eight. Northport High School will remain grades nine through 12. It was also decided that this transition would occur during the 2021-2022 school year.

The decision was made following a recommendation from administration and deliberation among Board members, who considered various factors including cost of maintaining our educational program, significant enrollment decline over the last decade and taxpayer burden. Ultimately, the Board, in alignment with district administration, felt Adapted Scenario A best suited the needs of both students and taxpayers within the community.

Looking forward, the district has prepared the preliminary rezoning lines for the district, which can be found at http://northport.k12.ny.us/district/future_study_updates. Along with a Task Force committee, who will be appointed this spring, the district will be compiling an educational impact statement. The statement will further outline the transition process.

"We are very much looking forward to developing a plan so that our students feel welcomed, comfortable and excited to be a part of their new school community," Superintendent of Schools Robert Banzer said. "We're incredibly lucky to have a community who cares deeply about our students, and our focus will continue to be on providing them with the high-quality education and supportive school environment that they have come to expect."

More information about the Future Study can be found at http://northport.k12.ny.us/district/future_study_updates.

*****ECRWSS**

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Students IN THE Spotlight:



Music Program Produces 13 All-State Performers

Northport High School had 13 talented students chosen for All-State this year. Following a complex application process, Julie Barbier, Matthew Boyle, Camden Burk, Alison Crosley, Maxwell DeBrino, Margaret Forbes, Claire Freas, Riley Gayer, Gabrielle Liberatoscioli, Angelina Saccone, Amelia Semple, Juliana Tjornhom and Alexandra Weber will represent the district at the virtual All-State competition this March.



Outstanding Leadership in Physical Education Award Winners

Northport High School seniors Rocco Stola and Aileen McPartland were recognized with the Outstanding Leadership in Physical Education award by the Suffolk Zone Chapter of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Awarded for their commitment to their respective sports and as remarkable students overall, they will both continue their athletics at universities next year.



Heisman Scholarship Winners

Two Northport High School students have been awarded with the Heisman High School Scholarship for student-athletes. Kaitlyn Berger is a cheerleader for Northport-East Northport, and Austin is a swimmer and cyclist. As school winners, they had the opportunity to continue on for the chance to be state winners, national finalists or national winners.

