

# SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



## INSIDE THIS EDITION



*Superintendent's  
Message*



*District Update*



*Curriculum Corner*



*Focus on Achievement*



*Community News*



*Sports Zone*



**DECEMBER 2024**





# SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

Best wishes to one and all! As we near the end of this year, I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. This year has been filled with growth, learning, and moments of connection, and I am so thankful to have such a dedicated and supportive community.

Whether you're spending time with family, enjoying well-deserved rest, or reflecting on the year's achievements, we hope you find joy, peace, and warmth in the days ahead.

Happy Holidays to all of our students, families, teachers, staff, and friends. May this season bring you happiness, and we look forward to continuing our journey together in the new year!

Sincerely,  
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## WINNING WOMEN!

Smithtown East and West Virtual Enterprise chiefs Olivia Bozzo, Emma Zodda, Hailey DeGeorge, Catherine Piccininni, Isabella Paliwoda, and Ashlynn Renkowski enjoyed attending the Winning Women Leadership Conference in Manhattan.

Students had the opportunity to engage with a panel of dynamic women business leaders sharing their experience, guidance and helpful tips on building a personal brand, establishing a professional presence, developing effective communication skills and financial empowerment. Business leaders then guided students through themed activities on leadership, teamwork, and presentation skills.

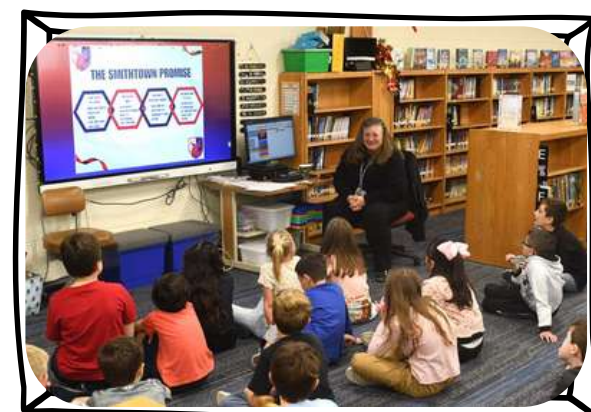
College Virtual Enterprise is a course offered in the CTE Business Department.

## PICK A PROMISE!

In conjunction with the Smithtown Central School District initiative, “The Smithtown Promise,” Smithtown Elementary librarian Ann Diffley is having students from every grade work together on different principles of The Smithtown Promise.

“We decided to break it down to each grade level to understand each one of the concepts,” Diffley said.

Each grade had a different principle to focus on and put together this wonderful Smithtown Promise video of their own! Watch [HERE](#)





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## TOUCHDOWN!

Students in Mr. Hennings' and Mr. Rosa's Sports Marketing classes from both High School East and High School West recently participated in the Sports Business Day sponsored by the New York Jets at MetLife Stadium.

Students were guided through different stadium areas and heard from business executives in sales, marketing, social media, and public relations. The tour included views from the field, press boxes, the locker room, and more!

Sports Marketing is an elective course for 9th-12th grade students in the Smithtown School of Business in the Career and Technical Education Department.



## JACK WEBER, HERE!

100-year-old WWII veteran, Jack Weber spoke to students at Great Hollow Middle School about the meaning of Veterans Day and the last 100 years of the United States. Dr. Weber, father of English teacher, Nancy Hennes, has written a memoir called, "Jack Weber, Here!" and presented a signed copy to the school library for students and staff to be able to check out. Mrs. Hennes told us the idea for her father to write a book began a few years ago.

"It started during Covid because my dad was losing his mind staying inside all the time," Hennes said. "My siblings and I really encouraged him to write his life story. He wrote every word of it, we all pitched in and it turned into this huge project. We are very proud of him."





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## GROWING UP AT AMS!

Accompsett Middle School students are enjoying the progress of the school's first hydroponic garden, generously donated by Scott Weinstein and his company, Harvest 365. Donated to improve science education and STEM initiatives at AMS, the hydroponic garden has become a valuable teaching tool and resource.



"It's inspiring to witness our students actively engaged in the care of our new hydroponic garden," Principal McNeil said. "Ms. Fitzpatrick's Garden Club members are diligently monitoring the plants, ensuring they receive the perfect balance of water and light. This initiative not only ensures a steady supply of vegetables and herbs for the FCCLA Club's culinary endeavors but also teaches our students about sustainable agriculture and environmental responsibility."



Harvest 365 is a local business in the Smithtown community.

## FUN WITH AI

Mr. Tim Needles visited Smithtown Elementary for a special AI animation activity in art class.

Mr. Needles partnered with art teacher Mrs. Kerim to have 4th and 5th grade students explore animation on Adobe Express.

"This activity tied in wonderfully to the winter theme for our upcoming Art Show," stated Dr. Kakalos. "We were so excited to have Mr. Needles visit and incorporate technology and art. Our students had a blast!"





# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## SUPER IN STEM

High School West's Nita Lleshaj was named as a finalist of the National STEM Festival Challenge, one of 8 finalists in New York State. Her research project is in using zophobas atratus larva, aka superworms, to biodegrade several types of plastic. She has analyzed the gut biome of those larva and is now investigating a few select bacteria from that biome and their ability to degrade the same plastics.

Nita earned an Achievement Award for this work at the Long Island Science Congress last year. Nita will now be competing against the rest of the country for an opportunity to be named a National STEM Champion.



## EAST TAKES TRI-M CUP

Over 130 Tri-M Music Honor Society members from both High School East and West gathered in the library of High School West to enjoy dinner, camaraderie and a little friendly competition at the 14th annual Tri-M Dinner.

The Tri M dinner is an annual event that represents two chapters becoming and representing one community. Following dinner, students engaged in various games that included a battle of the bands where student teams composed and performed musical selections using toy instruments and the main event of the evening, Music Jeopardy.

After the final note and conclusion of the evening's games, it was High School East's Tri-M who was victorious and took home the Tri-M Cup for the 2024-2025 school year.

Special thank you to High School East Tri-M Chapter Advisor Mr. Brian McCoy, High School West Orchestra Director Joseph Cotignola, and music teachers Mark Hegreness, Jennifer Leavy, Frank Scheno and Jasmine Rodriguez who attended and greatly contributed to this very special evening.





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WHAT A SPORT!



As a result of reaching their Boosterthon fundraising goal, Tackan Elementary School students stepped up, grabbed a pie and “pie faced” Principal Furey!

Students raised more than \$22,000 for the PTA Arts in Education program.

No principals were injured during this event.



## SJE DANCE FIT PARTY!

Kudos to the St. James Elementary PTA and St. James Elementary community for raising nearly \$35,000! Money raised will go towards cultural arts, PTA events and a new garden for the courtyard!

Because the goal of 25 thousand dollars was reached, Principal Javidi agreed to dress up and dance with his students as Whisper The Bull!



## JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

There are several openings in the Smithtown Central School District. Those interested can submit a letter, resume, and two professional references to Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Neil Katz at: [employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us](mailto:employment@smithtown.k12.ny.us)

**WE ARE  
HIRING!**

**JOIN  
OUR TEAM**

**Special Education Aides:** various shifts available for all levels including elementary, middle and high schools. \$20.39 per hour. Minimum 3 hours per day.

**Elementary School Monitors:** shifts are 2.25-2.5 hours per day between 11:45 AM-2:15 PM. \$17.00 per hour.

*Food Service Worker and Custodial Worker positions also available.*

- > NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- > WORK THE STUDENT CALENDAR
- > SUMMERS, WEEKENDS, NIGHTS AND HOLIDAYS OFF

**SCAN  
QR CODE  
TO APPLY**

SEND A RESUME AND LETTER OF INTEREST TO: [EMPLOYMENT@SMITHTOWN.K12.NY.US](mailto:EMPLOYMENT@SMITHTOWN.K12.NY.US)  
TO APPLY OR CALL (631) 382-2170 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



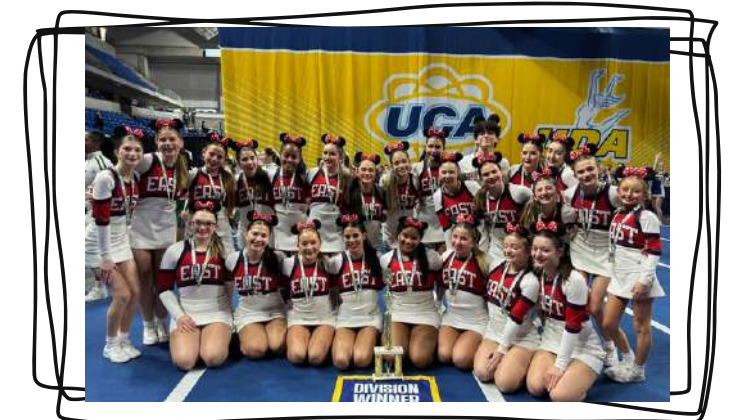
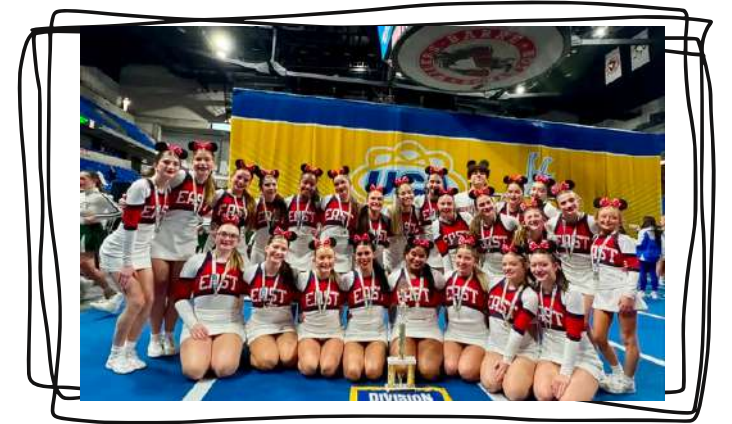


# SPORTS ZONE

## NATIONALS HERE THEY COME!

Congratulations to the Smithtown East and West varsity cheer teams on earning bids to the UCA High School National Championship this coming February!

Both squads earned two bids to the tournament which takes place in Orlando, FL!



## ON THE FAST TRACK!

High School East varsity track's Rayshelle Brown has broken her 55M school record with a time of 8.65!

Way to go!



## JAKE THE GREAT!

Jake Hutter, a senior midfield for the High School West boys soccer team, has been named to the United Soccer Coaches High School Boys Fall East All Region Team.

Jake is a three-year starter on the varsity team. This year he was named League V MVP (for Suffolk County), All-County, All-State, and All-Region.

Way to go, Jake!

