

# SMITHTOWN BULLETIN



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SEPTEMBER 2024





# SUPERINTENDENT *Message*

Dear Smithtown CSD Community,

As we near the end of the first month of school, I would like to highlight a few items of importance. It has been great to hear positive feedback about the various Back to School and Meet the Teacher nights that have taken place thus far. These are valuable opportunities for parents, guardians and our staff to get to know one another and forge positive relationships. I am also very thankful for our PTA for all they do. I encourage all of you to join if you haven't already. They do a great deal to support our schools and their programs and we are very fortunate to have such an active, supportive PTA in Smithtown.

As the school year begins in earnest, I want the community to know that we will be continuing our strong focus on student achievement and positive student outcomes via an emphasis on student attendance and engagement as outlined in our Board of Education Goals for 2024-2025. These goals and the individual goals of our administrators are aligned with the Smithtown 2027 Strategic Plan that was implemented in the fall of 2022. The Academic Achievement and Growth for Each Student as well as Student Belonging and Well Being are strategic goals within our plan and have been central to our daily work for several years. We are proud of this work and it will continue.

Sincerely,  
Mark Secaur, Ed.D.

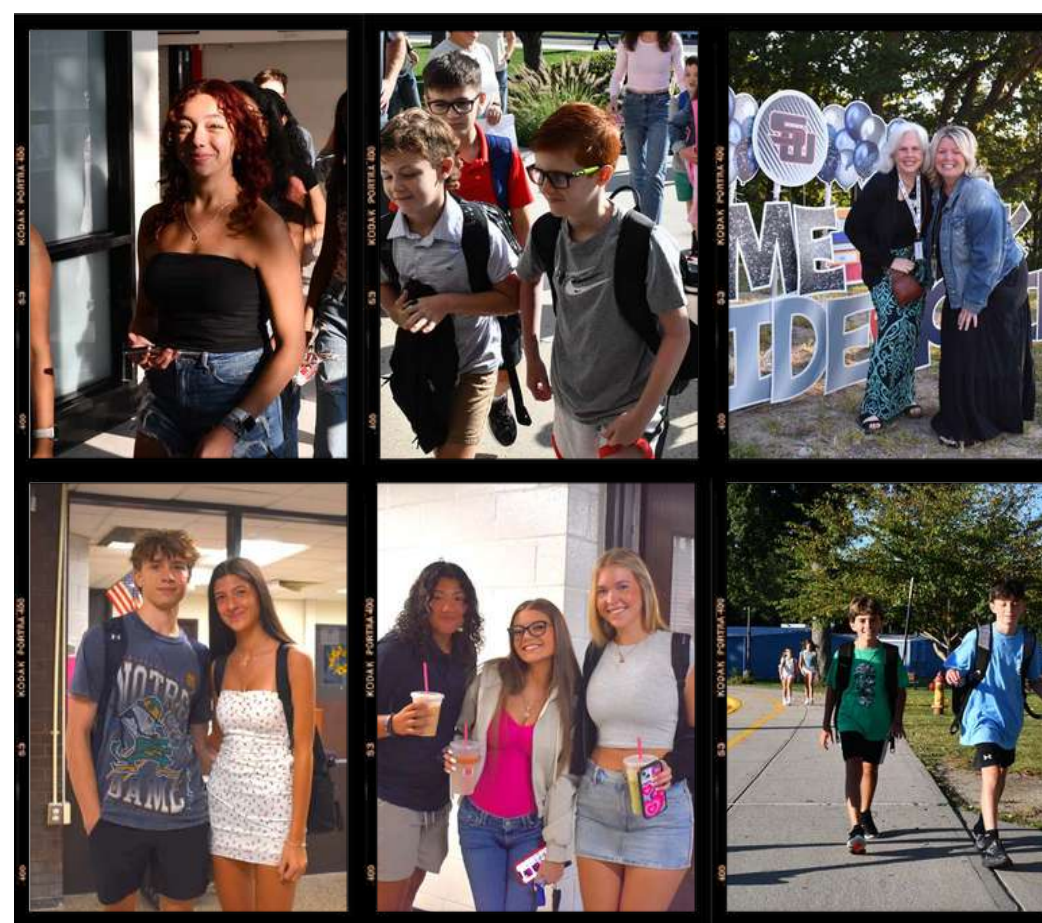




# CURRICULUM CORNER

## WELCOME BACK

Students, teachers, and SCSD administrators  
enjoyed a perfect first day of school!





# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS!

Smithtown High School West students Sierra Needham, Catalina Kreitzman, Natallie Marshall, Heng Ye and Joseph Davide, and Smithtown High School East students, Daanish Bassi, Jolene Cao, Neal Cusumano and Anagh Gupta have been named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists!

These students are among a group of academically talented students who represent less than 1% of United States high school seniors.

"The entire high school west community is beyond proud of this incredible accomplishment," Principal Holl exclaimed. "Congratulations to this amazing group of students."

"This is just another example of how talented our students are here at East," Smithtown High School East Principal Robert Rose added. "I couldn't be more excited for them."

The National Merit Scholarship Program is a not-for-profit organization that awards scholarship to high school seniors annually. Semifinalists are chosen based on preliminary SAT scores.





# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS



## MUSIC TO OUR EARS!!!



The Smithtown High School East and West Tri-M chapters have hit all the right notes!

Tri-M Chapter #1338 from High School West has been recognized as a 2023-2024 National Tri-M Chapter of the Year Scholarship Award winner. Out of 2,100 eligible chapters, High School West Tri-M was the 2nd runner up and one of the top three Tri-M chapters in the country!

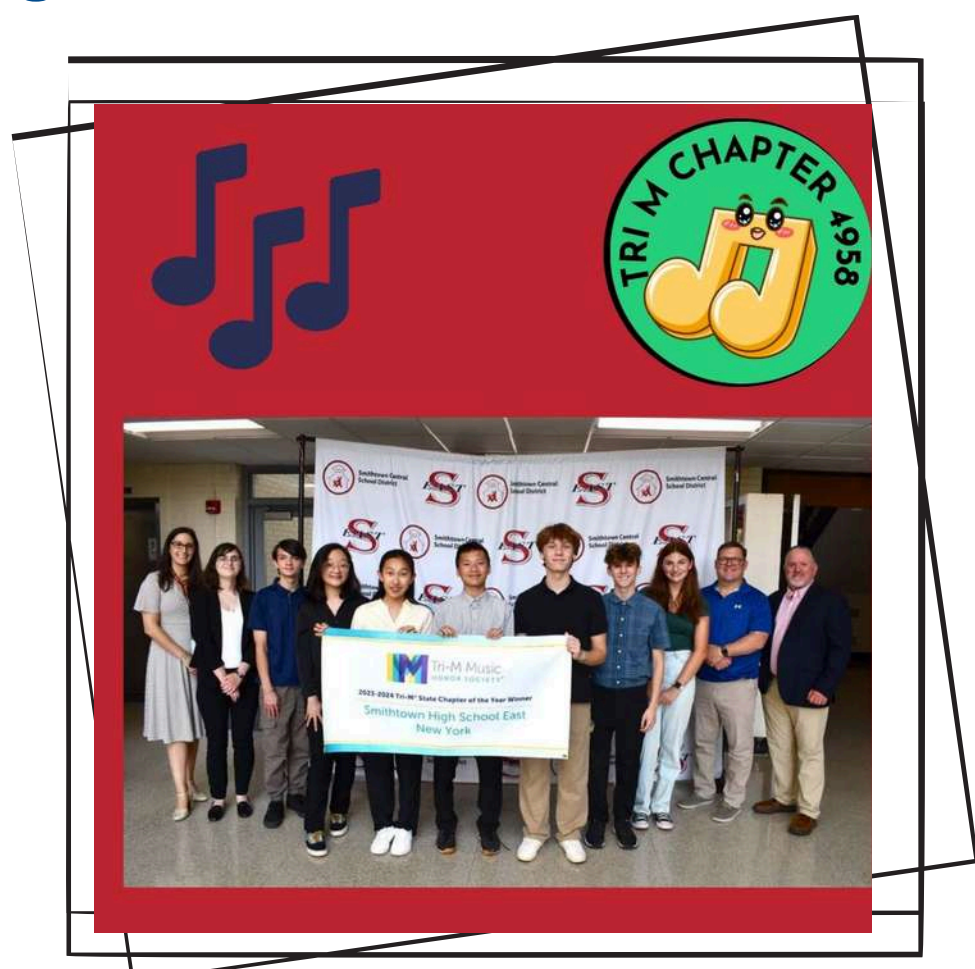
Posing for a group photo were Tri-M Advisor Joseph Cotignola, Kevin Castellano, Saaketh Manepalli, Aidyn Rios, Marielle Krockta and Ethan Kim.

Left to right, front row: Nicholas Stallone, Rose Link, Alia Romanelli, Jia Macalinao, Director of Fine Arts Victoria Hartman and Principal William Holl.

National Tri M Music Honor Society, Chapter 4958, of High School East, was awarded Chapter of the year for NY State! The group, under the direction of Mr. Brian McCoy, received a banner to commemorate this great honor.

Joining Brian for a group photo was High School East Principal, Robert Rose, SCSD Director of Fine Arts, Victoria Hartman, and Tri M officers Carter Lam, Jolene Cao, Dylan Sininsky, Juliet Chong, Erik Raschdorf, Carson Hart, Laurie Kratochvil and Sophia Leodis.

Congratulations to all students and teachers!!!





# SCSD ACHIEVEMENTS

## GOING GOLD!

Students and staff rocked gold laces and other articles of clothing in support of the Lace Up for Kids campaign, part of the nonprofit Solving Kids' Cancer, for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

The 'Lace Up for Kids' campaign in Smithtown is made possible thanks to community member Amy Beach and her partnership with Smithtown Central School District, under the leadership of SCSD Superintendent Dr. Mark Secaur.

Additionally, giant gold awareness ribbons, donated courtesy of the Thomas Scully Foundation, were on display throughout the district.

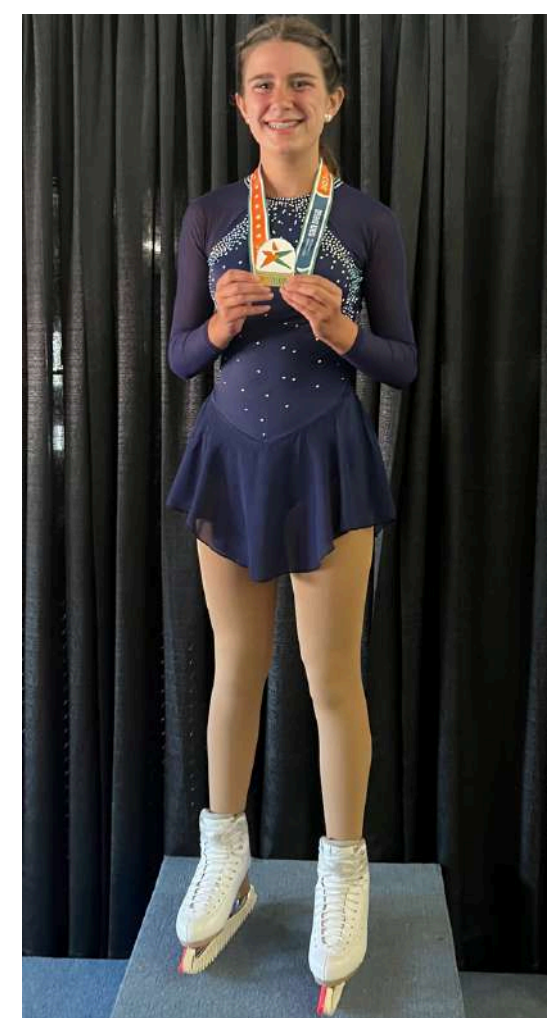


## SUPER SKATER!!!



Audrey Spampinato, an eighth grade student at Nesaquake Middle School, won first place in freestyle figure skating this past July at the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California.

Audrey's stellar performance qualifies her for the 2026 State Games of America, where she'll aim to repeat as a national champion.





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## THE SMITHTOWN PROMISE

The Smithtown Central School District, under the direction of Superintendent Dr. Mark Secaur, is proud to introduce, The Smithtown Promise. “This new and exciting initiative serves as a strong reminder that each and every one of our students has dignity, belongs here, has the capacity to make a positive difference and can excel,” said Dr. Secaur.

“The Smithtown Promise outlines four principles and 16 habits for adults and young people to establish and nurture,” Dr. Secaur continued. “These principles and habits will be reinforced throughout the school system and will allow us to better create a culture of dignity for our students.”

One can find the Smithtown Promise [HERE](#)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Did you know September 9 is the most popular birthday in the United States?

It is, and several SCSD students share that special day!

Newsday recently published a story about the popular birthday date, and took a photo and video of several students at Accomsett Elementary School.

AES students Vince Bonaventura, Gabriella Menghi, Viviana Adams, Ava Calandra, James Calandra and Accomsett Middle School student George Vassilas all share Sept. 9 as a birthday, and posed for a picture for a Newsday photographer.



Read the article [HERE](#)





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## 9/11 CEREMONIES

The Smithtown Central School District marked the 23rd anniversary of 9/11 within each of its schools Wednesday morning, September 11.

Special ceremonial wreaths were presented at High School East and High School West.

At East, Bill Coderre, Social Studies and Leadership teacher and Commander of the American Legion Post 833, hosted the ceremony which took place outside by the “Survivor Tree” which was planted years ago in memory of those lost during that tragic day.

Superintendent Mark Secaur reflected on the “level of unity” our country shared 23 years ago, “a level of unity we should never forget.”

At High School West, the ceremony began with a presentation of our Nation’s colors by the Smithtown Fire Department Color Guard. The Color Guard was introduced by West Assistant Principal, Scott Johnson, a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve

A special thank you to SCSD Director of Social Studies, Charles Benvenuto, for organizing these events.



## PICTURE PERFECT!

When Mills Pond librarian/school media specialist, Meghan Dyckova, is out of school she enjoys taking pictures of nature, so imagine her surprise when her friend in Virginia noticed a picture in Birds and Blooms magazine that Meghan took.

“I screamed and jumped up and down,” Meghan told us. The picture was of a squirrel snacking on seeds in her son’s toy car in her backyard.

“I saw it out of my window and grabbed my camera fast.” Meghan says sometimes her 4th graders at Mills Pond write poems on her nature photos instead of using photos they find on Google.

Awesome!





# SPORTS ZONE

## HAPPY HOMECOMING



Students, families, staff and community members turned out on a beautiful, sunny afternoon to watch the High School East homecoming parade and cheer on the East football team as the Bulls defeated Copiague, 30-27!

The parade was led by the marching band, followed by East junior varsity and varsity cheerleaders, the East Whisperettes kickline and more!

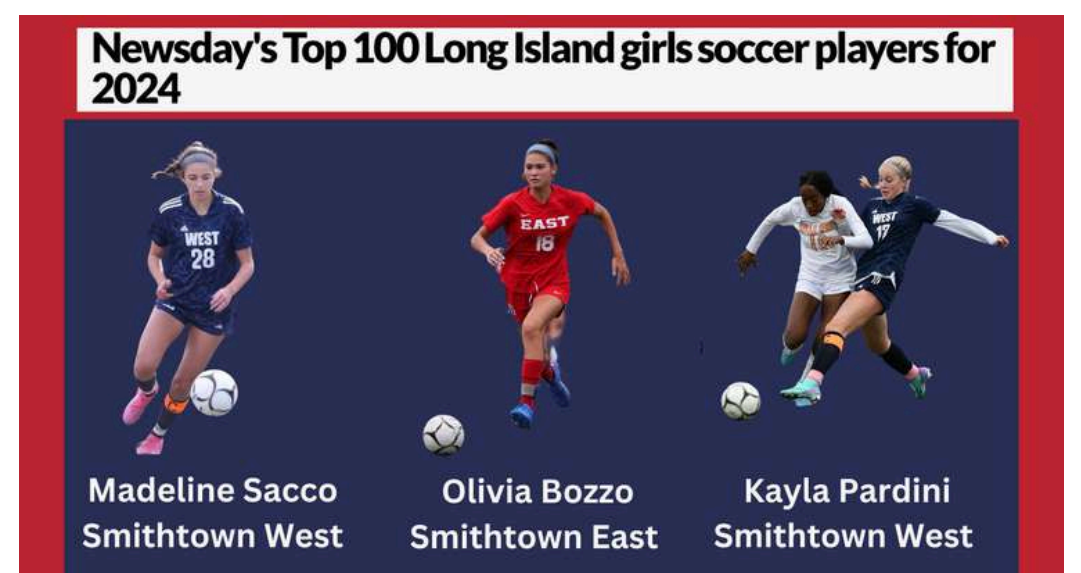
The halftime show featured performances by the varsity cheerleaders and the National Champion Whisperettes. Finally, the homecoming court took the field to announce the 2024 king and queen – Steven Ciralo and Sofia Puleo!



## BEST OF THE BEST!



High School East's Olivia Bozzo and High School West's Kayla Pardini and Madeline Sacco have been named three of Newsday's Top 100 Long Island girls soccer players for 2024! Congratulations!



## GOOOAAALLLL!!!



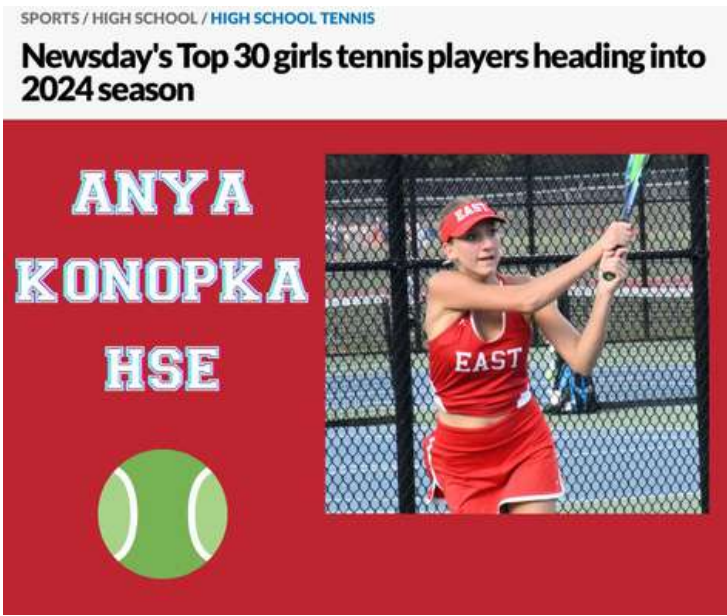
Congratulations to Jake Hutter, James Martino and Peyton McGrade on being named three of Newsday's Top 100 boys soccer players for 2024! Of course, the boys led the Bulls to the Long Island Championship last season!





GAME...SET...MATCH! 🎾

Congratulations to High School East's Anya Konopka on being named to Newsday's top 30 girls tennis players for the 2024 season! The two-time Newsday All-Long Island selection won the Suffolk singles title last year and advanced to the round of 16 in the state tournament.



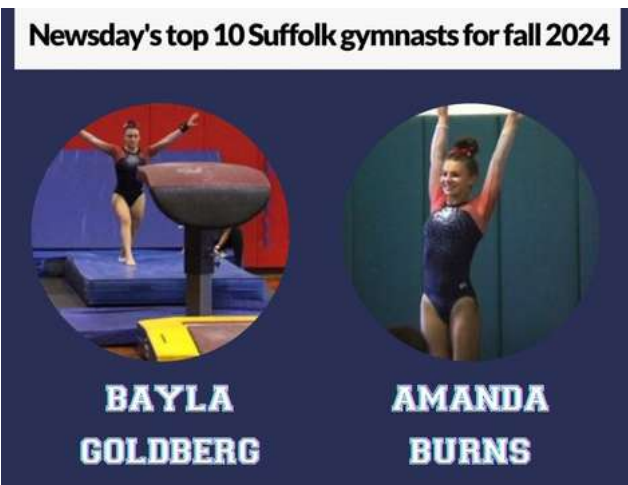
BUMP...SET...SCORE! 🏐

Smithtown East's Alex Arroyo and Smithtown West's Taylor Marsh were named two of Newsday's top girls volleyball players!



YOU GO, GIRLS! 🤸‍♀️

Congratulations to Bayla Goldberg and Amanda Burns on being named to Newsday's top 10 Suffolk gymnasts!



PERFECT IN THE POOL! 🏊‍♀️

Twin sisters Julia Lucca and Sarah Lucca of High School West were named to Newsday's top 25 swimmers for the 2024 season!

