

The STANDARD

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MARRIAGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUCTION YIELDS PERSONALIZED APPROACH

Aligning curriculum, technology and community, Deer Park's commitment to the Future Ready Schools initiative will maximize digital learning opportunities for students as it puts the district in the vanguard of transitioning to a more personalized approach to college and career readiness. The FRS program involves engaging varied stakeholders to create a plan, using that plan to develop a vision for the district, enhancing the district's instructional technology plan and implementing the vaunted International Society for Technology in Education standards.

"This isn't just a technology initiative," said Christopher Kauter, the district's administrator of instructional technology,

who is spearheading the program in Deer Park along with District Administrator for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Danielle Sheridan and District Administrator for Secondary Curriculum and Instruction Jeanne Kozlowsky. "Because it is 2017, as we move forward with any instructional type of philosophy, technology is really intertwined and woven into the core of anything we do. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter if you have the shiniest, coolest piece of technology, if it's not affecting curriculum and instruction, it's really a \$1,000 paperweight."

The crux of the FRS program is the formation of a districtwide committee to analyze where Deer Park stands in regard to each of

seven different "gears" – consisting of curriculum, instruction and assessment; use of space of time; robust infrastructure; data and privacy; community partnerships; personalized professional learning; and budget and resources – via a self-assessment of more than 100 questions. A report will then be generated by FRS, providing essential feedback.

"The report will function like a self-audit, showing exactly where the district is proficient or deficient," Kauter said. "From that baseline point, we can build our plan going forward."

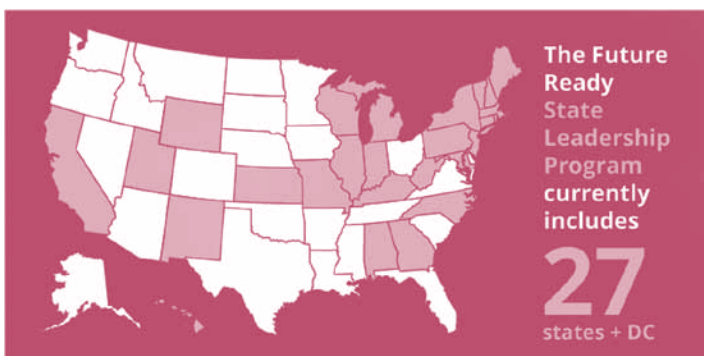
The committee includes building principals, curriculum associates, teachers and even two students.

"Every group is highlighted in this model," said Kauter. "I'm excited about it because it brings everyone to the table to give

input on where they think we can go in the future. It's a pretty big undertaking, but because we have a committee with multiple layers of stakeholders, the plan we develop will be collaborative."

The committee made its initial presentation to the Board of Education this past July, and the team is tackling the assessment in October. Rather than being a finite activity with a set final goal and end point, the Future Ready Schools project is not only ongoing but has a fluid timeline, reflecting its directive to "share, connect and repeat."

"There's no final product here," said Kauter. "We will be constantly reevaluating and going back, almost like a science experiment."



'SOCIAL'-IZING SAFETY PRESENTATION

on Superintendent's Conference Day



The district's annual Superintendent's Conference Day in September was highlighted by a safety presentation on social media and electronic communications by attorney Joseph Lilly

of the firm Frazer & Feldman, Garden City, New York.

After providing some background on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and how education records include all information relating to a student, including printed and computer records such as teacher's emails, Lilly went over the district's computer usage, social media and internet policies, both during and outside work hours. He then delved into the basics of free speech in relation to teachers, using numerous well-known case law examples such as *Monroe v. Central Bucks School District*.

"It's a serious subject," Lilly told the district's educators, noting their special position in society. "What you say on the internet can have lasting and serious repercussions. As a teacher who interacts with the public, because of that special position you hold, even when you express things on the internet that for another person might be protected by the Constitution, if your speech is disruptive to the operation of the school and its ability to provide an important service to the public, the courts say that the school district's interest in providing that service is going to outweigh the teacher's interest of expression."

Lilly then suggested some best practices for district employee use of the internet and websites, and urged them to exercise a level of care in using social media, such as not commenting on or befriending students.

"These guidelines I'm giving you are to help you avoid anyone ever questioning your integrity or professionalism," he said.



Jeanne Kozlowsky



Kristen Anisis



Sean O'Brien



Ashley Rosenberg



David DePrima



Heather Levine

The District Welcomes Six New Administrators

The district has welcomed six administrators for the new school year, three promoted from within Deer Park's schools.

Former high school associate principal Jeanne Kozlowsky has been named the new district administrator for secondary curriculum and instruction, replacing Christine Criscione. Before serving as associate principal at the high school for seven years, Kozlowsky worked as a math teacher at the school for six years.

David DePrima was named district administrator of secondary special education, replacing Brian Norton. An alumnus from Deer Park High School's Class of 1999, DePrima had previously worked as a special education social studies teacher for the district since September 2003.

Kristen Anisis and Sean O'Brien are the new associate principals at the high school, taking over from Victor LoMonaco and Kozlowsky. Anisis previously worked as an

English teacher at Freeport High School, while O'Brien worked as a school counselor at Elmont Memorial High School and a guidance counselor at Roosevelt High School.

Heather Levine will serve as associate principal at John Quincy Adams and May Moore, replacing Celeste Archer. Levine last worked as a special education administrator for the Connetquot Central School District, and before that, as a special education teacher, chairperson and supervisor, as well as an instructional coach for the New York City Department of Education.

Ashley Rosenberg is the new district administrator of world languages and ENL. She taught ENL at May Moore for the last four years and previously served as a first-grade classroom teacher of primarily English Language Learners for the New York City Department of Education in Brooklyn.

BOND UPDATE

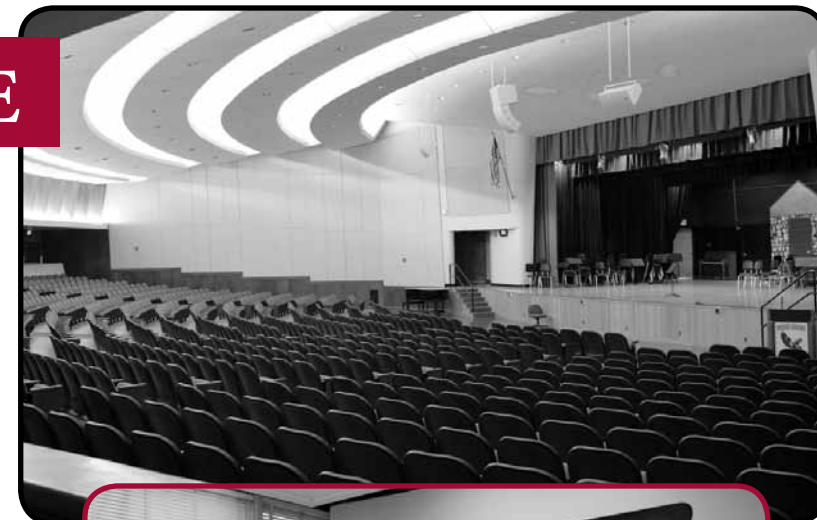
"The district is very excited about our bond work, which started this past summer and will continue through this year and into next summer," said Superintendent of Schools Eva Demyen. "We are very thankful for the community's support, which makes this all possible."

These important upgrades – all either complete or in the final stages – included:

- *New roofs at JFK, JQA and Memorial.*
- *A world-class music suite at JFK.*
- *Sound and lighting upgrades to the high school auditorium.*
- *New security vestibules at the high school and JFK.*
- *Upgraded locker rooms at Robert Frost.*
- *New bathrooms at the high school and JFK.*

"We are overjoyed at JFK to have a new, modern space for classes to meet in our music suite for general music and lessons," said Principal Susan Bonner. "The space was a much needed addition in order to accommodate our students' growing interest in music."

"The projects completed at the high school have continued to allow our students and staff to work in an environment that is conducive to learning in the 21st century," said Principal Charles Cobb. "These upgrades have only enhanced a building that our custodial staff works tirelessly to maintain. They are projects that our school and community should be most proud of."



VISITOR SCREENING SYSTEM to Make Schools More Secure

As one of the projects approved by the Smart Schools Bond, the district is rolling out a new visitor management system soon at all five Deer Park schools, serving to strengthen safety protocols and provide a higher level of security and control over who is in the schools at any time.

The new screening system will be both simple and effective. Once a parent or guest arrives at one of the schools, they will identify themselves and their ID will be scanned into the system. A label will then be printed with the visitor's name, which the guest will put on before being given access to the building.

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DIGITAL INNOVATOR PROGRAM

DEER PARK UFSD // DEER PARK, NEW YORK

Developing Deer Park's Digital Innovators

Ten district teachers – the high school's Katelyn O'Brien; John Heeg, Matthew Oleaga, Jon Steigerwald and Scott Surdi from Robert Frost; Michael Capobianco, Thomas Fitzmaurice and Lori Palopali of JFK; and Dana Grafstein and Sue Steinman from May Moore – were recently chosen to participate in Deer Park's new Digital Innovator Program. The goal of the program is to align classroom instruction with technology, rather than vice versa.

"In the past, teachers would often ask how to use a piece of tech in the classroom, rather than focusing on what the instructional goal or

outcome is, and then using the technology to get there," explained Christopher Kauter, the district's administrator of instructional technology, who developed the program. "It's been a lot of reflection and sharing."

The Digital Innovator Program uses ongoing monthly collegial workgroup sessions to allow sharing multilayered ideas for technology use with peers and administrators, focusing on areas such as digital classrooms and storytelling, makerspace education, coding, curriculum development, and establishing learning spaces.

FOUR GRADS COMPLETE PRESTIGIOUS HONORS PROGRAM

Four high school alumni – Anne Ambrosio, Ahmadi Aydelott, Kenneth Del Cid and Michael Verdicchio – completed the prestigious honors program at Suffolk County Community College's Grant Campus. The four students were honored for this academic achievement at the college's 32nd annual Honors Program Convocation earlier this year.