

The STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HIGHLIGHTING *New Secondary Electives*

Reaffirming the district's commitment to offering innovative academic programs to prepare Deer Park's secondary students for college and careers, several new and recent electives have been initiated at Deer Park High School and Robert Frost Middle School.

Computer Science

The computer science program is expanding every year, with three different courses currently running across the two secondary buildings. The program began in 2019 at Deer Park High School with Intro to Computer Science, with help from high school business teacher Jill Perry-Eising. An AP Computer Science Principles course was added next, followed by a new Computer Science Explorations course at Robert Frost Middle School. The department itself has also grown since then, with teachers including Kevin McCreech and new hire Cassidy Velle.

Computer Science Explorations at Robert Frost is an introductory class where students can dabble in many different types of computer science. Using the Python language, they create apps, music, pictures and interactive components of the applications. Once students move up to high school, the district offers the intro class, where students are exposed to many different languages, both in-depth (HTML

and CSS) and surface-level (Javascript), and work on building websites and the beginnings of apps and games. The Advanced Placement curriculum has been enhanced by Velle, who has brought an exciting and interactive flair to the course, which focuses on computational thinking and learning software and hardware. During every lesson, Velle provides a hands-on activity that exemplifies how computer systems and the internet work, using materials like yarn, string and the human body. The students then sit down at the computer and learn the terminology behind these representations.

"My students were working in groups of six to build networks," Velle said regarding a recent project. "They were given string and multiple guidelines that they needed to consider in order to determine the best network. Through the activity, they explored pathways, bandwidth, computer networks,



computer systems and computing devices without even realizing it. Following the activity, the students were introduced to these terms and asked to connect them to what they just did."

The district plans to add a second AP course next year. In computer science extracurricular activities, Frost's Coding Club is going strong, and a high school Computer Science Club, run by Velle, has been added for the first time this year.

"We are really trying to grow this computer science program, both inside and outside the classroom," Director of Mathematics and Business Christine Gill said.

College DIGITAL GENERATION



Taught by business teacher Ian Kyranakis, the College Digital Generation course began in the 2020-2021 school year, under the leadership of Executive Director of Secondary Education and Human Resources Jeanne Kozlowsky. Students enrolled

in this college-level course receive credit through Stony Brook University. They collaborate in mixed groups with students from other districts on Long Island, including Bay Shore, East Northport, Lindenhurst, Northport, Riverhead, South Huntington, West

Continued on page 2

College DIGITAL GENERATION

Babylon and Westhampton Beach. They work virtually throughout the semester, meeting in person three times, either in the different school buildings or at Stony Brook. First, they learn about the components of a chosen research topic, such as infographics, social media, interviewing, logo creation, market research, newsletters, PSAs or websites. Then, they get together with their groups to create the end product.

“It’s really about teaching students how to be digitally literate in today’s society and how to use the digital world as a benefit for their life,” Gill said. “It’s a digital literacy class, but it involves a

collaborative piece so that they walk away with skills in public speaking and how to socialize and work with people they don’t know.”

“College Digital Generation provides our students with the unique opportunity to work collaboratively with students from other school districts while utilizing the latest technology,” Kyranakis said. “The skills that they learn in this course will certainly benefit them in the future, both in college and the workplace.”



VIRTUAL ENTERPRISE



Virtual Enterprise, a new, innovative business elective at the high school taught by Annemarie Lenio, provides students with a unique, hands-on experience in managing an online business through a global simulation platform. With over 3,000 virtual businesses worldwide, VE allows students to engage in a dynamic learning environment where they take charge of various aspects of running a business, such as human resources, accounting, production, distribution, marketing and sales. This comprehensive approach allows students to gain a deep understanding of how different departments and teams collaborate within a real business setting to drive success.

One of the initial weeks of the course is dedicated to team-building activities, where students get to know each other and build essential teamwork skills. They kick-start their

entrepreneurial journey by presenting their elevator pitch and participate in a Marshmallow Challenge, which involves using string, spaghetti, tape and a marshmallow to build the tallest structure within a time constraint. Following this, students embark on a creative journey to formulate ideas for the class company, exploring global problems and brainstorming solutions. Each team presents their ideas to their peers, undergoes a rigorous question-and-answer session, and engages in a class vote to decide the company’s product or service offering. With their company concept in place, the students take on specific roles within the company and undergo a professional application process, which includes submitting resumes and cover letters to a hiring committee made up of school administrators, guidance counselors, business teachers, retired teachers and business leaders. Once selected for their respective roles, students work diligently to solidify the company’s foundation and make it competitive within the VE marketplace.

“At the end of the day, the VE students get a real experience of what it’s like to be in the business world, and it helps the kids to identify if they want to pursue a career in business and what specific field within business,” Gill said.

“This course not only provides valuable hands-on experience, but also offers the potential to earn up to six college credits through Farmingdale State College, preparing students for a successful future in the business world,” Lenio said.

DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOLERS SHARE HERITAGE AT **PASSPORT** to Culture

During Superintendent's Conference Day on Nov. 8, Deer Park High School held its second annual Passport to Culture, a student-run event celebrating the traditions of the many different countries that reflect the students' global cultural backgrounds. District administrators, teachers and staff were invited to visit different rooms at the high school to learn about some of these various cultural elements, including

cuisines, music, dances, activities and products, to gain greater understanding of the rich diversity present in the student body. Students shared facts about their native countries as well as their personal experiences and immigration stories, providing the educators with important insights and tools to enhance compassion and find creative future opportunities for the students to share their experiences in the classroom.



"I learned a lot from this experience and I was proud to share my culture with teachers and other faculty."

- Student Devin Cherry

"I really loved presenting and teaching about my culture to the teachers. They were all supportive. I understood how hard it was standing all day and teaching. I enjoyed it very much and I think everyone who came to the school on that day also enjoyed and learned a lot about the various cultures."

- Student Naga Lakshmi Meghana Akula



"This was a special day of acknowledgment. Our students were so excited to share with our staff about themselves and their family heritage. In my opinion, there is no greater gift than to give value and importance to a person. By embracing our cultural differences, we choose to unite this community. Sharing life together without judgement makes us stronger I am honored and proud to be part of this amazing school community."

- Board of Education President Donna Marie Elliott



"The Passport to Culture extravaganza was the most meaningful professional learning experience I've participated in since I started working in Deer Park. It had a profound impact on me, as well as all of the staff members who I've spoken to about it."

- Executive Director of Elementary Education Danielle Sheridan



*****ECRWSS***
Postal Customer**

DEER PARK HOLDS INAUGURAL ATHLETIC *Hall of Fame Induction*



It was an evening of celebration and reunion as the Deer Park School District's athletic department inducted nine individual athletes, three coaches, three honorary members and one former team to its inaugural Hall of Fame, held in the auditorium on Oct. 13. After each inductee was presented and given a commemorative plaque, they were invited to view their announcement plaques placed on the school's new Hall of Fame wall outside of the school gymnasium.

"Each of you left your mark at Deer Park High School in your own unique and special way," said Athletic Director Dominick Fontana. "Your hard work, dedication, passion and abilities were recognized back then, and I am proud to say will now be remembered forever."

Congratulations to the following inductees:

TEAM CATEGORY:

1978 Deer Park High School
Softball Team

**HONORARY MEMBERS
CATEGORY:**

Al Centamore (Class of 1965)
Denise Maniscalco
Frances Theiss (Class of 1980)

COACHES CATEGORY:

Carmine Argenziano (Class of 1964)
Warren Deutsch
Ed Luksik

ATHLETES CATEGORY:

Kevin Baugh (Class of 1980)
Michael Becker (Class of 1977)
Adam Brown (Class of 1995)
Joseph Downey (Class of 1980)
Raymond Downey (Class of 1985)
Aaren Edmead (Class of 2014)
Ryan Kelly (Class of 1999)
Timothy Layden (Class of 2001)
Thomas Migliozi (Class of 1987)

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Capital improvement work across the district has continued, with several major projects recently completed, many focused on improving air quality:

- Installed districtwide solar panels; exterior lighting; weatherization; AC, heating and refrigeration controllers; and pipe and valve insulation
- Installed windows and doors at DPHS career center
- Installed walk-in freezer and dumbwaiter at DPHS
- Installed new boiler and pumps at Frost
- Installed walk-in freezer and cooler at Frost and JFK
- Installed no-climb fence around freezer and transformer at Frost
- Installed no-climb fence around transformers at JFK and May Moore
- Upgraded electrical system and installed new switch gear at JFK
- Installed new Snoezelen multi-sensory environment rooms for relaxation and anxiety reduction at JFK and May Moore

- Installed new serving lines at JQA and May Moore
- Replaced 4-foot fences with 6-foot fences at JQA and May Moore
- Installed lighting and cost-saving Univent steam traps at Abraham Lincoln

Other important projects that are in progress:

- Installation of districtwide FloWater stainless steel water cooler dispensers with medical-grade filtration technology
- Districtwide boiler plant optimization
- Installation of air conditioners at DPHS
- Installation of auditorium lighting at DPHS
- Upgrading of vestibule at DPHS
- Replacement of 4-foot fence with 6-foot fence at DPHS track
- Installation of new boiler doors at Frost
- Replacement of electrical room door at JFK
- Installation of new kitchen doors and updating of kitchen bathroom at May Moore

Senior JORDAN TROJAN

Earns Perfect AP Score and National Merit Commended Student Status

Deer Park High School senior Jordan Trojan recently earned a perfect score on the AP Computer Science Principles exam, which he took this past May. Advanced Placement exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5. Trojan not only received the top score of 5, but was also one of only 459 students in the world to earn every point possible on the test, receiving the maximum score on each portion of the exam.

Additionally, Trojan has been named a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is one of only 34,000 Commended Students recognized nationwide for their exceptional academic achievement. Their high scores place them among the top 50,000 of over 1.5 million students who took the 2022 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

