



TIDE

Work Experiences

PREPARE

Future Professionals

Through dozens of community partnerships, students at Amityville Memorial High School are getting valuable work experience in a variety of fields. The district's work experience program has grown exponentially in recent years to provide a glimpse into potential career paths for the future workforce.

"The vision for the Amityville Union Free School District is to serve the diverse needs of each and every student while assisting them in reaching their full potential," said business educator said Dr. Diane Impagliazzo. "This will ensure that our students will thrive in their future endeavors and be college and career ready. Our program offers students hands-on work experiences that directly relate to their own career goals."

Dr. Impagliazzo and Transition Coordinator Karen Gross oversee the work experience program and help place students into jobs with department stores, libraries, nursing homes, restaurants, supermarkets and more. Additionally, students

have gained work experience in the school district, the Village of Amityville and the Town of Babylon. Ms. Gross is a member of the Amityville Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, which has created connections for job placements. An annual Business Advisory Board meeting is held in the high school library each year to further develop professional relationships among students, staff and professionals.

Since the establishment of the work experience program in 2015, hundreds of students have gotten paid employment and internships. Additionally, they have taken advantage of job-shadowing opportunities and field trips to local businesses for worksite tours. Students interested in engineering have been connected with professionals working with the district on expansions and renovations to Amityville's school buildings.

"Giving students exposure to jobs, careers and professions gives them opportunities to make connections and identify areas



Amityville Memorial High School sophomore Randy Rodriguez works at The Dinghy Shop, a job he found through the school district's connection with local businesses.

they might want to go into," Ms. Gross said. "These experiences are invaluable."

The program's benefits include the ability to apply classroom learning to workplace experiences, improved awareness of postsecondary opportunities, an understanding of positive work habits and professionalism, increased knowledge of workplace expectations and required skills, and enhanced workplace competencies such as communication and teamwork.

The work experience program isn't limited to job placements in the community. The district partners with Junior Achievement to offer educational programs at the elementary level taught by Amityville high school students. The PAES lab at Edmund W. Miles Middle School supports students in the life skills program with job training opportunities. A new partnership with the education department at St. Joseph's College led to the creation of new high school electives for aspiring teachers who can earn up to six college credits. Every

summer, Amityville students take part in Stony Brook University's Health Careers Academic and Readiness Excellence program, in which they get to learn about different aspects of the medical field.

"Our students need to be ready for the challenges of the competitive job market," Dr. Impagliazzo said. "Work experience programs are a proven strategy through which our students gain the skills and credentials they need to enter and succeed in the workforce."

Our partnerships with Amityville businesses, local government and educational institutions is providing students with meaningful and practical workplace experiences that will benefit them tremendously in their future careers. We are so grateful to the many employers who give our students a chance for hands-on job training in a variety of fields.

**-Dr. Mary T. Kelly
Superintendent of Schools**

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RANDY RODRIGUEZ,
The Dinghy Shop

In early September, sophomore Randy Rodriguez began working at The Dinghy Shop, a business in south Amityville that provides boating, kayaking and paddleboarding supplies and services. He works there every Saturday, with his responsibilities ranging from cleaning the store to stocking inventory to interacting with customers.

Randy said that the customer service experience is extremely valuable, and he is also gaining an understanding about the world of retail. He noted that he has great co-workers and a very supportive boss who has been helping him learn the ins and outs of the business.

"In a future career path," Randy said, "I'll have the experience of working with other people. This has been fun and very valuable to me, something I'll never forget."

Randy added that he hopes to go into a career in law enforcement.



EMILY MENDOZA,
Village of Amityville

In the summer of 2019, junior Emily Mendoza worked at Amityville Village Hall, assisting the deputy treasurer and secretary to the mayor. She was assigned a significant project in which she categorized birth and death records dating as far back as 1930.

Emily explained that the project required her to digitize paper records, so she spent a lot of time scanning old birth and death certificates. She said it required patience and determination, as she was committed to completing the project during her two-month summer employment.

She said the experience taught her the value of working in a supportive environment as she was welcomed by the Village Hall staff. They assisted Emily in learning the programs she would need to use for the project.

"They were amazing," she said. "I wanted to grow and learn what it was like to work at the Village Hall and experience what they experience. I plan to go back this summer because I want to learn more from them."



JESSICA JEANTY,
Amityville Union Free School District

A summer job in the transportation department at the district's central office building has continued into the school year for junior Jessica Jeanty. During the summer, she worked five hours a day on weekdays, assisting the department supervisor. Her responsibilities included answering phones, sending out letters to families regarding bus stops for the 2019-20 school year and sorting and labeling files.

"I became a lot more organized in my own life," she said as one of the benefits of the job. "It has helped keep me on top of things."

Jessica said it also improved her communication skills, as she spoke with parents who had transportation questions and assisted them in speaking to the right people.

In looking for a productive summer activity, Jessica said she was very happy to get the job in the district's transportation office, and it has given her valuable work experience that will benefit her in the future. She is exploring possible careers in psychiatry or forensics.



JASMIN LUCERO,
Amityville Union Free School District

For the past two summers, Jasmin has worked in the district through a New York State Department of Labor employment program. In the summer of 2018, she assisted custodians at Northeast Elementary School and this past summer worked with secretaries in the Amityville Memorial High School guidance office.

In the guidance department, she helped with summer school paperwork, registration and providing transcripts to Amityville graduates. She said she sought out the opportunities to earn additional money for college.

Additionally, for the past two years, Jasmin has been involved with Junior Achievement's High School Heroes program. As an aspiring social studies teacher, she said this has been an extremely valuable experience.

PROFILES IN WORK STUDY



JOEY SLACK,
Town of Babylon

Senior Joey Slack had his first job experience this past summer working as a counselor for the day camp program at Phelps Lane pool in North Babylon, hosted by the Town of Babylon's Parks and Recreation Department. Among his responsibilities were taking the young campers to the different daily activities, such as the playground and the pool, and ensuring they were having fun and staying safe.

"I want to become a teacher, so it opened my eyes to see what it takes and how kids respond to you," he said. "It also gave me insight into how kids interact with each other."

Recognizing that the children looked up to him, Joey said it was important for him to be a role model and build trust with the youngsters. He said that the experience showed him what it takes to be successful in a job.

Joey has also participated in Junior Achievement's High School Heroes program. The combined experiences of High School Heroes and the summer camp have confirmed his desire to become an elementary school teacher.



GENESIS PEREZ,
Town of Babylon and SCOPE

Through the Town of Babylon's Ujima program, which provides minority high school students with opportunities to participate in local government through hands-on training, junior Genesis Perez was able to work at the Marks of Excellence child care center in North Amityville.

Genesis worked as a camp counselor, assisting children with arts and crafts projects. She said one of her favorite activities was when they worked together to build a robot. She also helped the children plan and choreograph a dance for the end-of-year showcase.

On Fridays, Genesis would travel to Town Hall to meet with other students in the program to share experiences and visit different town facilities.

Presently, she is working for SCOPE at an after-school program at the Great Neck Road School in Copiague. She helps children with their homework and supervises craft activities, among other responsibilities.

Genesis, an aspiring teacher, also participates in Junior Achievement's High School Heroes program and is enrolled in the new education course at Amityville Memorial High School, offered in partnership with St. Joseph's College.



NICOLE MONACO AND GREGORY DICKERSON
Dominican Village

Seniors Gregory Dickerson and Nicole Monaco have both gained valuable experience for their planned careers by working at nursing homes in Amityville. Gregory, who wants to work in the culinary field, works in the dining hall at the Dominican Village assisted living facility. Since joining the staff a year ago, he has experienced different ends of the food service operation, including assisting with dining room setup and food preparation, cooking entrees and desserts.

"It makes me happy to see the residents enjoying themselves and their food," he said.

Nicole aspires to become a nurse and wants to work with senior citizens. She works in the dining room at Dominican Village busing tables and assisting with setup for lunch and dinner. Additionally, she assists seniors participating in recreational activities at the Massapequa Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing. The interaction she has with seniors at both facilities has been very valuable and rewarding, Nicole explained.

"It's been wonderful," she said. "I feel like I've grown over the past few years. It's great that we can learn different jobs and explore different opportunities in life."

Scan this QR CODE to see a video of students and their employers share work experience successes.



Exploring Career Opportunities at *ALL LEVELS*

Park Avenue Career Day



Students in the district get an early look at career opportunities at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School's annual Career Day. Held each November, guest speakers representing dozens of professions visit classrooms to talk to fourth, fifth and sixth graders about their jobs.

Organized by guidance counselor Kimberly Balducci, the day is intended to spark interest in potential careers and show students what they need to do during their school years to achieve their goals. Speakers include parents, alumni, Amityville merchants, first responders and representatives of local government. They discuss their career paths, education requirements, job responsibilities, daily challenges and workplace expectations, in addition to answering questions from students.

Junior Achievement

The High School Heroes program through Junior Achievement pairs students from Amityville Memorial High School with elementary and middle school students in the district for lessons on careers, community, financial literacy and government.

High school students are trained by Junior Achievement and then plan and implement lessons in the classrooms. Amityville's program began in three classes at Northwest Elementary School and has since grown. This year, nearly 40 students from the high school will visit 12 classes at Northwest, Park Avenue and Edmund W. Miles Middle School, with the curriculum geared for each grade level.

Many of the high school students who participate are interested in careers in education or child care, and gain valuable experience that helps them decide if they would like to further pursue those areas. They interact directly with children in facilitating hands-on activities which engage youngsters in learning about business and economic concepts.



PAES Lab



A classroom is devoted to career exploration at Edmund W. Miles Middle School, supporting students throughout the district in the life skills program. Through the Practical Assessment Exploration System, students explore various jobs using

real tools while developing competitive work skills.

Known as the PAES Lab, the room is filled with color-coded kits that promote growth in five areas: computer technology, construction and industrial skills, processing and production, customer service, and business and marketing. Each color represents the level of difficulty with a goal of students progressively expanding their skills and completing more complex tasks.

The district partners with South Oaks Hospital, which provides a job coach to

work with the students. Michelle Kuntz is in the PAES Lab five days per week, five hours per day to support students and work with them to meet their goals.

Transition Coordinator Karen Gross said that extensive data is collected and analyzed to help students find employment after high school based on their interests and aptitudes. Many of the students, upon completing certain tasks, are able to get jobs within the community to further expand their skills. The PAES Lab has been so successful that representatives from more than a dozen school districts have visited to look at Amityville's job-training model.

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