

TIDE

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS EMPOWER AMITYVILLE STUDENTS

An expanded curriculum is providing greater opportunities for Amityville students at all levels in addition to new technological resources that create a 21st-century learning environment.

The Foreign Language for Elementary Students program has launched for fourth, fifth and sixth graders at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School. Students are learning French the first half of the year, followed by Spanish in the second semester, which are the languages students can select in middle school. FLES teacher Francesca Chery began the year teaching greetings, letters and numbers as well as how to say their names in French. She engages them in language and culture through song.

At Northwest Elementary School, two reading teachers have been trained in the Reading Recovery program to provide intervention for first graders who need additional assistance developing their reading and writing skills. Northeast Elementary School students are learning coding during their visits to the library and participating in hands-on makerspace activities.

The district expanded its 1:1 Chromebook initiative, and now all students at Edmund W. Miles Middle School and Amityville Memorial High School have devices for use both in school

and at home. Dr. Thomas DeNicola, the assistant superintendent for technology and administrative services, said that Acer Chromebooks use the Google platform allowing teachers to post assignments and students to submit their completed work digitally using Google Classroom. There are many useful applications such as Google Docs for text documents, Google Sheets for spreadsheets and Google Slides for interactive presentations.

Two new performance-based electives have been introduced at the middle school, Dramatics and Public Speaking. Both classes help students learn to express themselves and build their confidence.

Dramatics teacher Katie Pallini said the year began by having students read monologues. As the year progresses, they will perform full scenes from plays, work with their peers on scene scripting and produce their own dramatic performances. She frequently

shows them monologue readings of professional actors to see and understand various acting techniques.

“I want them to grow not only as performers but as individuals,” Ms. Pallini said. “My hope is for them to grow through expression as they step into different characters.”

Public Speaking teacher Carlee Brunson said her goal is to help students overcome their nerves when speaking to a larger group of people. For the first assignment, each student selected a song lyric and spoke about it. Students will learn about different types of speeches, eventually working towards writing and presenting a persuasive speech as they get more comfortable.

Several new electives were introduced at Amityville Memorial High School. The social studies department is offering Facing History and Ourselves, in which students analyze how to best build and maintain democratic societies through the study of historical and current events. Two new courses are being offered through St Joseph’s College by the

English department, Foundations of Education this fall and Educational Psychology in the spring.

Senior Experience is a partnership between the English and social studies departments, which provides an opportunity for seniors to work with a school and site mentor in an area of interest and complete a second-semester internship. The class includes topics from 12th grade social studies classes Participation in Government and Economics along with English components including the creation of a research paper, preparing a multimedia presentation, professional communication and writing, and internet communication.

“We continue to expand our curriculum offerings at all levels to provide rigorous and meaningful opportunities that promote discovery, exploration, and student engagement,” Superintendent Dr. Mary T. Kelly said. “Our students continue to meet and exceed high expectations for success and achievement, and they welcome the challenge of doing so.”



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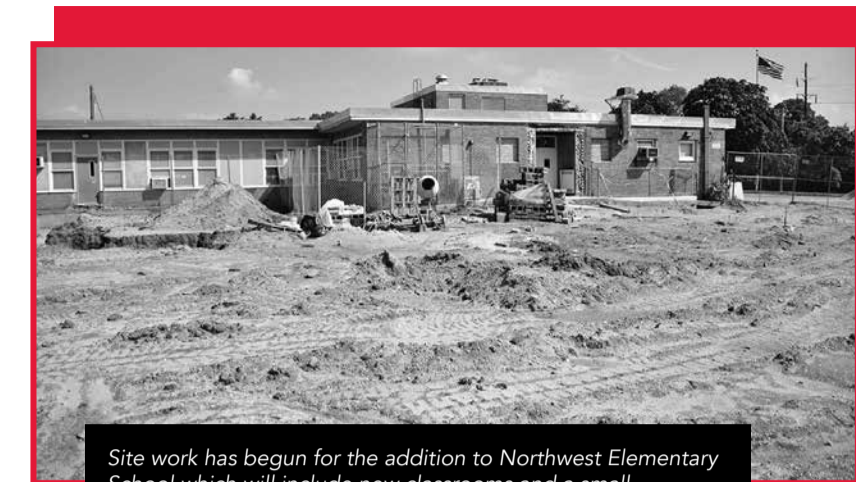
CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Construction continues throughout the district on the \$69.9 million bond, approved by voters in March 2016. Here's a look at several projects that have been recently completed or are currently in progress.

Construction progresses on the new gymnasium and locker rooms at Amityville Memorial High School.



A new lobby will be created between the classroom wing and gymnasium.



Site work has begun for the addition to Northwest Elementary School which will include new classrooms and a small gymnasium.



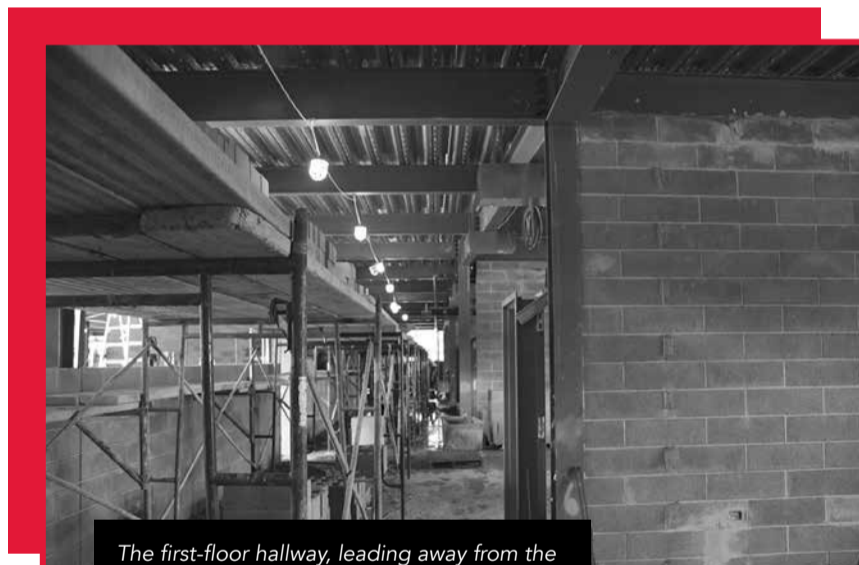
The new construction will double the size of the high school.



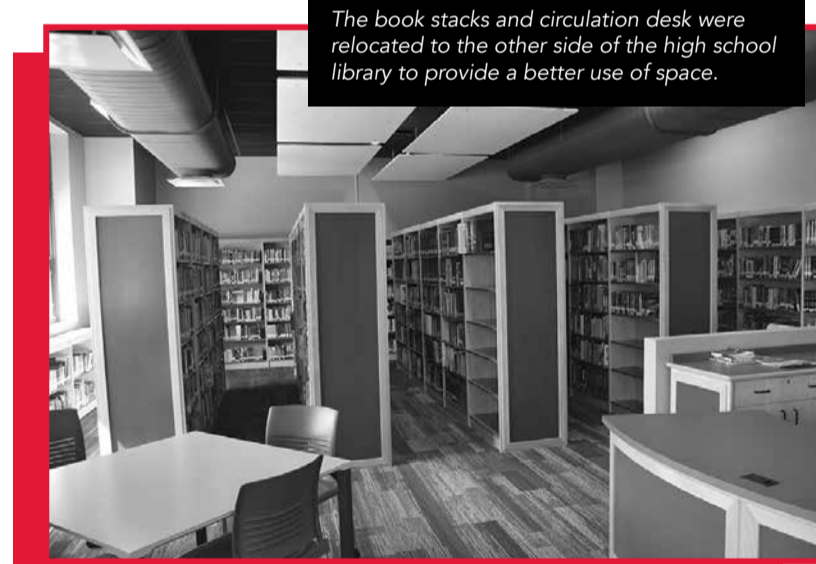
New energy-efficient windows were installed at Edmund W. Miles Middle School.



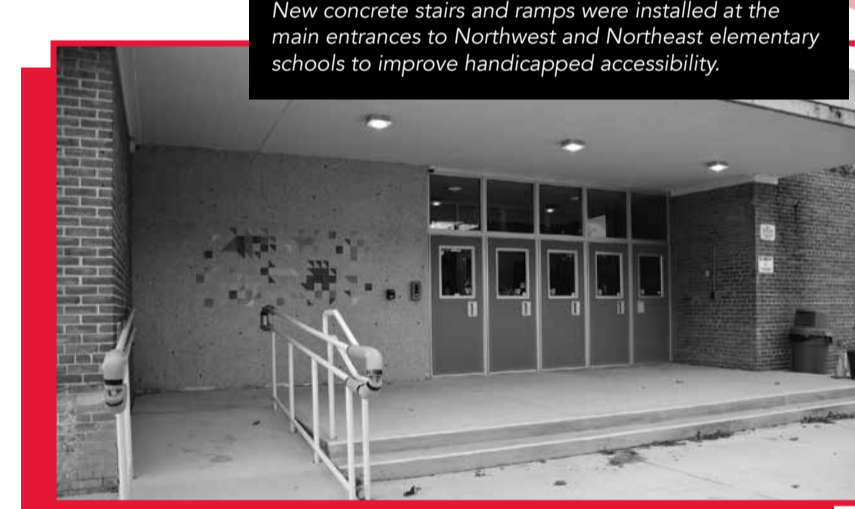
A new playground was constructed at Northwest Elementary School.



The first-floor hallway, leading away from the new gymnasium, will lead to new classrooms and state-of-the-art science laboratories.



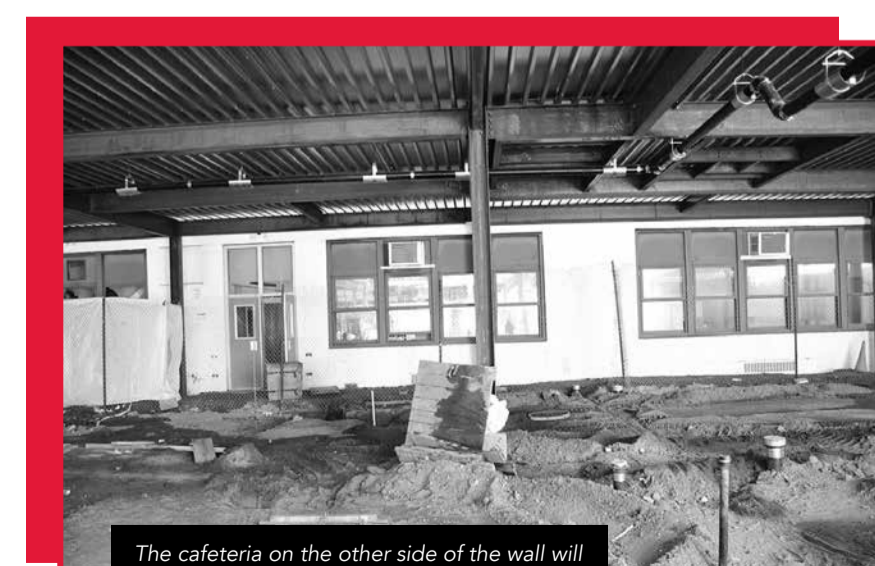
The book stacks and circulation desk were relocated to the other side of the high school library to provide a better use of space.



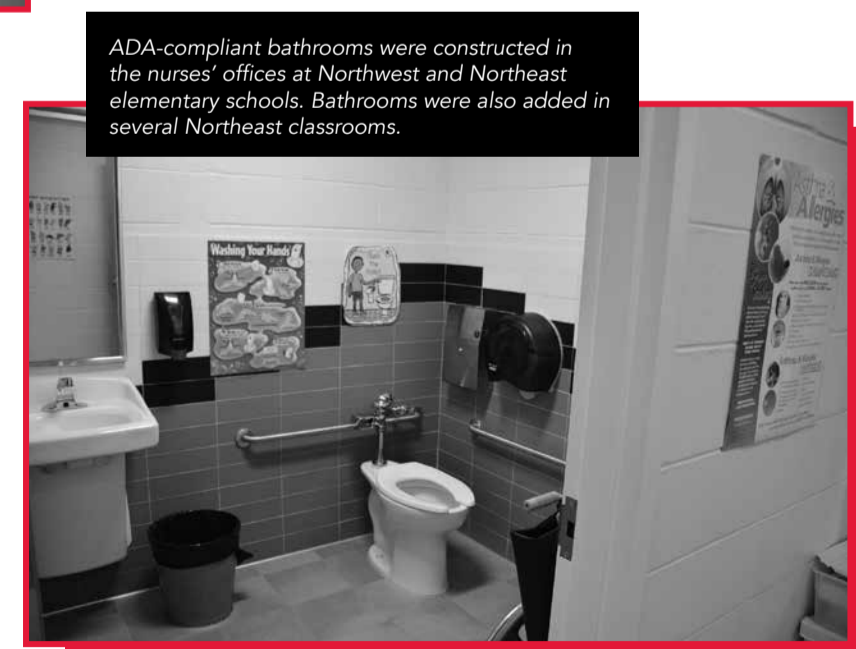
New concrete stairs and ramps were installed at the main entrances to Northwest and Northeast elementary schools to improve handicapped accessibility.



The renovated and expanded library at the high school includes numerous seating options and a floor-to-ceiling whiteboard.



The cafeteria on the other side of the wall will be expanded into this space.



ADA-compliant bathrooms were constructed in the nurses' offices at Northwest and Northeast elementary schools. Bathrooms were also added in several Northeast classrooms.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS ADVISORY COUNCIL *Moves Forward*

Acknowledging the importance of creating an educational environment that recognizes and celebrates the diversity of its student body, the district has created a Diversity and Inclusiveness Advisory Council. Comprised of Board of Education trustees, central office and building administrators, community members and parents, the council's mission is to enhance the overall environment of diversity and inclusion while striving to improve the focus on hiring and retaining quality educators. It is charged with working with school and community leaders to build awareness of the district's diversity and inclusion initiatives, with members serving as community ambassadors.

The district looks to expand the diversity of its staff through greater recruitment of qualified applicants from diverse backgrounds and retain its employees by preparing them for success. The district's commitment to expanding the diversity of its staff over the past six years is demonstrated

by increases in the diversity of its teachers and administrators. Presently, 20% of the district's teachers and 32% of the district's administrators reflect people of diverse cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds, which is well above the Long Island average of 8%.

Members of the council will serve as ambassadors of diversity and inclusion for the district; act as district and community liaisons; work with school and community leaders to build awareness of the initiatives; attend council meetings and receive periodic progress reports/updates regarding the status of the initiatives; and partner with the district to enhance the overall environment of diversity and inclusion while striving to improve the focus on hiring and retaining quality educators.

Additionally, the district has hired Dr. John Coverdale, president of the Center for Workplace Solutions, as a human resources consultant. Other initiatives include a district

diversity job fair; participation in regional diversity job fairs; a review of staff demographics, retention rates and job descriptions; and improved communication regarding job opportunities. The district has also participated in grant-funded partnerships with colleges and universities for placements of student teachers of color and opportunities for Amityville district teaching assistants and aides to pursue their teaching credentials.

"One of Amityville's greatest assets is its diversity and the district has taken significant steps to increase the diversity of its professional staff. We have increased recruitment efforts to attract highly qualified candidates of all backgrounds."

-Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools

WARRIOR PRIDE A TWO-DAY AFFAIR

Homecoming festivities kicked off after school on Oct. 18 as hundreds of students, staff and community members came together for the third annual homecoming festival.

Attendees could play bean bag toss, go bowling with pumpkins or take part in an oversized Jenga game. There was also food, dancing and a photo station.

The evening concluded with the annual bonfire on the baseball field. After the marching band played the national anthem, the Amityville Fire Department lit a stack of wooden pallets.

The following afternoon, cartoon-themed floats rolled down Broadway for the homecoming parade leading up to the varsity football game. The entire school community joined in, with floats created by the high school classes, the elementary schools, district administration and the Amityville Parent-Teacher Council. Float creators were inspired by the Disney Channel, Nickelodeon, "Sesame Street," "Spongebob Squarepants," "The Jetsons" and more.

Despite their best efforts, the varsity football team was unsuccessful against Half Hollow Hills West.

Halftime featured the marching band's tribute to Queen and a performance by the cheerleaders. The homecoming court was introduced, with Bryan Canales and Carina Wong-Schultz crowned as king and queen. Principal Edward Plaia presented Bryan with his crown and Carina with her tiara. Other members of the court included Marco Iorio, Nil Patel, Jazmin Ruiz Marcelo, Jordan Tobin, Trinity Tobin and Samuel Wong-Schultz.



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