



Hempstead Herald

The Hempstead Union Free School District

Parents Introduced To High School Transformation

Prior to the start of the new school year, parents of incoming Hempstead High School students were invited to attend one of four presentations designed to provide an in-depth look at the district's initiative to transform the high school.

On August 4th and 5th, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia discussed plans to create three separate academies at the high school starting with the 2010-2011 ninth-grade class. The plan, which will be phased in over four years, is the first of its kind on Long Island. Ninth graders will now have the option of enrolling in the College Preparatory Academy of Business and Law, the College Preparatory Academy of Math and Science or, the College Preparatory Academy of Music and Art. Parents and students were also able to meet individually with the three new principals: Mr. Dagoberto Artilles (Math and Science), Mr. David Evans (Music and Art), and Mr. James Thomas (Business and Law).

On August 25th and 26th, Dr. Garcia, Senior College Preparatory Academy Interim Principal Chy Davidson, and Dean of Students Olga Young met with parents to share the district's goals and expectations for students in the tenth through twelfth grades. Mr. Davidson and Ms. Young emphasized that improving student academic performance, graduation rates and communication are some of the academy's main goals this year.

Attendees at all of the presentations, which were all held in the high school's Little Theater, participated in a question and answer session with the administrators to discuss how the high school will operate on a daily basis as well as other pertinent information for the 2010-2011 school year.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia spoke to parents about Hempstead High School's new ninth-grade initiative.

New School Year Starts with a Vision Toward Success

The new school year began with a heightened sense of commitment on the part of the Board of Education, Administration and staff to work together to implement the district's goals of increased student achievement and success for all students. Returning students were the beneficiaries of several initiatives developed during the summer and introduced at the start of the new school year including: a Robotics program at the high school; foreign language at the elementary school (FLES); upgraded technology districtwide, including computer labs in the elementary schools, and Promethean Boards in the elementary schools, middle school, and high school, a high school theater program, and much more. In addition, extensive curriculum and professional development took place prior to the start of school to ensure that new and veteran teachers were effectively trained to meet the challenges of the 2010-2011 school year.

The Board of Education and Administration have established the following districtwide goals for the 2010-2011 school year:

- Increase student achievement
- Maintain safe schools
- Engage parents and community
- Operate with fiscal responsibility, integrity and effectiveness
- Provide strong and effective leadership at the governance, district and school levels



Senior College Preparatory Academy Interim Principal Chy Davidson told parents about the different changes that will be made at his academy.



Mr. Dagoberto Artilles, center, principal of the new ninth-grade College Preparatory Academy for Math and Science at Hempstead High School, discussed the school's coursework with parents and students.



With a little help from her mother, Shirley, Hempstead Pre-K student Alyssa Estrada distributed the school's pledge to parents and students during Orientation Day to emphasize the importance of graduating from school.



Najee Glover, 12, right, helped his brother, Nassir, 8, celebrate his first day of third grade at the Franklin School.



Dean of Students Olga Young, left, spoke to parents about the school's expectations for students for the 2010-2011 school year.



From left to right, ninth-grade academy principals: Mr. David Evans (Music and Art), Mr. Dagoberto Artilles (Math and Science), and Mr. James Thomas (Business and Law).



Franklin fifth graders Zhaneya Thomas, 10, left, and Jasmine Ceaser, 9, were all smiles after greeting each other during the first day of school.



Fulton School fifth graders Bryan Moreno, 10, left, and Robert Cedios, 10, were all smiles during recess.

Hempstead Union Free School District
Hempstead, NY 11550

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Fulton School fifth graders Yardley Ayala, 10, left, Wayne Grandison, 10, Jaylen Kirton, 9, and Lenny Juarez, 10, reminisced about their summer vacations during lunch on September 7.



Barack Obama Elementary School student Elijah Little completed interactive reading exercises on Starfall.com on September 8.

A Message from Superintendent of Schools *Dr. Patricia Garcia...*



Dear Parents, Guardians, Residents and Colleagues:

On behalf of the Hempstead Union Free School District Board of Education, I would like to welcome you to the 2010-2011 school year.

The start of a new academic year presents the opportunity for more achievements, partnerships, improvements and growth, which I know will help our district attain its goal of student success.

Education is what will enable our students to soar to new heights in their lives. As your Superintendent of Schools, my vision is to ensure that each student is educated in a safe, challenging, nurturing and academically stimulating environment. I intend to continue my work with our educators, parents, partnership organizations and the community to ensure that every child in this district is prepared for the 21st century and our global economy.

As an educational community, we face many challenges and opportunities when we are working to provide the best for our students. You have my sincerest commitment that I will work tirelessly with my staff and the Hempstead Board of Education so that our children will reach their fullest potential.

Bringing our goals to fruition, however, will be a team effort. Our district needs the support, commitment, trust and engagement of everyone in this community, and I invite each of you to join us in achieving our mission: A Better Future for Every Child in the Hempstead Union Free School District.

I am confident and optimistic that with hard work and dedication, we can provide our children with the best quality of education. As we move through the school year, I will share the achievements of our school district with you in many different formats, including community conversations, community forums and newsletters.

Now is the time to push our children in the direction of academic excellence. I look forward to working with you to help our district have another productive and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Garcia
Superintendent of Schools

Estimados Padres/Apoderados:

De parte de la Junta Educativa del Distrito Escolar de Hempstead, me gustaría darles la bienvenida al año escolar 2010-2011.

El inicio de un nuevo año escolar nos da la oportunidad para nuevos logros, alianzas, mejoras y crecimiento, los mismos que ayudarán a nuestro distrito a obtener su meta la misma que es el éxito de su estudiantado.

La educación es lo que permitirá a nuestros estudiantes a alcanzar nuevas metas en sus vidas. Como su Superintendente, mi visión es asegurarme de que cada estudiante sea educado en un medio ambiente seguro, desafiante, que se preocupe de sus estudiantes, y que los estimule académicamente.

Mi intención es continuar mi trabajo con el personal docente, organizaciones aliadas y la comunidad para asegurarme de que cada niño(a) en este distrito esté preparado para el Siglo 21 y nuestra economía global.

Como comunidad educativa, nos enfrentamos a muchos desafíos y oportunidades cuando estamos trabajando para proveer lo mejor para nuestros estudiantes. Ustedes tienen mi compromiso sincero que trabajaré incansablemente con mi personal y la Junta Educativa de Hempstead de modo que nuestra niñez alcanzará todo su potencial.

Sin embargo, llevar a cabo nuestras metas hasta el final, será un trabajo de equipo. Nuestro distrito necesita el apoyo, compromiso, confianza y participación de cada miembro de esta comunidad, y yo los invito a cada uno de usted a que se nos unan a alcanzar nuestra misión: Un Mejor Futuro para Cada Estudiante del Distrito Escolar de Hempstead.

Tengo la confianza y optimismo de que trabajando duro y con dedicación, podemos proveer a nuestros estudiantes con la mejor calidad de educación. Durante el año escolar, compartiré con ustedes los logros de nuestro distrito escolar de diversas maneras, incluyendo conversaciones comunitarias, foros comunitarios y panfletos informativos.

Ahora es el momento de guiar a nuestros estudiantes en la dirección del éxito académico. Espero con anhelo trabajar con ustedes para ayudar a nuestro distrito a tener otro año escolar exitoso y productivo.

Atentamente,

Dra. Patricia García
Superintendente de Las Escuelas

***New and Familiar Faces* in the District**

The Hempstead School District Board of Education and Administration welcome seven new administrators and 52 new teachers to the district. There are also several longtime administrators who have accepted new positions within the district.



Dr. Stephanie Clagnaz
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction



Beverly Jones
Director of Math



Dagoberto Artilles
Principal of the College Preparatory
Academy of Math and Science



David Evans
Principal of the College Preparatory
Academy of Music and Art



James Thomas
Principal of the College
Preparatory Academy of Business
and Law



Carlos Perez
Principal of Alverta B. Gray
Schultz Middle School



Helisse Palmore
Principal of Barack Obama
Elementary School



Frances Edmonds
Principal of Hempstead Pre-K School

Hempstead High School Initiative - *First On Long Island* ③

Three ninth-grade college preparatory academies have been created to join the Senior College Preparatory Academy.

The 2010-2011 school year marked a historical milestone at Hempstead High School as freshman students began their high school careers enrolled in one of three new, small college-bound preparatory academies.

Freshmen now have the opportunity to become students in the College Preparatory Academy of Business and Law, the College Preparatory Academy of Math and Science, or the College Preparatory Academy of Music and Art. A first of its kind on Long Island, the three ninth-grade academies will be located in the high school building and operate independently from the school's Senior College Preparatory Academy, which serves students in 10th through 12th grades.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia explained that the new initiative will enable students to develop their skills and interests in specific subject areas while they fulfill their state curriculum requirements.

Each academy has its own principal, guidance counselor, secretary, social workers and psychologists as well as its own core academic course teaching staff. The three ninth-grade academy principals are Mr. Dagoberto Artiles (Math and Science), Mr. David Evans (Music and Art), and Mr. James Thomas (Business and Law).

Extensive research and analysis was conducted prior to implementing this new approach. The advantages of the new academies for students include more

personalized attention, increased opportunities to monitor student achievement, smaller and safer learning environments, more educational choices, and stronger parent/school partnerships.

"These small schools are driven by excellence and equity, and each child will be prepared for college no matter which school he or she enrolls in," Dr. Garcia stated. "The schools have the same core courses, and they are all providing the opportunity to enhance and expand the interests and skills of our students."

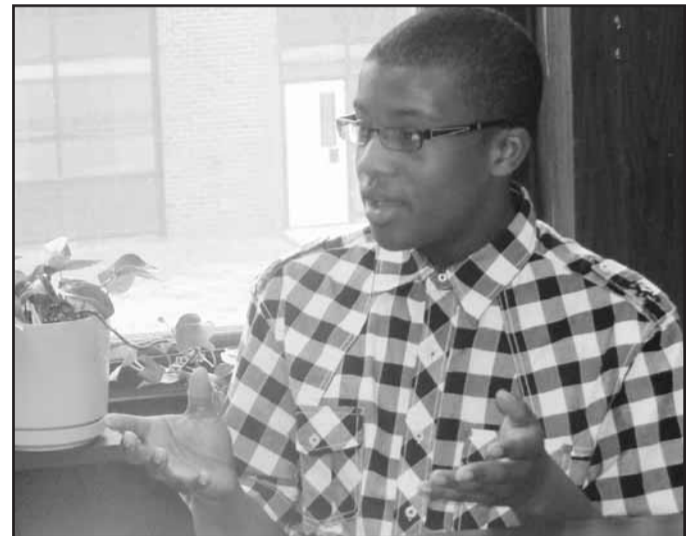
This year marks the start of a yearly phase-in process at the high school where the three new academies will acquire another grade starting next year. By the 2013-2014 school year, the three separate academies will be fully implemented.

Administrators anticipate that the new school set-up will not only increase graduation rates and reduce dropout rates, but will also encourage students to begin preparing for their future at the beginning of their freshman year.

"We want our students to be successful as soon as they enter the building, and this new three-academy initiative is a major step in that direction," Dr. Garcia stated. "We're transforming the high school academically to help better prepare our children for college, their careers, and all of their future endeavors."



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia spoke with a Newsday reporter about the initiatives being implemented at Hempstead High School.



Hempstead High School ninth grader Daniel Narris, who is a student in the College Preparatory Academy of Music and Art, highlighted the perks of attending a specialized school during a Newsday interview.

A New Era For the Senior Academy

The transformation at the high school also features several new initiatives at the Senior Academy, which serves students in grades 10 through 12. The school's administrative team now includes a principal, two assistant principals, a dean of students, and five guidance counselors.

Starting the first day and continuing throughout the school year, High School Interim Principal Chy Davidson noted that the Administration intends to step up programs and initiatives that promote, among other goals, increased student success.



Interim Principal of Hempstead High School's Senior Academy Chy Davidson stated that the transformation of the high school will enable the district to set an educational precedent for Long Island.

Starting this year:

- There will be a greater emphasis on individual student achievement and accountability.
- Additional Advanced Placement courses will be offered.
- A robotics elective will be offered.
- A new theater program will be offered.
- Students will be required to apply to at least three state colleges or universities in addition to Nassau Community College, colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions of their choice.
- Sophomores and juniors will be required to know their grade point average, Regents requirements, current number of credits earned, classes needed to complete each grade, and the number of credits needed to graduate.

"We want our students to understand that they have to change the way they think about education so they can become successful adults," Mr. Davidson stated. "We're going to continue to stress to our students that excellent academics, discipline and decorum are key to becoming productive citizens."

④ School Started Early for Administrators and Staff

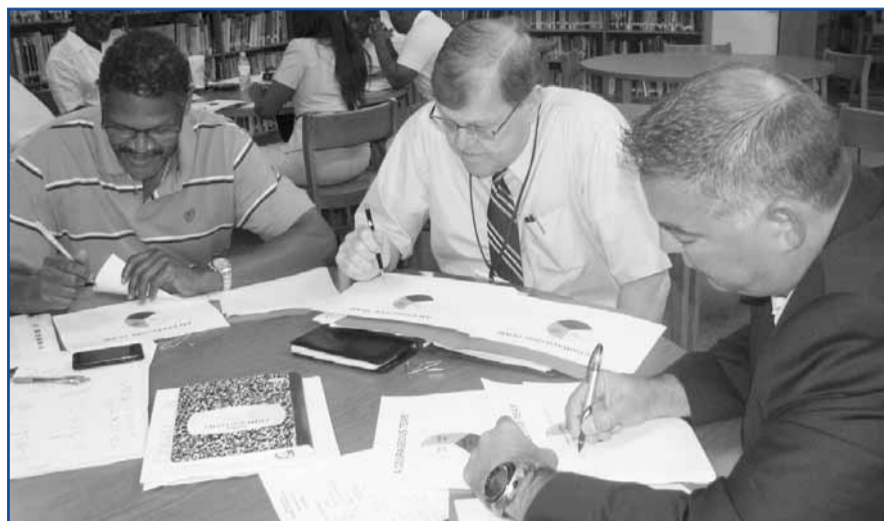
District Holds Back to School Week for Employees

The 2010-2011 school year began in August for administrators, teachers and staff in the Hempstead School District. The district held its annual Leadership Retreat on August 30th and August 31st where all administrators participated in workshops and discussions about programs, curriculum, goals, priorities and expectations for the new school year.

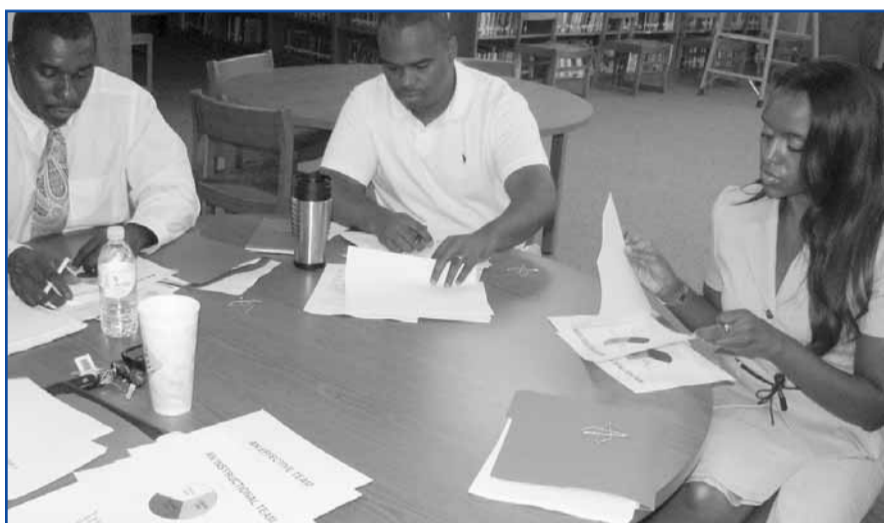
During work sessions, which were held in the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School Media Center, administrators reviewed test scores and other student data to help establish smart goals for the elementary, middle and high schools. District principals and assistant principals also reviewed the Power School system and opening date procedures.



Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Stephanie Clagnaz discussed smart goals with district directors.



Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Julius Brown, left, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Robert Geras and Administrator for Facilities Peter Cavassa described the characteristics of a courageous team during a workshop.



Principal of the College Preparatory Academy of Business and Law Mr. James Thomas, left, Principal of the College Preparatory Academy of Math and Science Mr. Dagoberto Artiles, and Principal of Barack Obama Elementary School Ms. Helisse Palmore, brainstormed ways to become a more effective instructional team.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia discussed opening day procedures with administrators during the district's annual Leadership Retreat.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY ESTABLISHED A Vision for the New School Year

On September 2nd and 3rd, all district employees participated in the district's annual Superintendent's Conference Day. The two-day event, which began with a two-hour opening ceremony in the Hempstead High School auditorium on September 2nd, featured professional development training and workshops as well as district and departmental meetings for all employees, to ensure that everyone was prepared for the opening day of school and a successful school year.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia introduced the new administrators in the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School to teachers and staff members during the Superintendent's Conference Day on September 2nd.

Summer Curriculum Development Targets Core Subjects

Throughout the district, teachers in grades K-12 spent time during the summer collaborating on improving the curriculum, reviewing New York State standards and assessments, and ways to improve student achievement. Topics discussed included improving the elementary K-5 math curricula, and middle school social studies. Hempstead High School teachers participated in a Small Learning Communities Workshop to enhance professional development and focus on instructional

techniques to be implemented in the classroom. Administrators established benchmark diagnostic assessments in the core subject areas to more effectively track individual student achievement and to identify students at risk and in need of additional assistance. Moving forward, several of the initiatives being introduced this school year were discussed, including the addition of Mandarin Chinese to the district's Foreign Language Program.

Ongoing Staff Development Supports Student Success

Building upon the theme "Failure is Not An Option," Administrators and teachers worked together to develop their own Professional Learning Community Model for success. This model will be the cornerstone of ongoing staff development that will lead to more effective instruction and greater student achievement.



Administrator for Security Jeff Fabre, center, and lead security officers Micah Terry, left, and Chika Ewulu, tested security systems throughout the district.



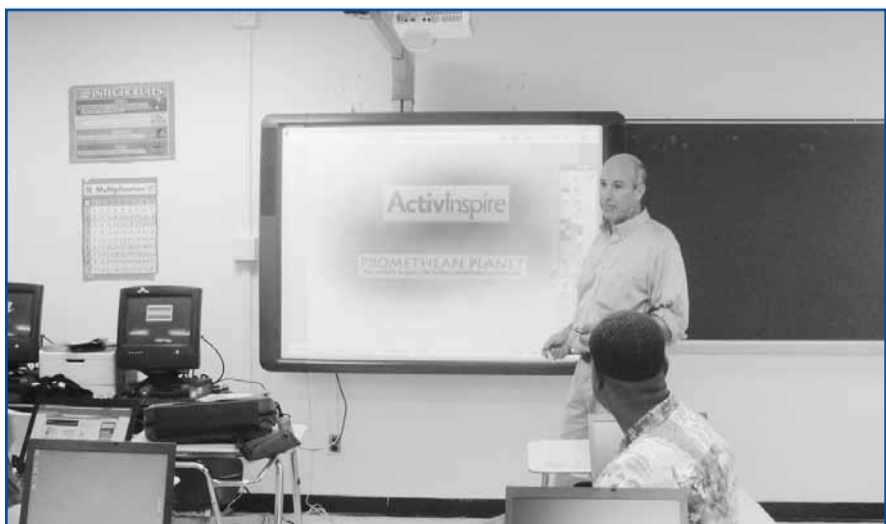
Middle School Security Officer Derrick Panter practiced chest compressions at a CPR training class during the Superintendent's Conference Day.



Hempstead High School social studies teachers Jason Gelardi and Kristen Greiner completed a PowerSchool training class during the Superintendent's Conference Day.



Council for Prejudice Reduction instructor Roberta Richin taught an Office Etiquette and Teamwork class for the district's clerical staff.



All teachers in the district also completed Promethean Board Training during the Superintendent's Conference Day on September 3rd.



Director of Bilingual, ESL and Second Language Margot Wareham-Bailey discussed plans for the new school year with her staff at the conference.

District Hosts First Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp

Middle and high school students participated in free two-week summer music education program

Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School and Hempstead High School students experienced a specialized music education program this summer as participants in the 2010 Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp. This is the first year the camp has been offered in the district.

This unique musical camp was made available to district students between the ages of 10 and 19 who have studied music for at least two years, and who have been active in a music education program.

The free camp, which was funded by a New York State Education Department 21st Century Learning Center grant, was made possible through the joint efforts of the Hempstead School District and the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, Inc. The Foundation provides workshops, programs, lectures and more on music history. During the two-week program, the young musicians learned about the historical and cultural significance of jazz through lectures and field trips. They also participated in instrumental training from seasoned jazz musicians from New Orleans and New York City. The instruction ranged from piano to saxophone and district administrators described the program as one that helped the students advance their music knowledge and skills.

"The Hempstead School District is proud to be partnering with the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation to help our students reach the highest level of

music excellence," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia. "During the Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp, our middle and high school students learned about the importance of dedication and working to their fullest potential, which are skills that can be applied to all parts of their lives."

Representatives of the Foundation visited Hempstead High School and congratulated the students for giving up part of their summer vacation and making an effort to improve and enhance their musical talents. During the visit, the camp was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition from Town of Hempstead Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby.

The camp culminated with *A Special Night of Jazz* concert in the Hempstead High School auditorium. The free show for the community featured performances by the students as well as the camp's faculty, which included trombonist and Hempstead High School alumnus Craig Harris. "Coming back to the district I graduated from to teach music to this new generation of talented students is really amazing," said Mr. Harris, a Class of 1971 graduate. "I'm giving back to a district that gave so much to me, and I'm just glad that I'm able to help the students here become fine musicians and performers."



Students in the Hempstead School District participated in the 2010 Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp, which featured lectures and instrumental training given by professional jazz musicians from New Orleans and New York City.



Hempstead High School alumnus Craig Harris, Class of 1971, was an instructor at the camp.



District students who participated in the camp showcased their musical talents during a free community concert on August 20.



The district's Director of Fine Arts, Music and Library Media Angel Perez also performed with the student musicians at the concert.

Hempstead Schools Remember the Fallen

District commemorates ninth anniversary of September 11 terrorist attacks with memorial services, poems, songs and motivational speeches

Just a day before the ninth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, students, administrators and teachers throughout the district took time to remember those who lost their lives on that tragic day.

At the Marshall School, school officials rang a memorial bell in the morning and then held a moment of silence to pay homage to those who were killed in the attacks.

Jackson Annex Elementary School students participated in an outdoor commemoration program, which was organized by teachers Corodon Fuller, Eric Cortwright, John Finnegan and Brenda Olin. The program featured the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "America the Beautiful," as well as the reading of "The Fireman's Prayer" by first-grade teacher Carlos Hernandez.



Third-grade students at Jackson Annex Elementary School performed "God Bless America" during the school's September 11 outdoor commemoration program on September 10.

"September eleventh was a very sad day, but we must always remember that day with hopes that it will never repeat

itself in our history," Jackson Annex Principal Carolyn Townes-Richards stated.

Barack Obama Elementary School students watched a PowerPoint presentation about the attacks during a "Remembering Our Heroes" service on Friday afternoon.

Teacher Linda Smith also read "The Memorial Poem," which paid tribute to firefighters, police officers and emergency responders. As part of the service, fifth-grade students also folded the American flag and presented it to Principal Helisse Palmore.

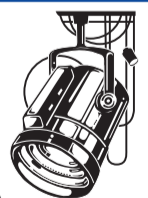
"We want you to understand that it is always important to be kind and understanding, and it is very important to show compassion for other people regardless of what they look like, their culture, their religious beliefs, where they live, or even how they feel about issues that we might not understand," Ms. Palmore reinforced with her students.



After folding the flag as part of Barack Obama Elementary School's September 11th Remembering Our Heroes service, fifth-grade students Cristian Hernandez, left, Davon Budansingh, Michaela Scott, Gloria Martinez, and Nathaniel Martinez presented the school's principal, Helisse Palmore, with the flag.



Spotlight On Music And Art



Prior to the start of school, the district's Director of Fine Arts, Music and Library Media Angel Perez, center, discussed plans for the music department with teachers Barbara Gortman, left, and Melissa Shaw.

Research shows that the dedication and commitment needed to be successful in the arts are the same skills used to improve academic achievement and skills that prove valuable throughout life.

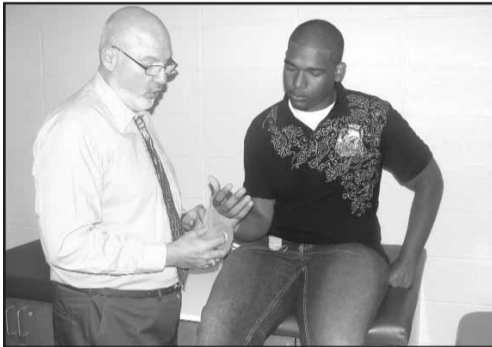
The district's music department has many great events and initiatives planned for this school year. The Hempstead High School Select Choral is planning a trip to Europe in late March to compete in an International Choral Competition in Prague, Czech Republic. The department will also continue its partnership with the Long Island Philharmonic and will host a joint concert on March 22.

To add to this past summer's momentum, the district will continue its work with the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. Musicians in the organization will provide instruction to students throughout the year, and the second Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp is scheduled to return in 2011.

The district's talented student-artists will showcase their artwork at Hempstead Public Library and the Administration Building throughout the year. Several young artists are also slated to participate in the Nassau All-County Art Exhibit in March and a districtwide Art Exhibit at the African-American Museum of Long Island in the spring.

Healthy Bodies = Healthy Minds ⑦

Hempstead Athletic Department has launched an expanded fall sports program for the 2010-2011 academic year. Hempstead High School now offers Boys Varsity Badminton and Volleyball, which are coached by Mr. Bedneau and Mr. Kelly, respectively. This year, the district is proud to announce that more than 400 students are participating in its fall athletic program. "We're always looking for more opportunities for the kids to come out and play other sports, so that's why we have added new sports over the last few years," stated the district's Director of Athletics Dr. Robert Cincotta. "We have a number of alumni coaching our students this year, which is always great, and we're going to continue to find sports each season that interest our students so we can improve the district's educational offerings."



Hempstead High's Weight Room Gets a Facelift

Students at Hempstead High School now have the opportunity to access another modern facility to help them improve their physical fitness. Thanks to equipment donations from several local physical therapy centers and summer installation work by the district's facilities staff, the school's weight room now includes new spinning bicycles, unilateral weight machines, Real Runners, and other 2010 exercise machines.

"It is essential in any well-developed Physical Education Department to be able to offer students the ability to enhance their athletic performance and their understanding and appreciation for lifetime fitness," stated the district's Director of Athletics Dr. Robert Cincotta. "Having a refurbished weight room allows our students to take advantage of new state-of-the-art equipment, which will enable them to develop their physical endurance and athletic performance."



Hempstead High School's improved weight room features new spinning bicycles, unilateral weight machines, Real Runners and other 2010 exercise machines.

In addition, students can visit a new athletic training room, which has been named in honor of James D. McClellan, the district's former athletic director who passed away in August. The room features, among other things, an ice machine, whirlpool, training table, and Body Mass Index scale, which will enable the high school's coaches and sports staff to better serve the Hempstead Tiger athletes.

The high school will host an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the weight room and a dedication ceremony for the training room later this year.

2010-2011 Fall Sports

Boys

Badminton
Coach: Mr. Bedneau (V)*

Football
Coach: Mr. Moore (V)
Coach: Mr. Cherry and Mr. Harris (JV)

Soccer
Coach: Mr. Gauthier (V)

Volleyball
Coach: Mr. Kelly (V)

Girls

Cross Country
Coach: Mr. Raffington (V)

Soccer
Coach: Mr. Vila (V) *

Swimming
Coach: Mr. Polcha (V)

Tennis
Coach: Mr. Hasbun (V)

Volleyball
Coach: Ms. Reynolds (V) *

* Denotes Hempstead High School Alumni

Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School Teams

Boys

Football
Coach: Mr. Graziosi

Soccer
Coach: TBA

Girls

Soccer
Coach: TBA

Students Showcase Their Cultural Diversity

Students who participated in the Hempstead EOC/21st Century Music and Arts Program showcased their musical and artistic talents during a special culminating recital for the community. This year marked the first time that the district has partnered with the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County and 21st Century Round 5 to offer the program to the young students. Administrators noted the initiative aims to among other objectives educate the district's youth about cultural diversity through the arts.

"The Hempstead School District is proud to have partnered with the Hempstead EOC, the Hempstead Community Action Program, and the 21st Century Round 5 to bring this beautiful summer program to the community for our students," stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Garcia. "This collaborative effort is all about helping the next generation of leaders to strengthen their talents and skills while giving them an opportunity to stay active."

The recital, which was held in the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School's Bandbox, featured dance, drama and musical performances, as well as an art show. As a part of the festivities, attendees were also treated to an International Day Celebration after the show, where they sampled delicious foods from several different countries.

"We worked as a team to make this program a reality and to help give our kids a bright future," said Mateo Flores, the program's director. "We united our youth through education and the arts and we helped to make Hempstead a better community."



Students in Ms. Kelly's class performed a Bachata dance routine.



While showing their international pride, the Hempstead EOC/21st Century Music and Arts Program's Bionic B's performed an original song during a special recital.

Dates to Remember

Hempstead Board of Education Meetings Regular Meetings

November 18
December 16

Work Study
December 2

Veteran's Day
November 11

Thanksgiving Recess
½ Day on November 24
Schools Closed on
November 25 and 26

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM IN-DISTRICT MAINTENANCE

While students were enjoying their summer vacations, administrators and staff members in the Facilities Department completed repairs and refurbishments throughout the district. Some of the projects included:

- Installed new lockers in the pool locker room and girls locker room at Hempstead High School.
- Replaced the boiler in the Administration Building and started the installation of a new heating system in the Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School music room. The project is expected to be completed in mid-October.
- Replaced the lights and ceiling in the Hempstead High School cafeteria, the Food Services Department also made aesthetic improvements in the cafeteria to enhance school spirit and pride, which included the installation of new Hempstead Tiger signs and banners.

The district also completed a site drainage survey as part of a plan to replace the gym floor at Hempstead High School, as well as continued discussions and meetings about the renovation of the Prospect School.



New Tiger banners were hung in Hempstead High School's cafeteria as part of the enhancements that were made during in-district summer maintenance.



Director of Food Services Sharon Gardener, left, and her staff unveiled the refurbished Hempstead High School cafeteria.



During the summer, the district replaced the lockers in the pool and girls locker room at Hempstead High School.

Good As Gold

Elementary school named as the ONLY USDA Healthier U.S. School Challenge winner in the state.

Jackson Annex Elementary School was selected earlier this year as a Gold Level recipient in the HealthierU.S. School Challenge, a national United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service contest that aims to improve the health of the nation's children by promoting healthier environments in schools.

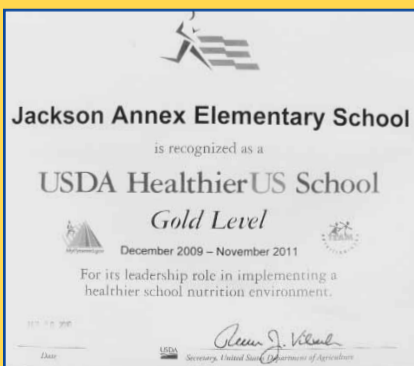
Jackson Annex was one of 600 winners selected in the country and the only school chosen in New York State. The Gold Level distinction, which runs until November 2011, is the second highest honor a school can earn in the challenge.

Jackson Annex became a winner after working with the Hempstead School District's Food Services Department in 2008 to enhance its food menu, incorporate nutrition education into its physical education classes, and implement other initiatives that promote nutrition and physical activity to students. As part of the contest, health officials reviewed the school's food distribution for each week in January 2009, and the district had to adopt a wellness policy.

"We applied for the contest through the New York Education Department and the state submitted the paperwork to the USDA, so this was about a two-year application process," explained the district's Assistant Director of Food Services Melissa Garvin. "We had to meet the contest's nutrition criteria with Jackson Annex's food menu, and we also spoke to students and parents about nutrition at the school's PTA meetings and different events like that."

This is the first time that the district has won such a distinction. The award enabled the district's Food Services Department to be featured in an article in *Health* magazine.

"Winning a Gold Level award is really a great honor for Jackson Annex School, the Food Service Department, and the Hempstead School District," Ms. Garvin said. "We are going to continue on this positive path and we are looking forward to having all of our elementary schools become winners in future challenges."



JACKSON ANNEX AND JACKSON MAIN GET A MAKEOVER

Adelphi University students help to beautify two Hempstead elementary schools as part of a Community Action Program.



Jackson Annex and Jackson Main elementary schools were given several aesthetic improvements by 60 Adelphi University students.



Adelphi University students Jenny Volkers, left, and Aleisha Darrell, right, sanded the railings in front of a classroom at the Jackson Annex School. Darrell, a psychology major, is also a longtime Hempstead resident.

Thanks to the Hempstead School District's participation in Adelphi University's Freshman Community Action Program, Jackson Annex and Jackson Main Elementary schools were recently given a small aesthetic makeover.

Before students returned for the start of another school year, 60 incoming Adelphi University freshmen painted fences, sanded railings, stained wooden steps, and cleaned the grounds at both schools as part of a volunteer beautification project. The initiative, which was established in 2006, is one of the district's collaboration efforts with neighboring schools in Nassau County.

"The Hempstead School District thanks Adelphi University and its students for helping to make two of our elementary schools more aesthetically beautiful, which will help our students have a bright new school year," stated Jackson Main Principal Dr. Rodney Gilmore. "We look forward to continuing our work with the university in future community endeavors."



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