



Freeport PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Pride*



Leo F. Giblyn School



Columbus Avenue School



Freeport High School



J.W. Dodd Middle School

Music and Art Unite Community DURING WINTER ARTS FESTIVALS

Student artists and musicians districtwide delighted audiences and demonstrated their artistic talents during each of the district's Winter Festival of the Arts performances.

Families and community residents were invited to attend several concerts performed by students in grades K-12 offering a variety of musical styles, from a holiday-themed musical at Bayview Avenue Elementary School, "Star Bucks! The Musical,"

which transformed the auditorium into a winter wonderland, to a traditional holiday concert from Caroline G. Atkinson School and Freeport High School.

Each of the concerts was the culmination of weeks of rehearsals that showcased the students' musical and artistic talents and the district's commitment to educating the whole child through an appreciation of the arts. At every event, attended

by Board of Education members, administrators, staff, family and friends, the students performed exceptional shows, with the audiences enthusiastically applauding their efforts.

The delightful musical sounds were paired with a beautiful display of artwork from the art education department. The slideshow highlighted the skills and creativity of the visual art students since the beginning of the school year.



Caroline G. Atkinson School



New Visions School



Archer Street School

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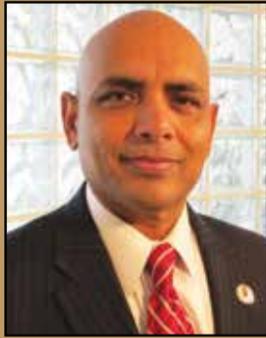


Bayview Avenue Elementary School

A Message from Superintendent of Schools DR. KISHORE KUNCHAM

Dear Freeport Families,

I hope this message finds you well. You may already be aware that I announced my retirement in November, and the Board accepted my retirement letter in December. After 30 years of serving and leading this remarkable school district, I will be retiring from my position as superintendent of schools effective Aug. 20, 2024. This decision comes with mixed emotions, as it marks the end of an incredible journey that I have been privileged to undertake alongside all of you.



During my tenure here, I have had the honor of serving in various capacities, including 15 years as superintendent and 15 years as deputy/assistant superintendent. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and have led our school district to thrive and excel in the past many years. Freeport is unquestionably the most memorable and the most rewarding of all my professional experiences, spanning over 46 years in both public and private sectors, of which 35 years were dedicated to public education.

My leadership philosophy has always been centered on leading with my heart and soul. We have fostered a school community that prioritizes not only academics but also the arts, athletics, a whole-child focus, and a holistic approach to education. Our commitment to equitable opportunities, social and emotional learning, and wellness has ensured that our students not only excel academically but also grow into well-rounded, compassionate individuals. I have had the incredible opportunity to witness students of all ages and diverse backgrounds thrive, excel, and fully pursue their interests and passions.

I am pleased to share that our district is currently in its best-ever educational and financial condition. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team, and I have full confidence that the district will continue to prosper in the future. I am proud of our shared legacy of organizational improvement initiatives articulated through thoughtful strategic planning and advocacy efforts at various levels.

As I prepare to embark on this new chapter in my life, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you – our supportive parents and families, dedicated educators, staff members and the incredible students who have made this journey so fulfilling. I am confident that the school district will continue to flourish under new leadership, and I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all past and present Board members for the opportunity to serve the district. It has been the privilege of a lifetime, and I am filled with gratitude for the countless memories and experiences we have shared together.

Although I will be retiring, I look forward to staying connected with this wonderful community. Thank you for your support and partnership throughout the years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kishore Kuncham
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education Recognized for Their Services

During a Board of Education meeting, the Board was recognized for their dedication and services as part of the New York State School Boards Association Board of Education Recognition Week. This annual event is an opportunity to acknowledge the leadership and advocacy work done by school boards across the state.

“We are honored to recognize our wonderful Board,” stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham. “We thank the Board for their extraordinary commitment to our students and our Freeport schools and the tireless dedication and selflessness that you bring to our school district and our community.”

Various organizations, including the Freeport Teachers’ Association, Food Service and Security, and Teacher’s Aide group, presented donations to the Freeport Education Foundation in honor of the Board of Education. To show their appreciation, the Bayview Avenue School third grade chorus performed a rendition of “Walk Through Life” for the members of the Board. Each member of the Board of Education was presented with student-drawn artwork symbolizing the strengthening of the community that the Board has provided, and the gratitude given by the students and staff to them for all their hard work.



Freeport High School CLASS OF 2024 TOP 10 RECOGNIZED

The Board of Education acknowledged and recognized the outstanding academic achievements of the Freeport High School Class of 2024 Top 10: Jeremy Dominguez, valedictorian; Etienne Sasanarine, salutatorian; Cassie Smith, No. 3; Suri Lin, No. 4; Julio Frometa Gomez, No. 5; Sejla Omeragic, No. 6; Evelyn Villalobos Rivera, No. 7; Betzaly Collado, No. 8; Kevin Yang, No. 9 and Naomi Belgrave, No. 10.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham, members of the Board of Education and administrators each read the students’ impressive resumes, including their academic achievements, school and community involvement, and college and career goals.

“It is my pleasure to recognize the top 10 students of the Class of 2024,” Dr. Kuncham said. “These students have amazing accomplishments in the classroom, on the field and on the stage. You are amazing individuals, you are truly changemakers and your humility has been something that has always touched me, even as your list of accomplishments continues to grow. I am confident you will continue to be leaders and successful global citizens.”



The Freeport Board of Education, administration and staff congratulate the Class of 2024 Top 10 on their academic achievements and wish them much success as they continue to excel and serve as role models for those students who follow in their footsteps.

Helping the Community and Beyond

Students throughout the district demonstrated their commitment to helping those less fortunate, especially during the holiday season. Through a variety of charitable activities, the students brightened the lives of those living in their own community and beyond.

At Archer Street School, the students and staff kicked off the holiday gift-giving season with their annual Turkey Trot for a good cause. This year the recipient of their generosity was the United Way of Long Island, which received a donation of \$2,800. At New Visions Elementary School, fourth grade students and members of the Student Council held a food drive and filled baskets with holiday foods and turkeys to help families in the Freeport community. Donations were made to Our Holy Redeemer Church Food Pantry in Freeport.

Members of Freeport High School Class of 2024 used donations from a fundraiser to purchase presents for children living in the community who were randomly selected. Members of the Freeport High School Spanish Honor Society surprised students at Archer Street School with holiday gifts and spent time with the younger students working together on several fun activities.



Freeport High School Spanish Honor Society



Archer Street School



New Visions School



Freeport High School Class of 2024

A HOMECOMING TO REMEMBER



During Freeport High School's homecoming 2023, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham and Board of Education President Maria Jordan-Awalom, along with Board of Education trustees, administrators, alumni, community legislative representatives, students, staff and families, joined to celebrate their school spirit and community pride.

There was excitement even before the game, with numerous booths serving refreshments and selling spirit wear. The talented Freeport High School

marching band led the parade prior to the start of the game. The halftime festivities, which are always a highlight, included performances by the cheerleaders, marching band, color guard and dance group.

The Red Devils varsity football team played to win an action-packed game, ending with the Red Devils defeating the Baldwin Bruins 33-8. Homecoming 2023 was filled with memories and a great sense of school spirit and community pride.



Freeport High School Offers Innovative Video Courses

The district has expanded its offerings of innovative programs to include a new cutting-edge video studio equipped with the latest video recording and editing software, providing aspiring videographers with a platform to develop their creative talents and gain hands-on experience in recording and producing content. Students will be able to participate in courses and clubs that nurture a diverse range of interests and empower students to express themselves through the

mediums of video and photo editing.

Additionally, the new computers installed in the studio will contribute to the expansion of the equipment used by the Freeport E-sports team. In the 2022-2023 school year, Freeport High School introduced its E-Sports team, which secured ninth place in a state-level Super Smash Brothers



competition.

With the enhanced resources and technology available, the team will



have even greater opportunities to further excel in the rapidly growing field of competitive gaming.

District Introduces Nation's Third Most Common Language



During the 2023-24 school year, Freeport High School is offering two sections of American Sign Language 1. ASL is spoken by more than half a million people in the United States and is the third most common language in the country, after English and Spanish.

This course is being offered to expand upon world language study options and to provide students with the opportunity to not only learn to sign, but also to understand and appreciate Deaf culture. Moving forward, levels 2 and 3 will be added, enabling students to continue their

studies and become eligible to earn the Seal of Biliteracy in ASL on their diploma.

To offer these courses, the classroom was equipped with the innovative technology needed to create a Zoom room. This virtual instructional design enabled the district to hire a highly qualified and experienced ASL teacher from Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. While participating in this course, students will learn expressive skills, fingerspelling exercises, sentence formation, vocabulary, verbs and readings on Deaf culture.

District Expands DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION Initiatives

The district celebrates diversity, and values the varied needs, strengths and perspectives of all students, staff, families and the community while striving for inclusivity and creating a nurturing sense of belonging for all students while in school.

The district is committed to ensuring that all members of the learning community have access to the resources necessary to be successful. As part of this philosophy, initiative and alignment to the Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education Framework, the district has implemented the use of Restorative Practices. Continuing this school year, all staff will receive further training on how to foster empathetic and respectful learning communities. Professional learning opportunities will continue to be offered to all staff in

Tier I, Tier II and Tier III Implementation of Restorative Practices.

During social studies classes, students will share and learn about the personal experiences of others through writing and storytelling. HerStory is a powerful program that both middle school and high school students will engage in during class and in the after-school setting. Through the HerStory program students will learn about diverse perspectives, critically examine historical perspectives, increase social awareness and gain a greater understanding of the complexities of human experiences. The HerStory program will inspire students to pursue their goals regardless of societal expectations or barriers they may encounter.

News Inside Our Schools



Peace Walk and Peace Concert Unites Community

For the first time in the history of the district's peace walks, all 7,000 students and more than 1,000 faculty and staff members, along with invited guests, joined Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham and Board of Education President Maria Jordan-Awalom for a simultaneous districtwide peace walk at each of the district's eight schools.

"Today as we celebrate and promote peace in our families, schools and community, it is also a special day around the world as people celebrate the birth of Mahatma Gandhi on this day in 1869 and National Nonviolence Day," Dr. Kuncham said. "Let's walk

together to promote peace."

"Students, you embody all the good qualities in the world," Ms. Jordan-Awalom said. "Think about the good and the love you can contribute to promoting peace in the world."

Peace and love rang out from the Freeport High School Performing Arts Center as the community gathered for the annual districtwide Peace Concert and Art Exhibit.

"Our district has long held the belief of sharing peace and nonviolence in our world," Dr. Kuncham said, "We know we are the change makers that

can lead the way to a more peaceful and equitable existence for all. The importance of this day, marked by the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, is not just about remembering the past. It is about creating a vision for our future that is guided by the timeless human values he championed."

Each song reflected the message of peace, as did the artwork made by students shown in a virtual slideshow. Concluding the event was a special debut of a song created by Freeport students titled "Find a Way to Peace". The impressive night full of performances garnered a standing ovation from the audience.



Columbus Avenue Kindergartners Set Goals

Kindergarten students in Heather Tollin's class read stories about goals, what it means to set goals and how some cultures use the start of the new year to set goals for themselves. The students then created signs and wrote down their goals for the remainder of the school year.



Leo F. Giblyn Students Welcome ALS Patients

It was a day fourth grade students at Leo F. Giblyn School look forward to each year. Patients living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis made their annual visit to educate students about the disease known as ALS and ways the students can help to find a cure.

This event is in anticipation of another annual event when Ride for Life stops by the school to talk with students.

New Visions DeSTEMber Day

Parents participated with students in holiday-themed STEM activities in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, including building marshmallow snowmen, holiday coding and measuring how tall students are with building blocks. Second graders learned from representatives from the Cradle of Aviation Museum about the states of matter and made slime, which represented the fourth state of matter, plasma.



Mexican line dance; "Los Pollitos," a Chilean song; "A La Lata," a Columbian chant and game; and "Dia De Los Muertos," a Mexican folk song and dance.



Archer Street School Adopt a Cop Program



Throughout the school year, Freeport Village police officers will provide guidance and support to help build a greater connection between students and police officers and to raise awareness about the positive role police officers play in the community.

Bayview Avenue School Hooked on Firefighters

Third graders were visited by firefighters from the Freeport Fire Department who opened their trucks, demonstrated the tools of the trade and provided lessons on fire safety and prevention. Now in its 19th year in the district, the Hooked on Firefighters program includes a mentorship program where a firefighter is assigned to each class for ongoing support.



J.W. Dodd Middle School Students Compete in NASA Artemis Space Program Competition



Seven students, Zachary George, John Hernandez, Nayibeth Matos, Ronaldo Pena, Kaiden Reid, Torri Simpson and

Sabrina Turcios, are competing as a team in the NASA App Development Challenge. The ADC, one of eight Artemis Student Challenges, presents students with technical problems, seeking their contributions to deep space exploration missions. By joining in the ADC, these Artemis Generation students are participating in NASA's endeavors to land American astronauts, including the first woman and first person of color, on the moon.

Freeport High School National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

During the traditional National Honor Society candle lighting ceremony more than 100 new members were inducted into the prestigious organization. Dr. Kishore Kuncham, superintendent of schools, addressed the new inductees, reminding them of their extraordinary academic achievements and the importance of dedication and commitment.



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You can get emails from the district and your child's school. Make sure we have your email address. You can share it with your child's school building.

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