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COLD SPRING HARBOR

Central School District

A look inside our schools

FALL 2024



Remembrance Bowl Homecoming Game

To Honor, To Commemorate, To Teach History Through Sports

The Cold Spring Harbor Central School District marked the start of the school year with the second annual “stateside” Remembrance Bowl on Sept. 27, commemorating the anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy during WWII, also known as D-Day. Serving as both a historical commemoration and the district’s homecoming football game, the event welcomed French dignitaries and honored the legacy of the WWII-era Champagne Bowl, also known as “The Game That Never Happened.”

The original Champagne Bowl, organized by American soldiers in the Champagne region of France for Christmas Day 1944 was canceled when the 101st Airborne was redeployed to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. Revived decades later by Helen Patton,



Helen Patton, granddaughter of WWII Gen. George Patton, and Michelle Strauss, founder and chair of Patton Legacy Sports, participated in the jersey signing event prior to the Remembrance Bowl. These jerseys will be placed in the museum in the town of Saint-Mère-Eglise, France.

granddaughter of General George Patton, the annual football game commemorates the soldiers and their sacrifices. Cold Spring Harbor’s event continued the tradition, inspiring the community with a “call to history.”

Throughout the week, students across all grade levels engaged in lessons about WWII and the Normandy invasion. Students attended assemblies where lessons on patriotism and service to your community and country were learned directly from visiting French dignitaries including Helen Patton; Michelle Strauss, founder and chair of Patton Legacy Sports; Maurice Renaud of Friends of American Veterans and son of Alexander Renaud, the wartime mayor of Sainte-Mère-Eglise; Cathy Soref, honorary president of Operation Democracy; Jeff Stoffer, editor and director of the American Legion Magazine; Doug Stebleton, producer and director of the “Mother of Normandy” film; U.S. Army combat veteran Jeff Wells and James Baca, executive director of American Legion.

On the eve of the game, Helen Patton addressed the Cold Spring Harbor Seahawks and Island Trees Bulldogs, sharing a blessing once delivered by her grandfather to U.S. soldiers. The homecoming game began with a ceremonial coin toss by 101-year-old British Army WWII veteran Cyril Tozer and ended with the Seahawks triumphing 27-0. Veterans, dignitaries and special



Veterans and members of the varsity football team paid their respects during the national anthem prior to kickoff.

guests were honored during the national anthem and throughout the event. The teams were also privileged to hear from our executive director of technology Dr. Reanna Fulton about her service in the U.S. Navy.

Special recognition went to assistant superintendent Genevieve LaGattuta, Remembrance Bowl committee chairperson Kate DelliCarpini and the entire Remembrance Bowl planning committee for organizing a week of impactful programming. This unique educational experience connected students with history through personal narratives and emphasized the courage and sacrifices of those who shaped the world. The event left a lasting impression on students, staff and the community, ensuring that the lessons of the past remain vivid and meaningful.

A Message From Your Superintendent of Schools Joseph Monastero

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome you to the fall 2024 edition of our district newsletter! This fall, our schools have already been buzzing with activity, and our students, staff and families have embraced the start of the year with remarkable energy and enthusiasm. From hosting the inspiring second annual Remembrance Bowl to celebrating the academic, athletic and artistic achievements of our students, there is so much to celebrate.

At the heart of our work lies dedication to local decision-making. Our Board of Education, administration and community have worked tirelessly to uphold the autonomy and integrity of our schools. Together, we have stood firm in ensuring that decisions impacting our children and educators remain rooted in the unique needs of our district. This commitment has been especially critical as we navigate challenges posed by proposed regionalization initiatives from the State Education Department. Thanks for your support.

The Remembrance Bowl was a highlight of this season. This event not only marked our homecoming game but also served as a powerful tribute to the courage and sacrifices of those involved in the historic Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. Through meaningful assemblies, classroom lessons and interactions with distinguished guests, our students connected deeply with history in ways that will resonate for years to come. Special thanks go to the planning committee chaired by Kate DelliCarpini and all involved in bringing this extraordinary experience to life.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new staff members, who bring a wealth of expertise, passion and fresh perspectives to our district. Their arrival signals our commitment to recruiting top talent to support our students and ensure their success. This newsletter also highlights many of the outstanding accomplishments of our students who continue to demonstrate excellence in every arena.

One of the exciting changes this year is our transition to a cell phone-free environment for grades 7-12. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering meaningful engagement and improving mental well-being for our students. I am grateful for the partnership of parents and staff in making this a smooth and impactful transition and as you explore this newsletter, I encourage you to celebrate the many ways our district unites to support the growth of our students. Thank you for being part of a community that values education, innovation and connection.



Superintendent's Conference Day *Welcomed Guest Speaker Myron Dueck*

Superintendent's Conference Days are a time to gather for training workshops and collegial discussions to further learning opportunities and best practices that help connect staff districtwide for professional growth, both as individuals and team members. During this year's conference days, Superintendent Joseph Monastero shared a focus and vision with an overarching theme on the power of a growth mindset.

"Let's continue to embrace challenges as opportunities to learn and grow," he said. "Let us view setbacks not as failures but as stepping stones on the path to greater understanding and success. And let us support one another in this journey, knowing that our collective strength lies in our willingness to learn from one another and to grow together."

Mr. Monastero welcomed guest speaker Myron Dueck, an expert on innovative practices like generative AI in classrooms, for the kickoff to discuss the evolving and complex topic of artificial intelligence. In keeping with the growth mindset theme, Mr. Dueck clearly pointed out that AI was not built to replace humans; it is far from perfect, and we cannot overly rely upon it. For teachers, it can become an extension of learning standards to enhance learning outcomes and support differentiated instruction.



Board of Education District Goals 2024-2025

- Improve Cold Spring Harbor ranking on Long Island and New York State lists.
- Improve college placement and process.
- Create a strategic hiring and retention plan for 2025-26.
- Identify priorities for the 2025-26 budget.
- Administer a perception survey to the parents, community, students, administration and staff.
- Implement year-end review of Board of Education goal achievement.

Dr. Candice Brodie

New Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

As an educator for over 25 years, Dr. Brodie brings extensive experience to her new role as assistant superintendent for human resources. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in communication and rhetoric from the University at Albany, a master of arts in secondary social studies education from Queens College, and a doctor of education degree in administration and instructional leadership from St. John's University. Since 2019, Dr. Brodie has been the principal at Lindenhurst High School and has a passion for curriculum and instruction practices that foster student-centered learning. She is thrilled to join the CSH administrative team.

"I love what we do as educators and constantly seek ways to best serve our students to ensure we are preparing them to go out into the world and be good humans who find every success they pursue!" she said.



Dr. Reanna Fulton

New Executive Director of Technology and Instruction

Dr. Reanna Fulton is an esteemed leader whose extensive knowledge, expertise and talent will greatly benefit the students and staff at CSH. Dr. Fulton joins us from the South Huntington School District, where she served as assistant superintendent for student services. Prior to her position as assistant superintendent, she served as the executive director of technology and supervisor of educational technology. Dr. Fulton received her doctorate in education, learning and organizational



change from Baylor University. She also has an advanced graduate certificate in educational leadership from Stony Brook University and a master of science in adolescent education and social studies from Dowling College. Additionally, she has earned a Master of Arts in history from the University of Nebraska and a Bachelor of Arts in history from Thomas Edison State University. Above and beyond Dr. Fulton's career in education, is her service in the United States Navy from 1998-2003 as an information system technician. She was deployed on board the USS Abraham Lincoln from 2002-2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom for 10 months and later joined the Navy Reserves from 2006-2009.

Jeannette Alomia

New Director of Guidance

Ms. Alomia brings over 15 years of extensive and distinguished experience as a school counselor and district administrator, most recently serving as the district director of guidance and testing for the Huntington Union Free School District. Her wealth of experience instills confidence in her ability to lead our guidance department effectively. Ms. Alomia is pursuing her doctorate in transformational leadership at Long Island University. She also holds a certificate of advanced studies in educational leadership from Long Island University and received her master of science in counseling psychology from the University at Albany. Ms. Alomia's expertise in the field is complemented by her leadership roles in professional organizations, including her past position as vice president for Directors and Supervisors of School Counseling for the New York State School Counselor Association.



James Guarini

New Music Department Chairperson

The district is pleased to welcome James Guarini as the new K-12 music department chairperson, bringing forth his expertise and talent to benefit the students of Cold Spring Harbor. Mr. Guarini began his studies of musicianship and business at Fordham University, received his Bachelor of Arts in music education from Queens College and his master's from Five Towns College in music technology. Starting in 2006, he began his teaching career at Glen Cove School District where he remained until 2024. We look forward to the positive impact Mr. Guarini will have on our music program.



Michelle Lempenski

New Assistant Principal Jr./Sr. High School

Ms. Lempenski brings a wealth of experience and a strong educational background to her new role. Ms. Lempenski holds an advanced certificate in school building/district leadership from Long Island University and a master's degree in adolescence special education from Saint Joseph's College. She is certified in mathematics for grades 7-12 and holds a New York State certification in school building leadership. Her expertise in mathematics and her passion for student engagement have been key to her success as both a teacher and leader.



National Merit Semifinalist and Commended Student Recognition

Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Program have selected four students at Cold Spring Harbor High School as 2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Ava Coco, Milan Lustig, Stephen Schmidt and Aidan Smith. This prestigious honor is awarded to students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. These four students entered the competition by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test nationwide, with over 1.5 million students representing less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors with the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

In addition, eight students were designated as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to our National Merit Commended Students: Adais Arora, Michelle Coles, Aidan Lima, Sebastian Monterroso, Charlie Neri, Ryan Smith, Charlotte Tsekerides and Julia Wang.



CSH Wins NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award

At the Sept. 10 Board of Education meeting, Athletic Director Mike Bongino was presented with the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award Banner. "Sportsmanship is a yearly focus in the athletic department, holding high expectations for our athletes, coaches and spectators," Mr. Bongino said. "Athletics is an essential part of the educational process, and sportsmanship displayed in a competitive environment, whether winning or losing, is paramount to developing our student-athletes and culture in Cold Spring Harbor."

Mr. Todd Nelson, NYSPHSSA assistant executive director, visited CSH to present this award. CSH was one of only two schools to receive the banner this year, and this is the first year CSH has earned this award.



NYS Master Counselor Jennifer Pickering

Jennifer Pickering has been named a 2024-2025 Master Counselor. Selected from a highly competitive group of applicants, Jennifer is one of only four school counselors on Long Island honored with this prestigious recognition. The NYS Master Teacher and Counselor Program network celebrates outstanding educators as an elite group committed to sharing best practices, creating engaging learning environments for K-12 students, and supporting teacher and counselor preparation programs.



Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction

Twenty-four talented seniors were recognized and celebrated for their achievement at the 2024 annual induction ceremony for the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Tri-M is a program dedicated to the advancement of music education. The three M's stand for Modern Music Masters; the criteria to be inducted into this honor society involve a four-year commitment to scholarship, character, cooperation, leadership and service.

Thank you to K-12 Music Department Chair James Guarini, Tri-M adviser Daniel Santangelo, Jr./Sr. High Band Director Andrew Hochler and Jr./Sr. High Orchestra Director Amanda Segale for composing a beautiful ceremony as students pledged their commitment to the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Congratulations to all the seniors and thank you to all the music teachers and parents for supporting and helping to develop their talent throughout the years.

Congratulations to all our National Honor Society inductees!

The National World Language Honor Society:

75 Spanish students inducted

8 French students inducted

The National Art Honor Society:

55 students inducted

Inaugural Board of Education Student Presentation

Goosehill Primary students stole the show as they presented for the first time at the Nov. 12 Board of Education meeting. Aside from the cuteness factor, the needle tipped the scale when hands rose to hearts for the Pledge of Allegiance. Their proud, patriotic voices rose above the crowd – it was priceless! Our youngest shared some big ideas and showed us we have a lot to learn from them.



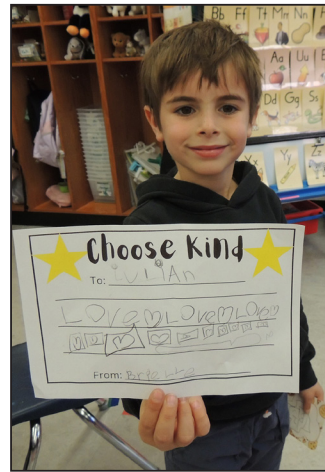
Let's Take a StoryWalk

It was an honor to invite newly appointed Superintendent Joseph Monastero at the start of the school year to share the story of "How Rocket Learned to Read." Students enjoyed the outdoor adventure of this magical installation of giant-sized book pages along a path in nature that exudes wonder and imagination.



Kindness Grams

During CSH Unites for World Kindness Week, Principal Cosme spearheaded activities districtwide, including hallways filled with paper kindness chains, kindness T-shirt day, and Kindness Grams where students secretly wrote messages sharing joy with positive, caring words.



Lloyd Harbor School

Unity Day and Red Ribbon Week

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, which is a time to emphasize respect and inclusion within all schools and communities. As part of the monthlong initiative, Unity Day brings together youth, parents, educators and community members to emphasize the message that bullying is not acceptable and that all people deserve to be safe in school, online and within the community. At Lloyd Harbor, all grades participated in building connections by making "Connection Boards" that were displayed throughout the building. Classmates

found many similar character traits with each other and linked how they are all connected.

National Red Ribbon Week is recognized each year in October as the nation's largest and longest-running health and drug prevention awareness program with a focus on promoting healthy choices, handling peer pressure and making sound decisions.

A special "RED Fruits and Veggies Tasting Table" was available during lunch periods, serving nutritious red

snacks prepared by our food services team under the guidance of Gerri Tiger. Students enjoyed a sampling cup and learned the benefits of each tasting. Physical education and health teacher Katherine Fiola visited classrooms throughout the week for discussion and lessons about healthy choices and smart decisions.



Pop Art Inspires a Better World

Ms. Cirino's art students created Pop Art inspired by the lessons students learned during Remembrance Bowl Week! Students used the story of our neighbors in Locust Valley being the sister city who helped the townspeople and soldiers of Sainte-Mère-Églis, France, after its liberation on D-Day, to spur their creativity.



Junior High Spotlight

The school year kicked off in August for seventh graders as they gathered for orientation, found their new locker, picked up their new Chromebook and enjoyed a welcome barbecue. Assistant Principal Caitlyn Harman led the group on the “Amazing Race,” where students were divided into groups for a scavenger hunt to help their peers navigate the building and ease fears of getting lost. Grades seven and eight participated in off-campus “Challenge Days” involving ice-breaker activities and problem-solving skills facilitated by BOCES-trained teachers. Patience and wisdom helped students navigate the rigor and complexity of each challenge, strengthening their bond with each other through team- and trust-building activities.



It Starts With Hello!



As part of the Sandy Hook Promise organization, thousands of schools and youth organizations nationwide participate each September in “Start With Hello Week,” a national call-to-action week dedicated to making new social connections and creating a sense of belonging among youth. West Side is proud to be a part of supporting a culture of kindness and belonging for all students and members of their school

community. The program teaches students how to look for signs of social isolation and increase inclusivity and empathy with their classmates. The goal is to raise social awareness, encourage empathy in action and equip students with strategies.

“Our goal is to empower students to enhance our culture of kindness by raising their empathy and awareness while also adding to their toolbox of strategies they can use to help out their schoolmates,” Dr. Barnes said. “It all starts with ‘Hello!’”

Remembrance Bowl Assemblies

The district hosted numerous Remembrance Bowl Week assemblies where distinguished guests, French dignitaries and administration gathered during the weeklong collaboration of curriculum learning opportunities districtwide for students focused on the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day in WWII.



‘Something Rotten! JR.’ Musical

Thank you to the West Side cast and crew for being one of the very first elementary schools to perform “Something Rotten! JR.,” for which production rights were recently released. These fifth and sixth graders shined as they took us back to Renaissance times with clever and funny wordplay references to Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets, allowing the entire cast to showcase their talents as actors, singers and dancers. Thank you to director/choreographer Jennifer Cove along with the entire team who made it all happen with partnership and unwavering support. Dr. Barnes couldn’t have been prouder to showcase and share the love of musical theater with his students. Bravo!



Cell Phone-Free Campus

Beginning this fall, Principal Danbusky announced an update to the Student Electronic Devices Program, declaring grades 7-12 a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning utilizing a program called Yondr. Yondr has been implemented in thousands of schools across 27 countries where studies have shown that learning and mental health improve when students are fully present with their teachers and classmates. At the start of the school day, students secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch. Students maintain possession of their personal device and unlock it upon exit at the end of the school day.

Over a period of months, conversations were had during public Board meetings, surveys were sent out and data research was examined during the decision-making process. The district is grateful to all the parents and students for their cooperation in ensuring a smooth rollout of this program.

"Your role in helping students understand the 'why' behind this initiative is critical to its success," Mr. Danbusky said.

Removing cell phones from schools offers significant benefits for students, including improved focus and academic performance. Without the distractions of social media, text messages, or notifications, students can fully engage in classroom activities, leading to better concentration, increased participation, and enhanced academic outcomes. Additionally, the program promotes enhanced social interaction and emotional well-being by encouraging students to build face-to-face connections with their peers and teachers.

Acknowledging that the rollout involved a period of adjustments and a natural learning curve to establish best practices, the Jr./Sr. HS proactively implemented a range of accommodations and support measures to ensure the successful implementation of this program. These efforts included providing targeted training sessions for staff and creating clear and accessible guidance materials.



'Hamlet or Does Father Reeceeeally Know Best?' *Senior High Drama Production*

Hark! The Drama Production of "Hamlet or Does Father Reeceeeally Know Best?" opened the weekend of Oct. 24. Director Daniel Santangelo's choice for this year's production took him by surprise as he vowed to never touch Shakespeare, but as the years went by, he learned the influence of Shakespeare on the world of theater and the "methods to his madness." This fun take on Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is an entertaining twist with modern references (including Yondr pouches!) as the cast tackled a story filled with jealousy, revenge, death, silliness and satire that uncovers the tale of the ghost of Hamlet's father. Congratulations to the cast and crew!



#CSHUnites for World Kindness Day

The Jr./Sr. High Social Action Club collaborated with our youngest, taking a field trip to Goosehill during Kindness Week to connect with first graders. Together with staff they helped to guide conversations about gratitude, engaging in hands-on activities and assisting first graders to hand-deliver personalized notecards to someone they are grateful for at Goosehill. Thank you to the Social Action Club members and advisers Dr. Beth Chase and Dr. Kerrie Vujeva.



Mural 'Artist in Residency' Returns!

Two years ago, mural artist Joe Pimentel graced the hallways of the Jr./Sr. High during its 60th anniversary celebration, painting the vision "A Walk Through Time." Working in collaboration with students and staff was fundamental for Mr. Pimentel as he returned for the 2024 mural installation spearheaded by Art Department Chair Christine Oswald and parent leader Caroline Tsekerides in conjunction with the Cultural Arts Committee. The school was thrilled to welcome him back to adorn more hallways with a new theme entitled "CREATE: Through Lessons of Art History." The mural depicts the curriculum the students learn for the AP Art History exam including iconic landmarks and masterpieces. This effort drew participation from students of all grades, blending the talents of both artists and novices. Thank you, Mr. Pimentel, for your larger-than-life mural "Lessons on the Wall" that ignites the power of imagination.



**COLD SPRING HARBOR
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Universal Pre-K

CSHCSD has partnered with the Huntington YMCA to provide a Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program, primarily funded by a NYSED grant, with additional funding support by the District.

Due to its popularity, a lottery system selected 36 children who began this fall with a 5-day program located in two classrooms: one at Goosehill and one at West Side School. The UPK program is supported by the Board of Education, spearheaded by Genevieve LaGattuta, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and managed under the supervision of Marissa Dicipinigitis, YMCA Early Childhood Director. The principals in each building, Dr. John Barnes and Ms. Christina Cosme, play a key role in integrating UPK students into their school communities.

Students have been engaging in a well-rounded curriculum designed to foster early childhood development across multiple domains. They focus on building foundational skills in literacy, as well as mathematical concepts through hands-on activities. Students develop fine and gross motor skills through activities like arts, movement, and play-based learning. UPK students are afforded opportunities to attend assemblies offered by the District, use the playground areas, and collaborate with older peers. Hosting a UPK program in-house allows for better alignment and integration with the District's K-12 education system, supporting continuity in learning, strategies, and philosophies facilitating a smooth transition for children as they move from Pre-K to kindergarten and beyond. The district is so pleased to welcome our Pre-K students and families, as well as our dedicated new staff from the YMCA!



College Athletic Commitments

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who accepted their 2025 college athletic commitments this fall. CSH High School has eight athletes who will be playing at the Division I level: Alex Bauer – Michigan (lacrosse), Megan Jasinski – Brown (track), Clara Masata – Cornell (crew), Brady McKean – Stony Brook (lacrosse), Greyson Meak – University of Pennsylvania (wrestling), Ryan Reynolds – Maryland (lacrosse), Petra Schneider – Northeastern (crew) and Maya Soskin – Florida (lacrosse).

In addition, seven athletes will be continuing their athletic career at the Division III level: Sam Bruno – Stevens College (lacrosse), Kevin Burns – Stevens College (lacrosse), Kelly Callaghan – University of Chicago (lacrosse), Rachel Louie – University of Rochester (field hockey/lacrosse), Riley Miller – Scranton (lacrosse), Finn Richmond – SUNY Maritime (soccer) and Maggie Spehr – Middlebury (lacrosse).

Best of luck to these committed college athletes next year!



Congratulations to Our Seahawk Teams!

- Girls varsity soccer won the Long Island Championship, NYS Finalist.
- Girls varsity cross-country won the Class C Nassau County Championship.
- Boys golf won the Conference Championship.
- Girls varsity swimming won the 200 Free Relay All-Division Designation.
- Girls tennis won the Nassau County Championship.