



# SEAFORD EDUCATION *Spotlight*

WINTER 2024

[www.seaford.k12.ny.us](http://www.seaford.k12.ny.us)

*Yesterday's traditions,  
today's achievements,  
tomorrow's goals*

## Our Seaford Scholars **IN ACTION**

Throughout the district, students embody the 10 traits of the Seaford Scholars profile through coursework, community service, extracurricular activities and social and emotional learning. The pillars were identified by a committee of administrators and teachers and are embedded into daily life in Seaford schools.

Below, you'll find just a sampling of activities that have taken place inside our buildings during our first few months of school that exemplify the profile of a Seaford Scholar.

### Communicators

Seaford Manor Elementary School fifth graders wrote letters of support and encouragement to people battling cancer all over the country and the world. The new initiative was spearheaded by Assistant Principal, Rich Schwartz. Fifth graders completed more than 100 letters, with each student completing at least one.

"Each student and teacher jumped on board immediately and was able to put their hearts on display," Mr. Schwartz said. "The empathy and compassion was overwhelming, and I am so proud of each and every student and teacher who embraced the project right away and helped bring smiles all around our country and ultimately the world. We are not done."

### Flexible

Sixth graders in Danielle Alveari's science class showed their flexibility with their astronomy projects. To conclude a unit of study on the solar system, students had to pick a topic as well as a unique way to present the information they learned.

Ms. Alveari explained that the choice board let students decide how they could showcase their knowledge. Projects included rocket models, a travel brochure for the moon and a drama that involved the different planets as characters.



## SEAFORD SCHOLARS



"Every day our Seaford Scholars demonstrate the abilities and skills needed along the journey of lifelong learning. From the classrooms to our greater community, students and staff consistently reflect these 10 pillars, and they do so with Seaford Pride." - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adele Pecora

*Continued on Page 2...*



# Humorous

The annual holiday door decorating contest at Seaford Middle School brings humor to the halls during December. Designs are left to the imaginations of students in the National Junior Honor Society, who often work in teams to decorate the walls adjacent to each classroom and office door.

The designs are meant to evoke smiles and laughter. Many are a testament to a teacher, or a holiday pun on a subject area. Other designs bring in cartoon or movie characters. This year, a scene outside of the faculty lounge had Principal Daniel Smith as Santa Claus with Assistant Principal Joseph Polite and teachers as elves.

# Innovators

Innovation takes place in all corners of the district. It was the theme of Seaford Harbor Elementary School’s annual STEAM night. The family event combined elements of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Students enjoyed the hands-on projects at a variety of stations led by Harbor teachers. The innovation didn’t stop when they left school, as all students received a packet with science and engineering activities to do at home.

At the high school, a new partnership with the Electrical Training Center has launched. A technology room was converted to serve the program, which allows students to complete in one year the New York State Certificate of Completion for Electrical Training and OSHA certification while remaining in their high school. Participants have one hour of electrical theory and two hours of hands-on work each day.

# Mindful

Spaces have been created in Seaford schools to foster mindfulness. Wellness centers at the middle school and high

school include comfortable seating, dim lighting, fidget toys and games. They are places for students to destress and refocus.

This year, Seaford Harbor Elementary School introduced a mindfulness room with support from the PTA. The small room provides students with a calm and peaceful setting. There is colorful artwork and inspirational messages on the walls, a rug with a breathing exercises path and soft seats.

# Networkers

Every year, four Seaford High School sophomores get an opportunity to network with other emerging student leaders at the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership conference. The June event brings together students from Long Island, New York City and the lower Hudson Valley, where they hear from guest speakers, participate in leadership activities and mingle with peers from dozens of other schools.

Eight current juniors and seniors have attended in the past, with sophomores Alyssa Fariello, Matthew Kind, Mia Leggio and Victoria Stebner selected for the 2024 conference.

“I’m excited to see how I will grow and how I will use what I learn to help others grow,” Victoria said.

Seaford High School provides students with many ways to take on leadership roles through athletics, clubs and community service, and HOBY ambassadors pass along their knowledge to their fellow student leaders.

Principal Nicole Schnabel said of the long-standing tradition of sending students to the HOBY conference, “We’re going to be counting on them to train future leaders, and that’s a meaningful role.”

# Principled

Seaford students, from elementary to high school, show their principles by organizing and contributing to various community service projects that benefit others near and far.

Across the district, students donated nonperishable food before Thanksgiving. During the holiday season, the high school student council collected toys for children at local Head Start early childhood centers. Not only did they solicit donations both in school and throughout the community, but the student leaders dressed up as Santa, Mrs. Claus and elves and personally handed out wrapped presents.

At the same time, Seaford Middle School’s Service Club held a winter clothing drive for Long Island Cares. Students collected coats, gloves, hats, pajamas, scarves and more for people of all ages.

Seaford Harbor Elementary School’s Socktober drive netted hundreds of pairs of socks for children, teens and adults. Seaford Manor Elementary School hosts a yearly pet supply drive for animals in local shelters. Earlier this year, the high school Key Club filled shoe boxes with school supplies and clothing accessories for people affected by the wildfires in Hawaii.

# Reflective

The Manor School’s young scholars get a chance to reflect every month on just what it means to be a Seaford Scholar. With 10 pillars, each month of the school year is focused on a different trait.

Every grade has two social-emotional learning sessions per month that are led by social worker Jennifer DeMieri and psychologist Lindsay Friedman. Those two sessions focus on the same trait, in which students learn both what it means and how to incorporate it into their lives.

“Each session is vital because it is teaching students skills they will need throughout their whole lives,” Ms. DeMieri said.

“The goal is that when they leave here, they are equipped and ready to navigate the many challenges of the world.”

# Resilient

Seaford High School students demonstrate resiliency in research classes, in which students often face challenges in completing high-level, independent or small group work. Not all projects in Advanced Placement Research and Science Research classes lead to the expected outcome, but students adapt and revise.

The AP Research class is the second part of the Capstone program, in which students research topics of personal interest. One of the biggest challenges is data collection and analysis to add new information to a field of study.

In Science Research, students look to advance knowledge in different scientific fields while also preparing their projects for competitions. They often face hurdles with findings that don’t meet a hypothesis, and must adjust expectations. Most importantly, their teachers model the old adage of, “Falling down nine times, getting up 10!” Students never give up and build resiliency throughout the learning process.

# Risk Takers

It was a new adventure for high school theater students, as they put on the inaugural fall drama. Accustomed to an annual musical, Seaford’s thespians didn’t shy away from a new challenge for a show inspired by a popular board game. An ensemble cast of 11 student-actors dazzled audiences during four performances of “Clue” in November.

Students learned their lines in a tight two-month time frame, led by Director Samantha Gates-Weber. In addition to veteran actors from past musicals, the play also featured several newcomers to the Seaford stage.

“It’s very different, a musical versus a play,” Ms. Gates-Weber said, “because it’s a different way of acting, and different techniques for memorizing and performing.”



HUMOROUS



NETWORKERS



PRINCIPLED



RISK TAKERS



REFLECTIVE



*Postal Patron Local*  
**Seaford Union Free School District**

**Board of Education:** Lisa Herbert, *President* • Andrea Parisi, *Vice President*  
Jimmy Chwe, *Trustee* • Trisha Matulewicz, *Trustee* • Heather Umhafer, *Trustee*

Dr. Adele V. Pecora  
**Superintendent of Schools**



# Viking Kudos



## Art Teacher a Bright Light

Seaford High School art teacher Michael Kerr was a recipient of a Bright Light award from the Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Education Technologies. He and other educators from Long Island were recognized at a Bright Lights luncheon on Jan. 17 in Farmingdale. The award recognizes educators for their extraordinary contributions in integrating technology in their schools. Mr. Kerr has been a teacher in Seaford for 16 years and heavily incorporates technology into his Comic and Cartoon Illustration and sculpture courses.



## Junior Published in Teen Magazine

Emily Scimeca, a junior at Seaford, turned an extra credit assignment for English class into her first published piece. She submitted her fictional short story, "The Struggles of Life," to Teen Ink and it was published on the magazine's website. Emily's story tells the tale of a girl who overcomes bullying and emotional struggles to become a successful basketball player. The story includes messages of hope and inspiration. The national magazine is devoted to teen artwork, photos, writing and discussion forums.

## Science Fair Winners

Cristo Perlegis was the eighth grade winner and Nikesh Hathiramani earned first place among seventh graders in Seaford Middle School's annual science fair. Students completed experiments following the scientific method, and shared their findings at the after-school science fair on Nov. 29.



## PE Students Shine

Seaford High School seniors Charlie Herman and Amanda Williamson were recognized with the 2023 Nassau Zone Outstanding Student Award. The honor is presented to one male and one female student at every high school by the New York State Association for Health, Physical

Education, Recreation and Dance. Students are nominated by their physical education teachers for best exemplifying the New York State learning standards for health and physical education.

## County Title for Game Day Cheer

The Seaford High School cheerleading squad captured the Nassau County Class B championships in the inaugural Game Day cheerleading tournament. Viking cheerleaders won all three competitions during the fall season. Unlike the winter competition season which is based on students, Game Day judging is based on a team's ability to rally crowds.

**News  
&  
Notes**

### Sign Up for District Email Notifications

If you are a Seaford resident and would like district email notifications, please visit the following site and follow the directions to sign up: <https://goo.gl/cPVv59>. For assistance, please email Debbie Langone at [dlangone@seaford.k12.ny.us](mailto:dlangone@seaford.k12.ny.us).

### Follow us!

The Seaford School  
District is on Instagram  
[@SeafordUFSD](https://www.instagram.com/SeafordUFSD)

### Notice to Residents:

As a reminder to all community residents, dogs are not permitted on school properties. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.