



# SEAFORD EDUCATION *Spotlight*

Fall 2023

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

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

## SEAFORD SCHOLARS PROFILE REFLECTS TRAITS OF SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS

The creation of the Seaford Scholars profile has been a journey that brings together several of the District's social and emotional learning initiatives and identifies the qualities of successful students. A committee of administrators and teachers collaborated to identify 10 pillars that are reflective of lifelong learners.

Seaford Scholars are communicators, flexible, humorous, innovators, mindful, networkers, principled, reflective, resilient and risk takers. Success is different for every student, but Seaford Scholars share these characteristics as they embark on their own personal voyages.

The District's road to innovation began by incorporating "growth mindset" into daily lingo. Students were encouraged to expand their boundaries, accept new challenges and use failure as a means to learn and grow. Seaford then adopted Habits of Mind, a collection of 16 qualities of effective learners. Together, students and teachers explored the habits and how these qualities could support their growth, both personally and intellectually.

Next came the District's partnership with the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and the adoption of the RULER program. Students learn to recognize, understand, label, express and regulate their emotions. They understand that their feelings are valid, which helps them respond appropriately to challenging situations. The Mood Meter, with its color-coded quadrants that identify emotions based on levels of energy and pleasantness, was soon found in classrooms throughout Seaford.



*Educational leadership consultant George Couros, center, was the keynote speaker at Superintendent's Conference Day in August, who talked about innovative teaching.*

“Education and student learning is evolving, and that means new approaches to teaching.”

### Seaford Scholars Profile Committee

**Central Administration:** Superintendent Dr. Adele Pecora,  
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Instructional Support Dr. Sheena Jacob

**High School:** Patricia Foley, Erica Nagy Iuvara, Caitlyn Wigand

**Middle School:** Jennifer Bass, Lisa Jones, Julia Spellman,  
Kristina Spithogiannis

**Elementary Schools:** Katharine Black, Kerry Hansen, Angelina Lee

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# SEAFORD SCHOLARS PROFILE REFLECTS TRAITS OF SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS

The road led to Innovator's Mindset, from which the Seaford Scholar Profile was created. In determining the characteristics that make a Seaford Scholar, committee members looked at the how, what and why of the District's mission: providing students with a comprehensive education program to give them the academic and social skills to become responsible and productive members of a democratic society.

High school teacher Erica Nagy Iuvara was a member of the committee and said it was exciting to put onto paper the characteristics that teachers already innately try to instill in their students. It creates a visible goal, she noted, of the skills they hope their students will have when they graduate high school.

The committee consisted of teachers from the elementary, middle and high schools, and Ms. Nagy Iuvara said it was valuable to have input from educators across the district. The Seaford Scholars characteristics may

be the same from K-12, but how they are applied depend on the age group. For example, she said, taking a risk for a kindergartner would look different than the risk of a high school student.

"It helps that these skills are reinforced from when they start in the Seaford School District, all the way to when they graduate," she said. "They're seeing the emphasis on these skills consistently throughout their school careers."

This year, administrators, teachers and staff were tasked with thinking of the District's mission innovatively and creating learning environments that foster modern skill sets.

To provide Seaford's educators with the tools they need to innovate and create, the District welcomed George Couros as its keynote speaker for Superintendent's Conference Day on Aug. 30. The forward-thinking teaching, learning and leadership consultant addressed the entire faculty to



Members of the Seaford Scholars Profile Committee include administrators and teachers from across the District.

share ideas and strategies for reaching today's learners. He emphasized that educators must be innovative to prepare students for an ever-changing world. Analytical thinking, complex problem-solving, critical thinking and technology use are among the top skills that will be needed by the leaders of 2025, according to the World Economic Forum.

"In our journey to innovation, we strive to do what is best for every learner," said Dr. Sheena Jacob, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and

Instructional Support, who chaired the Seaford Scholars Profile Committee. "Education and student learning is evolving, and that means new approaches to teaching."

Dr. Jacob added that the social and emotional learning programs and practices that Seaford has adopted are now part of the fabric of the District. The creation of the Seaford Scholars Profile is the product of bringing the most effective components of these initiatives together.

"We're making it our own now," she said.



The Seaford Scholars Profile Committee met over the summer to identify the characteristics that all students should possess as learners and leaders.



Twenty-two new teachers were welcomed to Seaford schools this past September.

## Seaford *Salutations*

### Welcome, New Teachers!

This year, there are 22 new teachers across the district, including elementary classroom teachers, secondary teachers in multiple subject areas, a districtwide psychologist and permanent substitutes. Before the first bell rang, they got a thorough introduction to the school district at new teacher orientation on Aug. 24 and 25.

New teachers gathered in the high school library for introductions, then quickly boarded a yellow school bus for a tour of the district. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Instructional Support Dr. Sheena Jacob led the tour, which included stops at Seaford's other three schools, as well as notable landmarks in the community.

The teachers learned about Seaford's mission and values, educational program, the role of the business office and instructional technology resources. The second day featured an informational session with United Teachers of Seaford, followed by breakout sessions for teachers with their respective building administrators.

### Administrative Appointments

The District welcomes new educators to its administrative team along with some familiar faces who are taking on new roles in Seaford schools.

**Amanda Barney** is the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment. She joins Seaford from the

Syosset School District, where she was the K-12 coordinator of English for the past six years. Ms. Barney was one of only two educators from across the country to be selected as a Washington Teaching Ambassador Fellow for the United States Education Department for a year beginning in July 2016.

The district is also welcoming **Andrew Casale** as its new Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. Mr. Casale joins the district from the Mineola Union Free School District where he most recently served as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. He previously served as the principal of Mineola Middle School when the school was named an Essential Elements Schools to Watch by the New York State Department of Education.

**Debbie Langone** is the new Executive Director for Instructional Technology and STEAM. She comes to the district from West Islip, where she was the director of science and engineering technology for the past four years. She taught science for 25 years and during her time in the classroom, she received the Harvard Club of Long Island Distinguished Teacher Award and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Educator of Distinction Award.

Seaford Harbor Elementary School welcomes **Jennifer Bisulca** as its new Principal. Ms. Bisulca is well known in Seaford, having served as an Assistant

Principal at both the high school and middle school. She was a driving force behind the creation of student wellness centers at both schools and had helped implement Teacher's College reading and writing units of study.

Seaford Harbor Elementary School Assistant Principal **Caroline Stringer** is also taking on leadership of the music and art departments this year.

Replacing Ms. Bisulca at the middle school is new Assistant Principal **Joseph Polite**. Mr. Polite comes to Seaford from the East Rockaway School District, where he was the mathematics department chairman for two years, overseeing the program for grades 7-12. Before East Rockaway, he was a junior high school math teacher in Queens.

New to Seaford High School's administrative team is Assistant Principal **Alex Mantay**. He has more than a decade of teaching experience. After beginning his career in Manhattan, he taught eighth grade math classes at Seaford Middle School for the past six years. Additionally, he has served as a coach for the middle school football team and the junior varsity basketball and lacrosse teams.

**Rich Schwartz** is the new Assistant Principal at Seaford Manor Elementary School. He joins the Seaford team from the neighboring Levittown School District, where he taught second grade and fifth grade at Abbey Lane School. Mr. Schwartz was awarded the New York State School Boards Association Champions of Change for Kids award after spearheading a student-driven letter-writing campaign to support people impacted by cancer.



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Dr. Adele V. Pecora  
Superintendent of Schools



# RAIN CAN'T STOP

## *Spirited Homecoming Celebration*

Rain didn't keep the Seaford community away from the homecoming celebration, which featured a parade and football game on Oct. 14.

Seaford High School was the destination for a parade that began at the public library. Onlookers were undeterred by the wet weather as they donned green and stood under umbrellas while gathering along Washington Avenue and Keily Drive. The parade, led by the Seaford Fire Department, featured Board of Education trustees, administrators and teachers, high school class banners, youth sports leagues and scouts, and the homecoming court and cheerleaders. All four schools were represented in the event that showcases Seaford pride.

The grand marshals for this year's parade were players and coaches from the 1998 Vikings football team. The district celebrated the 25th anniversary of the team's Long Island championship. They were also honored at halftime.

During halftime, Erik Zhang and Katherine Hoehn were crowned king and queen, with Taylor Broderick, Kieran Calderaro, Ethan Goldberger, Anthony Janes and Katie Kofod rounding out the homecoming courts. There was plenty to cheer about as the Vikings completed a 42-7 win over the Valley Stream South Falcons.



**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!

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[@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.