

UPDATES FROM THE PRINCIPALS



JANUARY
EDITION



WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

Dear Seaford Middle School Families,

Happy New Year 2024! As we step into the new year, we extend a heartfelt welcome to each member of our Seaford Middle School family. The start of 2024 not only marks a new chapter but also allows us to reflect on the heartening moments and impactful initiatives that shaped our December. With pride, we share the achievements of our students, the generosity of our community, and the collaborative spirit that makes Seaford Middle School a special place.

December Highlights:

The MS/HS PTSA added a special touch to the season by organizing a festive holiday boutique in the middle school. This not only provided an opportunity for students to explore unique and handcrafted items but also supported our school community.

Our school hosted two holiday concerts, and the atmosphere was simply electric. Our talented students took center stage, showcasing their musical skills and bringing the joy of the season to life. The dedication of our students and teachers was evident, and the resulting concerts were not only extraordinary but also a testament to the dedication of our school. As families, friends, and faculty came together in the audience, the skills of our students seemed to steal the breath from the room, leaving a lasting impression of unity and pride.

In the spirit of giving, our dedicated class officers orchestrated a highly successful toy drive. The outpouring of generosity from our students and

their families allowed us to deliver joy and toys to children in need, making the holiday season brighter for those in need. The Service Club demonstrated admirable leadership by spearheading a coat drive, providing warmth to the less fortunate during the chilly winter months. The impact of such initiatives extends far beyond our school walls, showcasing the characteristics of a true Seaford Scholar.

Closing out December on a festive note, our school embraced the holiday season with the spirited Deck the Halls competition led by our National Junior Honor Society. The school came alive with a burst of creativity as students decorated classroom doors with vibrant and imaginative ideas. The dedication displayed by our students not only showcased their artistic talents but also contributed to fostering a sense of community and celebration as we bid farewell to the year. The competition served as a reminder of the joy that collaboration and creativity bring to our learning environment.

Looking Ahead to January:

The eagerly anticipated Schools to Watch site-visit is upon us. It will take place on January 17 and 18, 2024. This thorough evaluation is a significant milestone for our school's commitment to continuous improvement. Further details can be found on page two of this newsletter. Your support and cooperation are invaluable during this critical process. As January rolls in, we also mark the conclusion of the second quarter on January 19, 2024. It's an opportune time for students to reflect on their academic achievements, celebrate successes, and set new goals for the upcoming semester. Save the date for the second Middle School Activity Night on January 26, 2024. Anticipate an evening filled with enthusiasm, laughter, and engaging activities crafted to create lasting memories for our middle school students.

As we wrap up December and step into the new year, let's celebrate the wonderful moments that illuminated Seaford Middle School. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated students, supportive families, and committed staff for making Seaford Middle School a place of learning, collaboration, and success. Here's to a fantastic new year filled with continued growth and happiness!

Thank you,
Joe Polite - Assistant Principal

SEAFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOLS TO WATCH SITE-VISIT

The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform created a program that would evaluate and acknowledge exceptional middle schools across America. That program is called “Schools to Watch.”

The New York State Department of Education recognized that the Schools to Watch program is closely aligned with the New York State Department of Education’s Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs. In 2004, it established the Essential Elements: Schools to Watch Program. As their website states: “The Essential Elements: Schools To Watch program recognizes schools that demonstrate continuous improvement and excel in the following four domains: academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure. The program is non-competitive and is designed to promote and guide the school improvement process as well as highlight characteristics of high performing schools with middle grades.”

In New York, the New York State Middle School Association is the organization that supports and promotes middle school education in our state. The Nassau and Suffolk regional chapters hold a conference every year that promotes practices of Schools To Watch schools. Our Principal, Mr. Smith, is on the executive board of the Nassau County Regional Middle School Principals Association, and a few of our members are from middle schools that were designated Schools To Watch over the years. We believe that Seaford Middle School is a strong contender for the accolade. However, it is not just an award. It is a means of professional and schoolwide improvement and feedback.

We began the application process over a year ago. After months of preparing and collecting data with faculty and staff, we completed the application. Our application was submitted over the summer of 2023 and was accepted to be moved forward. The next step is a two-day site-visit done by two members of the NYS Middle School Association’s Schools To Watch Committee and two administrators from Long Island middle schools that have already been designated as Schools To Watch. This site-visit will take place on January 17th and 18th of 2024. During the site-visit, the site-visitors will have free reign to walk the building, visit classrooms, and have meetings with all school community groups.



