

Dear Residents,

As the weather begins to turn to spring, and then quickly into summer, our students and staff have been continuing to impress me with their talents inside and outside of the classroom.

I am particularly proud of the ongoing collaboration between our schools and our community. It is through this strong school-community relationship that our district is able to afford opportunities for students to explore their interests and succeed now and in the future.

In order to continue to provide those opportunities, our administration and Board of Education have been responsible for making tough financial decisions, one of those decisions being to close Branch Brook Elementary School following the 2016-17 school year. The decision to close Branch Brook was a difficult one that took months of analytical research and community input into consideration. We understand that this decision emotionally impacts our community, but it is important to know that the district must act with the best interest of our students and staff in mind, while maintaining its fiscal responsibility to taxpayers.

Another decision currently being made by our Board of Education is the proposed 2016-17 budget. Over the last few months, we have been diligently reviewing items in order to prepare a financially

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CAREER DAY

High Schools East and West team up with members of the business community to enhance education and prepare students for the real world. This unification is called the

Smithtown Industry Advisory Board. Earlier this school year, more than 20 local businesspeople in a variety of fields came together to speak with students about their career options at International Business Career Day.

Select business and foreign language students from both high schools spent the day speaking with the professionals during round robin-style sessions. Networking opportunities such as these give students a chance to explore different career options, possibly through future internships.

NESAQUAKE GIVES BACK

Service-minded students understand the importance of giving back to those in need, specifically by supporting local community organizations. Matthew Reidlein, a Nesaquake Middle School student, spearheaded a community service effort this school year by starting a fundraiser for America's Vet

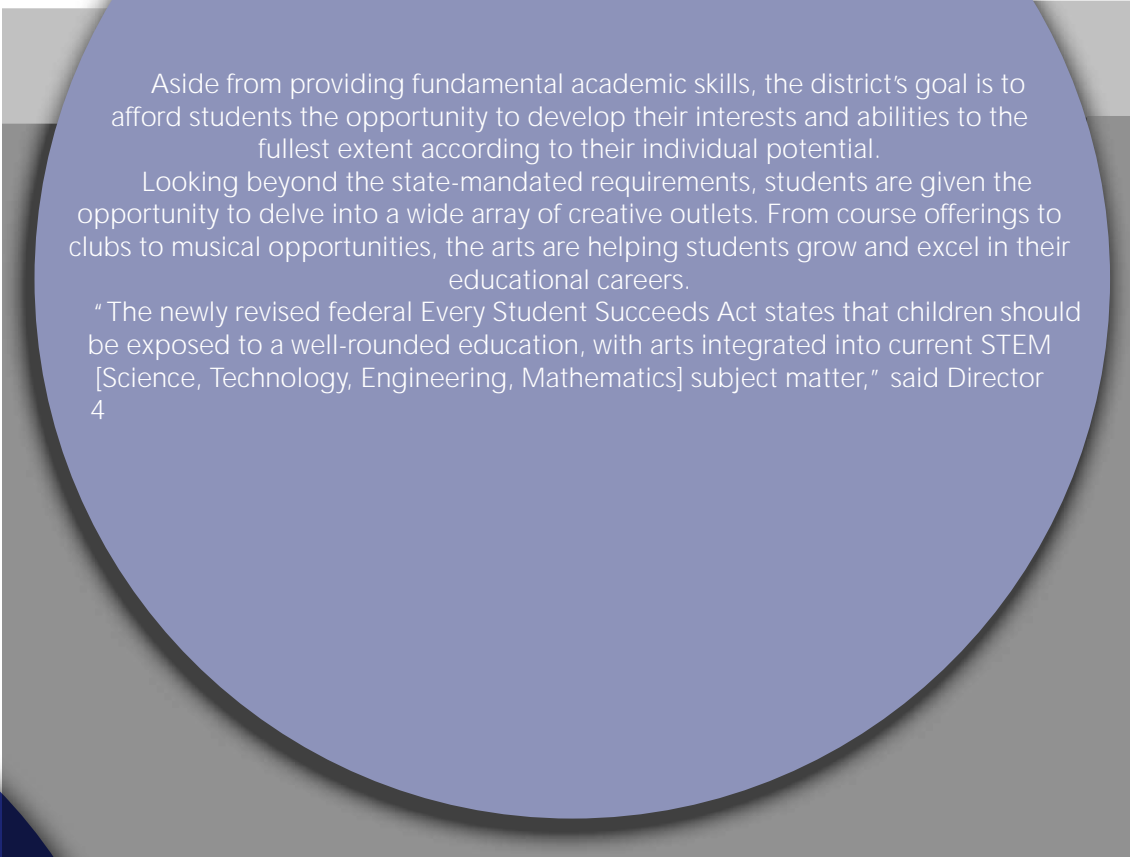
Dogs, a local organization that trains and places service dogs with veterans and the visually impaired.

Matthew, who is visually impaired and has an older brother who is legally blind, set out to raise \$6,000 to sponsor a puppy through online fundraising and the sale of bracelets and lollipops. Thanks to the help of the school community, Matthew has upped his fundraising goal to \$30,000, of which he now has raised more than \$26,000.



HSE and HSW DECA students continued their winning streak, as 118 competed in the New York DECA State Competition in Rochester, New York, in March. Eighty-one students received medals and trophies, and 33 qualified to attend the International Career Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

In addition, HSE was awarded chapter recognition s to y.182dt-N1FxpTjTn ioTiti GlobendEnuedancneurw 0 y.182dt-N1FxpTjTdalsP sto attend tj-1g



Aside from providing fundamental academic skills, the district's goal is to afford students the opportunity to develop their interests and abilities to the fullest extent according to their individual potential.

Looking beyond the state-mandated requirements, students are given the opportunity to delve into a wide array of creative outlets. From course offerings to clubs to musical opportunities, the arts are helping students grow and excel in their educational careers.

"The newly revised federal Every Student Succeeds Act states that children should be exposed to a well-rounded education, with arts integrated into current STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics] subject matter," said Director

4



The laying of the foundation starts in kindergarten, when students begin receiving exposure to various resources and materials used to express their artistic side. Elementary programs

skills. Fundamental concepts are introduced, and paint, pencil, clay and other media are used to mold and shape the children's talents.

As they progress through the grades, students further their knowledge of art by learning about art history and different media and connecting different types of art to their culture. By the end of their elementary experience, they have the ability to understand the cultural dimensions and contributions of the arts. They learn about the cultural forces that shape artistic communication and how the arts have in turn shaped the cultures of past and present society.

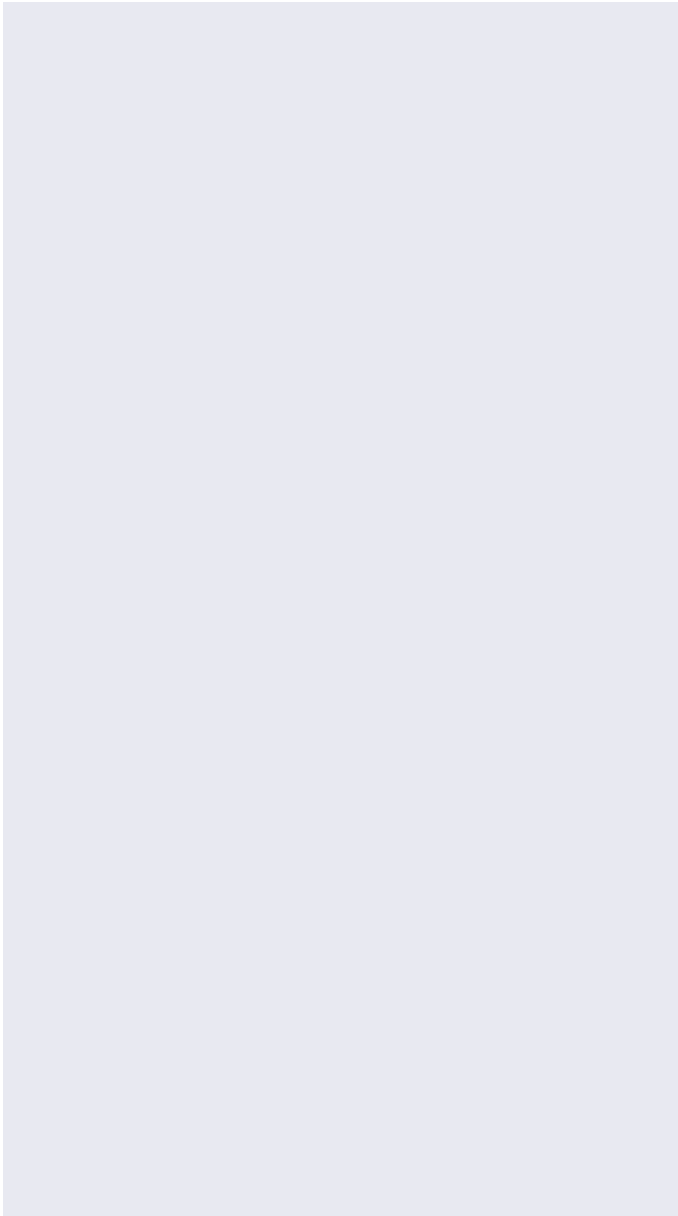
Students are also offered the opportunity to participate in the

at both the elementary and secondary level, and celebrates arts education in the school community. Every year, student



original works of art in the categories of dance

music composition, photography and visual arts.



SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT