

BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE-OF-THE-DISTRICT
REPORT

COMMACK UFSD

JANUARY 11, 2018

COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education

2017-18

STATE-OF-THE-DISTRICT (S.O.T.D)

September 14, 2017

- Proposed Items and Related-Cost Savings Included in Next Energy Performance Project (\$14.5 million in additional upgrades at no additional cost to taxpayers)

September 28, 2017

BOE Goals Development Workshop

- Budget and Finance; Multi-Year Financial Management; Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Goals (adjusting standards, re-writing curriculum, how we think about homework, social-emotional learning, and more).

October 19, 2017

BOE Recognition Celebration

- BOE Reviews and Formally Adopts Goals
- Current Fiscal Condition of the District, State of Buildings and Grounds Including Short- and Long-Term Plans to Address Repairs and Upgrades

November 9, 2017

- Elementary Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Programming (general education, special education, enrichment, etc.)

December 14, 2017

- Secondary School Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Program

January 11, 2018

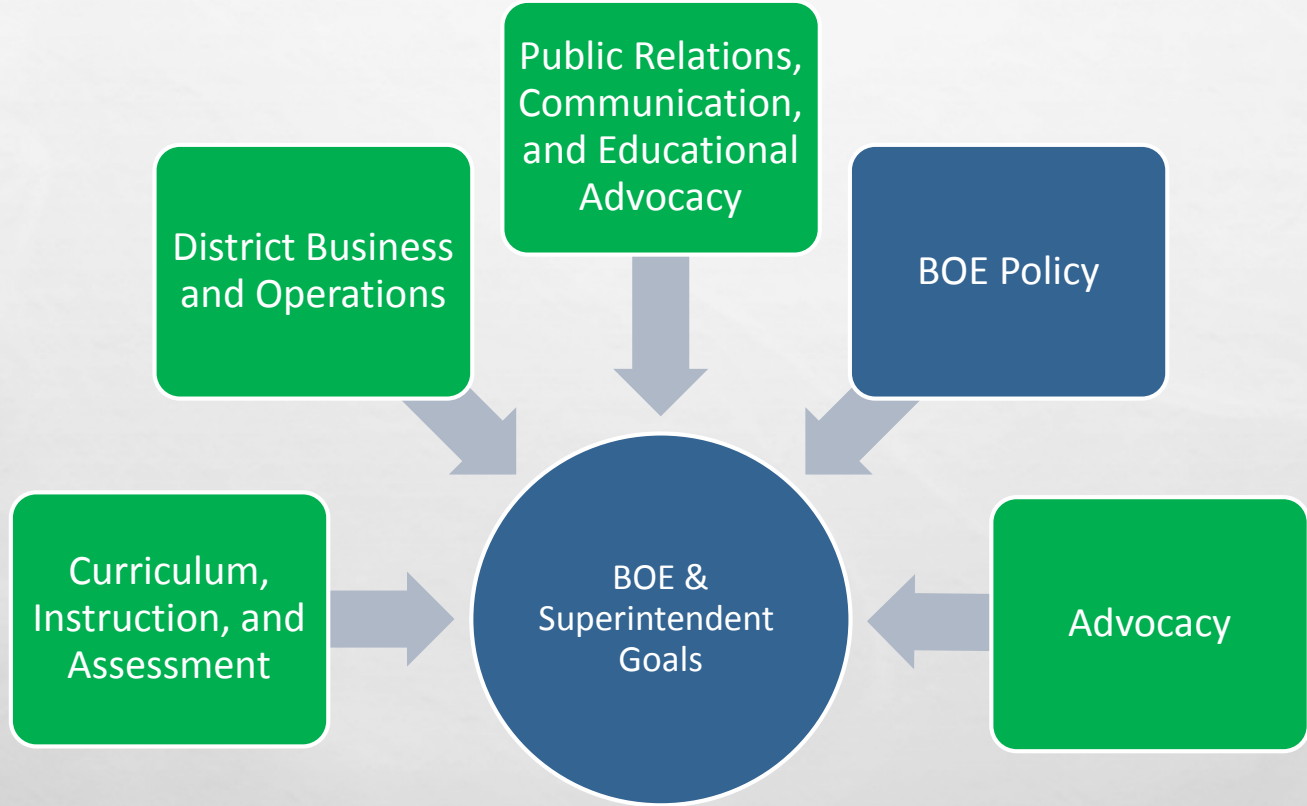
- Community Engagement and Outreach, Technology and Security, Advocacy Update, Extracurricular Activities, Special Education Services

FINAL S.O.T.D.

COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education

WORKING TOWARD GOAL ATTAINMENT

On Tonight's Agenda



WILSON TECH AND TECHNOLOGY

Presenters:

Ms. Diane Nelson – Wilson Tech Coordinator

Mateusz Mojsa – Wilson Tech Student

Ms. Kristin Holmes – Computer Science Teacher

Rafael Iskra – Computer Science Student

Mr. Dino Vassino – MIS Administrator

Dr. Michael Inforna – Curriculum Associate for Secondary Education

Mrs. Laura Newman – Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

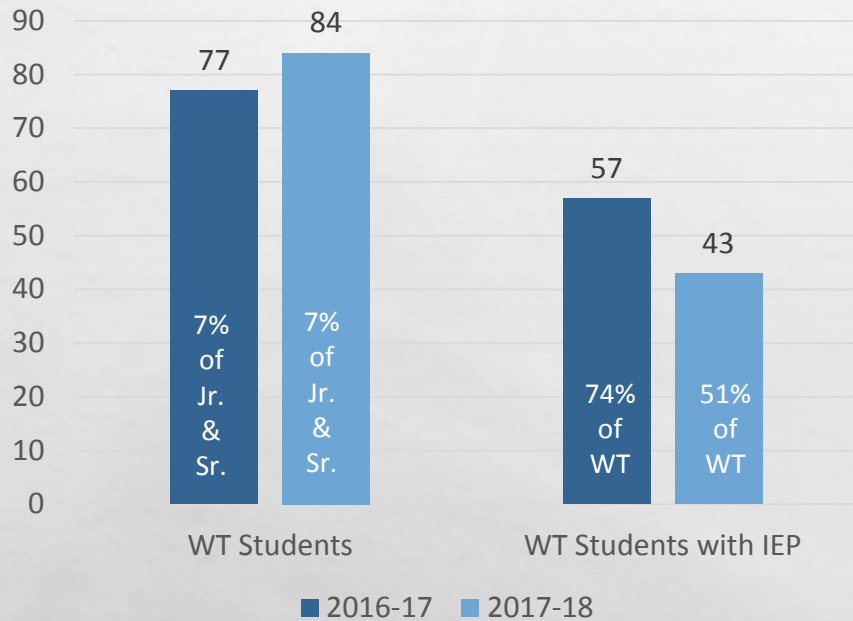
COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence in Education

WILSON TECH

The Wilson Tech Program provides a hands on learning experience for students in a broad spectrum of careers. Students develop skills necessary for entry-level employment or post-secondary study.

Juniors and Seniors in Wilson Tech



Examples of Wilson Tech Programs

Carpentry	Architectural Design	Automotive Tech
Cosmetology	Computer Networking	Construction Electricity
Culinary Arts	Criminal Justice	Hospitality and Office Procedures
HVAC	Veterinary Assisting	And many more!



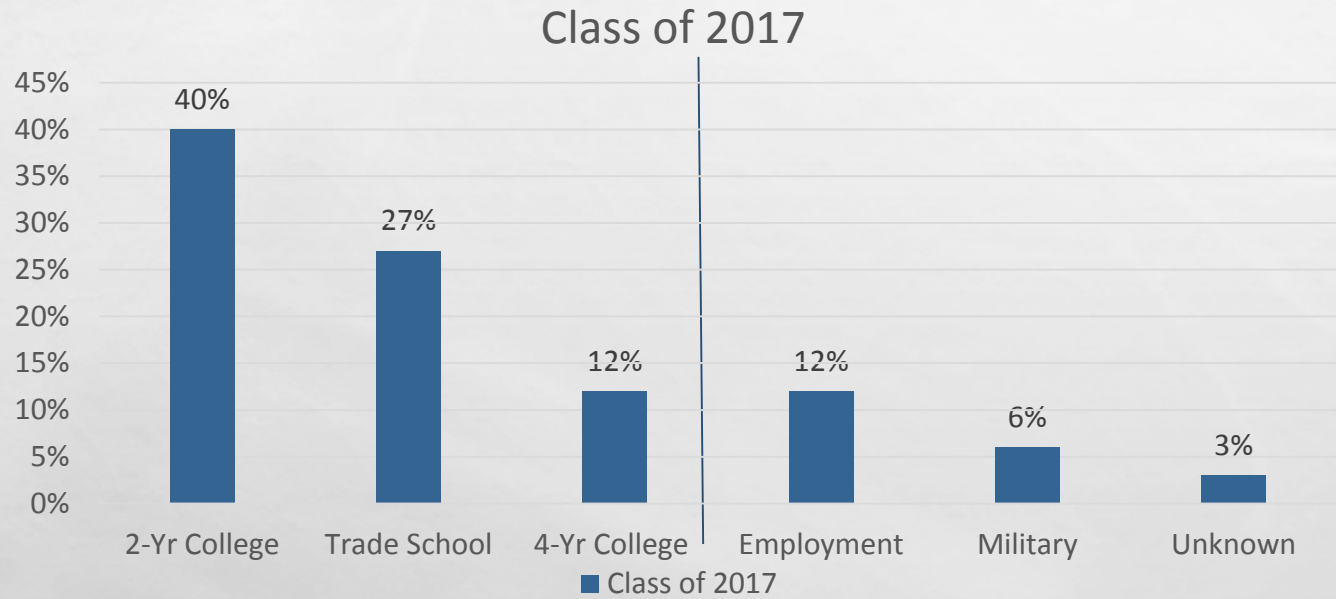
COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence in Education

★ = most popular with Commack students

WILSON TECH GRADUATES: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

79% of WT Graduates Continue with Post-Secondary Education!!



ONE STUDENT'S WILSON TECH EXPERIENCE!

MATEUSZ "MATT" MOJSA – WILSON TECH STUDENT

PROGRAM: AUTOMOTIVE TECH

TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY

Technology

Instructional
Technology Update

Smart Schools Update

Continuous
Assessment, Evaluation,
and Development of
Cyber Security

Security

Maintaining A Safe
and Secure
Learning
Environment

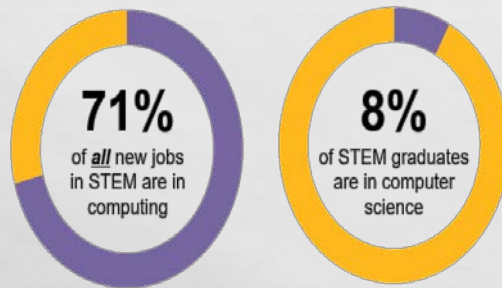
Future Plans

ENHANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Computer Science Courses:

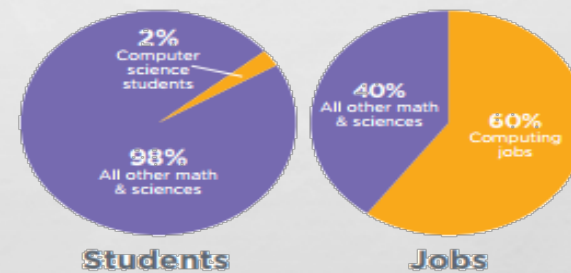
- Develop skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance while solving real-world problems.
- Cross-disciplinary curricular integration through technology
- Preparing students with in-demand knowledge and skills they will use in college and careers
- Access and opportunities across grades, skill levels, and abilities
- Technologies include software platforms like MS Office 365, BlueJ, Eclipse, Cloud9, in-demand languages such as Java, Python, JavaScript, PHP, HTTP, and CSS, and hardware platforms including PCs, tablets, robots, and calculators

The STEM problem is in computer science:



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics

The job and student gap in computer science



College Board AP Data. AP CS = 2%, AP Math/Science = 98%

ONE STUDENT'S COMPUTER SCIENCE EXPERIENCE!

RAFAEL ISKRA – COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT

QUESTIONS FROM BOE



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Current State

Instructional Technology Coaches

Growing use of O365 as Commack educators find appropriate for their students at the secondary level and conduct a deep-dive study of O365 in Grade 5 this Spring

Supporting and growing the use of Infinite Campus (Portal, gradebook, Campus Learning LMS, and more)

Student Password Assessment and Management

Maintaining 20+ instructional technology tools and vetting new tools as requested

Next Steps

Continue staff development through instructional technology coaching

Continue supporting teachers with the use of O365

Continue supporting teachers in the use of various Infinite Campus modules

Implement remaining student password changes in Summer

Continue to investigate and vet new technologies

SMART SCHOOLS UPDATE

Lag in Smart Schools Bond review process

By ELIZA SHAPIRO, KESHIA CLUKEY and ARIMETA DIOP | 10/31/2017 09:58 AM EDT

Current State

Original Plan Submitted Spring 2016	NYSED Requested Revisions and Immediate Resubmission	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone System• Instructional Technology• Cedar Rd and other network improvements/capital projects• Security projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 2016• April 2017*• August 2017• September 2017• October 2017• November 2017• December 2017 (Resubmission Pending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove Phone System• Resubmit Plan<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructional Technology• Cedar Rd and other network improvements/capital projects• Security projects

*Lag time is due to the nature of the plan requiring a capital project approval

MIS DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Network and Infrastructure

BOCES lease includes 422 notebook computers

Increased Internet bandwidth from 300mb to 500mb and added CMS 500mb

Reconfigured district wireless network (Segmented network for security, encryption, and visibility)

Data center UPS upgrade (Replaced batteries for data center battery backup system)

Implemented Kaseya (automated security patch deployment, remote support, remote application deployment and inventory management)

Installed new Adobe Suite (500 desktop licenses)

Upgraded Windows operating system to Windows 10 on 2177 computers

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF CYBER SECURITY

Highlights

Purchased MS Adv security tools for cloud computing

Purchased 100 lic for Adv Anti-Malware for district admin/staff

Updated Risk Register

Host LI Cyber Security workshops with BOCES and other districts

Dyntek performed Network penetration test on district

Developing and Implementing staff Cyber Security training

MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING DISTRICT SECURITY

Maintaining Current Procedures

- Monitoring of the 325 district-wide video surveillance cameras.
- Maintaining lockout status & visitor vetting by the use of Visitor Management System at all schools.
- Annual updating of the building level & district-wide Emergency Response Plans in accordance with State regulations.
- Providing consistent security staffing levels at each school; during and after the regular school day.
- Continuing to exclusively hire security guards with previous law enforcement experience.

Pending Enhancements

- Classroom Lockdown Locksets:
 - Installed at 4 elementary schools; remaining 2 schools elementary schools to be addressed shortly.
 - Commack High School & Commack Middle School pending Smart Schools approval.



QUESTIONS FROM BOE



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Presenters:

Dr. Kristi Keingstein – Director of Special Education

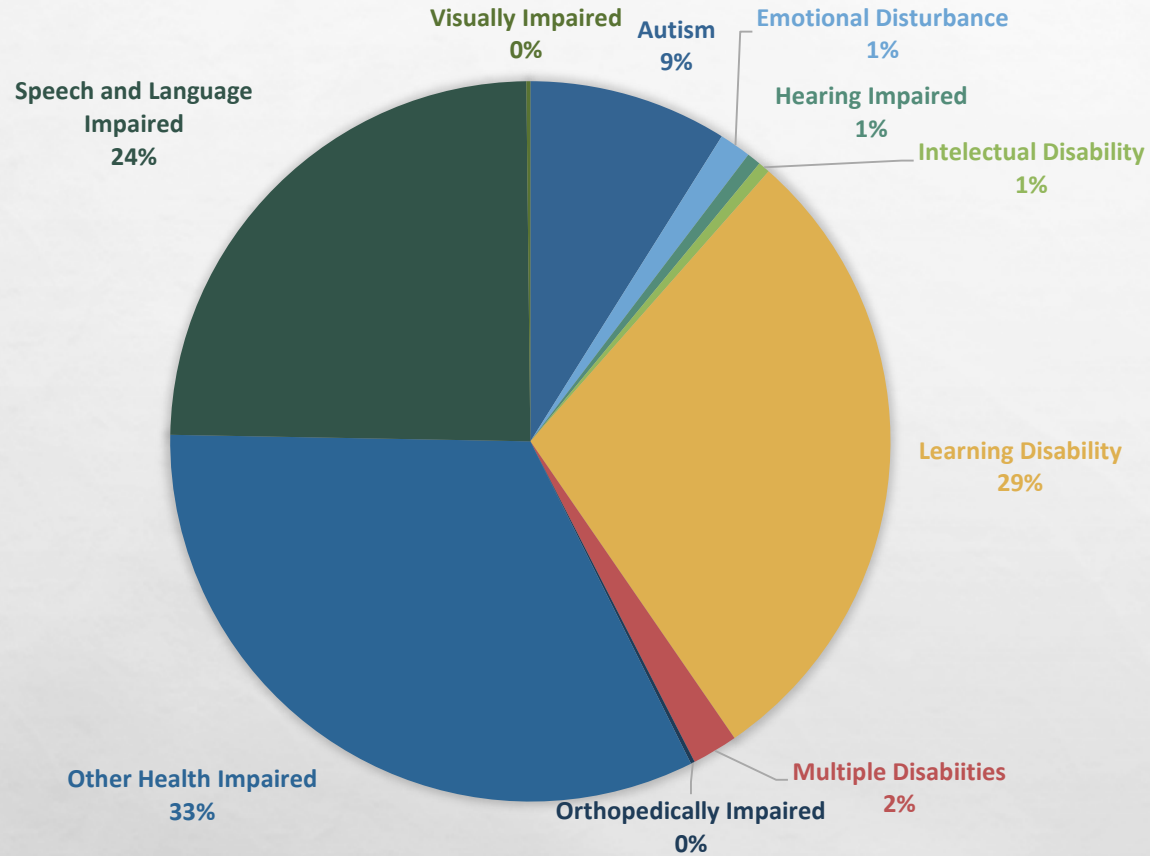
Ms. Stacy Flood – Special Education Teacher

Dr. Matthew Jurgens - Coordinator of Special Education

Ms. Pauline Shea – Special Education Teacher



WHO ARE WE SERVICING?



Note:
Other classifications currently
not identified in Commack:
Deafness
Deaf-Blindness
Traumatic Brain Injury

NYS Continuum of Educational Services

- Regular class placement with
 - accommodations
 - related services
 - consultant teacher
 - resource room support
- Integrated co-teaching
- Special class placement
- Special class placement in BOCES/Other Public
- Special class placement in a private day school
- Educational/residential placement
- Hospitalization

Provision of Educational Services In Our Schools

Elementary

- All Schools
 - Resource Room
 - Related Services
 - Consultant Teacher
- Wood Park, North Ridge, Burr, and Sawmill
 - Integrated Co-Teaching
 - Special Class

Secondary

- All Schools
 - Resource Room
 - Related Services
 - Consultant Teacher
- Integrated Co-Teaching
- Special Class

CLASS OF 2017: SPECIAL EDUCATION GRADUATION STATISTICS

*86% of all SWD at CHS Graduated with Either
a Regents or Advanced Regents Diploma*

Total # of SWD graduating or aging out from CHS: 78

Credential	# of Students
Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC) Previously IEP Diploma	1
Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS) as a standalone credential	0
GED	0
Local	8
Regents	47
Advanced Regents	22

COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education

SPECIAL CLASS CURRICULUM



Kindergarten Standard Curriculum

- Foundations
- Writer's Workshop
- Reader's Workshop
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Special Area Subjects

Beyond the Curriculum

- Individualized Education Plan
 - Goals and Objectives
- Informal assessment
 - Academic
 - Social
 - Emotional

LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

Adapted and Modified to Ensure:

- access to the general curriculum
- opportunity to meet the educational standards that apply to all students

Lessons are Designed Beyond curriculum:

- target individual goals
- focus on individual ability levels

Students are Provided:

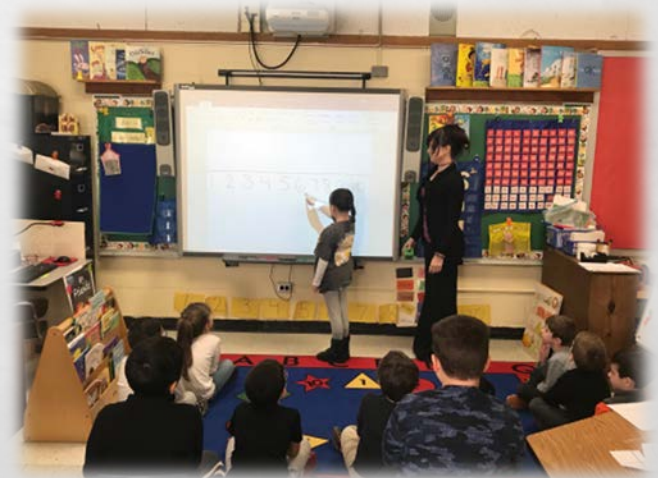
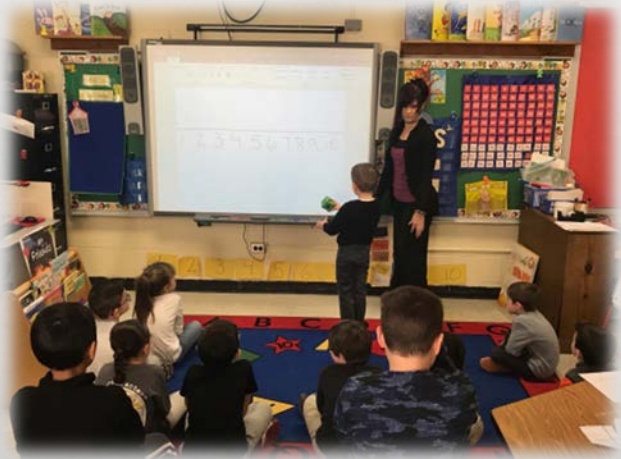
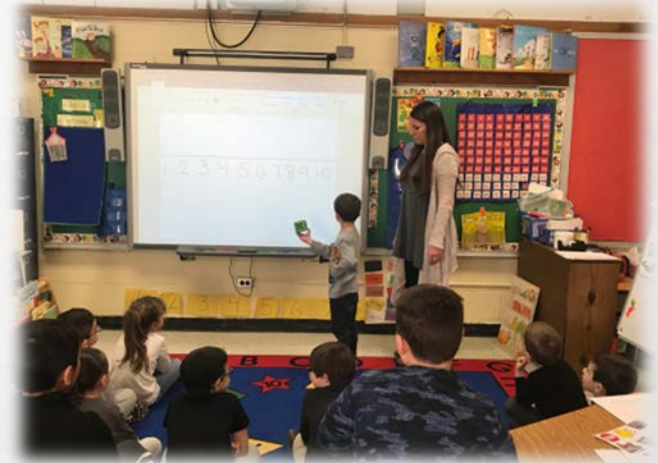
- individualized attention
- small groups instruction
- language simplified and explained
- additional models
- opportunity to practice to achieve success

FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORTS

Teachers, as they find appropriate for their students, employ:

Small group instruction	1:1 individualized instruction	Modified pacing	Language broken down	Individualized behavior plans implemented
Shaping behaviors	Directions repeated	Visual models	Manipulatives	Verbal/non verbal prompts
Modified worksheets	Highlighted material	Specialized seating	Strategies implemented to promote participation, increase attention, and confidence building.	Enrichment

LESSON



COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education



COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education



EACH AND EVERY CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL WITH THEIR OWN UNIQUE SET OF TALENTS AND STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES AND WEAKNESSES. GIVEN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT, SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION, COMMITTED AND DEDICATED TEACHERS AS WELL AS CAREFULLY DESIGNED LESSONS EACH AND EVERY CHILD IS ABLE TO SUCCEED SOCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND ACADEMICALLY.

COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education

COMPONENTS OF A QUALITY WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

Individualized to Student Strengths and Interests

Supported by Direct Instruction in the Classroom and Related Services

Takes Place in the Community and/or School

On-Site Support, Modification, and Accommodation, Occurs As Needed

Assessment, Evaluation, and Communication Occur on Regular Basis

Working towards Student Independence

WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS

WBL PROGRAMS HAVE EVOLVED OVER TIME

Year	Number of Students	Number of External Sites
2001-2002	6	1
2002-2003	6	1
2003-2004	6	1
2004-2005	2	2
2005-2006	2	2
2006-2007	1	3
2007-2008	3	3
2008-2009	2	3
2009-2010	4	4
2010-2011	4	5
2011-2012	3	5
2012-2013	3	5
2013-2014	4	5
2014-2015	4	5

Program began in 2001 with one teacher serving specific group of students (NYSAA designation)

New community partnerships developed over the years

Examples: Home Depot, Stop and Shop, Applebee's, Petco, Sears

WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS

WBL PROGRAMS HAVE EVOLVED OVER TIME

Year	Number of Teachers	Number of Students	Number of External Sites	Number of Internal Sites
2015-2016	2	10	5	1
2016-2017	3	18	23	4
2017-2018	4	27	25	4

Community partnerships have boomed in recent years

Now serving a broader population; e.g. Diploma-Bound Students, CDOS Credential Recipients, 8:1+2 class Population, Age 18+ Population.

Further Support Staff Serving Students; e.g. Speech/Language Pathologist, Job Coaches, Teacher Assistants, Aides

External Site Examples: Home Depot, Stop and Shop, Applebee's, Walmart, Gurwin, Petco, East End Nursery, Huntington Hospital, ClearVision, Modell's, Chili's

Internal Site Examples: All Star Café, Office Skills, Horticulture/Farmers' Market, Cafeteria

PARTNERING WITH ADULT AGENCIES

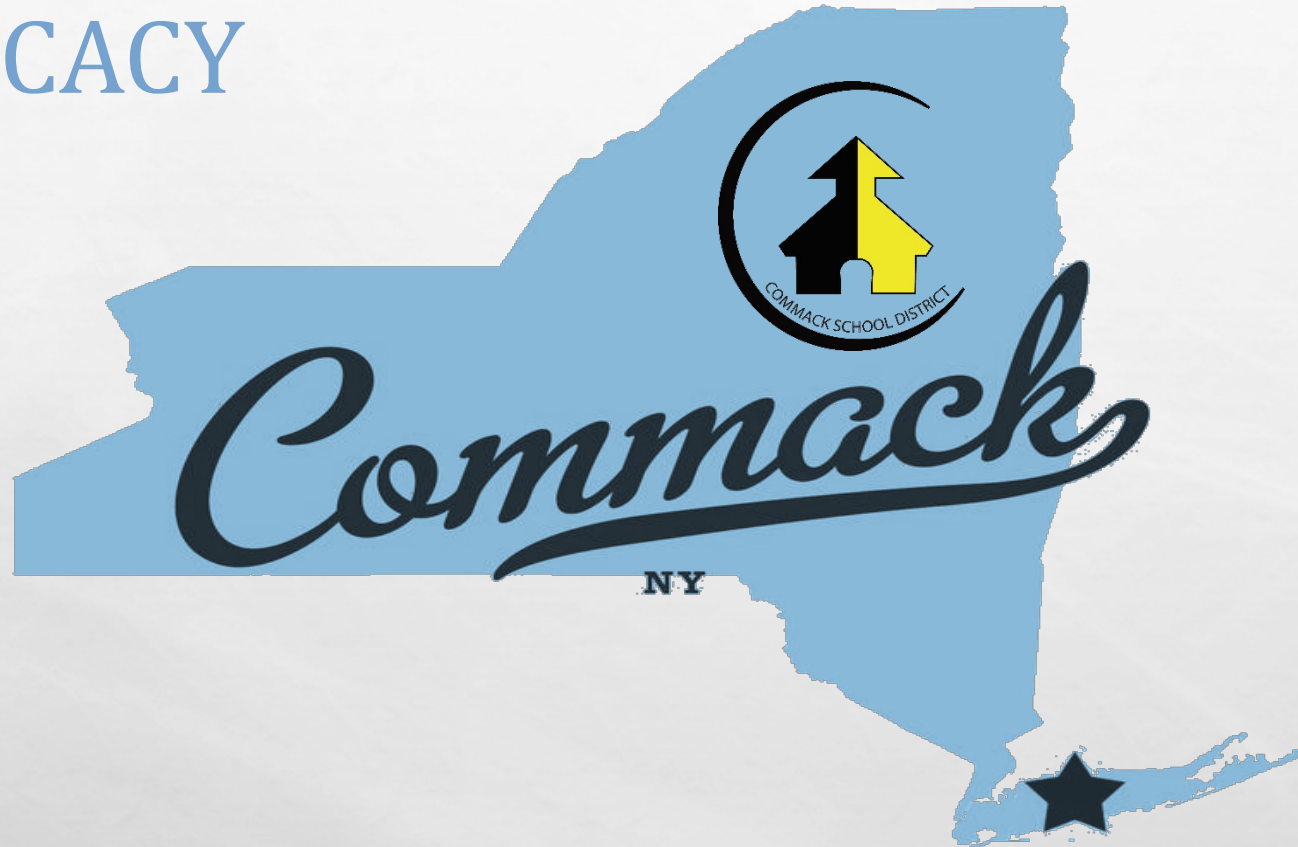
Students who are set up with adult services prior to high school exit are more successful in their post-secondary endeavors.

- ACCES-VR – Adult Career and Continuing Educational Services – Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Youth Employment Services (YES)
- OPWDD – Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities
 - Employment Training Program (ETP)

QUESTIONS FROM BOE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY



Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education

OBJECTIVES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH PROGRAM HINGES ON TWO PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

Establish and continue
the maintenance of
quality relationships with
the Board of Education
and stakeholder groups

Maintain a “pulse” on the
community’s
expectations of the
school district

2017-18 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY AGENDA

Parent
Workshops

Legislative
Advocacy
Committee

Marion Carll
Farm
Committee

Parent Focus Groups
(i.e. Elementary HW)

Additional
Website
Resources

Enhancing
Classroom-Level
Communication

PARENT WORKSHOPS



Completed Parent Workshops:
October 3 – Access and Opportunity: Helping All Students Reach Their Full Potential
November 28 – Elementary Homework

Upcoming Parent Workshops:
January 23rd – What's So Special About the Elementary Specials?

Upcoming Parent Workshops with Topics TBD:
February 27
March 20
April 24
May 22



COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education

WHAT DID WE ASK?

Please select all of the below that you would be interested in attending should a Parent Workshop be offered.

College-Level Learning at Commack High School	The Middle School Enrichment Program	Managing Student Stress and Anxiety	Extending Learning Through The Summer
Test Taking Strategies and Study Skills	Instructional Technology & Cyber-Safety	K-12 Literacy: Reading, Writing, and Digital Literacy	Singapore Math
Raising Student Engagement in Learning	The Arts and Music Program	The New NYS Science Standards	Elementary Homework Tips for Parents

Plus, Open-Ended Option
If there is an idea for a Parent Workshop that is not listed above that you would be interested in, please note it in the space below.

WHO RESPONDED?

300+ Responses District-Wide!

Grade	Number of Students	Number of Responses	Percent of Responses (by student)
Kindergarten	397	60	15%
Primary	1,149	116	10%
Intermediate	1,225	69	6%
Middle School	1,522	75	5%
High School	2,249	48	2%
TOTAL	6,145	308	5%

*Due to a limited sample size for Grades 3-12, we will continue to collect data. Then, we will develop a deeper understanding of that data.

PARENT WORKSHOPS: NEXT STEPS*

Primary Schools

- K-12 Literacy: Reading, Writing, and Digital Literacy (52.2%)
- The Arts and Music Program (38.3%)
- Elementary Homework Tips (37.4%)

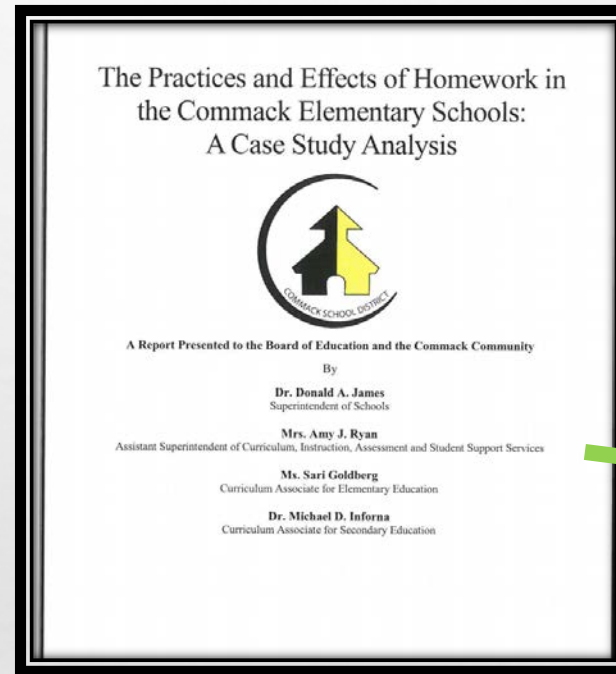
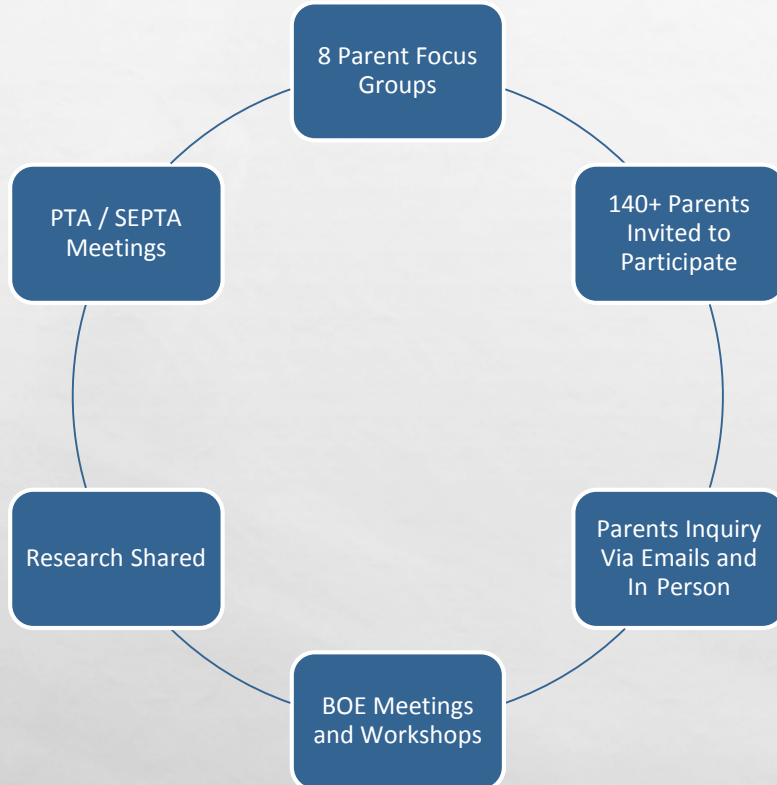
NEXT STEPS

```
graph LR; A[Primary Schools] -- NEXT STEPS --> B[Committee 2030]; B --> C[Develop a deeper understanding of survey results];
```

Committee 2030

Develop a deeper understanding of survey results

PARENT FOCUS GROUPS



The full homework report can be found under the NEW Parent Resource webpage

ENHANCING CLASSROOM-LEVEL COMMUNICATION



Completed Actions

Establish contractual language that requires teachers' use of technology to communicate with students and parents.

Connector Group of teachers and administrators recommend three platforms.

Superintendent, in consultation with the CTA President, select eSchool View teacher website.

Next Steps

Connector Group of teachers and administrators recommend an implementation and training plan.

Superintendent, in consultation with CTA Presidents, modify and finalize as needed.

Prior to First-Day-of-School 2018, training, implementation, and impact bargaining.

First-Day-of-School 2018, GOING LIVE!

ADDITIONAL WEBSITE RESOURCES

PARENT RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY RESOURCES ON THE HOMEPAGE!



Resources for Commack Parents

Homework – Setting the Stage

Dr. James' Recent Introduction to the Board of Education:

As you know we have been working on reviewing our homework practices for some time now with a significant focus this year.

As the year began we asked teachers to shift some of their homework practices and convened a comprehensive group of teachers and administrators that we call Connectors, to engage in the process of researching both what we do internally with regard to homework, what the research says about homework and to subsequently make recommendations regarding best practices and guidelines moving forward.

Recognizing that parents play a significant role in this conversation as well, we also convened numerous parent focus groups in an effort to gather parent input.

Having been an elementary teacher with significant literacy training from Columbia, Reading Recovery and more, math training from AUSSIE and a degree in special education, and having raised three children here in Commack with one more in third grade right now, I do have my own personal, professional guiding principles around homework:

- Homework should be:
 - o Balanced and well-designed – Quality over Quantity
 - o Developmentally Appropriate – this one is very important
 - o Linked to Current Work
 - o Should have a clearly articulated purpose that is shared with

Helpful Links

[Guidelines for Homework Best Practice: Kindergarten through Grade Five](#)

Educational Advocacy

About the Committee:

The Legislative Advocacy Committee has been established to assist the Board of Education in implementing solutions regarding legislative matters. The role of the Legislative Advocacy Committee is an advisory one, and any recommendations it provides to the Board shall not be substituted for any required review and acceptance by the Board of Education.

The Committee will center its efforts on assessing the impact of existing and proposed State and Federal education legislation, promoting information to our residents. Further, the Committee will communicate Commack's needs to our local, State- and Federally-elected representatives (this may call for periodic visits to legislative offices both locally and in Albany). The legislative agenda will include items such as (1) school funding matters; (2) educational issues i.e. mandated standards and assessments, graduation requirements, State teacher evaluation requirements, etc.; and (3) fiscal mandate relief.

The Legislative Advocacy Committee is comprised of the Superintendent of Schools, one (1) Board of Education member, five (5) Commack residents, two (2) High School student representatives; and one/two member(s) from each collective bargaining unit. All committee members are residents of the Commack School District.

Meetings are open to the public, and notice of upcoming meetings is posted on the home page of the website.

Advocacy Efforts

[Board of Regents Expands Safety Net Options For Students with Disabilities to Earn a Local Diploma](#)

[Email to Mr. Katz Re: Geometry Regents Regarding the June 2017 Geometry Regents scoring](#)

[Lobby Day March 7, 2017 Advocacy Platform](#)

[State Aid Shortage in Western Suffolk County The Foundation Aid Effect](#)

[Letter to the Chancellor](#)
Dr. James wrote to the Chancellor regarding testing for students in grades 3-8, special education students, and English Language Learners

[High Stakes Testing Resolution](#)

[Dr. James' Testimony](#)
Testimony to the Senate Standing Committee on Education Public Hearing, The Regents Reform Agenda: "Assessing" Our Progress

[Dr. James' Testimony](#)
on Governor Cuomo's 2015-16 Executive Budget Proposal to the Assembly on March 13, 2015

[Field Test Refusal Letter \(May 2014\)](#)

COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education

MARION CARLL FARM COMMITTEE

The Committee

- The MCP was established to assist the Board of Education in implementing solutions and sustainability plans regarding the property and is advisory in nature.
- Members include administrators, students, and residents.

Current Actions

- July/August – Committee announced and formed
- September – BOE interviewed candidates
- October 19, 2017– Committee appointed members
- October 30, 2017 – First meeting

Committee has:

- Visited property
- Visited working farms
- Formed subcommittees – Preservation, legal, fundraising/outreach, education program and schoolhouse
- Received a proposal for gardening/farming on property

Report
Forthcoming

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (LAC)

The Committee

- The LAC was established to assist the Board of Education in implementing solutions regarding legislative matters and is advisory in nature.
- Members include administrators, students, residents, and members of the unions.

Goals

- Change, diminish, and shift standardized testing for grades 3-8
- Return responsibility of teacher evaluations to the local level
- Raise awareness of Foundation Aid, mandate relief, and targeted funding.
- Raise overall State aid allocation
- Oppose charter schools and school voucher programs
- Change current systems for alternative pathways to graduation

Next Steps

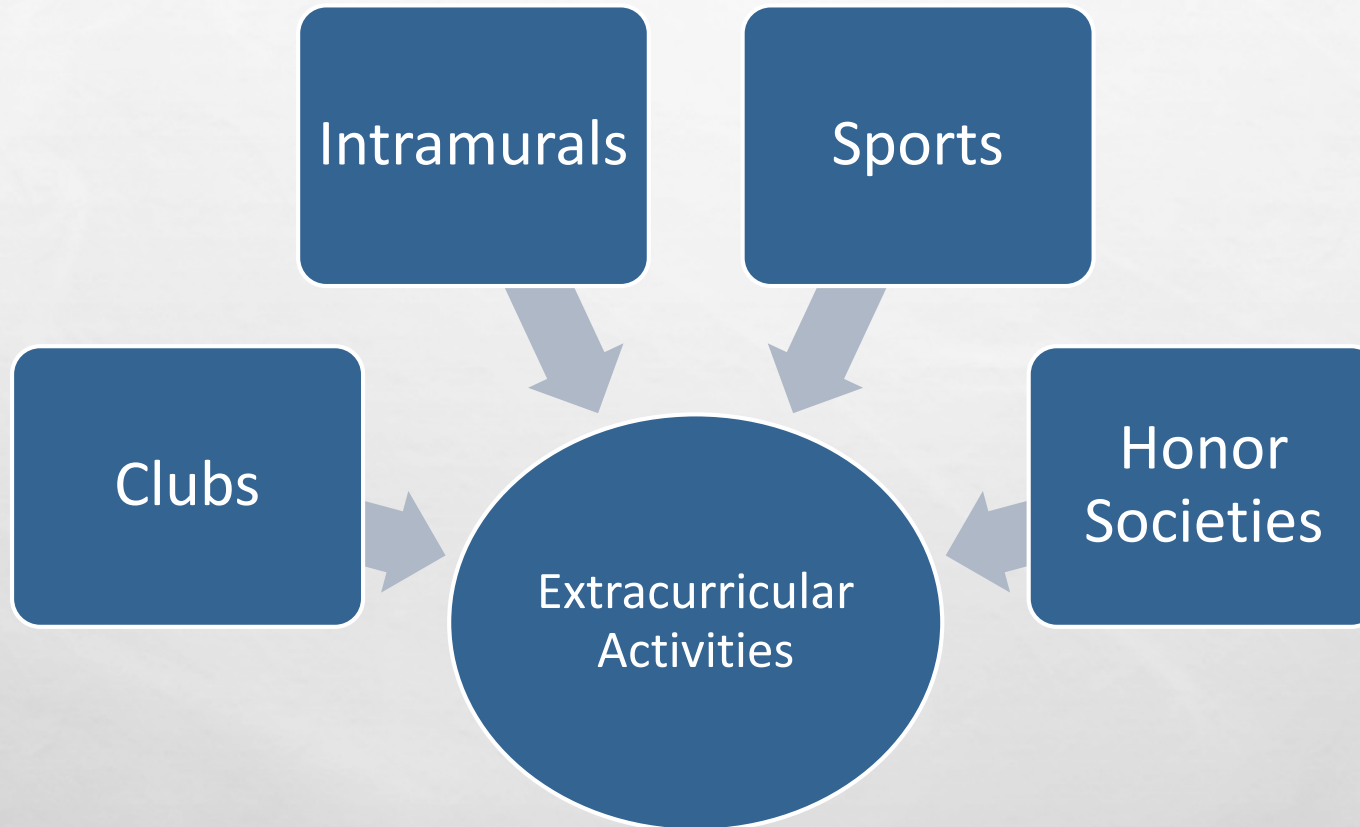
- Continue the development of the LAC platform
- Trip to Albany in March



QUESTIONS FROM BOE



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



CLUBS AND HONOR SOCIETIES

Elementary

- National Science League
- Continental Math League
- Student Council
- Friendship Club
- Dabble in Scrabble
- Pay It Forward
- Stock Market
- Reading Challenge
- STEM

Middle School

- Over 40 Clubs
- Over 1,640 Members
- Clubs Include the Art Service Club, Best Buddies, Cause Four Paws, Club Europa, the Fitness Club, International Cooking Club, Lego Robotics, Nature, Explorers, and Earth Protectors, S.T.E.A.M. Club, Student Government and Unplugged.
- Honor Societies Include National Junior Honor Society and Tri-M

High School

- Over 85 Clubs, Honor Societies, and Other Extracurricular Activities
- Over 2,800 Members
- Clubs include Art, Astronomy, Best of Buds, Chess, Environmental Awareness, Grandfriends, Human Rights, Glamour Gals, Model UN, SADD, Student Government, and Many More
- Honor Societies Include Most Subject Disciplines

COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence in Education

INTRAMURALS: CURRENT STATUS

Location	Hours (Approx.)
Commack High School	220
Commack Middle School	130
Burr Intermediate School	75
Sawmill Intermediate School	75
Total	500

On average, 30 to 40 students participate in each hour of intramurals offered.
That's 15,000 to 20,000 opportunities for students district-wide.

Note: Intramurals are dependent upon gym and field availability.
Interscholastic sports have priority access to gyms and fields.

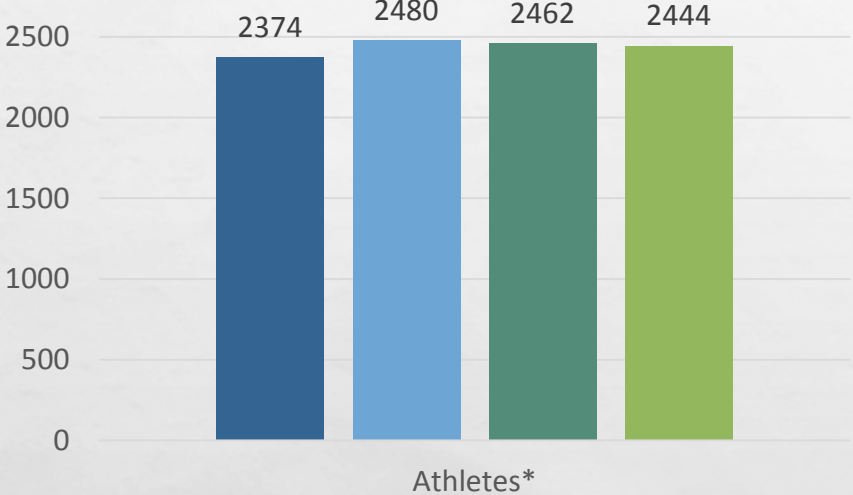
Intramural activities include, but are not limited to:

- Fitness Room
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Football
- Hockey
- Indoor Soccer
- Kickball

COMMACK ATHLETICS

5 Years in a Row: NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team School of Distinction Award!

Participation in Interscholastic Sports



All Fall 2017 Varsity teams earned NYS scholar athlete recognition

6 Fall 2017 Varsity teams won a League Championships

9 Fall 2017 teams qualified for playoffs

Fall athletic teams participated in numerous community youth and charity events



* As of the first day of the season for each sport
NOTE: This is a non-distinct count of student-athletes

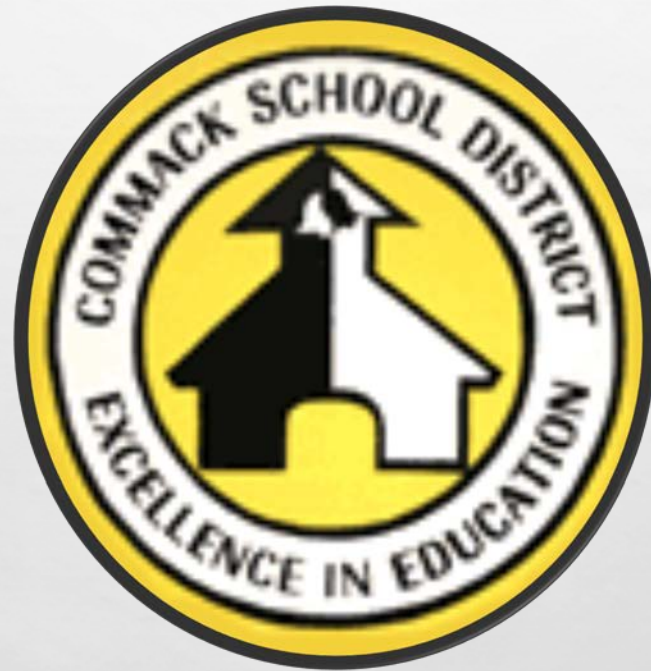
QUESTIONS FROM BOE



UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

- **January 18 – Board of Education “Open Workshop” at CHS, Art Gallery, Tentatively 7pm**
- **February 8 – Regular Board of Education Meeting, Admin. Report: State Budget**
- **March 8 – BOE Budget Workshop:**
 - Superintendent’s Proposed 2018-19 Budget
 - Tax Cap Levy Increase
 - District-Wide Administration Spending Plan
 - Instructional Spending Plan
- **March 15 – BOE Budget Workshop**
 - Interscholastic Athletics
 - Facilities & Operations
 - Staffing
 - Transportation & Undistributed Costs
 - Technology
- **March 22 – Informal Budget Hearing**
- **April 12 – Budget Adoption and Regular Meeting**
- **May 3 – State Required Budget Hearing**
- **May 15 – Budget Vote**

THANK YOU!
THIS CONCLUDES OUR
STATE-OF-THE-DISTRICT REPORTS!



COMMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence in Education