
Commack U.F.S.D. Board of Education

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
DECEMBER 14, 2023





Agenda

Community Events/Updates

State of the District: Secondary
School Programs

Committee Reports

SAVE THE DATE

K-12 Parent University

Thursday, February 29 at CHS

6:00pm-9:00pm

Choice of sessions to include: The Adolescent Brain, Special Education Evaluation & Test Scores, Bullying vs. Conflict, Northwell Health, Narcan Training, Investigating New Science Investigations, and MORE!

More information to follow via email and website



Student Engagement at CMS

Student Engagement:

Effective student engagement is predicated on the connections students make to their:

- Learning
- School community
- Teachers, Support Staff and Administrators
- Overall program

How do we engage students at Commack Middle School?

1. Curriculum and Instruction
2. Enrichment & Regents Level Coursework
3. Counseling Center & Other Supports
4. Intramurals & Athletics
5. Fine & Applied Arts Programming
6. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
7. Clubs

Curriculum and Instruction

Student engagement is enhanced via the implementation of a challenging, supportive and reflective instructional program.

At Commack Middle School:

- All students participate in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.
- The MYP Programme reflects a framework for teaching and learning.
 - Inquiry based and student centered
 - Skill Development- *Research, Social, Thinking, Communication and Self-Management*

Enrichment Classes

Student engagement is enhanced via enrichment classes, Regents level courses and exploration of world language beginning in grade 6.

At Commack Middle School:

- Grade 7 and 8 students have 13 enrichment classes to choose from:
 - E.g.- world activists, robotics, forensics, gaming and coding, etc.
 - Authentic learning tasks/ application.
- The study of world language begins in grade 6 with either Spanish, French or Italian

Regents Level Course Work

Student engagement is enhanced via enrichment classes, Regents level courses and exploration of world language beginning in grade 6.

At Commack Middle School:

- Grade 8 students enroll in Regents level Earth Science or Living Environment and potentially Algebra I
- Students begin to study a World Language (French, Spanish or Italian) beginning in grade 6

Counseling Center & Other Supports

At Commack Middle School:

- (7) School counselors, (2) Social workers and (5) School Psychologists.
- Weekly grade level meetings (teachers & support staff)
- Instructional support team meetings
- Push in programming/ Assembly programming:
 - The Power of Language, Digital Footprint, Mindfulness, Internet Safety, Too Good for Drugs, Building your Brand, Disabilities Awareness, Bullying Prevention, Voices from the Fire, etc.
- Transition Planning (grade 5-6 and 8-9)
- New entrant programming
- Other

Intramurals and Athletics

Student engagement is enhanced via participation in the athletics program.

At Commack Middle School:

- Inviting, child-centered environment designed to develop balanced, caring and principled student-athletes.
- Grade 7-8 (22) different sports offered over 4 seasons.
- Daily intramurals for all grade levels before school.

Fine and Applied Arts

Student engagement is enhanced through a robust music and art program.

At Commack Middle School:

- Students have the opportunity to participate in general music, band, orchestra and/or chorus.
- Music and art clubs further develop student talents and interests.
- (2) annual concerts
- The Music & Art Department orchestrates a number of special events throughout the year (Jazz night, Festival of the arts, String night).

PBIS and Fostering Positive Relationships

Student engagement is enhanced via the implementation of an evidence based school wide approach to acknowledging positive behavior that creates a safe and welcoming learning environment.

At Commack Middle School:

- The PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) model provides consistent messaging related to the values of respect, responsibility and fostering positive relationships.
- Behavior matrix and common language
- Annual PBIS Kick Off
- PAW system to acknowledge students

Clubs

Student enfranchisement into the school community is enhanced through a robust catalogue of clubs.

At Commack Middle School we:

- Clubs support intellectual, physical and social development
- Students may explore their interests and become increasingly connected to the wider school community
- Community service
- 40+ clubs offered

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Questions from the Board of Education?

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Commack High School





WE ARE CHS: What drives our work

- Student interests, passions, and strengths
- Creating a multitude of **opportunities**
- Applying skills in **authentic learning** opportunities in a real-world context
- Nurturing leadership skills, fostering innovation, and **empowering** students
- A commitment to developing learners who are **balanced, principled, caring, and risk-takers**
- Preparing students to make the best decisions for their **future**

What does the research show?



"Student participation in class, completion of coursework, and participation in extra-curricular activities also have strong, proven links to attendance, test scores, and graduation." *National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments*



"Students who participate in extracurricular activities have greater academic success, greater character development, especially in the areas of time-management and leadership skills, more positive social development, and greater interest in community involvement." *Christison, The Benefits of Participating in Extracurricular Activities*

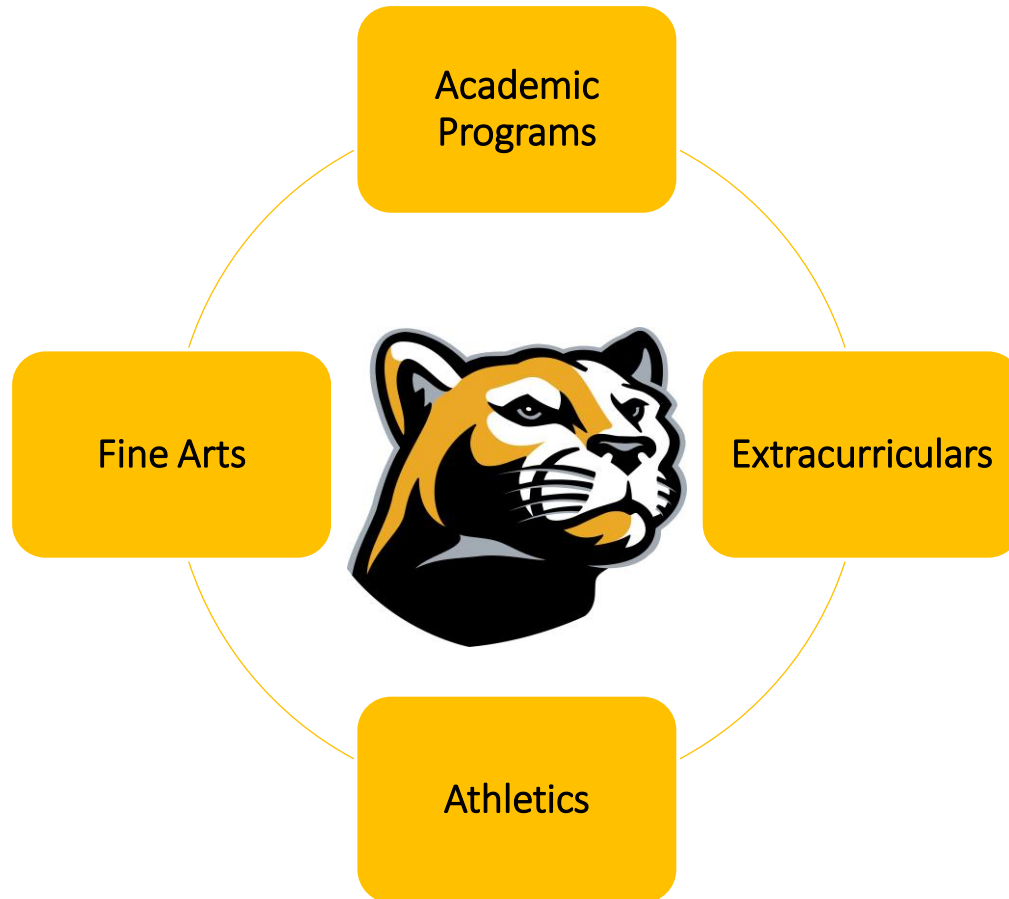


Most students participate in academic and non-academic activities at school and develop a sense of belonging – their friends are there, they have good relations with teachers and other students, and they identify with and value schooling outcomes. *Wilems, Student Engagement At School A Sense of Belonging and Participation*



"When educators put effort into the goal of creating a school environment guided by student engagement, motivation, and autonomy, students can see their own growth." *Parrish, To Increase Student Engagement, Focus on Motivation*

What makes us CHS?



Commack High School Pathways



9th & 10th Grade offerings including enriched and AP courses

Wilson Tech

Internships

Project Lead
the Way
(PLTW)

IB
Career Pathway
Programme

IB Diploma
Programme

Dual
Enrollment
Courses

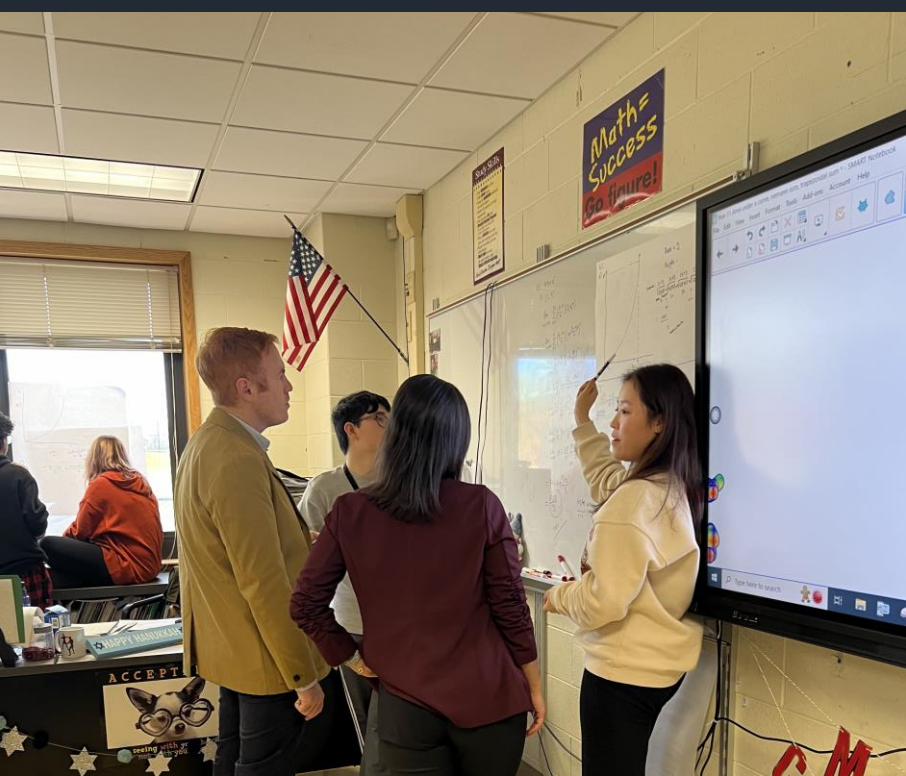
At Commack High School students will engage in coursework that provides them with the 21st century skills for success in what they choose to do after they leave Commack High School.

International Baccalaureate- Diploma Program



Combining international programs and experiential learning to provide our students with unparalleled learning experiences

- Comprehensive educational program that focuses on interconnectedness between subjects with an international mindset
- 5 core liberal arts courses + 1 elective
- *Extended Essay*- student initiated research project under guidance of a teacher mentor
- *Theory of Knowledge*- course designed for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge and how we know what we know through a student-centered focus
- *Creativity, Action, & Service Project*- which challenges students to show initiative, demonstrate perseverance, collaborate and utilize critical thinking skills





Morgan G.
IB Diploma Candidate



HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Commack High School offers 39 different sports over the course of three seasons. The Commack School District prides itself on not only our students athletic talent but also the coach that instill meaningful team work and sportsmanship lessons to their student athletes. 1391 students participated in interscholastic sports this year.



FALL

Boys Cross Country - Girls Cross Country
Field Hockey - Football - Boys Golf - Gymnastics
Boys Soccer - Girls Soccer - Girls Tennis
Boys Volleyball - Girls Volleyball - Girls Swimming

WINTER

Girls Basketball - Boys Basketball - Boys Bowling
Girls Bowling - Boys Fencing - Girls Fencing
Boys Swimming - Boys Track - Girls Track
Unified Bowling - Wrestling

SPRING

Baseball - Co-Ed Badminton
Girls Flag Football - Girls Golf - Boys Lacrosse
Girls Lacrosse - Softball - Boys Tennis
Boys Track - Girls Track - Unified Basketball



Jeremy W.
Three Season Athlete

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & CLUBS



- A Cause for Paws
- American Sign Language Honor Society
- Art Club
- Athletes Helping Athletes
- Best of Buds
- Bible Club
- Brainstormers
- Business & Marketing Honor Society (NYS)
- Camera Club
- Chess Club
- Class Leadership Boards
- Class Council
- Computer Science Club
- Educators Rising
- English Honor Society
- Environmental Awareness Club
- E-Sports
- Fashion Club
- Finance Club
- French Honor Society
- Future American String Teachers' Assoc
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Future Engineers Club (Robotics Club)
- Hebrew Club
- History Honor Society
- Human Rights Club
- ICA Chamber Choir
- ICA Chamber Orchestra
- ICA Jazz Ensemble
- ICA Jazz Messengers
- ICA Vocal Ensemble
- ICA Stage Band
- ICA Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- ICA Wind Ensemble
- ICA Select Choir
- International Cultural Society
- International Thespian Society
- Italian Honor Society
- Literary Magazine
- Literary Productions Gr 10 -12 (Etchings)
- Marching Band
- Math Honor Society
- Math League (NYS)
- Math Team Grade 9
- Math Team Grades 10 to 12
- Mindfulness Club
- Mock Trial Team
- Multimedia Club
- Pay It Forward
- Peer Leadership
- Pep Band
- Pit Orchestra
- Plan
- Political Activist Club
- SADD
- Scholar Athletes Leader Corps
- Science Honor Society
- Science Olympiad
- Science Quiz Bowl
- School Store
- Spanish Honor Society
- Special Olympics Support Club
- Stage Crew
- Student Life
- Nat'l Technical Honor Society
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Yearbook "Crossroads"



Dara G.
Student Performer





Julia L.

Student Life President

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Questions from the Board of Education?

Committee Reports



Multicultural Committee Update

- The Commack School District's Multicultural Committee is dedicated to celebrating the diversity of our district and offering our students and families a platform to embrace and share their unique backgrounds and experiences.
- The Multicultural Parent Committee met earlier this month. We plan to launch a Commack Digital Cookbook that will celebrate some favorite family recipes from across our district. We will be inviting members of our community to send in family favorite recipes with pictures that will be included in a new digital Cookbook that will be shared with the community in the next few months.
- Our student members of the committee have been working on ongoing projects to highlight Cultural Celebrations and Heritage Months at each school.





Legislative Advocacy Committee Update

The Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) was established to assist the Board of Education in implementing solutions regarding legislative matters. The committee is charged with effectively communicating Commack's needs to our local, state, and federal elected representatives.

The committee has begun meeting to formalize their platforms and prepare to meet with legislators. This year's platforms include: School Funding, School Safety, Student Wellness, Local Governance, Sustainability and technology

Thank you!

