

Commack High School ~ Highlighting Success

March 2023



At Commack High School, we are proud of the many ways that our teachers and staff provide the foundations of success for our students every day! Each month we will highlight a few areas of success that our students experience throughout the school year and share them with our families. We hope you enjoy this monthly peek inside the halls of Commack High School!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The music department is excited to highlight the month of March as “*Music in Our Schools Month*.” Our music department celebrates this month by having students perform in the lobby at Commack High School every morning as soloists, duets, trios or small groups. These performances demonstrate our students’ strong **communicative** and **risk-taking** skills while sharing their love of music. Also in March, our annual musical is a unique opportunity for high school students in art, dance, music, stage crew and theatre to come together and share their **knowledge** and talents to showcase for the Commack Community.



“*Music in Our Schools Month*” continues as the music department rolls out our new initiative, *Commack District Music Nights*. A series of four concerts, *Commack District Music Nights* consists of student musicians from Commack Intermediate, Middle School and High Schools combined. Each concert features guest artists that will rehearse and coach our students. *Commack District Music Nights* are an amazing opportunity for parents, staff and community members to see and hear the progression of each program. These events will also demonstrate the **caring** personalities of our high school musicians as they serve as mentors and role models to our younger students. After “*Music in Our Schools Month*” our student musicians continue to share their gifts of music by performing in Spring Concerts and various county festivals such as LISFA, NYSSMA, and SCMEA.



Although we have wonderful student musicians that demonstrate their gifts every day, what we are most proud of is what music and the arts do for our children. Music teaches us humility and to care for one another by working together. Musicians are deeply rooted in fundamental principles that promote **risk-taking** while **reflecting** on each performance. Music is the ultimate authentic assessment discipline by which each participant must make important decisions in real time.



ART DEPARTMENT

The Art Department at Commack High School is an immersive learning environment where students are encouraged to explore and analyze the diverse world of art. Teachers strive to engage, challenge, and inspire students to approach the study of art in our extensive elective program. We offer a highly flexible, compassionate, challenging interdisciplinary curriculum with a shared vision that incorporates emergent technologies, traditional techniques and applicable art connections. Our courses allow students to embark on projects that require high levels of experimentation, **self-reflection**, critical **inquiry**, and effective **communication**. With a growing number of college level courses, the options for students are unmatched. Courses in International Baccalaureate Art, as well as four Advanced Placement options, challenge students to engage in art-making, portfolio development, art research, and art criticism. As a result of a grant awarded from Epic Games, a state of the art Gaming Lab is now available on-campus, which is also home to the high school Esports team who recently won a State Playoff in the Fall High School Esports League.



The classroom environment is universally welcoming, accepting, and supportive. By creating this “safe space” students can express themselves and gain confidence, tapping into their own, individual creative potential. Our world is in need of creative thinkers, compassionate and confident individuals. Skills learned in the art room are transferable, not only to other academic areas, but the world around them. Through fine arts, students develop skills like resiliency, grit, and a growth mindset to help them master their craft, do well academically, and excel in life after high school.



Keenly aware of the fast pace of our society today, we motivate students to slow down and take in the beauty of the world around us by infusing courses with field trips to all of the major museums and galleries in and around Long Island, visiting artists, cultural experiences and job placement and internships. Students enjoy first-hand experiences by having their work entered in over 50 annual exhibitions and contests. Winners have received national recognition, scholarships and many have sold their work to private collectors. Recent work has been exhibited at the Heckscher Museum of Art, the Huntington Arts Council, Suffolk County Community College and Drexel University.



The creative process of making art is central to the development of the human experience. Whether it be drawing in the courtyard, portraits for the Teacher of the Year, or making cards for soldiers, connections are made. The arts enrich student experiences and bolster academic achievement. The arts are alive and thriving at Commack High School!