

News Bulletin

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School

SUMMER 2014

Dear East Islip Families,

I hope this summer message finds you enjoying all the beauty that summertime brings – time with family and friends, and time to relax and unwind as we prepare for a new academic year.

The summer session is always a very busy time for us, as our team is preparing for a welcoming opening day for all students on Sept. 4. Our buildings are being readied, thanks to the terrific efforts of our outstanding buildings and grounds crews. Our faculty is busy preparing for high-quality instruction, and our leadership team is putting the final touches on the small details that make everything come together for a wonderful start to the new school year. As I reflect on the past year, I'd like to highlight some East Islip accomplishments that were guided by the district's 2013-2014 strategic plan as the chapters of our remarkable history continue to be written.

First and foremost, join me in congratulating the 391 graduates from our senior class who walked across the field at graduation and who are now proud alumni representing the East Islip Class of 2014. Their accomplishments are impressive, and I have no doubt that each and every graduate will go on to represent our community with pride. Our graduates were awarded more than \$6.5 million in scholarships, and many walked away with a significant number of college credits that will now count toward their post-secondary degrees. Special congratulations must be given to all of our families for raising such fine young men and women, as well as to all faculty and staff who helped them on their educational journey.

During the last year, we made many improvements in the instructional environment that are worthy of mention. Our instructional team of primary school educators researched and recommended the implementation of a K-2 balanced literacy

initiative that returns readers' and writers' workshops to our classrooms so that our youngest students develop into engaged and thoughtful readers and writers during their formative years.

We also worked diligently this past year on restoring many programs our East Islip students want and deserve. This coming September, you will see the return of third-grade instrumental music, sixth-grade foreign language study and middle school robotics, all of which have been proven to advance critical thinking skills and learner engagement, in addition to positioning students for a successful high school entry.

Additionally, much of the past year's work focused on strategic goals that bring value to an East Islip diploma. We will enhance Advanced Placement opportunities for our high school students with the September addition of two popular courses, AP Music Theory and AP Psychology. Moreover, our teachers of AP classes have been studying outside the district this summer, gearing up to deliver these college-level curricula that are approved by the College Board.

In September we will also see a new career academy in culinary arts and hospitality at the high school level. This new academy complements our three other existing career academies: the International Business Globalization Career Academy, the Environment Green Academy and the Medical and Health Technology Career Academy. These academies are driven by project-based learning and content-area integration in their finest forms.



With the strong sunlight appropriately