



Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

It's All About the Kids

Arts Education: Paving a Pathway to Success

It has long been held that the arts provide a critical means to develop both the complex and subtle aspects of the mind, providing unique experiences that cannot be derived from any other source. When brought from the periphery to the core of learning, arts education makes a significant contribution to a child's holistic education. As the STEAM movement takes over the 21st century classroom, the arts are playing an ever-expanding role in producing fully literate citizens who have the skills and insight they will need to solve the complex problems of our modern world.

The district offers a comprehensive K-12 curriculum in both music and visual arts. Throughout their scholastic careers, students are encouraged to explore and develop their talents by performing in instrumental and choral groups, taking advantage of fine and commercial arts classes, and becoming involved in a vibrant musical theater program.

"The overriding goal of the program is focused on providing instruction for all students, whether they are seeking the arts as a vocation, an avocation or just to enhance their appreciation of the arts," said Joseph Pallotta, the district's director of fine and performing arts.



Elementary art education forms the foundation for later artistic development.

FINE ARTS FOR ALL

The district's standards-based art program is taught by certified art teachers. At the elementary level, the focus is on introducing the fundamental concepts, materials and techniques that will form the foundation for later artistic development. At the middle school level, individual creativity is nurtured as students move on to increasingly advanced concepts and techniques. Those who show serious interest and ability may take an accelerated studio art class in eighth-grade.

The high school art program provides an expansive

course of study for aspiring professionals, as well as those wishing to satisfy their passion for artistic creation. The course offerings include everything from drawing, painting, sculpture, AP studio art and portfolio preparation to printmaking, graphic design and photo illustration.

MAKING MUSIC COUNT

Beginning in kindergarten, all elementary students receive 40 minutes of general music instruction at least once per six-day cycle. Students may choose to participate in band, orchestra and chorus programs, starting with optional string classes in second-grade, and expanding to full ensemble experiences for fourth and fifth-graders. As they progress to middle school, those who show advanced ability and interest may also audition for advanced ensembles. Junior concerts begin in third grade and progress to more elaborate performances in middle school.

Musical opportunities at the high school abound, with concert and marching bands, string and symphonic orchestras, concert and mixed choirs, as well as chamber orchestra, string quartets, wind and jazz ensembles, brass choir and music theory courses. This vast musical talent is on glorious display at the winter and spring Gala Festival of the Arts concerts.

Students interested in the theatrical arts are invited to delve into fully staged productions beginning in the fifth grade, gaining experience as actors, technical and stage crew, set designers and pit musicians.



General music education begins in kindergarten.

THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABORS

The success of the district's fine and performing arts program is evident as students continue to receive accolades and awards, gain acceptance into prestigious art and music schools,

and earn impressive scholarship awards each year.

The NAMM Foundation recognized the district as a Best Community for Music Education, citing its exceptional efforts to maintain music education as part of the core curriculum for all students. This year, a record 109 of the district's young musicians were chosen to perform at the Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County Festival in January.

Last year Lynbrook High School seniors in the Art Portfolio Preparation class were offered nearly \$1.6 million in scholarship awards. They were accepted to some of the top art programs in the nation, including the Rhode Island School of Design, the School of Visual Arts, Pratt Institute and Otis College of Art and Design.

"As our students demonstrate their talents in the arts, their many successes are a great source of community pride," said Mr. Pallotta. "I am equally proud of the way they use their formidable abilities to enhance and serve their community, coupling their personal appreciation for the arts with an understanding of the essential role that they play in advancing our society."

What the Arts Teach Us

- The arts teach us that problems can have more than one solution, keeping us open to possibilities as they unfold.
- The arts teach us to make qualitative judgments.
- The arts celebrate multiple perspectives.
- The arts teach us to say what cannot be said, extending the limits of our cognition.
- The arts encourage us to discover our full range of feelings.



Arts in Action

Scan this QR code to view videos highlighting the district's many unique fine and performing arts programs.

Follow us on Twitter @LynbrookSupt

Gaining Real-World Perspectives

INSIDE THE ARTIST'S STUDIO

The Visiting Professional Artist Series helps seniors in the art portfolio class make real-world connections with practicing artists. They have met virtually and in person with professional artists from around the world to discuss studio practices, influences and challenges they have faced.

"The program has really helped our seniors realize what is available to them in terms of art careers," said art teacher Tom Sena, who developed the program. "It gives them a new clarity to hear from artists who are making a living doing something they are passionate about."

The program was so unique that Mr. Sena was invited to present a workshop to fellow art teachers at the Balanced Mind Curriculum Conference at Molloy College in November.

DESIGNING A CAREER IN GRAPHIC ARTS

Students who take the high school graphics design class find themselves immersed in the world of commercial art. Using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, they learn to create original designs for everything from magazine covers to product packaging.

In one lesson, students were asked to produce a portfolio of logo designs for Epic Records that would reflect the company's storied history, while offering a fresh take on its brand identity. In another lesson students teamed up with design and engineering students to produce the branding and packaging materials for custom-made adaptive toys created for children with disabilities.

"Keep in mind that graphic arts is a commercial art," said teacher Michael Kunz. "You are designing a little for yourself and a lot for the client."

BROADWAY BOUND!

Starting with the elementary school musical productions, participants are immersed in the theater experience, not only acting and singing, but working on sound, lighting and sets.

"Our theater students play a very hands-on role in all of our productions," said Mr. Pallotta. "Beginning in fifth-grade, students run the lighting and also paint and decorate sets. And from the first time our actors step on the stage, they learn to use body mics."

As students mature, their theater experience becomes more intense. Starting with one-act

Starting in the elementary grades, Lynbrook students build a strong foundation in the arts, developing understanding, perfecting skills, and establishing habits that will plant the seeds for growth in later years. As students progress to the secondary grades, opportunities for authentic experiences abound.

"Whether participants are aspiring professionals or simply seeking to satisfy their creative passions, our aim is to provide unique programs that help them gain real-world perspectives and insights, while honing practical skills," said Joseph Pallotta, the district's director of fine and performing arts.



Students produced logo designs for Epic Records in the high school graphic arts class.

junior versions of shows in fifth-grade, they advance to full-length musicals in high school, with full-stage dance numbers and professional sets.

WE'RE GOING TO DISNEY!

Every four years, orchestra, chorus and band students travel to Walt Disney World to perform on stage and march down Main Street USA. Entertaining guests from around the world with their vocal and instrumental performances, they get a taste for "showbiz, Disney-style," in one of the world's most high-profile venues.

Last year the high school chorus took part in a Disney educational workshop, where they interacted with Broadway singers, actors and dancers, learning firsthand about careers in the performing arts. Orchestra students attended a rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic and met with musicians and cast members performing in "The King and I."

Members of the band traveled to Philadelphia, where they performed in front of the Liberty Bell on Independence Mall. While in Philly, they also took a tour of the National Historical Park and the National Constitution Center.

Putting the STEAM in Arts Education

There is much research to support the value of art and music education to boost motivation, attitudes and attendance, supporting success in school and in life. Through their practice of the arts, students learn that mastery comes with practice, creativity is born from collaboration, and that problems can be approached from many angles, often yielding more than one viable solution.

As the STEAM movement takes hold in classrooms across the district, that spirit of creative collaboration has produced a new synergy, as art and music teachers join forces with classroom teachers to enhance learning by exploring the many connections that exist between science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.

ART MIRRORS NATURE

A recent fourth-grade art lesson about leaf printing began by reinforcing a science lesson that dealt with photosynthesis and the process by which leaves turn color. From that starting point, students delved further to observe the beauty of symmetry in nature, the texture of the veins and the warm colors that are associated with fall foliage. The connections they drew enforced their scientific knowledge, while opening new avenues of creativity.

DRAWING ON SCIENCE

Fifth-graders enhanced their understanding of human anatomy by making anatomical drawings. In this lesson, they were asked to study the organ systems and draw what they saw realistically, rather than relying on their imaginations. In addition to increasing their knowledge of the organs, students learned how to use graphic design to impart information clearly to others. The lesson also introduced them to career opportunities in the field of scientific illustration.

PAINTING TO THE RHYTHM

After studying about famous artists who used music to inspire their work, fifth-grade art and music classes joined forces to explore how playing different rhythms affected their own creations. While half the class played a traditional march rhythm on drums, the other half painted to the beat. They then switched to a modern rhythm and compared how that influenced their work.

CREATING SYMBOLISM THROUGH SYMMETRY

Seventh-grade art students received a history lesson, a math challenge and innovative inspiration when they created their own mandalas. They learned about the historical significance of this ancient Hindu art form to represent our relation to the infinite. Next they put their knowledge of geometry and radial symmetry to work to create their own unique symbols. After drawing a design for one segment of the circle, they copied

it multiple times to produce a perfectly symmetrical pattern.

GIVING NEW VOICE TO SILENT NIGHT

In an eighth-grade chorus class, students formed a new understanding of the expressiveness of sign language, as they learned to sign Silent Night for their holiday concert. One of the chorus members is the only student in the school who takes sign language as her foreign language. She and her classmates have found new avenues to connect through this shared musical experience.

PUTTING A NEW SPIN ON A CLASSIC TALE

Even the youngest Lynbrook students rose to the STEAM challenge when they participated in a lesson that combined science, reading, music and movement. After discussing how bears prepare for hibernation, they read and acted out the classic children's book "We're Going on a Bear Hunt."



This elementary art lesson used music to inspire artistic creation.



Seventh graders used their knowledge of geometry and radial symmetry to create mandalas.

Eighth-grade chorus students learned to sign and sing Silent Night for their holiday concert.

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS WITH FEET FIRMLY PLANTED

When he graduated from Lynbrook High School in 1982, Danny Weinkauff never dreamed he would one day find himself on a multifaceted career adventure as a Grammy-award winning composer, a world-touring musician, and a music producer for TV and film, as well as a practicing physical therapist.

The longtime bassist for alternative rock band They Might Be Giants, Mr. Weinkauff launched his Red Pants Band in 2014. In addition to his Grammys, he has won a Parents Choice Award, a NAPPA Award and a Family Choice Award, among others. He has written and produced music for Sesame Street, Disney, Nick Jr. and

HBO, just to name a few. As a physical therapist, he worked mostly in pediatrics, helping children with developmental delays.

After graduating in the Top 20 of his high school class, the three-season varsity athlete went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Hunter College and a Bachelor of Science in physical therapy from Stony Brook University.

"Lynbrook Public Schools gave me a great general education," said Mr. Weinkauff. "I was able to attend college on a full academic scholarship thanks to my great teachers. I felt very well-prepared to enter college."

Mr. Weinkauff remembers getting a solid elementary music foundation in Lynbrook, which served him well as a self-taught musician.

He credits his former high school principal Dr. Santo Barbarino with lighting the spark that changed the course of his career. Dr. Barbarino, who had his own wedding band at the time, asked him to fill in for his bass player.

"I always had a love of music but never thought it would be something I could do professionally," said Mr. Weinkauff. "Thanks to Santo's call I've been able to work at something I'm passionate about."

Although he has traveled the world, Mr. Weinkauff's roots are still firmly planted in rich green and gold soil. His fellow LHS graduates Suzanne Luna and Francis Busso have written lyrics with him and fellow alumnus Jeff Thall mixes all his albums. His children, Kai and Lena,

who both attend Lynbrook High School, have appeared in many songs, along with several of their LHS friends.

IMPARTING PERSONAL INSIGHTS

Lynbrook High School Class of 1959 alumnus Dr. Richard Ned Lebow visited his alma mater via Skype to share 60 years of political insights with global history students.

Dr. Lebow, who is a professor of international political theory at King's College London, has worked at the Naval War College, the CIA, Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University, the University of Pittsburgh, and The Ohio State University. He is the author, co-author or editor

of 34 books and has been a visiting professor/scholar at the University of London, the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, McGill University, the University of Munich and University of Milan, among others.

In addition to seeking his views regarding current world and national politics, students asked him about the path of his own career, obstacles he overcame, his memories of high school, and ties he maintains with the Lynbrook community.

"My students gained such historical and personal perspective from Dr. Lebow," said teacher David Rabinowitz. "His visit sparked much follow-up discussion."

Alumni Spotlight

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National Art Honor Society members carved jack-o'-lanterns for Night of the Pumpkins, raising more than \$5,000 for charity.

Lighting the Autumn Night

Each October the National Art Honor Society converts the high school field into a dazzling Halloween fantasyland when they present Night of the Pumpkins. This year, students created more than 100 hand-carved jack-o'-lanterns, which lit the night, as costume-clad children delighted in fun fall activities.

"This has grown over the past eight years from a humble display in the cafeteria to a proud community event that raises thousands of dollars for charity each year," said NAHS advisor Michael Kunz.

Working through the Memory Project, NAHS members also created portraits to express support and hope for children living in a refugee camp on the Syrian border.

Come to the Cabaret

Drawing on a tradition that dates back decades, the Tri-M Music Honor Society hosts Cabaret Night each year. Tri-M members organize the entire event, transforming the school cafeteria into a cozy cabaret lounge to showcase the musical talents of dozens of student performers while raising money for local charities.

"It's humbling to see the level of student collaboration that occurs each year," said Tri-M advisor Alyssa White. "While Tri-M officers run behind-the-scenes logistics, student musicians come together to provide a truly unique experience for everyone involved."



Elementary students performed a holiday concert for residents of a local senior living center.

Saving Cherished Memories

Students in the high school photo illustration class have helped dozens of grateful families over the years by using their photo editing skills to restore cherished photos damaged by time or natural disaster.

"My students feel good to know that they could restore treasured family memories using the practical skills they learned in this class," said teacher Jennifer Turner.

Raising their Voices in Service

During the holidays, music students throughout the district don Santa hats and reindeer antlers to bring holiday cheer to local senior citizens. Lynbrook students have also presented command performances of their spring musicals at adult homes and performed the National Anthem at Mets games. And it wouldn't be a Lynbrook Memorial Day parade without the school bands marching to honor the memory of our fallen soldiers.

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Communication Corner

Budget Work Session:

Feb. 15
In preparation for the May 16 budget vote, a budget work session will take place on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the high school. For more information, visit the Finance Budget page at www.lynbrookschoools.org.

Adult Education Classes Begin Feb. 27

Adult Continuing Education spring classes will begin on Feb. 27. In-person registration will take place on Feb. 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. at South Middle School.

Transportation Request Deadline: April 1

Requests for transportation to non-public schools for the 2017-18 school year must be submitted to the Lynbrook UFSD Transportation Office, 111 Atlantic Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Forms must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2017. For details, visit www.lynbrookschoools.org or call 516-612-5490.

Emergency School Closings

In the event of weather-related school closings,

notices will be posted on www.lynbrookschoools.org, the Lynbrook Schools Facebook page and the ParentLink app. Announcements will also be made on WCBS, KJOY and WALK radio stations and on News 12. Should the district website be down, an emergency website has been set up at www.nylearns.org/Lynbrookadmin.

Smart Bond Planning

The Board of Education held a hearing in November to present Lynbrook's Preliminary Smart Bond Investment Plan, which earmarks \$892,992 in state funding for security improvements throughout the district. To view details of the plan, visit www.lynbrookschoools.org.

#GiveAHootFor...

Follow Dr. Burak's Twitter account, @LynbrookSupt. Look for weekly tweets with the hashtag #GiveAHootFor....



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