



*Inspiring Minds  
Empowering Achievement  
Building Community*

# GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**KUSUM SINHA, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

August 9, 2022

Dear Garden City School Community,

It's hard to believe that we are in August already! I hope you are enjoying the summer and finding time to do all the relaxing and restful activities that sometimes are difficult to schedule during the school year. As you soak up the last few remaining weeks of summer, please know that we are looking forward to your children returning to school in a few weeks.

While our buildings have been closed for regular instruction, our district has been busy in other ways. Below, please find highlights of our summer work, and stay tuned for additional updates on each of these initiatives throughout the year!

## **Board of Education Leadership**

At the Board of Education reorganization meeting held in July, newly elected Board members Arthur Gnecco, William O'Donohue, and Joseph Sileo were officially sworn in. They each bring various areas of expertise and strength to our district, and we welcome them to the Board. The Board elected Joseph Sileo to serve as president and Tom Pinou as vice president for the 2022-23 school year. We look forward to their leadership and guidance for the upcoming year.

## **Universal Pre-K**

The district is excited to announce the launch of its first Universal Pre-K program for the upcoming year! The program will serve 40 students and will be housed in two classrooms at Homestead School. The program will run throughout the school year Monday through Friday, five hours a day, and will follow the same calendar as the Garden City Public School District. Since so many families expressed interest in the program, a lottery will take place today, Tuesday, Aug. 9, to determine which children will attend. All families who applied for the lottery will be notified by the end of the week as to the lottery results.

## **Summer Curriculum Development**

Teachers and administrators have been working on curriculum projects that will support the implementation of our new primary math resource, Illustrative Mathematics, interdisciplinary social studies units in grades K-5, special education, and two new courses (Applied Statistics and Sculpture II). Each of these initiatives is in line with the district's curriculum articulation work that has taken place throughout the year.

## **Summer Reading Program**

Students in grades K-5 participated in a four-week summer reading skill-building program to strengthen their

literacy skills through a variety of engaging and meaningful learning experiences. The program focused on building skills in the areas of word study, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

### **Summer Enrichment Program**

This year's theme of our four-week summer enrichment program was Summer Around the World. We had excellent participation with over 1,000 Garden City students attending the various programs! The program included a focus on student development through hands-on experiences, strong community connections, and personal academic enrichment opportunities with connections to college/career readiness. Some of the most popular classes this year included STEM, Broadway and Theater, Chocolateering, Disney Music & Art, Oriental Art and Origami, and athletics. Approximately 200 high school student volunteers assisted with the program. We thank them for their contributions to making the program so successful for our younger students!

### **Jones Beach Administrator's Retreat**

A two-day professional development retreat took place in early July at the Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center. All administrators participated and were inspired by discussions on leadership development, curriculum articulation, and the importance of defining and understanding the use of innovative learning spaces. This work helps us to realize our vision for teaching and learning.

### **New Learning Spaces**

As the district continuously seeks ways to improve our program as a whole, we are excited about the new learning spaces under construction that will enhance our students' educational experiences. Construction of innovation lab spaces is currently underway at Stewart School and Stratford School. Other improvements underway include the middle school library media center, middle school learning commons, the high school engineering lab, and the high school gymnasium.

### **Athletics**

We are also proud to announce that Garden City High School was recognized by the NYSPHSAA as a New York State School of Distinction. This recognition is awarded to schools that had 100% of their varsity teams finish their season with a 90 or better team GPA. The 2021-2022 school year marks the 15th consecutive year that Garden City has received this distinction. We congratulate all student-athletes and their coaches for this outstanding honor.

### **PTA/SEPTA**

We are fortunate to have a very active and robust PTA and SEPTA here in Garden City in addition to many parent groups. We are grateful for the volunteers who have taken on leadership roles and have been particularly active in their advocacy work. We are stronger as a school community because of their involvement.

Please take a moment to view the video below for a glimpse into the activities that took place this summer. In closing, I thank you for your support and partnership and look forward to welcoming our students back on Thursday, Sept. 1!

[Summer Highlights](#)

Sincerely,

*Kusum*

Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools