



LINDY Spotlight

Lindenhurst Union Free School District • www.lindenhurstschools.org • Spring 2024

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION UPDATES A FOCUS ON UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Our Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program is thriving this year. Currently, the Lindenhurst Union Free School District is partnered with SCOPE, Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center, and Stanford to support 223 students in our full-day UPK program, and the District expects enrollment to increase for the 2024-2025 school year.

This year, our UPK teachers received professional development focused on the importance of play in the classroom. Studies have shown that for the youngest learners, play time promotes creativity, builds social skills, and supports language and cognitive development. All of our UPK teachers are also encouraged to be trained in Foundations, a multisensory and systematic phonics, spelling and handwriting program.



There is no cost to participate in the UPK program; however, parents and guardians are responsible for providing transportation. Seats are limited and students are selected for the program on a lottery basis. Once all seats are filled, children are placed on a waiting list. Eligible candidates must be Lindenhurst residents and be four years old on or before December of the same school year.

To expand pre-kindergarten support and highlight best practices, the Office of Early Learning planned three webinars around early learning and social-emotional learning, UPK collaboration between eligible agencies and districts, and play and classroom instruction. In January, participants joined a webinar titled "The Value of Play: Play-Based Learning for P-3 Students," while March and May will feature webinars on "Collaboration in UPK" and "Social Emotional Learning in the P-3 Classroom," respectively.

At the Lindenhurst Union Free School District, we value a safe, uplifting environment that encourages consistent growth for our students. Benefits of a strong pre-kindergarten program include developing a sense of individuality and independence among our youngest students. Our pre-kindergarten educators provide experiences that cultivate a positive foundation for our budding scholars' educational journeys.

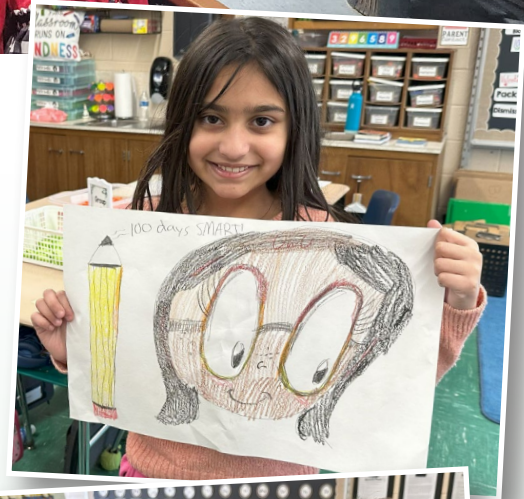
Elementary Level Curriculum and Instruction Highlights



There have been a handful of positive developments at the elementary level in the Lindenhurst Union Free School District. We started this school year with a sense of accomplishment, as a team of teachers and administrators worked together to write our K-2 social studies curriculum informed by resources linked to Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES materials. Additionally, we formed a reading committee comprising teachers, administrators, a Board of Education representative, and a parent. The objective of this committee is to share information with our school community about our core reading program, evaluate our core and remedial reading programs, and train select teachers in the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading. Orton-Gillingham is a structured approach that breaks reading and spelling down into smaller skills involving letters and sounds and builds upon these skills.

The District has also coordinated an elementary math committee to assess our use of the Envisions math program, determine if we would like to continue our partnership with Envisions, and revisit how students' math successes are assessed in our District report cards.

Our elementary dual language program is growing as a result of the hard work of Albany Avenue Elementary School teachers and students, and the support of Ms. Miller, Mr. Garofola, and Ms. Schilling. Next year, we will have our first fifth-grade cohort of dual language students at Albany Avenue.



Secondary Shoutouts

One of the many sources of pride at Lindenhurst High School is our robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which will offer students access to seven different graduation pathways beginning in the fall of 2024. Our CTE program will provide students with the foundational, transferable skills they need for future careers in an ever-changing work environment. The program promotes 21st-century academic and technical skills for students in a variety of fields. Whether the plan is to go to work straight after high school graduation or continue pursuing studies, CTE is highly beneficial because CTE courses place an emphasis on career-readiness as well as hands-on learning. This creates a more engaging school environment, one that promotes higher graduation rates among students.

New courses on the horizon for the CTE pathways include College Real Estate, Childhood Development, and Advanced Computer Science. The courses will be included in our proposed 2024-2025 high school course catalog. Next year, students will have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of secondary-level courses across several disciplines, such as Cosmetology, The Science of Agriculture and Horticulture, Women in Literature, Car Care Management III, and much more. See below for more courses that will be offered.



- Movies, Media & Your Mind: A Mental Health Perspective
- Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Computer Science
- Cybernauts (Introduction to Computer Science)
- Early Childhood Education
- Greatest Hits in Art History
- HS ELLevate
- Women in Literature
- Car Care Management III
- College Real Estate
- The Science of Agriculture and Horticulture
- Interior Design Portfolio
- AP Precalculus
- MS Spanish Heritage Classes

Student Contest Celebrates Love of Lindenhurst



Last year, the community came together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Lindenhurst. Here at the Lindenhurst Union Free School District, students marked the occasion by participating in a special contest. This year, in partnership with the Village of Lindenhurst, we are continuing this tradition by hosting a Districtwide student art contest. Deemed "Loving Lindy," the contest encourages students to submit a creative artifact that displays their love of our wonderful town. Submissions are done on an individual basis.

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday,
March 23rd:
St. Patrick's Day Parade
with Junior Mayors

Winning students are honored as "Junior Mayors" and are invited to participate in various festivities and events throughout the year, including the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The committee that organized the contest requested that each building appoints one principal or assistant principal, along with two staff members, to judge the submissions for their school building. Five building-level nominees were sent to the Lindenhurst Village panel for final judging, and the results are in! Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all who participated!

2024 LOVING LINDENHURST WINNERS/JUNIOR MAYORS

Albany Avenue Elementary School

- Pia Parikh
- Mateo Baisley
- Charlotte Esquenazi
- Emily Wachs
- Scarlett Keller

Alleghany Avenue Elementary School

- Dylan Bisciello
- Katie Goodwin
- Kennedy Pugh
- Adele Novotny

Daniel Street Elementary School

- Brenda Garcia
- Mamadou Bathily
- Matthew Kuzmenko

Harding Avenue Elementary School

- Michael Dahroug
- Arianna Savva
- Jack Kogut
- Veronica Belluomo
- Dylan Zee

West Gates Elementary School

- Zulal Sumer
- Eilene Gonzalez
- Katelyn Schmitt

William Rall Elementary School

- Sophia Persuad
- Connor Curran
- Madison Palmer

Lindenhurst Middle School

- Dev Parikh
- Deandre Barrath
- Giuliana Cesarani

Lindenhurst High School

- Kailey Lokshin
- Allison Spiess

LINDENHURST UFS, 350 DANIEL STREET, LINDENHURST, NY 11757

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