



# BELLMORE-MERRICK

## Central High School District

*High Expectations*

*High Achievement*

*The Pillars of Success*  
*Academics, Athletics, the Arts and Altruism*

### POINTS OF PRIDE

**May 2022**

#### **Academics**

- From April 20-23, **Christopher Luisi** of **Kennedy** went to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to compete in the 60th National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Christopher presented his research, “The Effect of Dietary Restriction” and earned third place in the Biomedical Sciences category and \$4,000.
- **Christopher Prainito** of **Kennedy** was named a finalist in the **NSPC Health Science Competition**. He was invited to compete for top honors on May 18 for his research. We also would like to wish Christopher good luck as he is competing at the **International Science and Engineering Fair** in **Atlanta**.
- **Merrick Avenue eighth grader Jordan Siegel** came in third place in chess in the Middle School Esports League’s spring season, finishing the regular season with a 6-2 record and a win over a student from Cleveland in the third-place match.
- **Ryann Jordan**, a junior in the **Calhoun** Advanced Science Research Program, recently received the honor of having her research with her mentor at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai published. Her work in biosimulators is valuable as it creates models that contribute to the betterment of bioengineering and medicine.
- **Merrick Avenue** students participated in the Long Island Science Congress. **Jason Lin** and **Mia Zampella** attended the awards ceremony on May 24 for their project.
- Student ambassadors from **Merrick Avenue** and **Grand Avenue** visited Saw Mill Road and Martin Avenue elementary schools in early May to speak about their middle school experiences.
- **Kennedy** and **Mephram leadership students** visited **Merrick Avenue** and **Grand Avenue** eighth graders on May 20.
- **Mephram senior Meryan Tuurman** received the Science Teachers Association of New York State Outstanding Science Award. She was honored May 18 at the 23 Annual Awards Dinner. Her **teacher, Neeru Partap**, spoke about Tuurman’s accomplishments on her behalf.
- **Merrick Avenue student Miriam Gunsburg** earned third place in the Long Island Language Art Council’s annual Kenneth F. Gambone Writing Contest.
- **Kennedy junior Alexandra Levitt** and **Joseph Fiscella** from **Calhoun** won 2022 National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing. Alexandra received a Certificate of Superior Performance in Writing for her “Reflections on Binary Thinking.”
- On May 20, each **Bellmore-Merrick high school** entered a team of eight talented coders into this year’s kidOYO Code Conquest hackathon. Nineteen Long Island teams competed in all. This year’s theme was the Peloponnesian Conquest. The **Calhoun Code Crackers**, coached by **Caitlin Greubel**, tied for third

place, and both the **Mephram Programming Pirates**, coached by **Brad Vogel**, and the **Coding Cougars**, coached by **Carla Petrero**, tied for seventh place. The **Kennedy Coding Cougars** also received a special award for best logo.

- **Three Kennedy engineering students** participated in a two-day engineering/architecture program, the Scale Rule, at Hofstra University to design a pavilion. **Sarina Khan, Kassidy McGlynn** and **Alison Wohlstetter** placed second overall. **Sameer Khan** was on a team with students from other schools and won best presentation.
- Five students won medals for their work at the Long Island Math Fair. **Senior Christopher Prainito** of **Kennedy**, along with **Merrick Avenue eighth graders Ryan Kenny, Jason Lin and Jordan Siegel** won bronze medals. **Kennedy junior Luke Feldman** won the district's first gold medal in more than 10 years. Each student wrote a research paper on a challenging math topic of their choice and recorded a video where they summarized their findings, then submitted their work before a panel of professors.

## Arts

- **Sean Mascaro** and **Michael Papazis** of **Kennedy** were chosen for the annual Heckscher Museum's Long Island's Best exhibition. Long Island's Best: Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum is the only juried exhibition on Long Island that offers high school students the opportunity to show their work in a museum.
- **On May 5, Calhoun's Gray Concert** featured mostly vocal ensembles along with the Concert and Symphonic bands. Pulse began the night, then Chorale and Concert Choir performed.
- **Mephram's Spring Concert** was held on May 5, featuring the orchestras, band and wind ensemble.
- **Merrick** and **Grand Avenue** held their spring concerts and art expos in May.
- **Calhoun's On Tour Company** presented its fourth and final show for the school year, "Story Theatre," on May 20-21. On Tour Company successfully performed three major shows, Shakespeare's "Macbeth," Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" and George Gershwin's "Nice Work If You Can Get It!" This is On Tour's first time putting on a fourth production in a few years.
- **Liam Osborne** of **Mephram** scored a 100 on his Level 6 Jazz Trombone All-State audition at last week's NYSSMA festival at Mineola High School. This is the highest grade at the highest level of difficulty on NYSSMA's scale.
- **Victoria O'Shea** of **Mephram** won the NYS School Music Association Award for Mixed Chorus.

## Athletics

- The **Calhoun girls track team** competed at The University of Pennsylvania, and for the first time in a few decades, won its 4x400-meter heat and took home a coveted Penn Relays Gold Plaque. Members are Julia Baguiao, Sara Manson, Kelly Martin and Julianna Razza.
- The **Mephram girls lacrosse team** was named conference champions.

- **Mepham** sophomores **Jenna Dempsey** and **Olivia Meyer** were selected to represent Long Island at the U.S. Lacrosse National Tournament.
- On May 16, a large track meet was hosted by **Calhoun** which determined the division champions for girls and boys track. **Each team** won its division championship on May 17. They placed second in the county finals.
- Merrick Avenue seventh grader **Siddhangi Wickramasinghe** represented Calhoun May 14 at the Nassau County badminton playoffs. She earned All-County honors.
- **Calhoun's Athletes Compassionately Educating Students**, ACES, formally known as AHA, conducted several visits to Camp Avenue, Fayette and Old Mill Road elementary schools.
- **Calhoun's Jack Rose** represented Calhoun in the Nassau County boys high school golf playoffs on May 24.
- **Calhoun boys lacrosse** made it to the final four.
- **The Calhoun tennis team** won its conference championship and finished the season 13-1.
- **Mepham wrestler Yianna Foufas** is a New York State champion, freestyle state champion and a Fargo Qualifier champion. She went 5-0 with four pins – all in less than one minute and one forfeit to punch her ticket to the Fargo Nationals.
- **The Bellmore-Merrick Chargers flag football team** defeated Lynbrook 12-7 to win the Nassau County championship.
- **The Mepham softball team** won a hard-fought game against **Calhoun**, coming back from a 9-3 deficit to win the Nassau County championship 11-10 on May 29.
- **Kai Rodger** of the **Kennedy track team** is a county champion in the 200 intermediate hurdles and 110 high hurdles. He also received All-County honors.

## Altruism

- Kennedy junior **Lauren Gomez-Nieto** received the Commander's Commendation from the New York Wing Commander of the Civil Air Patrol. Earlier this year, **Gomez-Nieto** was selected to meet with several government officials as a Civil Air Patrol representative, and she has also been recently promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.
- The **Kennedy** and **Mepham baseball teams** honored veterans through the Hope for the Warriors foundation with a donation and ceremony ahead of their April 29 game at Farmingdale State College.
- The **Grand Avenue Math Club** raised \$6,301 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This effort was organized by math teacher **Dennis Dagger**.
- **Kennedy senior Lara Indich, Calhoun's Julie Moehringer, Mepham's Nicholas Carrano** and **MAP's Jenna Friedlaner** was recognized by the Merrick Kiwanis Club on May 10 for their service to the school and community.
- Several students received the Students Building Bridges Award from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Long Island. On May 5, they were recognized at Nassau County's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) program by the council. **Nickolaus Mascary** of **Calhoun; Allison Alvarez, Sahara**

**Partap** and **Morgan Schaefer** of **Mephram**; and **Nicole Giordano**, **Beverly Kleinman** and **Rachel Oppenheim** of **Kennedy** each received a citation from an elected official and a certificate from the council, and was publicly honored for their efforts in building bridges across communities and creating a more civil society.

- The **Grand Avenue Builders Club** hosted several bake sales and raised \$400 to donate to Honor Flight Long Island.
- The **Merrick Avenue Student Council** collected donations on May 16-20 to benefit nonprofit organization Reason2Smile.
- **On May 6, Kennedy** dedicated the **Lorraine Poppe Pavilion** in the school's courtyard in honor of former principal Lorraine Poppe (199-2018). Members of the school community as well as her family were in attendance for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- **The Mephram LEOs** assisted in a Habitat for Humanity build on May 20. They also collected gently used bathing suits, new flip-flops and beach towels for the Tri Community and Youth Agency, which assists local homeless shelters.