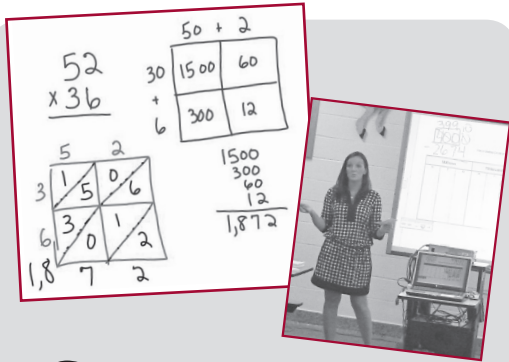


The STANDARD

FALL 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



COMPREHENDING Curriculum

Kicking off the year's series of informational parent presentations, our recent three-part Math Curriculum Night event at JFK provided insight on the district's math core curriculum for grades 3, 4 and 5.

The event was a result of feedback from both parents and teachers during last year. Teachers were excited about the new strategies and methods they were using for mathematics instruction and the great results they saw with their students. Parents were curious and at times concerned about some of these strategies they observed their children applying during homework.

The purpose of the presentation was twofold: First, for teachers to share their excitement about the new math curriculum and demonstrate specific instructional approaches and activities they are using; and second, for parents to experience firsthand the process behind some of the key strategies they see their children using at home, including problem-solving systems, the use of multiple methods, and math fact practice activities such as fluency and sprints.

The district plans to hold additional curriculum workshops for parents as the year progresses.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

District Focuses on Parent Information Initiatives

As we settle into the busy rhythm of the school year and continue to provide the best possible learning environment for Deer Park's children, it is imperative to remember that the value of communicating with clarity and purpose has never been greater. In fact, the district's No. 1 initiative for 2014-2015 is to improve communication in all areas.

Our continuing series of parent informational sessions and workshops – including grade-specific Common Core topics – is particularly important, ensuring that parents gain a deeper comprehension of these crucial educational shifts. This in turn will strengthen the home-school connection and facilitate parental understanding of and help with homework.

We have also adopted the acronym **VOICE** to emphasize not only communication, but also ongoing priorities and an important upcoming project, Video on Demand, which we plan to roll out in the second half of the year. Our goal with VOD is to assemble



Students throughout the district were excited to return to school on Sept. 3.

a video collection of exemplary lessons, led by our outstanding teachers and accompanied by readily accessible instructional resources. Students will be able to access these filmed lessons for review and reinforcement, or if they missed particular lessons. The videos will also prove useful for parents to review the instruction taking place in our classrooms, and for teachers as tools to reflect on and compare how they and their colleagues delivered the same lesson. As the district's collection of videos and resources grows over time, we believe that VOD will be a valuable learning tool for our school community.

Video on Demand
Ownership
Incentive
Communication
Excellence

Sincerely,
Eva J. Demyen,
Superintendent of Schools

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Board of Education

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Participate in Board Meetings

The Board of Education encourages community attendance at board meetings, ensuring the school community and Deer Park residents remain aware and involved. Meetings are held in the district office on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. If you have not participated before, pencil in the following business meetings through the year's end:

Oct. 21	Nov. 25	Dec. 16
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New Board of Ed Committees

Board of Education committees provide a particularly vital link between the school district and community, allowing residents a crucial input in planning and idea creation and furthering the district's communication goals. Two new committees were formed for 2014-2015:

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The committee's focus is to generate suggestions for enhancing our community and district, from small-scale projects to larger efforts. The committee plans to partner when possible with school clubs and organizations as well as community groups such as local merchants and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The committee's chairperson is trustee Donna Gulli Grunseich, who can be contacted at grunseich.d@deerparkschools.org.

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

This committee seeks to establish effective communication channels to the community, pursuing avenues that are proactive in nature and supply timely information while minimizing the potential for misinformation. The committee chairperson is trustee Kristine Rosales, who can be contacted at rosales.k@deerparkschools.org.



The district's Virtual Backpack system, introduced during the last school year, is also expanding and enhancing communication between the schools and homes. The environmentally friendly "green" posting system saves money for community organizations, saves time for district personnel and increases the efficiency of flier distribution. Organized by school and month, Virtual Backpack postings can be viewed on the left side of each school's page. All documents posted within the school year will remain accessible throughout that year, ensuring no forms or fliers are lost.

Video Features Come to Website



Last spring, video news features began to appear on the district website, ranging from May Moore's iGames and Kites in the Classroom project to African dance performances at JFK and a high school chorus contest. This initiative will continue throughout the year on our newly redesigned website's homepage, providing an ongoing showcase of sight and sound for the exciting student activities going on in Deer Park. Look for them!

Upcoming Event Highlights

Don't miss the following events:

- Oct. 25 – Homecoming Parade 11 a.m. & Varsity Football Game 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 31 – Halloween Parade at JFK, JQA & MM
- Nov. 1 – Fall Health Fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Nov. 1 & 3 – DPHS One-Act Play Festival 7 p.m.
- Nov. 7 – RF Heritage & Culture Night 4-6 p.m.
- Nov. 10 – DPHS Theatre Night 7 p.m.
- Nov. 21 – NYSCAME All-County Concert @ Hauppauge 7:30 p.m.