

**A Message from Superintendent of Schools-**  
**Dr. Edward A. Salina, Jr.**

The school year has been filled with excitement, growth, and reconnecting as a community. Our students have settled into their routines, engaged in new learning opportunities, and built relationships with their teachers and peers. It has been heartwarming to see the enthusiasm in our classrooms and hallways.

A successful school year results from a collaborative effort. I am excited to continue to work with our committed staff and community members to ensure this year is outstanding.

I encourage you to stay connected with your school and participate in our events. For the latest school activities and district news updates, please visit our website, join our community groups, and follow us on social media. These platforms will provide you with valuable information and insights about our district and the educational community.

If you are a Plainedge resident and are interested in signing up for your free Plainedge Fitness Center membership, [visit our district website](#) for more information.

**Brewing Up Confidence**

Exciting news! Red Devil Roast - our student-run coffee shop is open for business.

We are expanding Plainedge Perk, a staff coffee shop staffed by our special class students and Student Council at the John H. West Elementary School, to the High School.

Red Devil Roast students from all 3 sections of our Special Class 9:1:3 program will work with the Northwell Vocational Consultants and our related service providers to serve coffee, tea, and hot chocolate to our staff. Our High School students have been involved in every step of development of our new vocational endeavor! This opportunity helps develop our students' social-emotional, motor, executive functioning, language and math skills in a supportive environment which will help them prepare for life after High School.

Students from Mr. Santamaria's Computer Science class designed the Red Devil Roast logo, punch cards and advertisements. Our Life Skills program shopped for materials and supplies.

We are very grateful to the High School Team that has enthusiastically worked to support this in-house opportunity to develop our students' skills. The High School administration, custodial staff, special education & general education staff have all jumped in to make this a truly special experience for our students.

Thank you to the Board of Education members who joined us to celebrate the grand opening!

### **Adult Continuing Education**

Due to ongoing construction, our fall adult education sessions have been postponed. We are pleased to announce that winter sessions will be available to serve our community.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. We are excited to share more information about the winter schedule and registration soon.

### **Homecoming 2024**

What an unforgettable Homecoming! Thank you to the Plainedge community for showing up and supporting our student-athletes.

Congratulations to our Homecoming King and Queen, Ryan Agovino and Alessia Giuffrida!

Shoutout to PHS Football, Cheerleading, Kickline Devillettes, and our marching band!

### **Plainedge Fitness Center**

The district is excited to announce that the Plainedge Fitness Center is open immediately after school on Mondays and Thursday afternoons from 2:15 – 3:15 PM for students in grades 9-12.

Students are encouraged to come and work out in our amazing new facility. Both the upstairs cardio room and the downstairs free-weight areas will be supervised and available.

All students will be expected to put their belongings in their hallway lockers (no bookbags, jackets, instruments, etc.) and come dressed appropriately (sneakers and workout attire) to work out. As always, you must have your school identification and will be required to sign in.

We look forward to seeing you at the racks and on our treadmills!

The Plainedge Fitness Center is open Monday-Friday evenings from 6-10 pm for our community members. There are strength/cardio machines, Echelon Mirrors, dumbbells, kettlebells, and resistance bands that you can use.

**Have you signed up for your free membership? [Click here to learn more!](#)**

### **Dot Day!**

Plainedge Elementary Schools celebrated International Dot Day with a focus on creativity, courage, and community. Each grade level enjoyed unique activities that inspired students to make their mark on the world.

### **Student Spotlight**

A huge congratulations to Ava Pallone for being selected to the All-State Symphony Orchestra! Playing the cello is no easy feat; her dedication, hard work, and immense talent have truly paid off. We are incredibly proud to see Ava represent Plainedge at such a prestigious level!

### **Student Spotlight**

Congratulations to Antonia Macchia-Barba who earned the AP Capstone Diploma, which most students do not achieve until graduation. Only 4 seniors from the class of 2024 achieved this distinction. Congratulations to our incredible alumni Noah Garcia, Ahmed Hamdan, Dean Montagnino, and Nikolas Rodriguez for earning the prestigious AP Capstone Diploma! This is a monumental achievement, awarded to students who complete the two-year AP Capstone program, which includes both AP Seminar and AP Research courses, plus four additional AP exams. They're off at school now doing amazing things and making us proud every day.

## **Student Spotlight**

Congratulations Alec Anderson, Semifinalist in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. Less than one percent of the nation's high school graduating seniors meet this criteria, making it an esteemed accomplishment. As a high-achieving student, Alec qualified as a Semifinalist due to his impressive performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

## **Student Spotlight**

Congratulations to Giulia Giuffrida, Shayan Joarder, Runhan Li, and Olivia Puccia for receiving Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship program!

## **Alumni Spotlight**

We are proud to highlight Kirk J. Kevy, MD, a remarkable member of the Class of 1985 from Plainedge High School, where he graduated as Valedictorian. Dr. Kevy has made significant strides in the field of medicine as the head of the Neurology Department at Englewood Hospital in New Jersey. Known for his exceptional patient care and innovative treatments for neurological disorders, he also serves as an instructor at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. We celebrate his achievements and the positive impact he continues to make in the lives of his patients and the broader medical community.

## **Plainedge High School & John H West Construction Update**

## **Top 100 Newsday**

Congratulations to the Plainedge High School Varsity Athletes for being named Newsday Top 100 Athletes.

Football - Dylan Fella & Alec Anderson

Boys Soccer - Anthony Gulino

Girls Soccer - Michela Netto

[View Newsday's top Long Island high school athletes this season here](#)

## **Welcome Back Class of 1974**

Dr. Edward A. Salina, Jr, PHS Principal Iocco, and our National Honor Society (NHS) students warmly welcomed back the Class of 1974 to PHS!

The alumni were guided on a high school tour, showcasing the exciting changes and growth over the years!

It was a heartwarming occasion where past and present came together, filled with stories and shared memories. The visit celebrated the legacy of the Class of '74 and the bright future ahead for our current students, highlighting the strength of community and tradition.

A big thank you to our NHS students for their hospitality and enthusiasm in making this day truly special!

**[Watch a full video recap of the guided tour here!](#)**

## **Planetarium Interactive Experience**

3rd graders at Schwarting experienced a planetarium lesson on dinosaur traits which allowed for survival. Plainedge students were engaged and interacted with a professional-grade planetarium lesson shown around the globe. We are grateful to be able to provide these educational experiences in-house for Elementary, Middle, and High School students.

## **Challenger Soccer**

Congratulations to our ChALLenger athletes who had an amazing season. Special thank you to the Plainedge Student Leadership team for creating customized posters for our entire team and participating in their homecoming celebration!

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