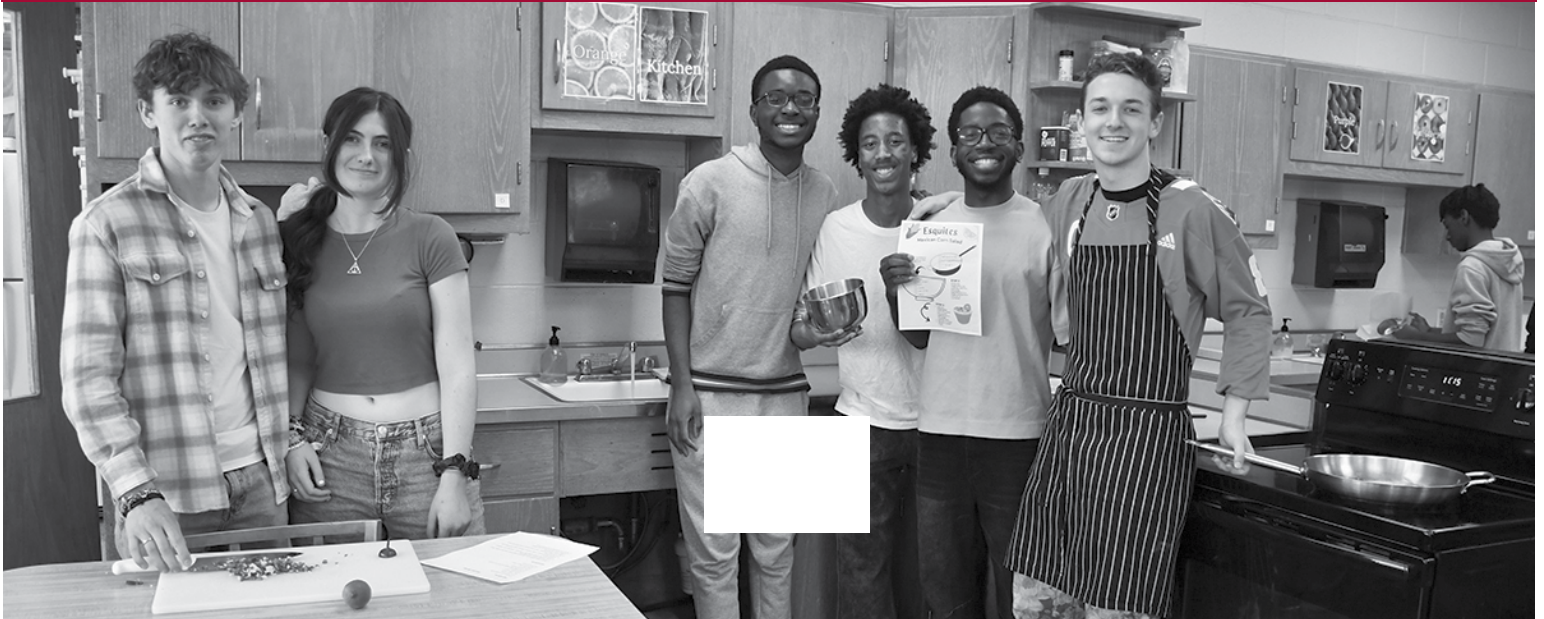


# The STANDARD

SPRING 2025

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Deer Park's Culinary Arts Program Shows *Exceptional Growth*

Over the past three school years, Deer Park's culinary arts program has grown by leaps and bounds, tripling student participation and expanding course complexity. This growth has been led by exceptional teacher Suzanne Long, an accomplished chef and culinary educator who has brought her experience from acclaimed kitchens such as the Four Seasons Hotel Denver to Deer Park's schools.

In 2022, Deer Park High School offered one section of both Culinary Arts 1 and Culinary Arts 2 classes to 20 students. Each class is a semester long, allowing students to take a full year of culinary arts classes. During the 2023-2024 school year, the school opened another section of both classes, offering the class to 40 students, and by this school year, based on increased

interest, this had grown to 60 students.

Culinary Arts 1 is an introductory course in working in the kitchen, where students learn kitchen safety and sanitation, measurements, knife cuts and basic culinary techniques. During Culinary Arts 2, students learn more complex culinary techniques such as braising, stock making, protein cookery and emulsification. The students have opportunities throughout

both classes to work collaboratively in teams of five students, making baked goods and composed dishes. Culinary students also compete in an annual cake competition and gingerbread house competition. Future goals for the program include adding an advanced culinary class for upperclassmen who have an

***"This class really taught me a lot of the basics of cooking techniques that I didn't know."***

**- Junior Max Ferguson**

*Continued on page 2....*

# Deer Park's Culinary Arts Program Shows *Exceptional Growth*

interest in working in the culinary industry.

"Ms. Long has been an invaluable asset to the FACS department," Director of Social Studies and FACS Vanessa Langdon said. "Her extensive experience in the culinary industry has breathed new life into the culinary arts classes at both Deer Park High School and Robert Frost Middle School. At the high school, her expertise has enabled us to expand the program and equip our students with advanced culinary skills. Additionally, her generosity and compassion have inspired her students, as demonstrated by their collaboration with our Life Skills program and participation in various service projects."

**"My experience in the culinary class has been good. I thought it was just going to be us cooking and eating, but I've actually learned a lot about knife skills and the proper etiquette of the kitchen."** – Senior Jada Ediale



## **\$3,500 TangerKids Grant** for Hydroponic Garden

This winter, Deer Park High School was named one of only nine finalists in the country for the nationwide TangerKids Members Choice grant program after the school's science and family and consumer science departments had teamed up to apply for a \$2,500 grant to establish a hydroponic garden. With additional funding from Members Choice, voted on by the public, Deer Park's total garden grant rose to \$3,500.

"This garden will produce up to 384 pounds of fresh produce each year, providing FACS students direct and consistent access to fresh, nutritionally dense ingredients," Director of Social Studies and FACS Vanessa Langdon said.





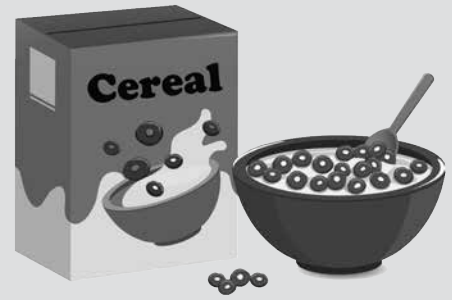
# JFK Showcases Student Talent at 22nd Annual Variety Show

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School held its 22nd annual Variety Show this winter, with more than 50 fourth and fifth graders showcasing their magnificent talents during two performances. Directed by Donna Arena, Melissa Price and Suzanne Wright, the event included singers, dancers, comedians, musicians and martial artists, among other highlights.



## Ukulele Club Keeps on Playin' at JQA

Guided by music teacher Diana Cotrone, John Quincy Adams Primary School started a popular after-school Ukulele Club for second graders during this school year, utilizing the ukuleles provided via a TangerKids Grants program. Cotrone's "Uke Can Do It!" proposal had been chosen in late 2023 to receive the \$2,000 grant. Under her direction, the students learned how to take care of the instruments, play them and perform with them. Some even purchased their ukuleles to continue learning the instrument. The Ukulele Club finished the year by creating their own performance video.



## May Moore's Cereal Box Challenge *Inspires Kindness*

May Moore Primary School recently partnered with Long Island Cares to kick off May Moore Kindness Week with a Cereal Box Challenge. May Moore's Positive Behavior Committee hosts Kindness Week annually, leading up to P.S. I Love You Day, which promotes positive messages of love, acceptance and community. As part of the event, the school collected a whopping 1,113 boxes of unopened cereal – far surpassing their goal of 1,000 boxes – to create a huge domino chain. As students brought in cereal boxes to donate, they received note cards to design, which included kind, thoughtful messages signed by each student. They then taped their messages to the front of the boxes and added it to the donation collection. The chain of boxes was set up in the hallways and gym during the school day so all students could view it in action. Once the chain was completed, the boxes were donated to local food pantries through Long Island Cares.



**\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
Postal Customer**

# Varsity Badminton Comes to Deer Park

It was a long road to fruition, but varsity badminton has finally come to Deer Park High School. A boys team, coached by Keri Zuk, and a girls team, coached by Ashley Maune, began their first ever badminton seasons this March. The concept of the badminton team emerged from the pressure and demand of the high school student community. One student, Abbas Meersyed, gathered over 200 signatures in a petition to begin a team, and Principal Charlie Cobb and Athletic Director Dominick Fontana held an interest meeting with over 50 students in attendance. Zuk, a longtime badminton player and coach, had been passionate about starting a

varsity badminton program since she began working in the district in 2004, and was prepared when Superintendent James Cummings made the call. Tryouts for the teams began March 17, with over 60 players wanting to join. After four days of evaluating skills, footwork, fitness, attitude and game strategy, Maune and Zuk accepted 20 players for each team. "The goal of our program is player



development as well as character development," Zuk said. "We hope our badminton players grow both as athletes and individuals, developing skills and values that will serve them well on and off the court."

## DPHS Enhances Security and Curb Appeal With NEW PERIMETER FENCE

In a significant step toward improving campus security and enhancing the school's overall appearance, Deer Park High School has installed a brand-new perimeter fence. Designed with both safety and aesthetics in mind, the project



features 24 decorative columns, seven sliding gates for parking access and six convenient walk-through gates.

"This addition not only strengthens security measures by better controlling access to the campus but also creates a more welcoming and polished look for students, staff and visitors," Director of Facilities Jeffrey La Flair said. "By investing in these upgrades, Deer Park High School reaffirms its commitment to providing a safe and visually appealing environment for the entire community."

