

# The STANDARD

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## *A Caring Cornerstone of the Community*

The many hands and minds behind the district's support staff are what keep Deer Park's schools running flawlessly, providing all of the myriad background services that ensure students and teachers have the best possible environment for learning. From secretaries, teaching assistants, aides and nurses, to the members of the transportation, publications and instructional technology departments, to the various buildings and grounds positions such as custodians, groundsmen, maintenance workers and security, Deer Park support staff use their professional skills to faithfully serve the students, families, staff members and the entire community.



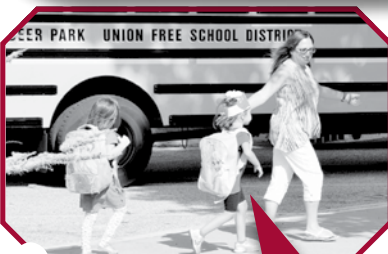
“As custodians, we are the first ones in, in the morning and the last ones to leave at night,” said Michael Sheehan, May Moore's chief custodian. “We are responsible for keeping the buildings clean, safe and healthy. We take a lot of pride in what we do here. We all have families of our own, and we make sure that we do all of the things that we would want someone to do for our families. We definitely go the extra mile. Whether it's tying a shoe or just complimenting a student for walking nicely and not running in the hallway, it's all in a days work.”



“The clerical staff truly are the backbone of the main office and allow the schools to function as smoothly as they do,” said JQA Principal Christopher Molinelli. “They are the first people you meet, and greet all who enter with a smile,” added May Moore Principal Alicia Konecny. “We couldn't run our school without them.”



“Teaching assistants and aides are invaluable members of our Deer Park school staff,” said James Cummings, the assistant superintendent for pupil personnel services. “They are so dedicated to making the school experience a positive one for all students, working tirelessly in the classroom, the halls, the cafeteria and any other setting to help the children of Deer Park.”



“Deer Park's support staff serves as the bedrock of our students' and teachers' successes,” said print shop supervisor Lawrence Mangan. “The infrastructure supplied by our dedicated support staff serves as a cornerstone of our community and we are all proud to be a part of it.”

“The regular custodial care of school buildings affects the educational process in many ways, including the safety and well-being of all users, including students and teachers, and the life of the building and its contents and the rate at which they deteriorate,” said JFK chief custodian Robert Behrens. “Custodial care also has a decided impact on a schools' appearance, its image and the attitudes of people who work and study there, visit or just drive by. Most importantly, it determines whether a school is an effective place for teaching and learning.”



The district's school nurses provide primary health care to children and staff, including urgent care, first aid and chronic condition care, to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all. They triage health concerns; assess physical and emotional complaints; and provide counseling regarding health, hygiene, nutrition and chronic diagnosis management, including accurate administration of medications. The nurses develop and implement policy, procedure and emergency health care plans; conduct vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings; monitor health appraisals; and maintain immunization and confidential health records per state mandates.



The transportation support staff – including Assistant School Transportation Supervisor Patricia Shea as well as a transportation assistant, a dispatcher, a clerk/typist and a bus driver – insure that the 83 bus drivers and 28 aides have all the information they need to seamlessly provide transportation for the district's students. The department's main objective is to coordinate and transport the students of the district safely to and from their school, home, field trips and sports programs, on a daily basis.



The publications department designs, produces and distributes professional-quality media for the district's varied needs, supporting teachers and administrators by producing the majority of the district's day-to-day teaching materials and special event media, and district forms including concert, award ceremony and graduation programs. It also supports the district's role as a pillar of the community by producing public mailings like sex offender alerts and budget vote notices, and is responsible for the district's cost-saving central mailing system.



The security team, overseen by Walter Wojnarowski, ensures the safety and security of the district's students and buildings. It includes approximately 25 security guards districtwide, with 11 assigned or posted security guards within the buildings and 14 mobile security officers that cover 22 hours out of each day.



Headed by foreman and master electrician Lionel Victor, the maintenance staff takes care of all the district's buildings, including plumbing, heating, electric, carpentry, roofing and glass repairs. The staff also repairs most of the kitchen equipment and ensures it meets Department of Health standards, and keeps the district's swimming pool in top shape.



Teaching assistants work hand-in-hand in certain classrooms and help the teachers with daily instruction. They also work with individual students to help them reach their full potential and overcome learning difficulties. Aides help elementary students in the hallways, cafeterias and playgrounds, and assist in keeping the school a safe and nurturing environment.



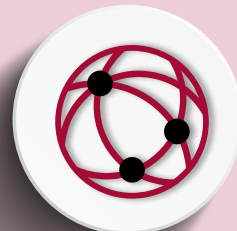
The district's secretarial staff provides clerical support to the many schools, departments and offices throughout the district. This knowledgeable group of approximately 45 employees use their professional skills to serve the students, families, staff members and the entire community, assisting and coordinating with building-level administrators and teachers for correspondences, special events and programs, communication with families and community members, scheduling meetings, college applications, athletics, report cards, attendance, buses and substitute teachers.



Head groundsman Phil Cortese leads a team of six staff buildings and grounds members who provide numerous services around the district from snow removal to taking care of the synthetic field. They also make deliveries to all buildings, set up and break down sporting events, and handle clearing snow, lawn maintenance, raking leaves, trimming shrubs, pruning trees and landscaping.



Led by administrator Christopher Kauter, the instructional technology department supports all of the instructional and administrative technology tools used by students and staff districtwide, including programs such as Finance Manager, GSuite for Education and Infinite Campus, My Learning Plan. The department also supports the district's network infrastructure, telecommunication system and all associated databases, and facilitates professional development of instructional technology for students and staff throughout the district.



The district's custodial team makes sure the schools are open for business, performing cleaning, maintenance and minor repair tasks. The custodians maintain heat and good air quality; sweep, mop and wax floors; wash walls and windows; dust desks, woodwork and furniture; clean lavatories and locker rooms and replace soap and towels; empty wastebaskets and collect and dispose of refuse; move and arrange chairs and tables; check windows and doors to see that they are closed and locked; make minor repairs to furniture, electrical fixtures, windows and shades, locks, faucets and heating systems; run errands; and perform routine maintenance tasks such as changing filters.



## SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF *A CARING CORNERSTONE OF THE COMMUNITY*



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## JFK Students Enjoy Passport to Night of Culture and Tradition

On the annual ENL Culture Night, JFK's English as a new language students came to the school with their families to celebrate holidays and cultures from around the world.



As each student arrived at the event, they received a special "passport." During the night, the students and their families visited five stations representing different holidays celebrated around the world. At each station, students completed a craft and received a stamp in their passports.

## Business Students Earn 21 Trophies at DECA Competition



At DECA's Suffolk County Regional Competition, held in January at Suffolk County Community College, 55 Deer Park High School students competed against more than 1,400 participants from 26 other Suffolk schools, with 21 students honored with trophies and another seven earning honorable mention.

## May Moore Math and Science Carnival Explores Exciting STEAM Activities

With the help of math lab teacher Sue Mehr and parent volunteers, students at May Moore explored science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics hands-on activities at the school's annual Math and Science Carnival, including coding, magnetism, chemical reactions, estimation and the concept of buoyancy.



## High School Actors Get a Creative 'Clue'

The high school took a creative tack for this year's winter play, "Clue," which started out as a murder mystery board game in 1949, and was later made into a movie in



1985. Guided by director Kristen Wallace, the school's dramatic arts students adapted the movie for the stage, including a multimedia element in which the students filmed sections of the story at the Scully Mansion at Seatuck and then integrated these prerecorded segments into the live performance.