



Levittown LEADER

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Showing Support and Strength

We are living in unprecedented times during this global Coronavirus pandemic. The virus has changed the routines of many people, including how we as a district operate. However, it has also brought our community closer than ever before.

With the news of school closures statewide, administrators, teachers and staff members sprang into action with a goal of supporting students. Although they would not be teaching in the conventional way, our educators were determined to find a successful approach to continuing student instruction. With a limited timeframe, this was no easy task.

“Something that would normally take one to two years to put together, the administrators and teachers did in a week,” Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Todd Winch said. “They went from zero to 100 in just a few days. It was incredible, and I’m very proud of them.”

Students in grades K-12 have utilized the platform Edmodo to communicate with teachers and complete assignments. Edmodo also serves as a communication hub for families to support their child’s learning at home. Since instruction has gone virtual, the district has provided laptops for students in need.

Academics aside, the community has found pockets of light within this crisis, such as supporting others going through hardships by donating food to the Levittown School District’s food pantry. The district has added fresh produce

to the pantry from the greenhouse at Levittown Memorial Education Center.

While trying to establish a new routine, both students and teachers are feeling the burden of being apart. Many schools have facilitated car parades around the neighborhood for staff members to give a quick honk and hello to students and their families.

“It’s refreshing to work with such a fine group of professionals that genuinely care about their students, and this event displayed the warmth within our school and community,” Summit Lane Principal Keith Squillacioti said about his school’s parade. “It was a moment in my life that will have a perpetual imprint on my career as an educator.”

In addition, schools across the district are leaning on social media to connect. Building administrators and staff members have posted pictures and videos with encouraging messages and implemented social media challenges for students to engage in while at home. Some of these challenges are geared towards showing appreciation for essential workers who are making incredible sacrifices during this pandemic.

Making their online support a reality, the East Broadway community donated cards and painted rocks for local hospital

patients and workers. The Lee Road community also took action. They created cards for nurses and doctors at Cohen Children’s Medical Center, and staff raised \$725 to purchase food for the Rescue 2 ambulance team in Wantagh.

Art teacher Rachel Herbert from Gardiners Avenue Elementary School and teaching assistant Patty Coppola from Division Avenue High School used their talents to make hundreds of masks for those in need.

Furthermore, staff at Wisdom Lane Middle School donated overhead projector transparency paper to Dayton T. Brown Inc. for

workers to make protective face shields for health care professionals at Mather Hospital. Staff from Abbey Lane, East Broadway and Summit Lane elementary schools also raised money to deliver food to front-line workers, and Suzann Duzant, secretary at Lee Road Elementary School, donated trays of food to health care workers at Syosset Hospital.

Thank you to all the essential workers and to the Levittown Public Schools community. Together, we will get through this challenging time and come out stronger. We look forward to seeing you all when our schools open again.

To show their appreciation for front-line workers, Lee Road Elementary School started a thank-you card collection to send to health care workers at Cohen Children’s Medical Center. Pictured is Lee Road student Matthew Sullivan with his handmade thank-you card.

We're ALL in This Together



Gardiners Avenue art teacher Rachel Herbert created more than 200 masks for essential workers.

Music teachers throughout the district are finding creative ways to enhance music education. From using web-based apps to engage students, to personal video tutorials where teachers virtually instruct, students are continuing to learn. In honor of Earth Day, orchestra students in grades 3-5 watched a video, "Landfill Harmonic," about the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura in Paraguay with instruments made entirely out of recycled materials. The students then crafted their own instruments out of vegetables and materials found in their homes. Pictured is Abbey Lane third grader Rosalia Spadanuta with her guitar made of recyclable materials.



Some students are completing assignments related to the time period. Below is an excerpt from a poem that eighth grader Tyler Ehrlich from Jonas E. Salk Middle School wrote.

We are together, no longer apart,
A united nation with one giant heart,
We're working together to get everyone well,
First responders are amazingly swell,
Everyone home protecting others,
Doing this for our sisters and brothers.

Staff members from East Broadway Elementary School shared positive messages with the school community on social media. Principal Jeanmarie Wink posts daily to the school's Instagram and Twitter pages, sharing uplifting video messages from staff and photos of students working from home.



Northside Elementary School kindergartner Alexandra Duarte completed a name activity where she had to spell her first and last name using objects from around the house.



Division Avenue High School staff members have embraced social media by posting engaging YouTube videos and content. The school created a Digital Dragon Cup Challenge and encouraged students to participate in the different tasks on Edmodo. The initiative promoted school spirit and featured tasks such as a pushup challenge, and Somewhere Over the Rainbow challenge where students thanked essential workers.



Medical professionals at Mather Hospital wore face shields, created by Dayton T. Brown Inc., with Wisdom Lane Middle School's donated overhead projector transparency paper.

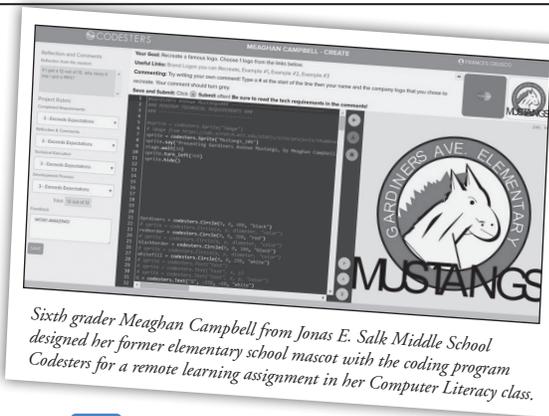


ECRWSS

Residential Customer



Gardiners Avenue second grader Liyana Ibrahim participated in a spring break literacy challenge. She read her favorite book to her stuffed animal.



Sixth grader Meaghan Campbell from Jonas E. Salk Middle School designed her former elementary school mascot with the coding program Codesters for a remote learning assignment in her Computer Literacy class.



Staff members have found special ways to connect with their students while schools are closed, such as with car parades. Summit Lane student Kyle Martinez cheered on his teachers with a colorful sign during his school's staff parade around the neighborhood.

School Snapshots

Abbey Lane Elementary School

- Despite schools being closed, the Abbey Lane school community has continued to celebrate Get a Voice Day on the last Friday of each month. Students have been encouraged to wear their Get a Voice shirts and complete activities posted by their teachers on Edmodo. During one of the virtual Get a Voice days, the students watched a read-aloud video of the book "Rock What Ya Got," by Samantha Berger. They then created their own strength bracelets from a template that Get a Voice Club advisers Lindsay Grand and Tara O'Connor provided. The students posted their creations to their respective class Edmodo pages to share their work with their peers.

Division Avenue High School

- To make online learning fun, science teacher Grace Wheeler created a video challenge for her students using the popular social

media platform TikTok. Students made creative videos connected to DNA vocabulary words.

East Broadway Elementary School

- Third grade students in Elizabeth Schneider's class designed their own helicopters at home as part of a science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics project.

Gardiners Avenue Elementary School

- Kindergarten and first grade students engaged in an art assignment at home where they had to spell the word "home" with objects of their choice. Some students formed the word using dog biscuits, Legos and action figures.

Lee Road Elementary School

- Kindergarten students viewed an online phonics lesson and song, and then engaged in an offline scavenger hunt for words that begin with certain sounds as a review.

General Douglas MacArthur High School

- Students enrolled in Rebecca Muir's photography courses participated in lessons at home. In Digital Photography, students were asked to take a series of environmental portraits of people or family members in their home environments doing something they enjoy. In Photography 1, students experimented with different perspectives and viewpoints, including those at eye level, and in Photography 2, students explored the technique of forced perspective.

Northside Elementary School

- To conclude their "Schools Around the World" Journeys reading unit, second grade students in Melissa Nunes' class designed their own schools while at home. Students had to write three things that would be at their school and draw a picture.

Jonas E. Salk Middle School

- Seventh grade students in Tom Samilo's technology class constructed aluminum foil boats at home. Their goal was to determine how many passengers or pennies their boats could hold. Afterwards,

using a web app called Tinkercad, students constructed 3-D models of their creations.

Summit Lane Elementary School

- Fifth grade students in Jennifer O'Brien's class continued their math curriculum online with the help of a screen recorder extension called Screencastify. The Google Chrome extension allowed Ms. O'Brien to do a voiceover, while displaying the content that students were working on. Throughout the lesson, she could write, draw and use a spotlight tool to draw attention to important parts of the lesson. Students were able to independently complete their work while Ms. O'Brien provided guidance and encouragement.

Wisdom Lane Middle School

- Students enrolled in Debbie Sumano's Introduction to Spanish course completed a scavenger hunt using new Spanish vocabulary words of objects that they could find in their backyard.