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Levittown LEADER

Among the Nation's Best

Levittown Middle Schools Shine with National and State Honors

Levittown's two middle schools, Wisdom Lane and Jonas E. Salk, have each earned prestigious honors that reflect their excellence in middle level education and dedication to student growth.

Wisdom Lane Middle School has earned a 2025 School of Distinction from the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), a national designation celebrating schools that exemplify best practices in middle level education. The honor followed a rigorous review process that included a comprehensive self-assessment, continuous improvement planning and interviews with staff, students, and families.

Levittown is proud to be only the fourth district on Long Island to receive an AMLE national distinction and one of just three in New York State recognized this year. Wisdom Lane Principal John Avena credited the accomplishment to the school's "inclusive and supportive community," noting that the honor reflects the dedication of faculty and staff who nurture both academic and social-emotional growth in students.

Jonas E. Salk Middle School has also been recognized for its continued excellence. In 2023, Salk earned redesignation as an Essential Elements School to Watch by the New York State Education Department, and in 2025, it was named a State School of Character by Character.org. The Essential Elements program recognizes middle schools that demonstrate academic excellence, developmental responsiveness and a strong commitment to continuous growth. The School of Character distinction, awarded to only six New York schools this year, honors Salk's strong culture of caring and inclusivity.

Barbara Monteiro-Grady, a Salk school psychologist who played an instrumental role in the application process, attributed the recognition to the school's RISE program, which teaches students core values that strengthen behavior, academics and social learning. "This recognition reflects our commitment to fostering an environment in which everyone belongs," said Salk Principal John Zampaglione.

Guided by the district's motto, #SuccessAtLPS, Levittown's middle schoolers pursue academic excellence while growing socially and emotionally through academics, arts, athletics, and clubs. We are proud to celebrate these achievements and invite readers to take a closer look inside this issue at what makes Wisdom Lane and Jonas E. Salk exceptional places to learn and grow.

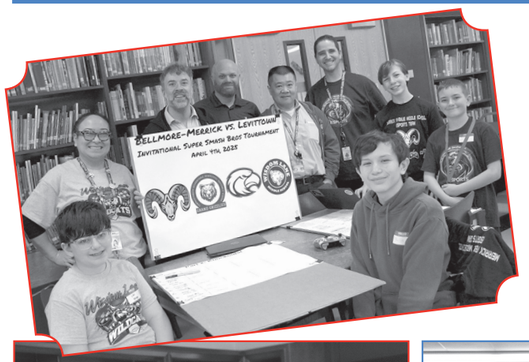
Success for Every Student is not just our district motto; it's our pledge to prepare children for the future and support them in discovering their strengths and passions. Congratulations to the students, faculty and staff at both Salk and Wisdom Lane on receiving these special designations.

Superintendent of Schools Todd Winch

TOP of the Class:

Levittown's Middle Schools *Go Above and Beyond*

At both Jonas E. Salk and Wisdom Lane middle schools, every student will find a place of belonging where they can pursue their individual passions. From maintaining top-of-the-line educational spaces to remarkable staff members who support students to find success, there is opportunity for all students who walk through each building's doors. Here are a few ways Levittown's middle schools stand above the rest.



Esports Brings the Excitement

Both Wisdom Lane and Salk are home to robust esports programs, connecting young gamers to their deep passion. As a team playing side by side, both esports teams practice camaraderie and coordination to achieve a common goal. The teams face off against other schools in esports competitions, including a local Super Smash Bros. tournament against fellow middle schools.

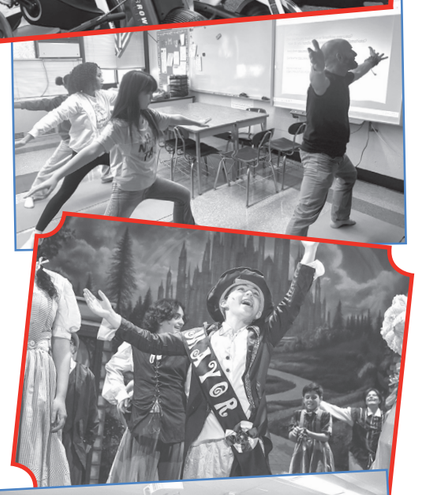
Spreading the Success

Wisdom Lane and Salk show support for their local communities throughout the year. At Wisdom Lane, the Jan Friedman Food Pantry stays stocked year-round thanks to various collection drives organized by students. The goods collected benefit local families in need. During the holiday season, Salk joined with General Douglas MacArthur High School to run a massively successful toy drive for Columbia University Irving Medical Center, with donations hand delivered to the hospital.

Opportunities for Every Interest

Wisdom and Salk's extracurricular activities are constantly expanding and evolving to meet the interests and needs of all students. Both middle schools are home to student-led clubs that break down into niche passions, like the Anime, Fishing or Science clubs. In the Multicultural Club, students dive into international cultures by creating inspired works of art – such as Cuban yarn dolls – and trying out new foods. Tranquil sessions of yoga and meditation can be found in the Mindfulness and Meditation Club, while teamwork and strategic thinking are reinforced in the Dungeons and Dragons Club. In the No Spoilers Book Club hosted by Salk librarian Mrs. Anderson, students share their favorite books during their work study and academic support periods. Students also make regular use of their schools' athletic equipment in the Fitness Club.

Several programs keep middle schoolers active members of their community as well. Wisdom Lane's Ambassador Program pairs younger students with older peers who have similar academic and social interests, helping cultivate a welcoming environment for all. The Five Star Program connects our ABA students with leadership and career opportunities both in the school and the community.



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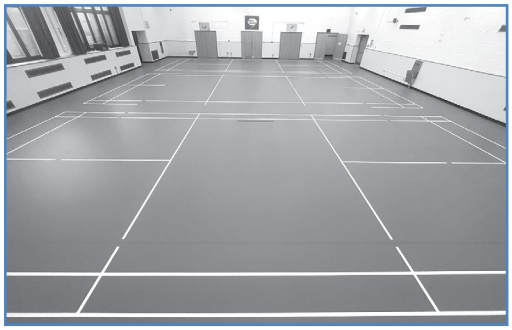

Here's the Latest and Greatest in Levittown

Over the summer, several capital projects were completed throughout the district. At five of our elementary schools – Abbey Lane, Lee Road, East Broadway, Gardiners Avenue, and Summit Lane – projects included upgrades to fire alarms, classroom public announcement systems and security systems. Additional solar canopies were installed to provide renewable energy to our buildings. The libraries at Abbey Lane and Gardiners Avenue were updated to create more modern and functional learning spaces. Wisdom Lane Middle School also received several improvements, including a new turf field, tennis courts, a sport court floor in the cafeteria and durable epoxy flooring in the shop classrooms.

Celebrate the Past. *Invest in the Future.*

Scan the QR code to learn more or get involved.

The Levittown Educational Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating achievement and supporting student success. The Foundation proudly sponsors the Levittown Public Schools Hall of Fame and awards scholarships to graduating seniors.

LEVITTOWN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Your support honors distinguished alumni and empowers today's students to achieve their dreams. Stay tuned for future announcements about our annual Community Recognition Dinner on March 18.

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