



[Plainedgeschools.org](http://Plainedgeschools.org) January / February

**A Message from Interim Superintendent of Schools-**  
**Carol F. Muscarella**

The start of a new year is often associated with fresh goals and renewed energy. Across our district, this spirit is evident in the dedication of our staff, the curiosity and resilience of our students, and the continued support of our families and community partners. Together, we are building learning environments where students are challenged, supported, and inspired to grow.

The winter weather tested us this month, but our community rose to the occasion. We are thankful for our hardworking buildings and grounds and custodial staff, whose efforts kept safety at the forefront, and for the support and adaptability of our families and staff. Together, we ensured a successful remote learning day for our students!

One of our most anticipated events of the year, the Best Buddies Fashion Show, is right around the corner and promises to be a celebration that truly brings our community together. We encourage everyone to mark their calendars and join us for an evening filled with smiles, confidence, and unforgettable moments. As always, we invite you to stay connected with your school community by participating in upcoming events and staying informed through our district website, community groups, and social media channels, helping you remain engaged with all that's happening across our district.

On behalf of the entire district, I wish you a healthy, safe, and successful start to the new year!

Warm regards,  
Carol F. Muscarella  
Interim Superintendent of Schools



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### **Best Buddies Showcase**

PHS Best Buddies brought the fun to our elementary schools! They gave students a sneak peek of all the excitement to come on February 12, 2026 at the Best Buddies Fashion Show! Our adaptive PE classes had an absolute blast dancing, laughing, and making memories with the high school Best Buddies. We can't wait to keep the celebration going!

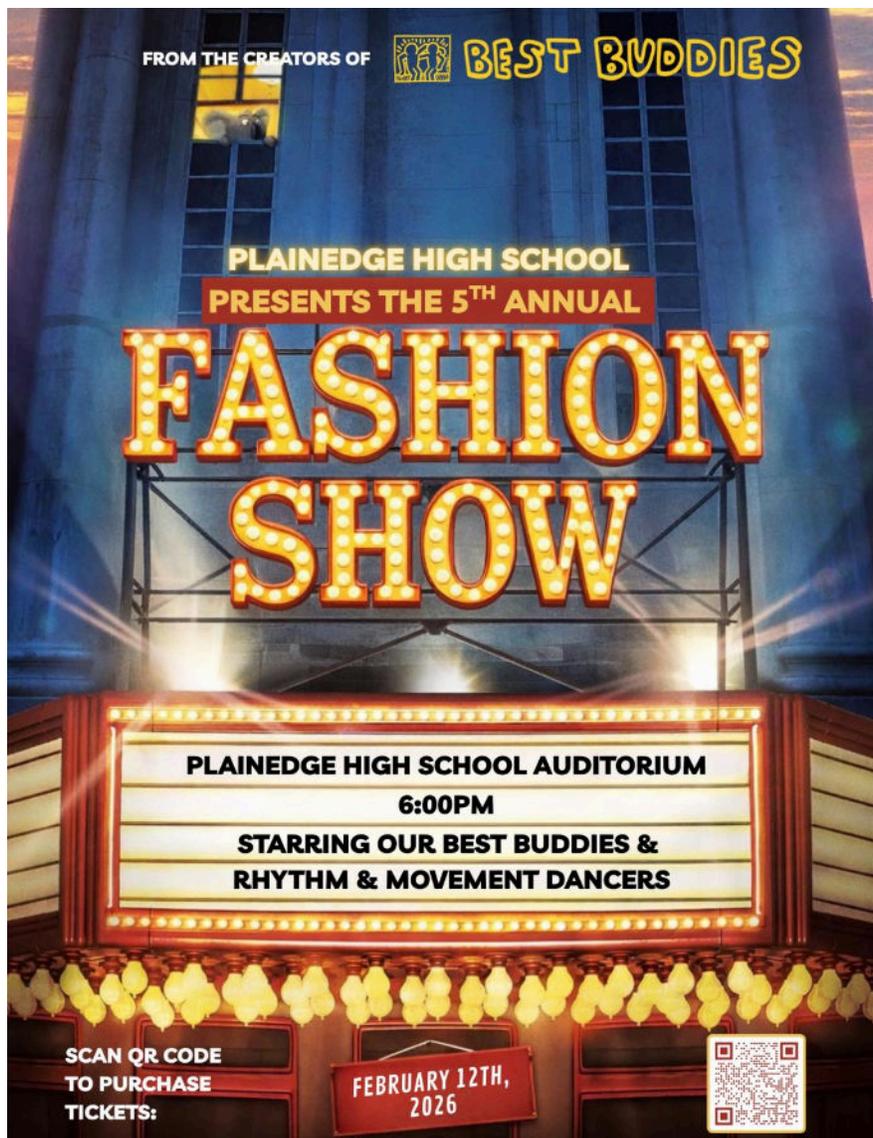






### **Best Buddies Fashion Show**

Lights, camera, action! You're invited to the 2026 Best Buddies Fashion Show on February 12, 2026. This is an event that brings together the entire Plainedge community. It is a night full of family fun, fashion, dance, laughs, and most importantly, lifelong memories for those students on that stage and the audience. This year show will take you to Hollywood as our students are preparing dances from the big screen! Get your tickets today at [bbphs.booktix.com](https://bbphs.booktix.com)



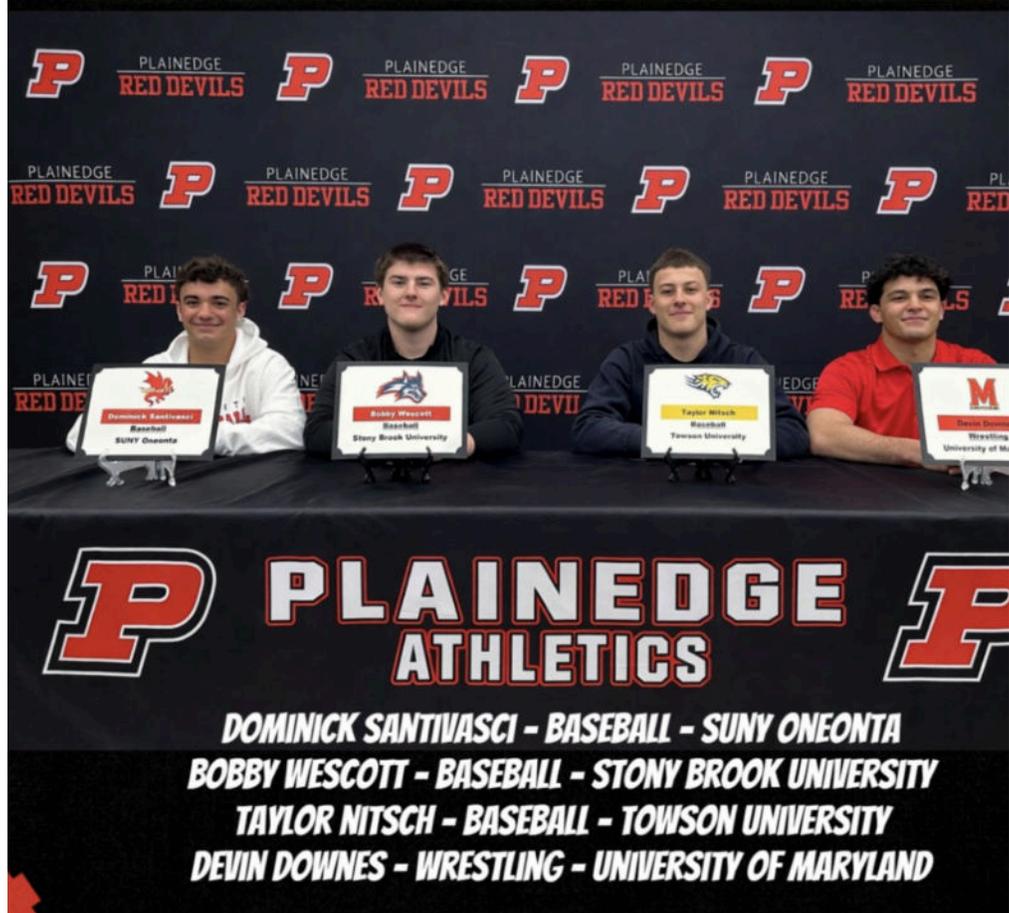
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### **Plainedge Athletes: Signing Day**

This month, Plainedge athletes celebrated Signing Day, committing to the next level both academically and athletically. We are so proud of everything they've achieved and can't wait to see what the future holds!

# SIGNING DAY

2025-2026



## P.S. I LOVE YOU DAY

2026 P.S. I LOVE YOU DAY DATE: February 13, 2026.

#BeTheLight



P.S. I Love You Day is a registered non-profit organization in New York State, dedicated to eradicating the stigma around mental health. Our mission is to instill hope for those affected by mental illness, fostering a supportive environment and a community where everyone feels welcomed, loved, and supported. Join us every second Friday of February by wearing purple for our annual celebration, P.S. I Love You Day.

2026 P.S. I LOVE YOU DAY DATE: February 13,  
2026.  
THEME: BE THE LIGHT.

NORTHWELL SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH  
"HEARTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH"

**P.S. I LOVE YOU DAY**

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### Congratulations Ashley Chen

Plainedge High School sophomore, Ashley Chen, earned second place in the Live Figure Drawing Contest at the Huntington School of Fine Art, a competition open to high school art students from across Long Island. In recognition of her achievement, she received a \$1,500 award to be used toward future classes at the studio.



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### **Congratulations Joanna Nikolis**

Congratulations to Plainedge junior, Joanna Nikolis, on winning the 9th Annual New York Tech Mini Research Grant Award.

Joanna was awarded \$300 for her project, “Generational Cohort and AI Literacy as Predictors of Nurses’ Intent to Integrate AI in the Hospital Setting.” Her work was designated by NYIT as having scientific merit and the potential to impact the STEM and health fields. Joanna plans to continue her project this year and looks forward to representing Plainedge at prestigious research competitions next year, including the Regeneron Science Talent Search and the International Science and Engineering Fair.



### **PHS Varsity Cheerleading**

We are beyond proud of our Plainedge Varsity Cheerleaders for competing at the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida! Their dedication, teamwork, and school spirit have been nothing short of inspiring. From countless hours of practice to performing on a national stage, these athletes showed heart, perseverance, and pride in everything they do. Congratulations to our cheerleaders for representing Plainedge with excellence!





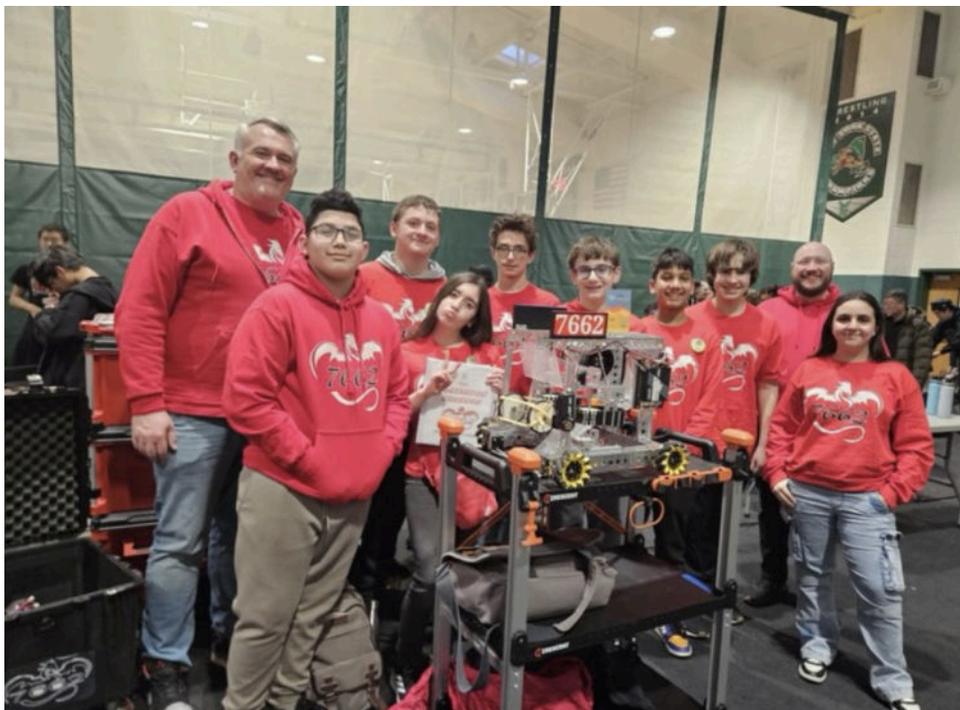
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### **Plainedge Middle School Robotics**

Congratulations to Mr. Kowalik and Mr. Page's Middle School Robotics Team!  
At the Locust Valley Qualifier, the team finished 9th overall and earned the FIRST Tech Challenge Control Award for their upgraded robot, featuring new sensors and

an impressive autonomous program. Next up: Long Island Championship on March 1, 2026!





### District Art Show

The District Art Show was a wonderful celebration of creativity and inspiration. More than 100 talented Plainedge artists proudly shared their beautiful work with family members and friends. Congratulations to all of our student artists and to our outstanding art department for their hard work, passion, and dedication in making this event such a success.





### **PHS Music**

A huge congratulations to Allie Perceval (All-County), Leo Katsougrakis (LISFA), and Hayley Eng (All-County and LISFA) for their incredible achievements! Their dedication, talent, and hard work have truly paid off, and we are so proud to celebrate their success. Amazing work!



### **World Read Aloud Day**

Students had a wonderful time celebrating World Read Aloud Day with a special read-aloud experience that emphasized the joy and importance of literacy. These shared moments help spark a love of reading, build strong listening and comprehension skills, and remind us how powerful it is when we read together as a community. Experiences like this support every student's learning journey and help make reading fun and meaningful!





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### **LISEF / NYSSEF Students**

Congratulations to the following Plainedge High School students who submitted their independent research to the regional and state-level divisions of Regeneron's International Science and Engineering Fair. These students invested dozens of hours beyond the school day, recruited mentors, and composed a 20-30 page research paper on a wide variety of STEM topics. These students will be competing against the best student researchers in New York State for a chance to represent Plainedge at the international fair in Phoenix, Arizona.

#### **Congratulations**

**Daniel Blake**

**Giana Diaz**

**Eliana DiPalo**

**Khloe Hong**

**Daniel Lee**

**Francisco Martinez**

**Lia Nicolosi**

**Gouri Parashar**

**John Ricci**

**Sonia Snyder**

**Shitab Uddin**



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### Spring Adult Education

The Plainedge Adult Continuing Education spring program is open for registration! Looking to learn something new this spring? Whether you're brushing up on skills, exploring a hobby, or just trying something fun, Plainedge Adult Education has a class for you! Register by visiting [bit.ly/PlainedgeSpringAdultEducation2026](https://bit.ly/PlainedgeSpringAdultEducation2026)



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### Teacher Spotlight

Dr. Eileen Santoro has been a valued member of the Plainedge School District for 14 years and currently serves as the STREAM teacher at Eastplain Elementary School. She is an exceptional educator whose work is distinguished by innovation, a strong focus on technology integration, and an unwavering commitment to student growth and achievement. Dr. Santoro's impact extends well beyond her classroom; she leads meaningful service-learning initiatives, provides thoughtful mentorship to new educators, and expertly manages the Eastplain school garden, enriching the school community through experiential learning opportunities. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to education, Dr. Santoro has been honored as the recipient of the 2026 ASSET Bright Light Award. We are privileged to have Dr. Santoro's leadership, expertise, and dedication at Eastplain Elementary School and throughout the Plainedge School District.



**Dr. Eileen Santoro** 

*Plainedge*

**ASSET** 

**2026 Bright Light Winner**

Dr. Santoro is an innovative districtwide STREAM Specialist whose hands-on, inclusive lessons—spanning Pre-K to grade 5—ignite curiosity and support learners of all abilities. Eileen is a lifelong learner who holds 6 teaching certifications. Eileen taught a different subject every year for the first 11 years of her career until she joined the STREAM team 6 years ago. Eileen is always eager to learn about new technologies to help her students soar. Eileen plays a key role in organizing community events that showcase authentic, student-centered learning.



**District-Wide  
STREAM Specialist**

## Kindergarten Registration is open

2026-2027 Kindergarten online registration will begin on January 20, 2026. Children must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2026 to register for Kindergarten.

Please visit [www.plainedgeschools.org](http://www.plainedgeschools.org) for more information.



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## PHS Summa Cum Laude Breakfast

Congratulations to the 13 Seniors with grade point averages of 100 and over. The following students achieved this tremendous accomplishment and were recognized at our annual Summa Cum Laude breakfast. In addition, we announced our valedictorian and salutatorian. The valedictorian for the class of 2026 is Leah Muldoon. Our salutatorian is Khloe Hong. Please make sure to congratulate the students when you see them!

### Congratulations:

**Katelyn Bonnet**  
**Joelle De Oca**  
**Hayley Eng**  
**Kyla Gawronski**  
**Khloe Hong**  
**Evan Kass**  
**Erin Ludwig**  
**Francisco Martinez**  
**Leah Muldoon**  
**Gouri Parashar**  
**Arianna Peterson**  
**Andrew Picardi**  
**Anthony Pravata**



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**Board Of Education Meeting:**

**REMINDER:**  
**Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 10**  
**Where: Plainedge High School – ILC**  
**Start Time : 7:30 PM**  
**All are welcome to attend**  
**More Info: [www.plainedgeschools.org](http://www.plainedgeschools.org)**

Board of Education meetings are livestreamed at: [https://bit.ly/PUFSD-BOE Meeting](https://bit.ly/PUFSD-BOE_Meeting)

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# WINTER RECESS

**PLAINEDGE SCHOOLS  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
FEBRUARY 16 -20**

**AND WILL REOPEN ON  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

## **PMS National Junior Honor Society**

The Plainedge Middle School National Junior Honor Society students proudly hosted their annual Teacher Appreciation Coffee to celebrate the holiday season. The event was a thoughtful way for students to thank teachers for their dedication, support, and hard work throughout the year. Faculty enjoyed warm beverages, sweet treats, and festive cheer as students shared their gratitude and holiday spirit. It was a meaningful tradition that highlighted the strong sense of appreciation and community at Plainedge.



## **New York Islanders - Teacher of the month**

The New York Islanders' Teacher of the Month, Charles E. Schwarting Elementary School teacher Megan Bender, celebrated an exciting overtime victory and scored big for her classroom, too! Megan received \$500.00 in classroom supplies, generously sponsored by Xerox. Congrats Megan and thank you for all you do!



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## **Bristol Buddies**

Just before the December holiday recess, students from Charles E. Schwarting's 5th grade band and chorus took time to visit our Bristol Buddies and spread some festive cheer. Through uplifting musical performances, friendly conversations, and genuine acts of kindness, our students brought smiles to the residents and brightened their day. This meaningful experience allowed students to share their talents while celebrating the true spirit of the season!





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**Plainedge Fitness Center**

## Welcome to the Plainedge Fitness Center

We take pride in offering a welcoming, non-intimidating, state-of-the-art fitness center where our community can thrive. Our newly expanded second-floor fitness center features dedicated cardio training space, single-station cable resistance machines, free weights, kettlebells, resistance bands, medicine balls, slam balls, and interactive Echelon Mirrors—providing everything you need for a complete and well-rounded workout experience.



### Fitness Center Hours

Monday-Thursday 5:00 PM-8:50 PM  
Saturday & Sunday 8:00 AM- 11:50 AM  
**\*\* Plainedge Fitness Center is ONLY open when school is in session \*\***

## Fitness Center Offerings

**CARDIO TRAINING:** To boost your heart rate, burn calories, & improve your endurance. Our cardio equipment includes Treadmills, Stationary Bicycles, Stairclimbers, Rowing Machines and Ellipticals.



**STRENGTH TRAINING:** Machines, free weights, kettle bell, & resistance ball can be used for strength training to help you build & maintain muscle and strength, improve bone density, & boost metabolism

### ECHOLON MIRRORS:

Allow you to select on-demand workout classes, including yoga, HIIT, kickboxing, strength training and so much more. The interactive mirror incorporates a touchscreen display for users to interact directly with the interface.



### Frequently Asked Question

**Q:** Where is the fitness center located?

**A:** The fitness center is located at Plainedge High School. Parking is available at the rear of the building near the gymnasium. Please enter through the designated fitness center doors.

**Q:** What if I don't have a smartphone?

**A:** That will not be an issue. Please bring valid identification, and we will be happy to register you upon arrival. When you visit the facility, a student staff member will assist with check-in.

**Q:** Can I stay longer than the hour time slot?

**A:** Yes. Provided the facility has not reached maximum capacity, members are welcome to remain for as long as necessary..

**Q:** I can only sign up on the hour. What if I show up later or earlier?

**A:** You can arrive at any time in the hour long window of the time you signed up for

**Q:** I am unsure how to use the equipment

**A:** Both adult and student staff members are fully trained on all equipment and are available to provide guidance and assistance.

**Q:** What should I bring with me?

**A:** All members must wear athletic sneakers while using the equipment. You are welcome to bring a towel, water bottle, Bluetooth headphones, or an exercise mat for personal use.

### Questions?

Call: (516) 992-7641

Email: [fitness.center@plainedgeschools.org](mailto:fitness.center@plainedgeschools.org)

## Membership Eligibility

To qualify for membership at the Plainedge Fitness Center, individuals must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be a Plainedge resident, 18 years of age or older,
- or
- Be a current Plainedge High School student

All prospective members are required to complete a **two-part application** through 1) The Plainedge Fitness Center app. 2) **CognitoForms** for proof of residency **or** provided in person during regular business hours.

### How to Book/Cancel a Session

- Open the Plainedge Fitness Center app
- Find the day & time you want to book a session
- Tap the time, then book
- If you cannot attend that sessions, cancel the session by clicking on the session, then cancel booking



**Instagram:** @plainedgefitnesscenter

# WELCOME TO THE P LAINEDGE FITNESS CENTER



241 Wyngate Drive  
No. Massapequa, NY 11758

### Free Membership for Plainedge Residence

Mon. - Th. 5:00 - 8:50pm

Sat. - Sun. 8:00 - 11:50am

**\*\*The Fitness Center is CLOSED when school is closed\*\***

## Plainedge Fitness Center Membership Instructions

1. Visit the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android) on your mobile device to download The Plainedge Fitness Center App or scan the QR code.



2. Open the Plainedge Fitness Center App scroll down to "register"

3. Register using your email address and create a password

4. After pressing next, enter your "First" and "Last Name" press next to continue

5. Enter your cell phone number and date of birth, then press next

6. You will then be prompted with our "Studio Waiver". Please read the entire "Waiver and Release from Liability" and then press "Start Signing"

7. Place your signature in the red box, and then press "accept and sign," then press "finished"

8. When the "Welcome Message" appears please **check your email** to get to the link to upload your license through cognito forms.

9. Give staff 24-48 hours to approve your membership

**Facebook:** Plainedge Fitness Center

Plainedge School District | 241 Wyngate Drive, North Massapequa, NY 11758



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