



# Freeport PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Pride*

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## POINTS OF PRIDE (UPDATED) MARCH 2018

- Freeport Public Schools, one of only 13 districts nationwide chosen by NASA, had the unique opportunity to establish audio connection with the International Space Station and American astronaut Scott D. Tingle. As part of a districtwide program held in the Performing Arts Center at Freeport High School, 10 students, selected based upon their essays, had the unique opportunity to ask Astronaut Tingle one question each.
- More than 100 parents attended a Parent University on School Safety prior to the March 14 Board of Education meeting. The district's safety plan and protocols were discussed.
- The Freeport Educational Foundation presented the district with a check for \$27,855 – an amount which has since increased by \$3,000 due to the increase in scholarships to students. The funds, made possible through the ongoing fundraising efforts of the foundation's president, Butch Yamali, and the board of directors, will be used to continue providing students with innovative educational opportunities.
- A team of nine educators from Guilford County in North Carolina visited Bayview Avenue to observe and learn about its bilingual programs.

### ACADEMICS

- Dodd inducted 111 students into the prestigious National Junior Honor Society following their demonstration of the five tenets of scholarship, citizenship, leadership, character and service.
- Atkinson teams placed second and third in their division in the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition.
- Dodd teams earned first and second place at the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition and earned the opportunity to compete at the state level.
- Under the leadership of business and marketing teacher Nela Hawthorne, several students from Freeport High School placed at the New York Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) 58th annual State Career Conference held in Rochester, New York. The students who placed are Michael Desir and Jordyn Smith, first place in Business Law and Ethics Team Decision-Making; Dillion Finch and Jaidiver Morales, second place in Business Law and Ethics Team Decision-Making; Jhon Sandoval and Sadiki Skeete, second place in Buying and Merchandising Team Decision-Making; Kevin Guerrero-Calderon, top 10 overall in Principles of Business Management and Administration; and



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Marcus Grizzell, top 10 overall in Principles of Finance. In addition, Hawthorne received an Outstanding Service Award for her dedication as the Freeport High School DECA team adviser.

- Freeport High School earth science teacher Elodie Bourbon and five of her students have earned the unique opportunity to attend the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region Student Research Symposium in Buffalo, New York, on May 4-5. In order to receive a grant from the Freeport Educational Foundation in December 2017, Bourbon and her students studied the relationship between snow cover around Freeport High School and the surface temperature. The students then sent their data to scientists who are involved in the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program, and also participated in a webinar with program director and University of Toledo professor Kevin Czajkowski. The students who may be joining Bourbon on the trip to the symposium, where they will present their results, are juniors Wilmer Ajiataz Barrios, Fernando Hernandez-Cruz, Reina Jimenez Mendez, Kateryn Diaz Valladares and Jose Maldonado Velasquez. The trip will be fully funded by the GLOBE program.
- Atkinson hosted a laser tribute assembly as part of its celebration of Black History Month. The program was a dynamic and entertaining way to highlight years of breaking barriers and commemorating the advancement of music, sports, political figures and powerful influences of African-Americans.
- Giblyn hosted a virtual museum program as part of the school's celebration of Black History Month. Students worked in pairs in the computer lab to watch video clips and listen to sound bytes and narratives about iconic African-Americans.
- Students throughout the district participated in a variety of fun and educational activities as part of their celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday (Read Across America Day). At Giblyn, the day's festivities included a special visit from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham, who read students "There's No Place Like Space," by Tish Rabe, featuring well-known characters from Dr. Seuss' books. New Visions hosted Pajama Day with a Dr. Seuss-themed cake, while Archer administrators and faculty visited classrooms and read aloud books to students.
- The Dodd Science Olympiad Team, under the guidance of advisers Vanessa Vidalon and William Behrens, attended the Science Olympiad Regional Competition for the fifth consecutive year. The team won six medals and two honorable mentions against 40 teams in Nassau County: Microbe Mission – First Place Medal, Team A; Microbe Mission – Second Place Medal, Team B; Herpetology – Second Place Medal; Roller Coaster – Sixth Place Medal, Team A; Roller Coaster – Seventh Place Medal, Team B; Parasitology –



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Ninth Place Medal; Honorable Mention – Hovercraft – 11th Place; and Honorable Mention – Duct Tape Challenge – 11th Place.

- Author Jennifer Wolf Kam visited Dodd to conduct writer’s workshops for eighth-grade students.
- Students in the Freeport High School Heroes Club, under the direction of teacher and adviser Eileen Shultis, visited New Visions to conduct age-appropriate financial and economics lessons for second-grade students.
- Archer Street hosted its annual Career Day event.
- Archer hosted author Douglas Florian for presentations about the elements of poetry and signings of his book, “Comets, Star, the Moon and Mars.”
- Freeport High School science research teacher Ed Irwin led his students on an annual trip to Rockefeller University, where they listened to commentary from world-renowned faculty.

## **ATHLETICS**

- For the first time in the program’s history, the Freeport High School varsity cheerleading team earned the opportunity to compete for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association cheerleading championship following its Small Squad Class Division I victory at the Nassau championships at Wantagh High School. At the state level, the team placed fifth in the Small Varsity D1 Division, and for the first time, reached the semifinals at the Universal Cheerleaders Association national championship.
- Freeport High School senior Katherine Leon was selected by Newsday as a First Team All-Long Island Cheerleader.
- Students in grades K-2 at Bayview were joined by their families in a variety of physical education activities as part of K-2 Sports Night.

## **THE ARTS**

- Students from Archer, Atkinson, Bayview, Columbus, Giblyn and New Visions have their artwork on display at the Freeport Memorial Library through March 30 as part of the district’s commemoration of National Youth Art Month. The district hosted an opening ceremony and reception on March 6.
- As part of Music in Our Schools Month, 21 musicians from the high school traveled to Albany and performed on the concourse of the Empire State Plaza. The three student-conducted ensembles who attended – The Caprice Chamber Ensemble directed by Marcus Brodsky, Brass Bois Brass Ensemble directed by Myles Carter and Saxophone



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Quartet directed by Heaven Jenkins – were invited to perform by the New York State School Music Association committee following nominations by their music teachers Jill Boardman and Michael LaSorsa.

- Students and staff at Freeport High School presented their rendition of “The Pajama Game.”

#### **ALTRUISM**

- Students and staff in the mentoring program at Dodd participated in a Make Your Own Sundae ice cream social event with a representative of the Mentor New York group. The event was funded by a \$250 prize following school social worker and program coordinator Felice Niland’s participation in a contest hosted by Mentor New York.