

OPINIONS

Creating a portrait of a Freeport graduate

Freeport Public Schools is proud to provide our students with the best educational and extracurricular opportunities for them to thrive and reach their fullest potential. Continuing and expanding our laser focus on educating the whole child, we have recently begun the Portrait of a Freeport Graduate process, in partnership with



KISHORE KUNCHAM

Molloy University. Portrait of a Graduate is a framework that is being implemented in school districts nationwide. It is a set of competencies that students should possess by the time they graduate from high school, which go beyond the traditional academic

skills of reading, writing and mathematics. Instead, they focus on developing the whole person.

In this rapidly changing world, the skills required for success in the workforce are evolving. We must develop the 21st century skills and attributes that will prepare students for success in the future. Some of the competencies included in

Portrait of a Graduate are collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem-solving, all of which are essential for success in virtually every career, and life.

The program provides a clear roadmap for educators, students and families. Creating a Portrait of a Graduate helps schools and educators focus on the skills and knowledge that are most important for students to develop. By having a clear vision of what they should be able to accomplish when they graduate, educators can tailor their instruction and students' learning experiences to better prepare them. The focus is on what students should be able to do rather than only what they should know. This helps to ensure that they are prepared for the real world and have the skills they need to succeed in college, career and life.

Portrait of a Graduate prepares students for the challenges of the future, including careers that do not even exist yet. The competencies identified are designed to be transferable across a wide range of contexts, so students will be prepared to adapt to whatever challenges

they may face. Creating a Portrait of a Graduate is a collaborative effort among educators, students, parents and community members. It is a shared vision that everyone can work toward achieving. The collaboration helps to ensure that everyone is invested in students' success, and that everyone is working toward the same goals.

Freeport's Portrait of a Graduate will be based on the input of our students, staff, families and community. On Feb. 13, we began that work at a virtual meeting where we introduced the project, engaged in meaningful dialogue and launched ThoughtExchange, a unique two-way process in which participants collaborate and share ideas confidentially and thoughtfully. ThoughtExchange is a digital platform that may be accessed from any device. If you were unable to join us at the initial meeting, you still have an opportunity to be a part of this process, because ThoughtExchange is still open for responses.

Freeport's Portrait of a Graduate will be a powerful tool to prepare students for the challenges of the future, and will not

be a static document. It will be a North Star that will guide our strategic plan in years to come. It is a living document that can be revised and updated over time. This will allow us to continuously improve and adapt to changing circumstances and student needs. It will be our shared vision of what Freeport school students should be able to do when they graduate, and will ensure that they are all being prepared for success afterward by being able to adapt to whatever challenges they may face in their personal and professional lives.

I encourage everyone to get involved in this exciting, important, collaborative process. Input from all stakeholders is critical, and we hope that you will take the time to participate. ThoughtExchange will remain open until March 17. There will be stakeholder events in the coming months, when we will share results from ThoughtExchange and offer opportunities for continued collaboration. The process will culminate in the final visualization of the skills and competencies our graduates will need to succeed.

For more information, go to the district's website, freeportschools.org, or visit the district on social media.

Dr. Kishore Kuncham is superintendent of Freeport Public Schools.

LETTERS

**OK, Santos lied.
So does everybody in D.C.**

To the Editor:

I took offense to Rick Herman's letter, "Randi takes on George Santos" (Feb. 23-March 1), asserting that 99.9 percent of the "cuckoos" are Republicans — and I guess he forgot to mention that we're all deplorable and racist.

I feel sorry for Mr. Herman's grandson, who will be influenced by a grandfather who believes that his views are the only ones that matter, and that someone who has a different opinion needs to be silenced and disparaged.

I'm not defending Santos, but politicians, the media, government agencies and the pharmaceutical companies lie to us on a daily basis, so why would Santos think it was a problem to "enhance" his resume? Thankfully, in his case no one died as a result of his lies. We can't say that for some other people in Washington.

For weeks there have been articles in the Herald about Santos. Move on, already. There are a lot more important issues going on in this country (and throughout the world) than Santos lying on his resume. Next election, vote him out.

If you want to start kicking politicians out of office for lying, you might as well start closing the buildings in D.C.

There probably will only be a handful of honest ones left.

BARBARA HALL
Formerly of Glen Cove

**Lessons learned from
a three-week campaign**

To the Editor:

My three-week campaign as the Democratic candidate in the special election in the Nassau County Legislature's 19th District was an incredible, eye-opening experience.

As a municipal attorney tasked with appearing in front of the Legislature, interfacing with taxpayers and drafting policies and laws that impact the daily lives of county residents, I believed my experience would translate seamlessly to my campaign, but knowing the issues and succinctly describing your policy ideas to voters are two very different skill sets. I learned quickly that being able to explain the issues and your policies in a relatable way was just as important as knowing the subject matter.

What was even more valuable was listening to the voters and having a substantive dialogue with them. And not just one time, but consistently — knocking on door after door, making call after call, and Zoom meeting after Zoom meeting — because voters aren't willing to

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Everton Bailey leads the Instrumental Sounds of Praise Youth Ensemble — Hempstead

give their trust away. And how can you blame them (or us), after seeing scandals, corruption and extremism take hold of the daily political discourse?

We can gain back the trust of our constituents to attack the issues of the day, such as tax reform, affordability, the opioid epidemic, gun violence and climate change in a few ways. Listen. Have a dia-

logue. And don't just say what you're going to do — do it.

ROB MILES
Merrick

Miles, the Legislature's minority caucus counsel, lost the special election in the 19th District on Feb. 28 to Republican Michael Giangregorio.