

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars' Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Is this mandatory?**

No, this is a voluntary program.

**2. When does this begin?**

The program is effective as of September 1, 2008. Students may begin to accumulate points by going to the website, looking at the online portfolio and choosing activities they wish to participate in.

**3. What is the website address?**

<http://www.bethpagecommunity.com/Schools/21stcentury/>

**4. How will I be able to learn about upcoming events?**

Information about upcoming events (e.g., trips, guest lecturers, book discussions) will be disseminated via the Listserv. Please go to the Bethpage School District website ([www.bethpagecommunity.com/Schools](http://www.bethpagecommunity.com/Schools)) and click on the link in the middle called Join Our Listserv. You will have options to join any of our Listservs. Be sure to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Program Listserv (the first one listed).

**5. If we have immediate questions, who do we contact?**

Please email [21stcentury@bethpage.ws](mailto:21stcentury@bethpage.ws). Mrs. Thomas who is the Coordinator of the program and will be in charge of gathering information and getting someone in contact with you.

**6. How will this work in the future?**

Students will logon to the website with a private logon. They will see how many points they have accumulated to date. They will seek approval to enroll in a project and once approval is granted, the student may proceed. Once the project is complete, the student will notify Mrs. Thomas who will make arrangements for review. The secure version of the website will be complete by October 1.

**7. Is Mrs. Thomas reviewing all the projects?**

No, that is not possible. Many teachers have volunteered to serve as reviewers when needed and Mrs. Thomas will pass on projects to appropriate teachers (e.g., a Science project being reviewed by a Science teacher).

**8. I have chosen to do a presentation to a small group. Do I get the group together?**

You will provide Mrs. Thomas with three after school times when you would like to do the presentation. Mrs. Thomas will gather a group of teachers and administrators. You may invite 2-3 friends to be part of your audience once Mrs. Thomas has confirmed a date with you.

**9. How many points do I need to accumulate to receive the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Diploma?**

Students will need to accumulate 100 points.

**10. I am a Senior or a Junior. Do I have to still get to 100 points?**

We agree that no one can get to 100 points in one or two years. Seniors wishing to participate will have to get 65 points. Juniors wishing to participate will have to fulfill 80 points. We acknowledge that is tough, but we felt it necessary to maintain the integrity of the program.

**11. I did something last year. Can I get credit for past events?**

Sorry, but that is just not possible. There is no way to verify past events and protect the integrity of the program.

**12. Is there any flexibility in the program?**

Yes. Some projects listed in one area can apply to a different area if that benefits the student. As an example, creating a multimedia project is listed under the Communication section, but it could be used as an Information Technology project if the student wishes. Also, throughout the portfolio you will see an option to submit your own idea. We encourage students to think of their own ideas and to develop their own interests. Once they have an idea, submit it to Mrs. Thomas for approval. Also, the percentages listed are minimums. Students can complete the final 10% by going above that minimum in an area of interest or strength.

***More questions and answers are on the reverse side.***

**13. Can I collaborate with a friend on a project?**

Collaboration is one of the most important 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and it is strongly encouraged on projects where it is appropriate.

**14. How will I know what is expected of me?**

Every project is linked to a rubric that says what a successful project looks like. Further questions can be directed to Mrs. Thomas.

**15. Will this program be expanded to other schools in the District at some point?**

Yes, we hope to have a similar program up and running in the JFK Middle School in the late fall. We are considering expanding it in some version to grades 4 and 5.

**16. What are some examples of what you might consider new technologies to be explored?**

- a. Participating in a current events blog.
- b. Listening to a lecture from iTunes University.
- c. A new online Geography course (to start in January).
- d. Participating in the Robotics Club.
- e. Designing a website.
- f. Using Rosetta Stone to learn a language not offered in Bethpage High School.
- g. Having a broadcast on Bethpage Radio or Bethpage TV.
- h. Creating and directing a video short film for our Film Festival.
- i. Designing a video game.

**17. Is it all new technologies?**

No! We are encouraging an interest in the arts. We are holding Literature Circles around novels/books we would like to see students read. We are encouraging public speaking on topics of interest to students. We are asking students to read newspapers. Students are awarded points for attending a Broadway show, an opera, a museum or a gallery. Teachers are lining up to provide these opportunities to students on weekends and after school. And there is an emphasis on fitness that stresses personal fitness goals. This is all about developing well-rounded students.

**18. What corporate friends are on board to assist?**

We have been greatly supported by friends at Cablevision, Northrop-Grumman, Cisco and Johnson Controls. They are all helping in different ways. Some are providing internships, some are providing shadowing experiences, some are providing guest speakers and others are endorsing our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Diploma. We fully expect that list to grow in the coming months.

**19. I am a parent. This all sounds exciting! Can I join?**

Sorry, the program is limited to current students!