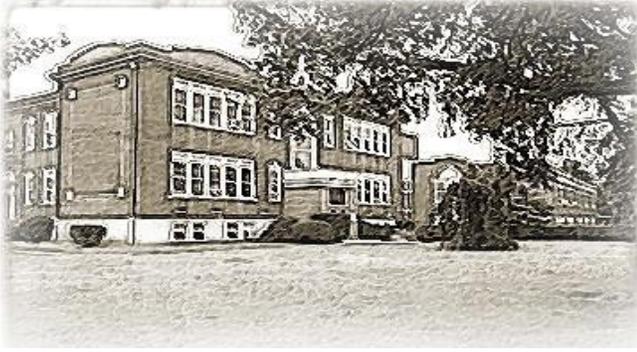


Shelter Island Union Free School District



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February 3, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE) program to seed the bay with oyster spat. This program not only helps to preserve and restore our local ecosystem, but it also provides a unique educational opportunity for high school students. In October 2022 my Algebra 2 class from Shelter Island High School was invited to work alongside CCE in a data collection project which shaped our entire statistics unit.

Through active participation, high school students had the chance to study statistics, including standard deviation and normal distribution, in a real-world setting. They are able to see the tangible impact of their work and understand the importance of preserving our natural resources. After collecting data students spent two weeks analyzing the information to draw statistical conclusions using spreadsheet software. The opportunity to provide students with 21st century skills as part of their education is critical. This hands-on approach to learning not only engages students in the subject matter, but it also helps them develop a deeper appreciation for the environment.

As an educator in our district I firmly believe in the importance of partnering with local organizations to provide our students with high quality educational experiences. I strongly support the Cornell Cooperative Extension's program to seed the bay with oyster spat, and I believe it is a valuable investment in our community's future. I hope that you will consider supporting this important initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions I encourage you to contact me via email at: James.Theinert@shelterisland.k12.ny.us

Sincerely,

James Theinert

Mathematics, Business, and STEM Teacher

Shelter Island School