

What's Happening ON STATEN ISLAND

BY BARBARA RUS

S.I. TECH RANKED BEST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN STATE

Congratulations are in order for Staten Island Technical High School, which was recently ranked the #1 best public high school in New York State!

The school was ranked by Niche, which reviews schools throughout the country.

"The formula for success is like a three-legged stool. It's the students, it's the parents and it's the professionals who walk the hallways every day at Staten Island Tech," said Borough President Vito Fossella during a recent press conference, echoing the philosophy set forth by Principal Mark Erlenwein. "You don't want to brag or spike the ball too much, but you work very hard, you commit yourself every day and you have found your way. We couldn't be prouder. You give us great joy and we know your best days are ahead of you."

Principal Erlenwein called the ranking a team effort.

"First and foremost, I want to say congratulations to the whole Staten Island Technical High School family. And that includes past, present and future," he said.



"It's a communal effort. Everything works better when we do it together."

Other area high schools ranking high on

the list include Bronx High School of Science at #2 and Townsend Harris High School at #3. Stuyvesant High School came in at #4.

STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OPENS NEW SENSORY SPACE

The Staten Island Children's Museum opened a new sensory space designed to provide a place of respite for kids who might need some time to recharge during their museum visit.

Developed with the guidance of a dedicated volunteer advisory committee of members and local parents, this "under the sea"-themed oasis offers a range of sensory experiences to help children find comfort and calm.

Located on the lower C Level by the Block Harbor exhibit, the sensory space features a curated assortment of sensory tools and elements, including a plush bean



bag chair, textured mats on the wall for tactile stimulation, soothing sounds, calming strategies, weighted lap toys and an ever-

changing bubble wall. The environment was designed to provide a haven for children to retreat to when they need a moment to decompress.

The project was initiated and managed by Director of Exhibits, Renee Wasser-Warneck.

"Having seen how popular the sensory kits are that we offer to families for use in the museum, we wanted to create a dedicated space to support visitors that may be feeling overwhelmed," she said.

Dina Rosenthal, Executive Director of Staten Island Children's Museum, expressed her enthusiasm about the new addition.

"We are thrilled to introduce this sensory space, which reflects our commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that every child's museum experience is enjoyable," she said. "Our goal is to create an environment where children of all abilities can explore, learn and have fun."