



**Putnam/Northern Westchester
BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

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Students Discover Underwater World

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS – More than 20 local middle school students will be celebrating Columbus Day this year with new discoveries of their own. But they'll find their new world underwater as they participate in Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES' annual marine biology trip to Key Largo.

The students will be in Key Largo October 9-13 and will study marine biology, learning more about the marine ecosystem. The experience also includes a quadrant study of a seagrass bed, an invertebrate tank study and lab, two trips to the coral reef to dive or snorkel (three students will complete their diving certification on the trip), a swim with the dolphins at Dolphins Plus, a trip into the mangroves and Everglades, and a trip to the sea turtle hospital.

Making the trip are the following local students:

Croton-Harmon School District: Nick Ambros, Satchel Aviram, Zoe Belasco, Edward Clark, Michel Corvinus, Rachel Davis, Caroline Rickett, Alex Starr, Daniel Sherry, and Trevor Wolsterncroft.

Bedford School District: Melissa Cocomello, Robert Cocomello, Avery Cotter, Emily DePalma, Maya Hartleben, Nicole Morin, Conner Mullen, Sebastian Restrepo, Charlotte Thompson, Sarah Violante, Kerrin Weiner, and Danielle Zegelstein.

Program instructors include marine biologists from Key Largo, Sea Dwellers Diving Services, and the REEF Foundation, as well as Westlake Middle School teacher Steve Pesick and Program Coordinator Dorna Schroeter. Ms. Schroeter is coordinator of the P/NW BOCES Center for Environmental Education and is an advanced scuba diver. She has been running trips to Key Largo since 1989.

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