



# Highlights

A Publication of the Harrison Central School District

## Matt Cooper Named National Merit Scholar; Zinman & Robb Are Finalists



Harrison High School Senior Matthew Cooper was named a National Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Program. He was selected from about 15,000 finalists from across the country by the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. Prior to becoming a National Merit Scholarship Winner, Matt was named a National Merit Finalist and Semifinalist. Seniors Ava Zinman and Josephine Robb also were recognized as National Merit Finalists and Semifinalists. Less than one percent of high school seniors achieves this recognition. Congratulations Matt, Ava and Josephine!

## Class of 2020 Graduates Earn Seal of Biliteracy from NYS Dept. of Education



Twenty-two members of the Harrison High School Class of 2020 received the Seal of Biliteracy from the New York State Department of Education, with two students achieving the Seal for proficiency in three languages. Students attain honor by achieving language proficiency in English plus one or more languages as evidenced by grades and performance on rigorous assessments, or by submitting a portfolio of work in four modalities - listening, speaking, reading and writing. Harrison students received the Seal by demonstrating proficiency in English and French, Italian, or Spanish. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the New York State Department of

Education in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The Seal serves to certify attainment of biliteracy and is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of a student's readiness for career and college, and for engagement as a global citizen. 2020 Seal of Biliteracy Recipients:

*Three Languages:*

Ariane Guyonnet  
Sara McSweeney

Darin Iraj  
Emma Berkowitz  
Ethan Piliero  
Isabel Pearson  
James Horvath  
Josephine Robb

Sara McSweeney  
Sophia Di Leo  
Souleyd LaVigna-Cuellar  
Tanya Reyes  
Victoria Lendino

*Two Languages:*

Adrianna Mannino  
Alistair Xhayet  
Ariane Guyonnet  
Athanasia Meimeteas  
Christopher Demirjian  
Dafne Hernandez

Kapil Modi  
Kayla Cacsire  
Marianne Palmieri  
Nellie Fisher  
Pedro de Oliveira

[Watch the Class of 2020 Academic Awards Ceremony.](#)

## HHS Students Clinch Top Awards at NY State Science and Engineering Fair

Sara McSweeney and the team of Nellie and Bailey Fisher placed with High Honors at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair after live interviews for finalists via Zoom. This placed them in the top 50 projects statewide. Nine HHS students participated in the virtual competition this year. Students were required to submit a 6-minute video presentation of their research to be judged by experts in their field. The 9 students were: Josh Cooper, Nellie & Bailey Fisher, Julia Kindler, Victoria Lendino, Sara McSweeney, Athansia Meimeteas, Matthew Murno, and Josephine Robb.



## HHS Students Recognized at Tri-County Science and Technology Fair



Six Harrison High School Science Research students participated in the Tri-County Science & Technology Fair which was held virtually. Roya Azar, Athansia Meimeteas, Julia Kindler, Arwen Fernandez O'Brien, Larissa Iraj, and Morgan Remeza. This is a highly competitive competition for students from area high schools.

Harrison students earned three top spots:

**Roya Azar-2nd Place-Biology**

**Larissa Iraj-3rd Place-Health & Nutrition**

**Athansia Meimeteas-2nd Place-Math/Computers**

## Sara McSweeney, Julia Kindler Recognized at Virtual Statewide Symposium



Congratulations to Sara McSweeney and Julia Kindler, who placed 3rd in their respective categories in the Virtual Junior Science and Humanities Symposium State Speaker Competition. This is the highest recognition that any HHS student has achieved in this competition.

JSHS is designed to challenge and engage students in grades 9-12 in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). Individual students compete for scholarships and recognition by presenting the results of their original research efforts before a panel of judges and an audience of their peers. Sara and Julia presented a power point of their research and then responded to questions from judges who were experts in the field.



Earlier this spring, sixteen Harrison High School students attended the Westchester-Rockland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. The WR-JSHS is a sub-regional qualifying event for the Upstate JSHS in Albany. At the regional and national levels, JSHS provides high school students an opportunity to present authentic research before peers and professionals in the field.

View [Physics Extravaganza](#)

Watch [Virtual Science Symposium](#)

## LMK Students Present Original Research at Science & Engineering Fair



Fifty-four students in grades 6-8 participated in the 7th Annual LMK Science & Engineering Fair. Students presented findings of science experiments and engineering designs which they developed and conducted independently using the Scientific Method or Engineering Design Cycle. Students applied learning through inquiry, which is an integral part of student learning in the IB Middle Years Program. It was evident from the projects that LMK middle school students are especially interested in the environment and technology.

## Eighth Graders Visit Harrison High School; Prepare for 9th Grade



LMK students visited Harrison High School in preparation for next year. The visit included a tour of the building and chance to meet with administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and HHS students. Each shared perspectives about the high school and discussed the many opportunities available. Guidance counselors subsequently connected with each 8th grade student to begin developing a four year plan and finalize their 9th grade class schedule.

## Harrison High School Seniors Featured at Young Artists Exhibit

Harrison High School seniors exhibited their work at the **Young Artists 2020** exhibition at the Katonah Museum of Art. According to the museum website, this exhibition presents the work of the most talented high school seniors in the region. Nearly 400 students from 40 schools participated. The program is designed to present work of the “next generation of creative thinkers and artists.” HHS Seniors whose work was featured in the exhibit include: Vincent Longo, Marcello Principe, Kristen MacIlvane, Shai Gropper, Devon Smyth, Madison Romero, Christine Byrd, Tina Liu, Gabrielle Bucci, Sydnee Smith.



## Jessica Leckart Receives Honor at Film Festival



Harrison High School Junior Jessica Leckart's animated short, "Metamorphic," was recognized as an Official Selection of the All American High School Film Festival. Her animated short was screened at the film festival's event held in the AMC Empire Theaters in Times Square. The festival received nearly 2,000 submissions from students in 50 states and more than 40 countries. Jessica's film was selected for the Micro Movie category for films under one

minute. She cites her inspiration for her animation from the album *Trench* by the Grammy winning group Twenty One Pilots, from which she incorporated visuals based on lyrics from the album.

"Metamorphic" has gained almost 2,000 views on social media. View Jessica's animated film [here](#)

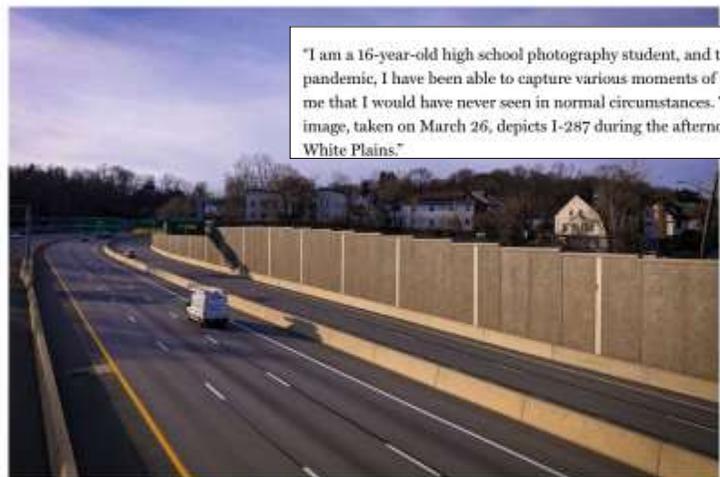
## Tyler Burden Wins Scholarship

HHS senior Tyler Burden earned a scholarship from the New York City



Dance Alliance at their prestigious competition where she placed 3rd overall.

Since 2010 NYCDA has awarded scholarships to high school seniors who plan to pursue a performance based major in college. Tyler plans to double major in dance and science.



"I am a 16-year-old high school photography student, and throughout this pandemic, I have been able to capture various moments of the world around me that I would have never seen in normal circumstances. This particular image, taken on March 26, depicts I-287 during the afternoon 'rush hour' in White Plains."

I-287, White Plains, New York Photo: Drake Martin.

## HHS Student Photo Published in Magazine

**New York Magazine** published a photograph taken by HHS Junior, Drake Martin, in its series, "Scenes From Your Pandemic" on May 19, 2020.

## High School Publications Recognized for Excellence



Victoria Peralta

Harrison High School's Literary Magazine, [\*Imagine\*](#), received the rank of *Excellent* from the National Council Teachers of English Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) Program for work published in 2019. REALM recognizes excellence in literary magazines published by students that celebrate the art and craft of writing. This year students published a blog format of [\*Imagine\*](#), focused on the theme of inclusivity, which will be considered for the 2020 REALM Award.



[\*Husky Herald\*](#), the high school newspaper was recognized with two prestigious awards: Silver Medalist Honors from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and First Place from the American Scholastic Press Association. Columbia Scholastic Press Association, founded in 1925, critiques and evaluates student publications and offers annual prizes for the best student newspapers. Medalists Honors are presented to the top ten percent of entries. National Scholastic Press Association presents awards based on coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership, design, photography and graphics. Read the latest edition of the [\*Husky Herald\*](#).

*Writers Among Us Ceremony celebrates student writing.*

[Watch Here](#)

## Harrison Debate Team Posts Impressive Season; Ava Zinman Ranked #1

The Harrison High School Debate Team posted another impressive season with 12 tournament wins, 12 top speaker awards, 6 qualifying bids to the Tournament of Champions, 7 student qualifiers to national championships, the #1-ranked Lincoln-Douglas debater nationwide, and 8 students ranked Lincoln-Douglas debaters ranked in the top 12 in New York from the National Speech & Debate Association. Ava Zinman '20 is the #1-ranked debater nationally and in New York State. Other HHS debaters ranked include: #2 - Giovanni Cutri '21, #3 - Rebecca Anderson '21, #5 - Ethan Voskoff '20, #6 - Molly Ryan '21, #8 - Sonali Nicola '21, #9 - Anthony Kang '21, #12 - Ali Ahmad '22.



The Coronavirus pandemic completely changed the end of the competitive season for the Harrison High School Debate Team. Debaters last competed in person at the NYCFL Nationals Qualifier at Stuyvesant High School on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. They won the tournament and qualified three students to Nationals, but unfortunately, the national tournament was cancelled due to the pandemic. The team competed at five tournaments online, and held regular practices via Zoom several times a week. The experience has taken some getting used to, but demonstrated that it's possible to keep debating in a virtual world. This summer, students will attend online summer debate institutes to prepare for the upcoming season which will be virtual until December.



## HHS Footlight Players Perform *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

The Harrison High School Footlight Players proudly presented the musical comedy, ***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*** and kept audiences on the edge of their seats with big dance numbers, great music, hilarity and plot twists. This modern musical is based on the 1988 film of the same name, and was selected based on multiple criteria, including its ability to provide a well-rounded theater experience for each student over the course of their four years at Harrison High School. Different musicals offer various challenges for students both on and off stage, giving them a wide range of skills and resources to take with them beyond high school. Seniors, Aidan Wohl (Lawrence), Peter Neureuther (Freddy) and Paige Pezella (Christine) performed the leading roles in along with nearly one hundred HHS student performers, dancers, musicians and crew members. View a complete [Photo Gallery](#) of the performance.



## LMK Students Perform *Little Mermaid*

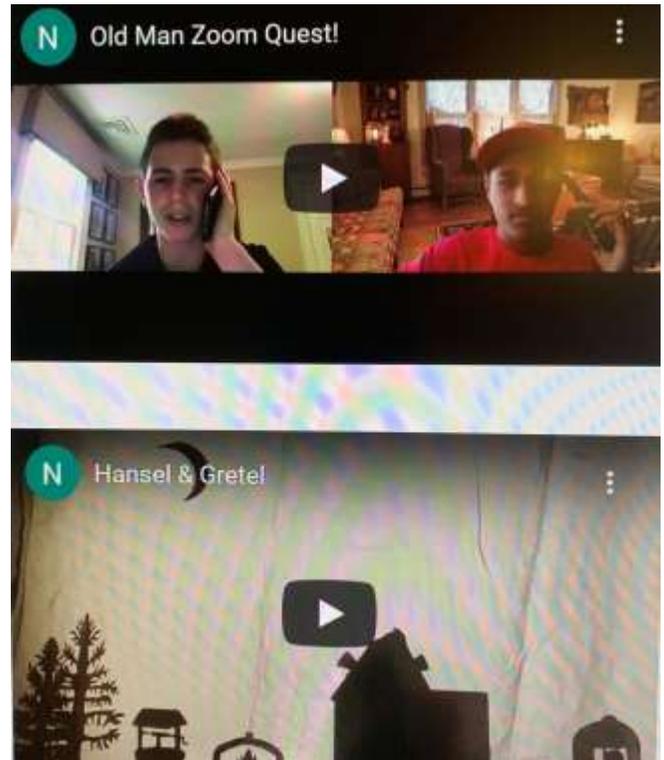
The LMK Middle School Drama Club proudly presented the Disney musical ***The Little Mermaid***, based on the 1989 animated film of the same name. Members of the LMK Drama Club rehearsed for weeks and staged an outstanding performance of this spirited musical favorite. View a complete [Photo Gallery](#) of the performance.



# All the (Virtual) World's a Stage!

## HHS & LMK Students Perform Virtual One Act Plays

The One Act Festival preserved its special place for Harrison theater students in grades 8-12, despite not being able to take the stage and perform in front of the live audience. Student creativity peaked on the virtual stage and their efforts were engaging, thoughtful and entertaining in spite of the challenges they faced. According to theater teacher Nina Haberli, like Shakespeare who wrote King Lear during the plague, Harrison students wrote original, amazing Zoom plays during a pandemic and enthusiastically embraced a new genre and expression of art. They learned to create, collaborate and perform virtually.



## Students Stage Virtual Performance of *You Can't Take It With You*



The HHS spring play began like other spring plays. Student director, Michael Jubak held auditions, selected a cast, and started rehearsals. Then, suddenly, we were quarantined. But that did not stop the cast of this year's spring play, ***You Can't Take It With You***. Michael held rehearsals over Zoom, hoping to return to school. When it became clear that was not going to happen,

Michael adapted and made plans to film the actors on Zoom. At times, wifi issues presented difficulties, so some actors self-taped their lines on phones. After many days of editing, Michael and the cast presented a wonderful and unique performance of ***You Can't Take It With You***. Learn about the cast and crew in the show's [program](#) and take time to read Michael Jubak's thoughtful reflections of his HHS theater experience in the Director's Statement. Bravo!



# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

**Harrison athletes earned success this year! In spite of losing the spring season athletes continued to train and build team spirit. Harrison athletes are *HUSKY PROUD* on and off the field. Share their achievements:**

Harrison athletes earned recognition for excellence: 68 All League, 29 All-Section, 7 All-County, and 7 All-State.

The Girls Varsity Swimming Team posted an undefeated season and won the Conference Championship. Six swimmers qualified for the Section 1 Swimming Championship, and three Long-standing team records were broken.

Both the Boys and Girls Indoor Track & Field Teams earned the League Championship title. The Boys 4x200 Relay team were State Medalists and Indoor Nationals Qualifiers; and Peter Fischer was an Indoor Nationals Qualifier in the 200m Dash.

Casey Judelson was recognized as an All State Football player, named to the LoHud 2019 Westchester Putnam All Star Football Team, and was ranked sixth in Section 1 with 1,172 yards rushing and scored 13 touchdowns.

Tyler Joseph was Westchester County Champion, Section 1 Champion, All-State and became Harrison's All Time Win Leader at 190 career wins.

HHS Seniors Josh Cooper and Logan Wasserman were named to the William J. Thom Court of Excellence – the highest academic award in Section 1 Basketball.

Jessica Saviano and Deana Giambo were Section 1 Doubles Champions. Deana will attend Marist College, where she will be a member of the women's tennis team.

Varsity Baseball players Vinny Corso, Greg Lucien, and Jimmy Horvath committed to play college baseball. Vinny will attend the University of Richmond as a pitcher, Jimmy will play for Washington and Lee University, and Greg will play at Manhattanville College.

HHS Softball player, Mia Harris will attend Mercy College and play for the women's softball team.

Varsity Basketball player, Ashley Stagg scored her 1,000 point, becoming one of only three players in school history to reach this benchmark.

The Varsity Girls Basketball Team reached the Section Finals for the second time in three years.

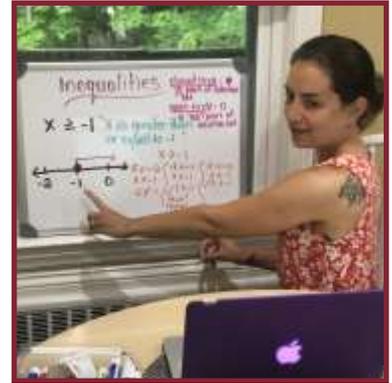
Joey Harrison scored his 100<sup>th</sup> career point as a Varsity Ice Hockey player.

Nineteen Varsity teams were Scholar Athlete Teams.

124 Senior Athletes participated in at least one sport, and 13 are Three Sport Athletes.

[WATCH THE SENIOR ATHLETICS AWARDS CEREMONY](#)

# Discovering New Ways to Celebrate Learning...From Home!



## Celebrate Student Learning

**Virtual Art Exhibit** K-12 Visual & Digital Art Department collaborated to create a district-wide exhibit. The art show reflects pieces that students created while learning from home, an intentional move by the teachers to show how student creativity continued to flourish, even in the remote environment. Experience the talents and creativity of our students: [2020 District Art Exhibit](#)

**Science Symposium** The Harrison Science Research program invites students to participate in authentic and original scientific research and is designed to provide an understanding of research methodologies in the natural and social sciences, with an emphasis on both laboratory and bibliographic research. Students work with research scientists and professionals within their chosen areas of interest to develop a commitment to long-term focused research. Science Research students present their work at the [Virtual Science Symposium](#).

**Physics Extravaganza** The [Physics Extravaganza](#) took place virtually this year. Twelfth grade physics students team with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to put physics into practice, and have fun with physics in a setting very different from the traditional classroom. Every 4<sup>th</sup> grade student in all four elementary schools participated in the annual event – to rave reviews. A 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher shared, “The kids had a fantastic time...this just proves how engaging science really is!”

**Original Student Choreography** [HHS Dance Students](#) choreographed a dance to reflect a word related to the pandemic. Dance teacher Debbie Toteda's choreography assignment provided a way for dancers to connect and celebrate their work virtually.

**Digital Arts** Harrison High School Digital Arts student work is featured in the [Digital Arts Newsletter](#). Do not miss a link to unlock a burst of creativity!

