

Excellence

ON DISPLAY

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS MAGAZINE



contents

- 3 Superintendent
- 4 Heart of Excellence
- 6 Engages the World
- 8 Construction Update
- 10 News Notes



BLACKBOARD CONNECT Q&A

WHAT IS BLACKBOARD CONNECT? Blackboard Connect is a service offered by the Victor Central School District that allows administrators to reach all parents of the District's approximately 4,500 students within minutes.

I HAVE NEVER RECEIVED A BLACKBOARD CONNECT. HOW CAN I SIGN UP?

If you are not receiving Blackboard messages from the District, please contact your child's school so that we may update your contact information.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE VCS E-NEWS

SPECIAL EVENTS • IMPORTANT UPDATES! Throughout the school year, our VCS Superintendent and building principals send out electronic newsletters highlighting special school events, unique accomplishments, important updates and other timely information. Are you receiving these vital sources of school information? If not, we strongly urge you to sign up for both the Superintendent's and building principals' e-news by going to our web site: www.victorschools.org

FACEBOOK

To follow us on FACEBOOK search Victor Central School District, Victor, NY.

TWITTER

To follow us on TWITTER search @victorschools.

VCS Board of Education

Karen Ballard
Tim DeLucia
Kristin Elliott
Debbie Palumbo-Sanders
Christopher Parks
Mike Vistocco
Mike Young

The Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Victor Education Center at 7:15 p.m. Residents are welcome to attend. **Note:** *Due to construction, meetings will be held in the Victor Intermediate School Auditorium until February 2019.*

District Clerk

Maureen Goodberlet,
(585) 924-3252 ext. 1402

Superintendent of Schools

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.

Excellence on Display is the official publication of the Victor Central School District.

(585) 924-3252 ext. 1407

www.victorschools.org

A Message from Our Superintendent Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo



The 2018-2019 school year is up and running in many new and exciting ways!

While new teachers, students and classes highlight every school year, this September, the VCS school community also returned to numerous other changes.

From a newly constructed parking lot and bus loop at the Early Childhood School, to a soon-to-be completed Pre-Kindergarten classroom addition in the Early Childhood School, a gymnasium expansion project at the Intermediate School and a new website, to name just a few, VCS continues to build a positive, proactive environment for students, staff and families, alike!

In this publication, in addition to construction updates, you can also catch up on some of the amazing things our VCS school community is accomplishing. This fall, *Buffalo Business First* magazine ranked VCS one of the top academic school districts in upstate New York. That's not all we have to cheer about. We are also proud to report on our participation in the Teddi Bowl III, a fruitful Ugandan Water Project fundraiser, inspiring Unsung Heroes and Heroines, academic success, healthy staff members, and so much more.

The 2018-19 school year is just getting started. I cannot wait to see what else our incredible school community accomplishes in the months ahead.

On behalf of the Board of Education and staff, welcome back!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn', written in a cursive style.

Heart of Excellence

They inspire us and motivate us. They are our Unsung Heroes and Heroines. On Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at the annual Opening Day ceremony for VCS staff, Superintendent Dawn Santiago-Marullo honored this year's recipients as men and women who consistently go above and beyond in the workplace. Nominated by their peers for exemplary work ethics, these VCS employees impact our entire campus both inside and outside our buildings. They are the Heart of Excellence at Victor Central Schools!

Lori Fuller

Transportation Department

Employed since January 5, 2001



Lori Fuller has spent the last twenty two years driving our most precious cargo to and from their homes and special events before taking on her new role as the

Transportation Department's dispatcher. Her nominators had this to say about her. "She is a mentor, role model and leader. She greets everyone with a smile. You can even feel her smile over the phone. I've never met a more knowledgeable, positive, dedicated and compassionate person. She goes above and beyond her duties to assist everyone with their questions and concerns. If she can't give you an answer right away, she will find the answer and get back to you as soon as possible. It's a pleasure to ride on a bus with her, learning and watching how she is with student management."

Robin Kinsella

Clerical

Employed since August 28, 2006



More than a dozen employees took the time to nominate Robin Kinsella for this year's clerical award. Here is some of what they had to say.

"She knows all of the ins and outs regarding the running of the office. She is very organized and always gets the job done despite constant interruptions. She is always there to assist everyone who stops by her desk, whether it is a staff member looking to buy a stamp, helping to unjam the copier, signing in subs, greeting visitors and answering student questions. She has a great laugh and a wonderful sense of humor and is a very hard worker. We all love her!"

Heart of Excellence

Robin Pauly *Food Services*

Employed since September 1, 2014

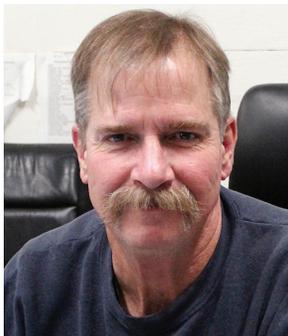


Robin Pauly is known by her peers for her shining, happy, uplifting spirit. Nominators say no matter how big the challenge or how tough the day you can

still hear this individual singing her way through the day, infecting everyone with her positive attitude. This past spring she took on a new role as the Food Services supervisor in the Senior High School but that did not stop students from seeking her out and stopping by on a daily basis to let her know how much they missed her in the snack room where she worked previously. Says one nominator, "Every day I hear students calling out her name. She has truly touched the lives of our students with her infectious attitude and caring nature."

David DeWitt *Facilities and Grounds*

Employed since December 17, 2012



Much like his fellow award winners, David DeWitt's nominators could not say enough nice things about him! "He has a strong work ethic and picks

up the workload to help out when we're

short staffed. He has spent long hours and weekends to help out when others can't be there. He is a team player. He is also a great trainer to new employees. We can always count on him. He is a stand-up guy, a good friend and offers excellent advice for work and personal life, too!"

Kelly Gelinas *Teacher Aide*

Employed since October 19, 2005



Kelly Gelinas received more than a dozen nods for today's prize in the teacher aide category. Nominators praised her for her abilities to work with a wide range of students,

including the most challenging. "She has an unmatched ability to make each child that she encounters feel capable, successful and ready to tackle any challenge that comes his or her way. She ensures every child has everything he or she needs to lead the carefree life that every child deserves. I have seen this in the form of a new dress for a concert, Christmas gifts, school supplies and so much more. In her day to day work she has worked with some of the children who present with the most unique needs and she takes each of these children under her wing, cheering them on, improving their mind-set and their perception of themselves and presenting them with even greater challenges. All of this hard work is always done with light humor and hugs."

Victor Students Provide Clean Water for Hundreds of Ugandans

This summer, students from the Senior High School Key Club and Global Competence Certificate program got a peek at what their fundraising efforts for the Ugandan Water Project did for a small community in Uganda.

In addition to sending our students photos from the project location, Marina Cull, the Communications Director from the Ugandan Water Project shared some astounding facts in the following letter:

“I am so excited to share with you how the borehole well repair that you and the students at Victor High School sponsored this year has transformed the lives of people in Uganda. Because of your support, 700 children and community members near Fort Jesus Primary School in Uganda’s Wakiso district now have access to clean, safe drinking water.

Let that sink in! 700 people can now have access to clean, safe drinking water again.

You did that!”

Cull said the Ugandan Water Project is grateful that VCS chose to partner with

them to give water and life to the people in Fort Jesus Primary School’s community for years to come.

Victor Senior High School students became actively involved with the Ugandan Water Project two years ago after students heard a presentation about the organization in social studies class. Global Competence Certificate Program members, Kataichiry Rohena Marquez and Joelymar Ruiz took it upon themselves to organize the first “Water Walk” to raise money to build a rainwater filtration tank for the people of Uganda. The first campaign raised \$4,142.25, more than enough money for a water tank.

Last spring, students held their second “Water Walk” and raised more than \$5,300.

The Ugandan Water Project is a non-profit organization bringing clean, safe, accessible water and other catalyst resources to communities in Uganda. For more information go to: <http://ugandanwaterproject.com/>



Senior High School Welcomes Two Foreign Exchange Students

VCS Literacy Coach Claire Noonan Visits Ugandan Water Project Site

This summer, while on an African gorilla trekking expedition, VCS Literacy Coach Claire Noonan took the time to travel to the VCS Ugandan Water Project site on her own.

“It was so exciting to see firsthand the impact of Victor students across the world. With the generous support of the Victor School community, the Ugandan Water Project was able to fund a clean water tank and filters for an elementary school in Entebbe. Students are now able to access clean water without having to walk the five or six miles to the local water source. They no longer must boil water for consumption, bathing, or cooking. Due to this access to clean water, the school has seen an increase in enrollment from 250 students to 390. The director of the school claims this is a direct result of the water filtration system,” she said.

VCS is proud of the global education we provide students. One way we help students expand their horizons is by hosting foreign exchange students who live and learn with them for an entire school year.

This year, the Senior High School proudly welcomes 17 year old Linn Brorsson from Sweden and 17 year old Joaquin Ellena Murature from Argentina. Brorsson, who is staying with Laurie and Bob Estochen comes to VCS through the AFS program. Murature, a Rotary International student is residing with Laurie and Damien Herbert for the year.

Linn has been making the most of her Victor Blue Devil experience by participating on the girls soccer team. This winter, she also hopes to join the basketball team. Joaquin is equally busy engaging with his new American friends as a member of the boys soccer team and International

Club. Both students say they absolutely love the school spirit VCS has!



Campus Construction Highlights Big Changes

The VCS campus was bursting with activity this summer with a variety of construction projects, both large and small.

The most noticeable change can be found at the Early Childhood School where workers installed new parking lots and a bus loop. This new configuration consists of three separate areas, a designated student drop off space, a bus lot/loop that can hold fifty buses (the previous space could only house ten buses), and a staff parking lot.

Chris Marshall, VCS Director of Facilities, said there are several benefits associated with the new space. “Now, we no longer have to stage buses on High Street or on our campus roads waiting for an open spot in the loop and the buses all go in at once and hold in place. They also release all of the students at the same time. It’s much safer.” Marshall said the Victor-Farmington ambulance and Sheriff’s offices are especially pleased with the backup reduction on High Street for obvious safety reasons.

Other large projects still underway on campus are a second floor addition at the Early Childhood School above the new south west wing of the building and a gymnasium addition at the Intermediate School. Marshall said the structural steel and roof on the VECS addition have already been installed and this addition is expected to be completed by February at the very latest. While the gymnasium addition at the VIS is on schedule, work on this project is not expected to be completed until September, 2019.

VIS Gymnasium



VECS Classroom Addition



VIS Gymnasium

Other Construction Work:

Primary School:

Half of the ceilings in the building have been replaced.

New hallway flooring will be installed in late October.

New boiler piping is being installed in the hallways. This work will continue throughout the school year. The final boiler replacement will take place next summer.

Intermediate School:

New roofing has been installed.

Junior High School:

Converting the old JH girls' locker room into an occupational/physical therapy room. Anticipated completion is December, 2018.

Library renovation to begin in December, 2018. Project completion is slated for September, 2019.

Senior High:

Roof replacement work.

Other work:

Installation of energy performance LED lighting in all buildings has begun. Twenty percent of this campus-wide work is complete. The expected completion date for all of this work is September, 2019.



VECS Parking Lots and Bus Loop



VECS Classroom Addition ~ Architect Rendering



VIS Gymnasium ~ Architect Rendering

PeachJar Flyer System Replaces What's Happening

Last spring, VCS introduced a brand new flyer system on its website that replaced the *What's Happening* publication that was sent through the superintendent's and principals' enews publications. PeachJar is designed to advertise activities going on at VCS in a more targeted and timely fashion. With PeachJar, now school clubs and parent organizations can advertise their news and information any day of the week, all school year, not just once-or twice-a-month during scheduled enews deliveries. PeachJar not only provides families with information that can be accessed anytime, it also provides filters so users can access flyers by topics, school buildings and dates.

Want Daily PeachJar Updates?

Open up PeachJar on our website at <https://www.victorschools.org/account> and follow these steps:

- Under "Parents" go to "PeachJar Flyers."
- Click on "My Account" on upper right hand corner.
- If you have not already registered on PeachJar, follow the registration instructions.
- Once you are registered, go to "My Account" on the lower left hand side of the page and select "Notification Preferences" and "School Preferences."
- You can set up notification preferences for one VCS school or all five of them!

Remember, you can always check out what's happening at VCS by opening PeachJar on our website: <https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/districts/32620>

New Website Launched

Have You Re-Registered for Enews Publications?

This summer, VCS unveiled a brand new website designed to streamline news and information and make it easier for you to stay connected with the school district. As part of our new website, ALL existing newsletter subscribers must re-register to continue to receive electronic principal and superintendent news publications. To re-register for newsletters go to "Community" on the District's website. Under "Community" go to the "Newsletters" link for further instructions.

2019-2020 Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Schedule Announced

Pre-K Registration Begins in January!

Pre-Kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin on Tuesday, January 8th, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Pupil Personnel Services Office in the District Office building adjacent to the VECS.

Children who are four years old on December 1, 2019 are eligible to register for Pre-K. The lottery for Pre-K will be Friday, February 1, 2019. Notification letters will be mailed by Friday, February 8, 2019. (Please note that lottery results will not be shared over the phone.)

Kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin on Friday, March 1st, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Victor Early Childhood School Board Room. Children who are five years old on December 1, 2019 are eligible to register for Kindergarten.

Student Selected for All State Symphony Orchestra

Senior High School viola player, Barbara Hansen, was selected to play the viola in the NYSSMA Conference All-State Symphony Orchestra later this year. Hansen will perform with the orchestra on Sunday, December 2nd at 10:00 am in the Kodak Hall at the Eastman School of Music.



Victor Student Achieves Top ACT Score

Senior, Grace M. Meise, earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36



this past spring. On average, only around one-tenth of one percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2017, only 2,760 out of

more than 2 million graduates who took the ACT earned a composite score of 36.

Senior High Boasts National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Congratulations to Allison Heltz, Katherine Kopp, Gabriel Lind, Grace Meise and Keonwoo Park! These seniors were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists for 2019.

Victor's "fabulous five" were among ninety-five high-school seniors in the Buffalo and Rochester areas who earned the prestigious honor.

A total of 16,000 U.S. semifinalists have been chosen to compete for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million. They were filtered from an initial pool of 1.6 million U.S. students who took last year's PSAT/NMSQT, a qualifying test.

Student Named National Hispanic Scholar

Senior, Eric Barron, has been named a National Hispanic Scholar by the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program.

College Board seeks to identify outstanding Hispanic high school students and to share information about these academically well-prepared students with subscribing colleges and universities.



Attention Parents of Students Who Attend Private/Parochial Schools

Important Busing Information

In order to be eligible for transportation to a private/parochial school, parents must submit a written request no later than April 1st of the previous year. In addition, you must live within 15 miles of the school of your choice.

Please send written requests to:

Lisa Hinman

VCS Head Bus Driver

Transportation Department

953 High Street

Victor, New York 14564

Upcoming Music Events

Friday, November 16th

VJH Musical (Seussical)
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Saturday, November 17th

VJH Musical (Seussical)
1 pm and 7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Saturday, December 1st

RPO Holiday Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Monday, December 3rd

4th and 5th Grade Holiday Chorus
Concert, 7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Tuesday, December 4th

6th Grade Band, Chorus and Allegro
Orchestra Holiday Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Wednesday, December 5th

JH Instrumental Holiday Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Monday, December 10th

VSH Holiday Band Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Tuesday, December 11th

VIS - Presto and Vivace
Orchestras and Suzuki Group
Holiday Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Wednesday, December 12th

3rd Grade Holiday Concerts
6:30 pm and 7:30 pm, VPS Auditorium

Monday, December 17th

VSH Orchestras and Choirs
Holiday Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Tuesday, December 18th

VJH Choral Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Wednesday, December 19th

Beginning and 5th Grade Bands
Holiday Concert
7 pm, JH/SH Auditorium

Victor Athletics Named Most Accomplished in New York State

The New York State Sportswriters Association (NYSSWA) named Victor Central Schools' Athletic Program the 2018 Kerr Cup Champion.

The competition is limited to schools belonging to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, which is not affiliated with the NYSSWA and does not participate in the Kerr Cup process.

This year, the Victor athletic program achieved a record setting victory in the 10th annual Kerr competition by breaking the previous marks for points compiled and margin of victory. In addition, Victor became the first school to lead the scoring for both boys and girls in the same school year.

Victor is also the first Section V School to win the Kerr Cup Championship.

Board of Education Celebrated

On Thursday, October 11th, during their regular monthly meeting, members of the Victor Board of Education were honored for their service to our school community. In addition to receiving cards and small tokens from each school, Board members, Debbie Palumbo-Sanders (President), Tim DeLucia (Vice President), Karen Ballard, Kristin Elliott, Christopher Parks, Mike Vistocco and Mike Young, were treated to live entertainment presented by Junior High music teacher Zach Pelton and jazz students, Brian Martin, Jordan Underhill, Andrew Horihan, Ben Raduns and Max Ruscio.

Each year, the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) sponsors School Board Recognition Week to recognize school board members for their commitment to New York public school children.

Victor Football Tackles Cancer at Teddi Bowl III

On Thursday, August 30th, Camp Good Days & Special Times in collaboration with the Victor Blue Devils and the Pittsford Panthers held Teddi Bowl III, a fundraiser to benefit the children and families of Camp Good Days.

Teddi Bowl III, the first Section V football game of the season, was held at St. John Fisher College. More than 2,500 fans attended the game which raised over \$10,000 to help fund the programs free of charge to children and families affected by cancer and sickle cell anemia.

The Victor Blue Devils ultimately won the game 16-0, but the real winners were the children from Camp Good Days who were able to serve as honorary coaches and cheerleaders during the event.

Finger Lakes Area School Health Plan Awarded 2018 Wealth of Health Award

This spring, the Finger Lakes Area School Health Plan (FLASHP), which includes Victor Central Schools, won the 2018 Wealth of Health Award (Rochester Business Journal and Excellus BCBS) in the category of the Best Wellness Event. The group's 10 Day Plant Based Food Challenge, administered by VCS enrichment teacher and District health and wellness coordinator, Doug Schmidt and his wife, Shari, took home the top prize!

More than 1,300 participants from 35 school districts and Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) participated in the 10-Day Plant Based Jump-start Your Health Challenge.

The Finger Lakes Area School Health Plan is a consortium made up of 36 schools and one college.

Food Service Department Welcomes New Intern

This fall, the VCS Food Service Department welcomed Allie Strawn to their ranks as an intern. Strawn hails from Oklahoma where she attended Oklahoma State University. Alix TePoel, VCS Food Service Director said Allie is a very enthusiastic individual, who loves food services and is aspiring to become a Food Service Director.

"Allie has been working on increasing our breakfast participation in the Junior High School by engaging students with surveys and conversations about what they would like to see on the breakfast menu. She has already assisted with developing an individualized menu for one of our students with very specific dietary need and is currently developing her plans for nutrition education with students," TePoel said.



Former Intern Returns as School Nutritionist

Former VCS Food Services intern, Jennifer Nguyen is back at VCS this year, this time as a school nutritionist. In her new role, Nguyen will not only take over the responsibilities of retired food services manager, Doris Crowley, she will also focus on the health and wellness of our students.

Nguyen, a California native, earned her Bachelor of Science in Food Administration and Dietetics degree from California State University, Long Beach. Last year she earned her Masters degree in dietetics from Cornell University.



Two Victor Teachers Named New York State Master Teachers



This fall, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the selection of 275 educators from across the state to join the New York State Master Teacher Program. Victor Senior High School math teacher, Dawn Knapp and Junior High School math teacher, Tom Zaccardo, were among the prestigious mix. They join Senior High science teachers Kristina Sykes and Dave Porter who were previously selected for this honor. Master Teachers are dedicated professionals who teach science, technology, computer science, robotics, cod-



ing, engineering, and math courses across grades K through 12 including Advanced Placement, honors, Regents and International Baccalaureate levels.

Snackpack Program Set to Help Hundreds of VCS Families

The Victor Senior High School Cares Club, in cooperation with the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard and Foodlink, kicked-off the 2018-2019 Snackpack program in time for Columbus Day weekend. Last year, the program delivered food to more than 75 families and that number is expected to go up this year according to program co-advisor, LeeAnne Birkemeier. “We have received wonderful feedback that this program is really helpful for families and that the kids really enjoy getting the snacks each month,” she said. The Snackpack Program is completely CONFIDENTIAL and is intended for

families who need help providing food when school is not in session. Students in Pre-K through grade 12 qualify.

While all non-perishable foods are welcome, Birkemeier said the program is most in need of canned fruit, granola and/or breakfast type bars and kid-friendly flavors of canned soup.

“Donations of these food items are much needed, appreciated, and can be dropped off in the main office of the Senior High school. We are also always in need of drivers to help with deliveries!”

In order to participate in the FREE program, a parent or guardian needs to call 585-924-3252, ext. 5105 to register confidentially and leave an ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, and NUMBER OF CHILDREN. The only qualification is a stated need for extra food. Requests to be added to the program OR removed from it if you no longer need it, can be made via email to BirkemeierL@victorschools.org or McManisD@victorschools.org

2018-2019 Packing Schedule:

Deliveries can be made anytime from these dates through the Saturday morning past these dates.

- Tuesday December 18th
- Thursday January 17th
- Wednesday February 13th
- Tuesday March 12th
- Wednesday April 10th
- May, and June TO BE DETERMINED

Victor Central School District
953 High Street
Victor, NY 14564

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Victor, NY
Permit # 10

To: Victor Central School District Residents

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services maintains a list of registered sex offenders and offers many resources through its web site, <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>. People may search the Sex Offender Registry using the criteria of name, county or zip code. Parents and guardians may want to talk with children about interacting with adults and people they do not know.

Visual & Performing Arts HALL OF FAME

***Do you know a Victor Central School
alumnus or alumna who has made a significant
contribution to the arts?***

The Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame
honors such individuals.

Nominees shall be selected based upon the following criteria:

- A. Graduated from Victor Senior High School at least (10) years ago. Nominee may have or may not have been affiliated with a VCS arts program.
- B. Staff member, parent or community member who made significant contributions to the VCS arts program a minimum of (5) years.

Suggested "types" of artists that could qualify would be
Creators ~ Performers ~ Practitioners ~ Contributors

Go to www.victorschools.org for more information.

**Nominations must be submitted by
Tuesday, January 22, 2019 to:**

Visual & Performing Arts Hall of Fame committee
c/o The Office of School and Community Relations
Victor Central Schools
953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564
or by emailing laskysh@victorschools.org

VCS Seeks Names of Distinguished Graduates

Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus who has made a significant contribution to society? The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals. Applications are currently available in the Office of School and Community Relations or on-line at www.victorschools.org. Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at a special Graduate of Distinction Day next fall.

Nominees to the Victor Central School District Graduates of Distinction program shall be selected based upon the following criteria:

- A. Nominees must have graduated from Victor Senior High (or have attended Victor Schools BEFORE there was a high school in the case of Honorable Recognition) at least 15 years before they are eligible for selection. The committee may waive the graduation time limit requirements in certain circumstances, as it deems necessary;
- B. Significant achievement after attending Victor Schools which include: (1) Educational achievements; (2) Professional achievements; (3) Job-related achievements; (4) Honors, awards, professional affiliations, publications; (5) Civic or community involvement; (6) Other appropriate qualifications which the committee believes merit consideration;

Nominations must be submitted by Monday, January 14, 2019 to:

Graduates of Distinction Committee

c/o The Office of School and Community Relations

Victor Central Schools 953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564