

| March 2021 |

York High School

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of York High School Alumni



York News

On Feb 12th and 13th, the York Chess Team competed in the IHSA State Finals tournament. The eight players and coach met at York HS, and they competed in online matches against seven other schools from across the state. The York team finished 4-3 and ranked 39th overall out of the 118 teams that entered the tournament. **Competing Players:** William Quinn, Aaron Taub, Justin Macatangay, Andrew Brooks, Mitchell Stephens, Ian Keilman, Ryan Felice, and Kiran Moore.

National Merit Finalists

Every October, about 1.6 million juniors across the country take the PSAT. Those who score in the top 1% achieve the distinction of National Merit Semifinalist. Most of these students move on to become National Merit Finalists, with some winning scholarship money for college. We are thrilled to recognize our seven National Merit Finalists from York High School: **Samuel Ayers, Zoe Burkhardt, Jake Downey, Evan Frank, James Golen, Serena Jobi, and Adrian Zhuang!**

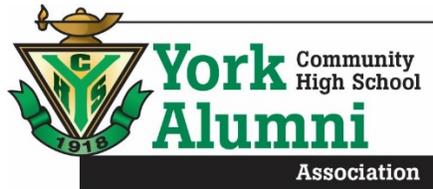
York Sports Update

With new guidance from the IDPH, winter sports are back in action! While spectator capacity is limited, most varsity York contests/games will be streamed on either NFHS Network or the York Sports Broadcast students on YouTube.

To stream York games, you can create an account with NFHS for free by going to www.nfhsnetwork.com/users/signup

After creating an account go to NFHSnetwork.com and search for York High School.

Go Dukes!



As we enter March, draw closer to St Patrick's Day, and therefore all things green we want to know, what are York's best "green" nicknames from over the years?



Robert Lee Wallace and Freda Mitchell Wallace, Class of 1942

In celebration of last month's Valentine's Day, it is our honor to introduce you to the eldest known living couple to have graduated from York Community High School. Robert Lee Wallace and Freda Mitchell Wallace are from the class of 1942 and have been married since 1947!

The couple met their senior year at York. Robert said that after playing the tuba in the band for his first three years at York, he joined the football team for his senior year. He recalls that the football team did not have a winning season. Mmmmm....that tradition has definitely repeated itself more than us Dukes would like to admit.

Freda, who is a young 95 to Robert's 96, was very bright and skipped a year in elementary school, landing them in the same class. Though she lived in rural Effingham, Illinois, she enrolled at York to have the opportunity for greater academic challenges than her hometown could offer, staying with a host family so she could attend.

Robert and Freda met on a double date, but they were not the couple that was set up! Robert's friend was actually dating Freda and Robert accompanied another young lady that evening. The couple took a liking to each other and the two stayed in touch.

Robert went on to the University of Illinois and Freda to Elmhurst College. Robert left the University to enlist in the Navy and Freda was employed at Grumman Aircraft where she riveted military airplanes being manufactured for the war. Robert proposed to Freda via his father while he was still stationed overseas in the Navy. They were married in 1947 and their first residence was a trailer without a private bathroom. They were the first residents of the trailer park to own a small television set making their home a social gathering place where many neighbors stopped by during evening television broadcasts.

Both Freda and Robert attended night school while working and raising a family. Robert received a bachelor's degree from Illinois Institute of Technology and Freda from Elmhurst College (now Elmhurst University). Freda went on to complete her Master's Degree and was Director of Special Education for her school district. Robert was employed full-time at International Harvester in Melrose Park and retired from that company.

The Wallaces have three children that all attended York. They are currently doing well and are on pace to turn 96 and 97 by the end of July and set to celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary next year!

Special thanks to Patricia Fess, Robert and Freda's daughter for the information!

YCHSAA Executive Board Openings

Would you or a fellow alumni like to be a part of the ever-growing Alumni Association? Send an email to ychsaa1912@gmail.com for more information about joining the YCHSAA Executive Board.

York Community High School Alumni Association Landmark Throw!

YCHSAA's newly redesigned Landmark Elmhurst woven throw is available for local delivery or pickup. The throw is available in Black & Cream or Green & Cream and makes a great gift or keepsake! [Order your throw today!](#)

2021 Distinguished Alumni

Do you know a York graduate of 5+ years who have distinguished themselves through significant and/or extraordinary accomplishments, service, and/or an outstanding contribution to society? Nominate them today! [Click here for more information!](#)

Nominations must be received by May 31, 2021, to be considered for a Fall 2021 York Distinguished Alumni Award. Those received after May 31, 2021, will be considered for the following year.

Update your information!

Have you moved or changed your phone number, [visit us online](#) and update your information!

Reunions

During these uncertain times, we will be maintaining updated information on the [Reunion page](#), located on the District 205 website.

If your reunion has been postponed or canceled due to COVID-19, please email your updates to alumni@elmhurst205.org.