



## Students Tackle Technology During Summer Vacation

More than 200 elementary school students in Grades 3-6 tapped into their ingenuity and sharpened their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills this summer when they participated in a robotics camp hosted by the Saugerties Central School District. The camp was held at the Saugerties Junior-Senior High School.

Originally scheduled to run for eight days, the camp was extended to 12 days to accommodate additional students in Grades 4, 5, and 6.

According to Dr. Darlene Westinghouse, the District's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Data, the robotics camp was supported by a \$35,000 grant secured by the office of New York State Senator George Amedore, Jr.

Throughout their summer learning experience, students engaged in hands-on activities and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Saugerties Central School District

FIND US:



# Saugerties

## Central School District

SUMMER 2018

## Saugerties Graduates Are Ready To "Shine A Light On The World"

Not even the threat of rain could dim the sparkle in the eyes of Saugerties High School (SHS) seniors as they waited for their commencement ceremony to begin. Laughter, bubbles, hugs, and even tears of joy filled the halls and auditorium on what would be their last day at their alma mater.

"How proud am I to be standing in front of approximately 2,000 family and community members here today to celebrate these 215 graduates?" asked Principal Thomas Averill. "Not only are we all proud of you, but we also have faith that you have been taught skills that will lead you forward on your next journey into college, the armed forces, or the world of work."



CONTINUED ON PAGES 4 & 5



### Board of Education

Robert Thomann, *President*  
James Mooney, *Vice President*

Krista Barringer  
Katie Emerson-Hoss  
Damion Ferraro  
Susan Gage  
Raymond (Mike) Maclary  
Elena Maskell  
Paul Van Schaack

### Superintendent of Schools

Seth Turner

### Deputy Superintendent

Lawrence R. Mautone

### Assistant Superintendent

of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Data

Dr. Darlene Westinghouse

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

Elementary Pen Pal Program.....	2
Elementary Field Day .....	2
Astronomy Learning and Fun .....	3
Students Tackle Technology During Summer Vacation.....	3
SHS Graduation .....	4
Students Honored for Scholastic Achievement .....	4
Against the Odds.....	5
Cahill Moving Up.....	6
Morse Moving Up.....	6
Kindergarten Moving Up.....	6
Mt. Marion Moving Up .....	7
Riccardi Moving Up .....	7
Saugerties Volunteer Honored .....	8
SHS Students Excel at 10-Day Film Challenge.....	8
Darryl Strawberry Speaks at SHS.....	8
SHS Students Win Dating Violence Video Contest .....	8

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
PERMIT #145

MAN-WSS

TO POSTAL CUSTOMER

SAUGERTIES CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Call Box A  
Saugerties, NY 12477  
845-247-6500  
www.saugerties.k12.ny.us



## Pen Pal Program Polishes Writing Skills, Builds Lasting Friendships

Second grade pen pals from Morse and Mt. Marion had a chance to meet up in person during the annual pen pal picnic at Cantine Field. They've been writing traditional letters to each other all year, and learning about writing, reading, and friendship in the process. The pen pal program has been a fun part of second grade for decades. In fact, at least one long-standing friendship was launched by it. Nate Auer and Alex Santiago, both members of the Saugerties High School Class of 2018, became pen pals in the 2008-2009 school year when Nate was a student at Morse and Alex attended Cahill. They reconnected in seventh grade and have been like brothers ever since. They're headed to Columbia-Greene Community College together this fall, too. We have a feeling they'll be best friends for a long, long time, and we wonder how many other lifetime friendships will be formed from a simple English Language Arts assignment!



Recent graduates Nate Auer and Alex Santiago met through the pen pal program and have been friends since 2008.



## Field Day!



Students at all four Saugerties Elementary schools wrapped up the school year with fun in the sun at their annual field day festivities. Whether they were competing in a bean bag toss, staying cool during various water-themed activities, or playing Tug O' War, the young athletes were keeping fit and bonding with their classmates.



## Jr/Sr HS Tech Students + Cahill Sixth Graders = Astronomy Learning & Fun

Teamwork was the name of the game recently when Cahill sixth graders visited the Junior-Senior High technology department. The students used software and a 3D printer to design a prototype of a moveable platform for a telescope that will be set up in the school courtyard this fall.

The Orion SkyQuest telescope, filters (including one that will allow students to safely view the sun), and other gear and supplies were purchased through a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox For Education grant.

The project isn't just a fun, deep dive into astronomy, however. It's also a collaborative effort. The sixth graders got help with the software from the Junior-Senior High School technology students, who will also help build the platform in the fall.

One sixth grade student said that having a telescope at school will be "really awesome." We'd bet a binary star that she's right!



Cahill sixth graders work with high school students to build a telescope platform using design software and a 3D printer.



### Students Tackle Technology During Summer Vacation CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were introduced to various robotics coding programs including SeaPerch, TinkerCAD, Vex Robotics, Finch, Scribbler, and Hummingbird Robotics, said technology teacher Bryan Van Vliet, who supervised the program. Campers were encouraged to employ creativity, innovation, problem solving, and teamwork to make their projects come to life.



Students learning to build and operate SeaPerch underwater robots used PVC pipes and zip ties to attach the pieces and assemble a control panel, and stripped wires to connect them to propellers. After they constructed the machines, they used remote controls to operate their underwater vehicles in inflatable pools.

Jake Meyer, who teaches Technology and High School Principles of Engineering, said it's all about engaging the students at a young age. "It excites them and leaves them wanting to know more," said Meyer. "They have to use critical thinking skills to get their robot to do what they want it to do, and they teach each other along the way as well."

Saugerties High School junior Ethan Christiansen served as one of the camp's student volunteers. Christiansen said introducing the young campers to STEM is important since jobs in the field are abundant and growing. "I think it can pique their interest in the tech industry," he said.





# Graduation 2018

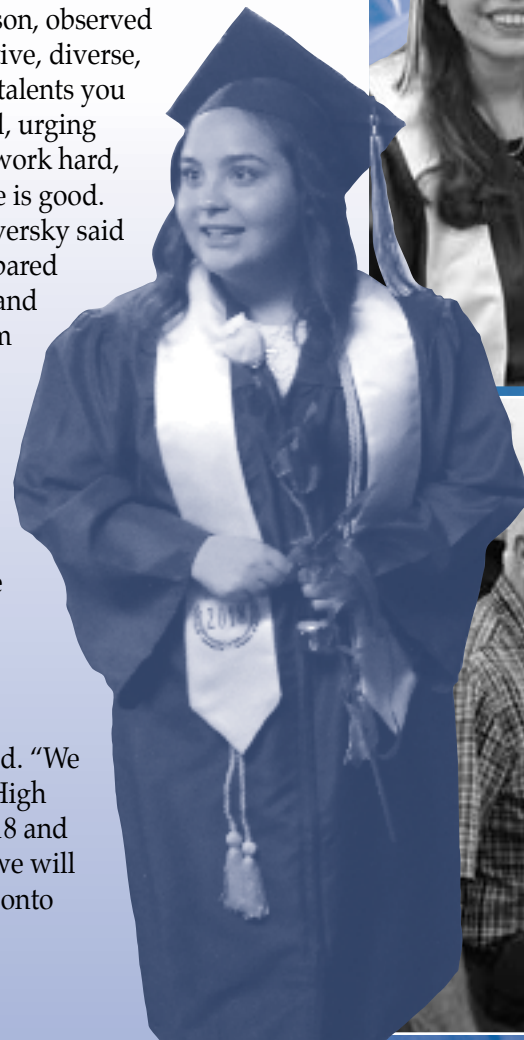
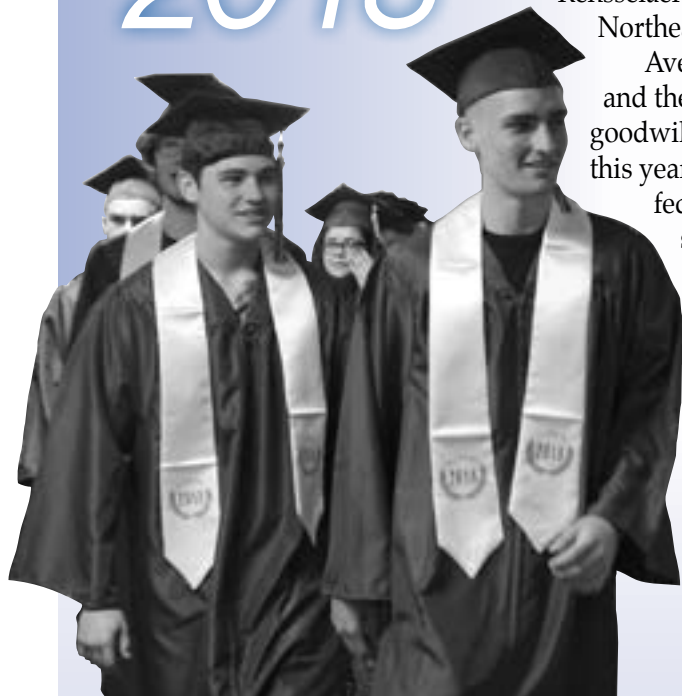
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Among those graduating, he continued, 167 would be moving on to one of 60 educational institutions around the country, including the University of California, Berkeley; Salve Regina University; Salisbury University; Siena College; SUNY Oswego; St. John's University; SUNY Brockport; Ithaca College; Syracuse University; Rochester Institute of Technology; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; University at Buffalo; SUNY Cortland; Northeastern University; and SUNY Ulster.

Averill added that despite it being a tumultuous time in education, students, staff, and the Saugerties community responded throughout the year with kindness and acts of goodwill. "Members of the Class of 2018 performed over 4,000 community service hours this year," he said. "Our backpack program led by the Key Club and their advisor Ms. Greco fed over 100 families each week all year. This was a tremendous undertaking that was supported by \$30,000 worth of donations from this community. These are the acts that develop a sense of pride and faith in our hometown. Everyone came together for the greater cause."

Salutatorian Michael Averill, who is Thomas Averill's son, observed that the Class of 2018 is compassionate, creative, competitive, diverse, resilient, and funny. "I implore you to go out and use the talents you have gained throughout your years in Saugerties," he said, urging them to discover their passions, to work hard, and to always remember that life is good.

Valedictorian Kira Podmayerksy said her education at SHS has prepared her for the next stage in her life, and the support she has received from her friends has made her into a more powerful individual. The world, she acknowledged, may not yet have recognized the SHS graduates' potential for greatness, but she saw that potential clearly. "As we age, grow, and mature, we will change this world," she declared. "We are the Saugerties High School Class of 2018 and we will rise, and we will shine a new light onto this world!"



## Students Honored for Scholastic Achievement

Four Saugerties High School seniors were among 27 Ulster County students recognized for their academic achievements at the fourth annual Scholastic Achievement Breakfast, held at the Ulster BOCES campus in New Paltz.

This fall, Valedictorian Kira Podmayerksy will be attending the University of Buffalo to begin her studies in Architecture, Salutatorian Michael Averill will be attending Siena College and majoring in Political Science and International Relations with a minor in Spanish, Principal's Award recipient Sarah Kopycinski will be attending Salisbury University in Maryland and majoring in Nursing, and Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center Salutatorian Rebecca Brett will be attending SUNY Ulster to begin her studies in Criminal Justice.

The Ulster County Superintendents' Council

sponsored the breakfast that honored the valedictorians, salutatorians, and principal's award recipients from each of the county's public school districts, as well as from the Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center.

Administrators praised the students for their academic achievement as well as for being outstanding athletes, talented musicians, and compassionate individuals who have given their time and talents to improve the world both locally and globally.

"These students are future leaders who represent the best of what Ulster County has to offer," said Ulster BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Charles Khoury. "We are very proud and wish them the best of luck as they continue on their academic journeys. We have no doubt they will achieve great success wherever life takes them."

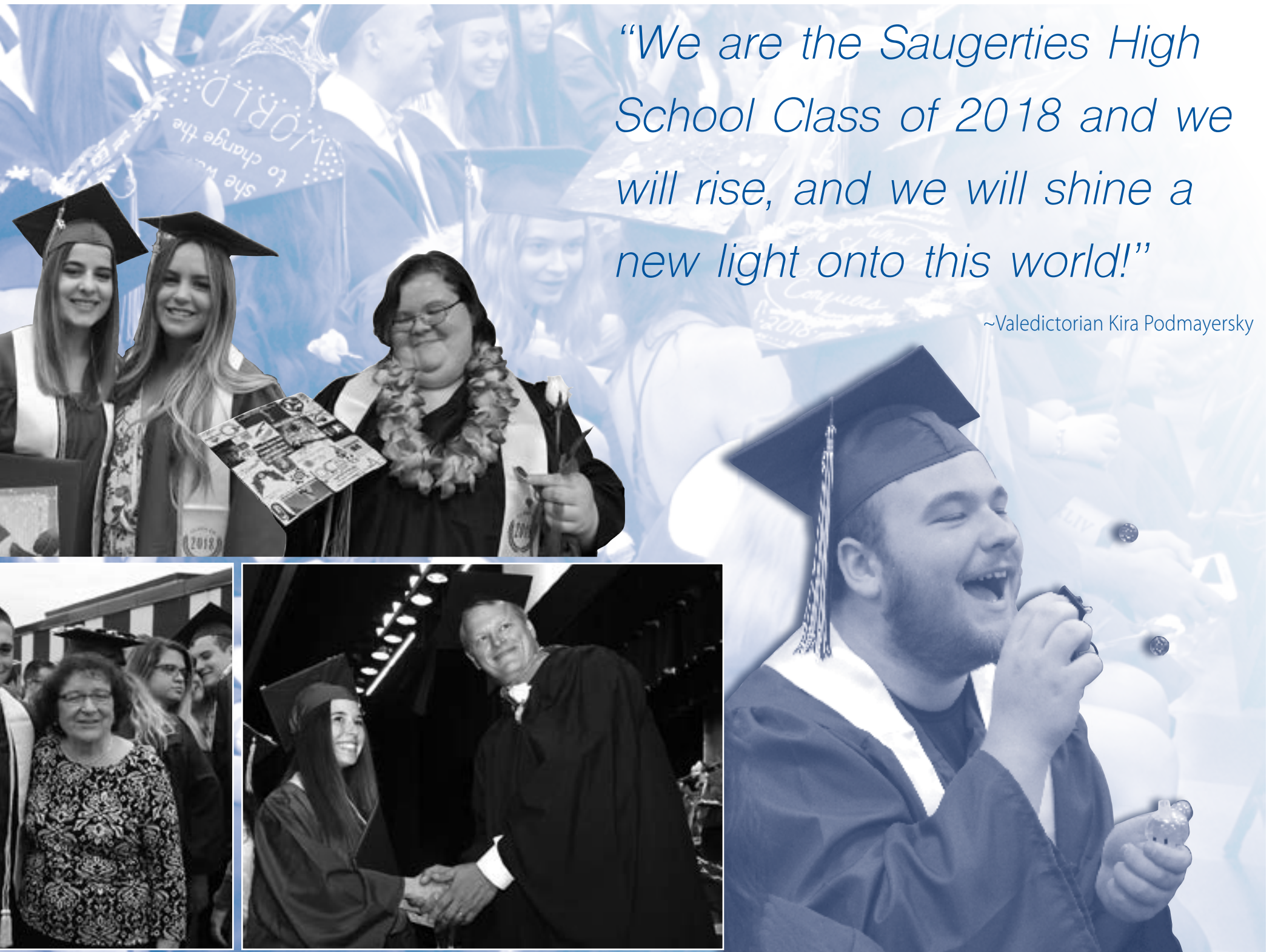


From left: Principal's Award recipient Sarah Kopycinski, Salutatorian Michael Averill, Valedictorian Kira Podmayerksy, and Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center Salutatorian Rebecca Brett.



*“We are the Saugerties High School Class of 2018 and we will rise, and we will shine a new light onto this world!”*

~Valedictorian Kira Podmayersky



## Against The Odds

At the 2018 Saugerties Senior High School graduation ceremony, eight English language learners from Guatemala and El Salvador walked across the stage to receive Regents diplomas after arriving in this country only four years ago with just a suitcase and a heart full of dreams.

Many were forced to leave their homes and parents behind to escape poverty, violence, and civil unrest. This remarkable accomplishment is the result of extreme dedication, tenacity, and perseverance. Simultaneously learning English, meeting content standards, passing Regents exams, working after school and on weekends, and managing to attend church, coupled with the emotional stress and homesickness resulting from their separation from loved ones, made this day something extra special to celebrate.

Their teachers at Saugerties High School watched them grow and gain independence academically and socially within the school and greater community. Their contributions to this school are immeasurable and priceless. Their patience and work ethic, despite tremendous barriers, have been inspiring to adults and fellow classmates.

Remaining humble and unassuming, these students credited their teachers and parents for their success and pray for the victims of the volcano in Guatemala. It is with great honor and appreciation that we celebrate these students and encourage them to continue to work hard and make their dreams come true. They are proof that dreams *can* come true!

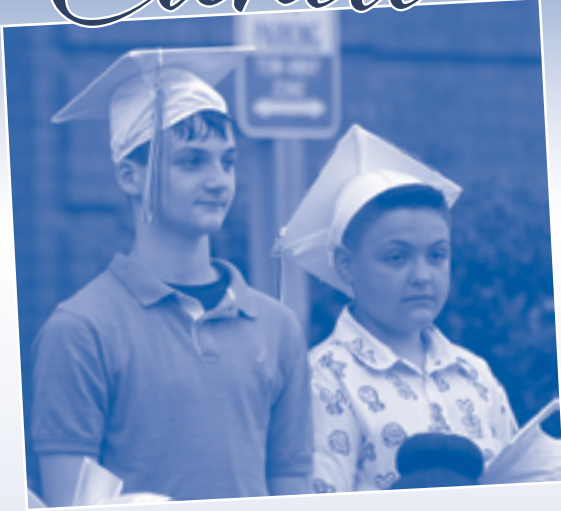
Pictured at right are seven of the eight students from Central America who graduated from SHS. The students demonstrated unparalleled work ethic and perseverance to overcome their unique challenges.





# Moving Up 2018

## Cahill



**Cahill** sixth graders have moved up and are moving on...to Junior High, that is. On June 18, these "top cats" of the Cougar student body were honored for their achievements at the annual moving-up ceremony. Good luck in seventh grade! We're so proud of you!

## Morse



**Morse** sixth graders celebrated the end of their seven-year elementary school adventure at their moving-up ceremony on June 19. They received awards for their hard work, effort, and character, and were reminded of the many happy moments they've enjoyed. Graduating Saugerties High School senior and Morse alum Abby Hart advised the new seventh graders to "keep that Morse heart throughout your years in Saugerties and throughout your lives."



## Kindergarten Moving Up



During end-of-year ceremonies, Saugerties Kindergarteners celebrated their first big year of learning, which included how to write letters, hone their counting skills, and master the art of identifying shapes and colors. They were just as proud as can be, and we feel the same about them. Congratulations, Kindergarteners! You rock!





"Graduates" from all four Saugerties elementary schools are ready to embark on their Junior High School careers. The students, along with their teachers, friends, and families, commemorated their accomplishments at the schools' annual moving-up ceremonies.

## Mt. Marion

**Mt. Marion** sixth graders are ready for Junior High School! They moved up on June 13 in a ceremony that combined fond memories with bright hopes for the future. Their chosen song, "Whatever It Takes" by Imagine Dragons, said it all about their plans to work hard and have fun on the next step of their journey!



## Riccardi

**Riccardi** roared with pride on June 14 as sixth graders celebrated at the school's annual moving-up ceremony. The newly minted seventh graders received advice from Principal Sue Osterhoudt and Riccardi alum and Saugerties High School graduating senior Sarah Kopycinski. The students were also honored for their achievements and efforts in everything from art to Student Council.



★  
Congratulations, Kindergarteners!  
★ YOU ROCK! ★





## Saugerties Volunteer Is Honored For Dedication

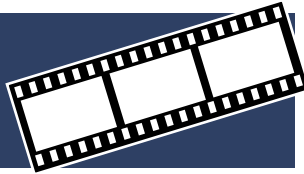
Steve Mower, a longtime supporter of athletics in the Saugerties Central School District, has received the Ulster County School Boards Association (UCSBA) Distinguished Friend of Education Award. The annual award honors 10 residents from the county's school districts and Ulster BOCES for their dedication and commitment to students and schools.



Mower is well known among athletes and coaches throughout the Hudson Valley for his ardent support of students. A Saugerties Athletic Hall of Fame member and Special Olympics medalist, Mower has volunteered as manager for Sawyer teams, making sure students and coaches have what they need to be safe and successful during both home and away games. Mower has attended innumerable Saugerties sporting events over the years.

"The players on other teams know who Steve is. Everybody knows who Steve is, and Steve knows everybody. And they all have fond memories of the way he impacted them," said Joe Defino, a Saugerties teacher who presented Mower's award at the UCSBA dinner on May 24. Defino said that while Mower has "never stood in front of a classroom, never given a lecture, and never had his name in a scorebook, he has had the deepest impact on our community of anyone in the last 50 years. I'm honored to say that Steve Mower is the best teacher I've ever had."

## SHS Students Excel At 10-Day Film Challenge



Saugerties High School Computer Video Production and Broadcast Journalism students rocked the 10-Day Film Challenge competition in May. One submission, "Past is Present," placed 7th in the New York State finals. The film was also runner-up in the Best Use of Genre category.

Participating students picked a genre at random, and were given a prop, line of dialogue, and characters' names. They had 10 days, working during school hours only, to brainstorm, write, film, edit, and score their movie, and make a poster for it.

Two other SHS films made the finals, earning all three a May screening in New York City before an audience of more than 500 people. "Withdrawal," a disaster film about trouble brewing during a coffee shortage, was runner-up for Best Use of Sound, and "Pushing Daisies," a romantic drama, earned runner-up for Best Use of Props.

The 10-Day Film Challenge was funded by the non-profit, Arts Equality, and supported by the school's business department and teachers Jackie Hayes and Scott Wickham.

Congratulations to all the students and teachers who participated in the challenge!



### "Past is Present"

*Directed by Alexis Metcalf*

*Director of Photography: Dylan Smith*

*Starring: Matthew Morgan, Renata Simera, Riley Cornelison, Alexis Metcalf, Allyson Voerg, Vassilikki Kritikakos, Cheyenne Candlin, Mrs. Hayes*  
*Crew: Dylan Smith, Allyson Voerg, Abby Hart, Cheyenne Candlin, Vassilikki Kritikakos, Riley Cornelison, Alexis Metcalf, Matthew Morgan*



### "Pushing Daisies"

*Directed by Alexandra Millham*

*Editor and Cinematographer: Abigail Drayer*

*Cinematographer and Poster Maker:*

*Erin Blank*

*Set Designer and Cinematographer:*

*Christian Schlosser*

*Starring: Hannah Yonnetti, Alexandra Millham, Abigail Drayer*



### "Withdrawal"

*Directed by Jaea Kleinberg*

*Editor: Giona Kleinberg*

*Starring: Giona Kleinberg, Jaea Kleinberg, David Henkel*

## First Day of School is Sept. 5

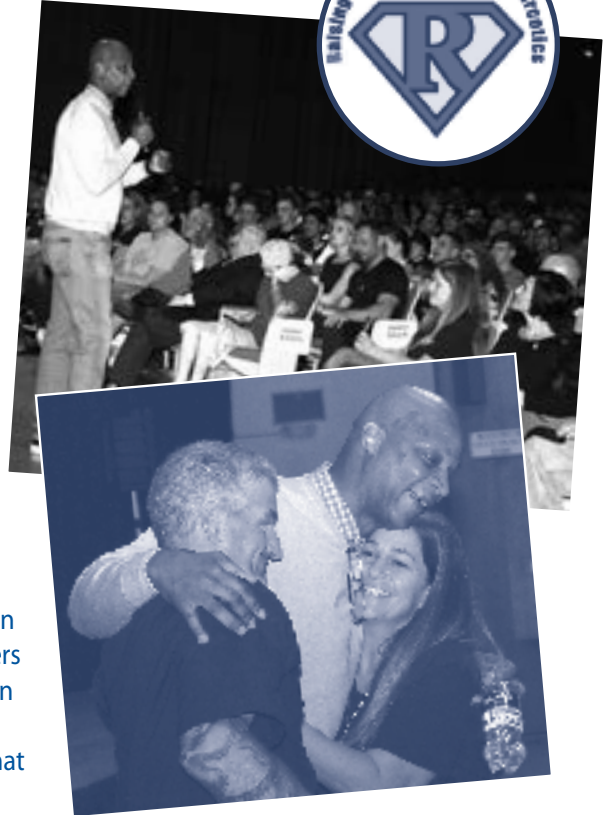
Half Day AM for Grades K-6 & 8-12 ★ Half Day PM for Grade 7

## Darryl Strawberry Speaks at SHS About Addiction

Baseball legend Darryl Strawberry shared a message of hope and inspiration at Saugerties High School on June 8.

Strawberry's visit was presented by Raising Your Awareness About Narcotics (R.Y.A.N.), an organization founded by Mt. Marion Principal Carole Kelder, her husband Vince, and daughter Randi after the loss of their son and brother, Ryan, to substance abuse in 2015.

"You're looking at a miracle," Strawberry said, describing how he overcame his own battle with addiction and found his purpose in helping others recover. He reminded those currently in recovery or facing addiction that they have the power to do the same, and that their lives have worth and purpose.



## SHS Students Win Dating Violence Video Contest

For the fourth year in a row, Saugerties High School students won awards in the annual Ulster County Teen Dating Violence Video Contest, sponsored by the Ulster County Inter-Agency Council on Domestic Violence.

First place went to Alexis Metcalf, Becky Sauer, Brandon Salmi, and Dylan Smith for their video, "Get Help." Third place went to Ethan Carroll and Julie Raleigh for their video, "Love Isn't Perfect."

Ulster County Executive Michael Hein presented awards, which included gift cards for the students and their dedicated teachers, Jackie Hayes and Scott Wickham. Congratulations and thank you to these talented students for addressing a serious issue and joining the fight to stop teen dating violence. Watch the winning videos at <https://youtu.be/mrrcxzdOAJk>



**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** The Saugerties Central School District affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide an environment that is free of harassment and intimidation as required by Federal and state law. Harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the District prohibits and condemns all forms of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, veteran status, disability, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, or domestic violence victim status by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors as well as any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaging in activities subject to the supervision and control of the District. All inquiries regarding the Non-Discrimination policy and/or all complaints regarding violation(s) of these policies should be directed to the Compliance Officer, Lawrence Mautone, Deputy Superintendent; (845.247.6503).