



Saugerties

School District

SUMMER 2014

Community's Support of Budget Appreciated

The Saugerties Central School District Board of Education and administration would like to thank the community for its support during the budget vote and Board of Education election in May.

The 2014-15 budget was approved by voters, and with it the ability to continue meeting the goals of student achievement and facilities maintenance.

"The Saugerties community has once again stepped up to invest in the future of our students," said Superintendent Seth Turner. "On behalf of the Board of Education and administration, I would like to thank everyone who supported the budget."

In addition to approving the budget, voters elected two new members to the Board of Education. The board welcomes Krista Barringer and Damion Ferraro, who were sworn in and began their terms in July.

'Embrace the Moment'

GRADUATION 2014

With diplomas in hand and tassels flipped, the Class of 2014 graduated from Saugerties High School on the morning of June 28, officially becoming what Superintendent Seth Turner called "next in line to bring pride to our community."

Sitting before a large gathering of family members that Board of Education Trustee Robert Thomann described as a "sea of love," the 220-member class heard from its four officers, who reminded them of the many happy moments they've shared and offered words of inspiration for the future.

"As a class, we have carried each other to the top of the mountain," said class president Hunter Igoue.

Class treasurer Jessa Chargois said, "There are 25,142,400 seconds in our high school careers. That's 25,142,400 chances to influence, achieve, learn, grow, and strive for greatness."

Superintendent Turner, who served as principal to about one-third of the graduates during their early school years at Morse Elementary School, reminded them that they come from a community with many proud distinctions, including a Congressional Medal of Honor winner and a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"You'll go on to do incredible things as well," Turner said.

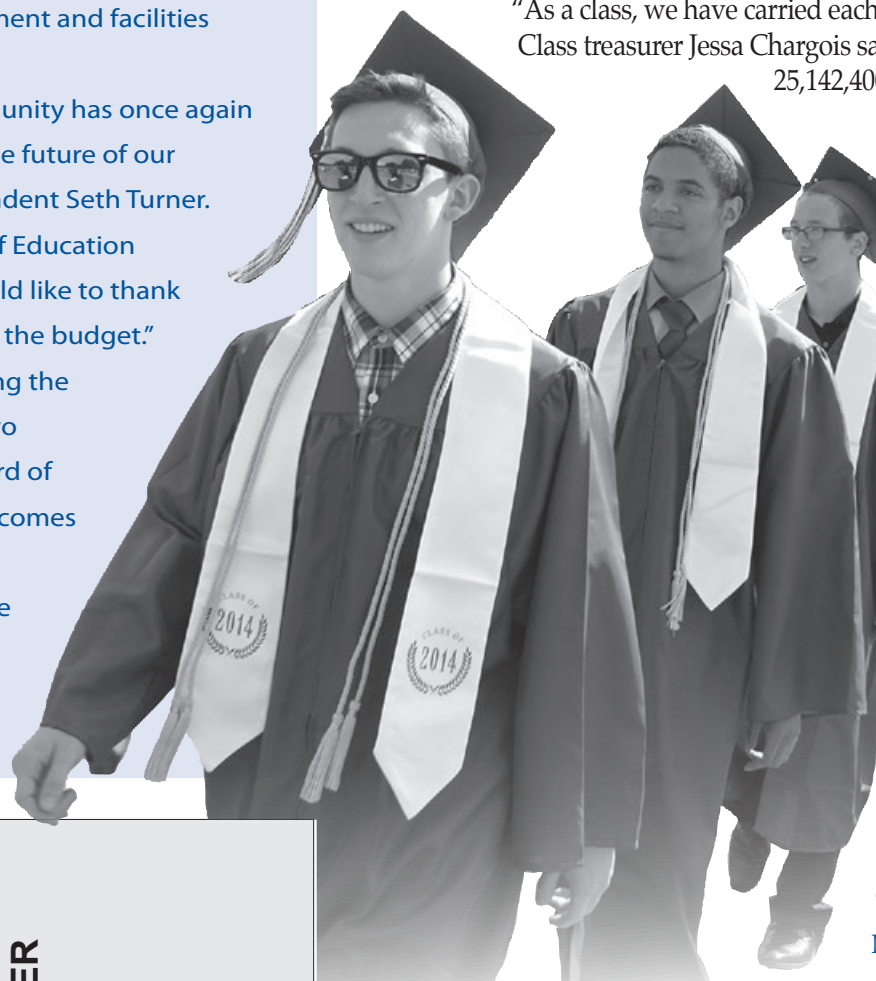
SHS Principal Tom Averill shared words from the Optimist's Creed, which he reads each morning when he arrives at the high school for work: "Be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble."

Eighty percent of the Class of 2014 will attend either a two- or four-year college and the graduates have received a total of more than \$80,000 in local scholarships.

Before receiving their diplomas and tossing their vibrantly decorated hats in the air, the class got an appropriate send-off from Valedictorian Shannon Averill. Averill, who excelled in running at SHS, said the sport taught her a lot about how to grow by competing against oneself, both in sports and in life.

"There's no telling how many miles we'll go," Averill told her classmates. "Embrace the moment and the challenges that lie ahead. Class of 2014, on your mark, get set, go!"

MORE CLASS OF 2014 PHOTOS ON PAGES 4 AND 5



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

MAN-WSS

TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

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

Board of Education

George Heidcamp, *President*
Thomas Ham, *Vice President*

Krista Barringer
Damion Ferraro
Florence Hyatt
Angie Minew
Richard Petramale
Charles Schirmer
Donald Tucker

Superintendent of Schools

Seth Turner

Assistant Superintendent

Lawrence R. Mautone

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Saugerties Junior HS Grade 8 Students Move Up.....	2
Cahill Students Help Launch New Safety Law.....	3
Important Dates Fall 2014.....	3
2014 Saugerties High School Graduation	4-5
2014 Valedictorian and Salutatorian	5
Elementary School Moving Up Ceremonies.....	6-7
Saugerties HS Senior Picnic.....	8
Yesteryear's News.....	8

SAUGERTIES JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**Grade 8 Students
Move Up**

Saugerties Junior High School (SJHS) Grade 8 students officially made the leap to high school at moving-up ceremonies held on June 6.

"You're one step closer to that big graduation day," SJHS Principal Tom Averill told the Class of 2018. He reminded them that while graduation might seem far off, the next four years will go by quickly and that academic grades will matter more than ever as students look toward college.

In addition to Averill, the students also heard from Saugerties High School Salutatorian Meghan Creen and another top student, Chris LaTourette. Creen advised them to choose their friendships carefully, remember that there will always be someone to help them, and to become active in school life through clubs and sports. LaTourette urged the incoming freshman to make the most of high school by studying hard, getting involved in activities that are right for them, and giving back to the community.

"Do everything you can to be able to look back and know you did well and had a good time," LaTourette said.

Class of 2018 members Olivia Prinz, Jaskarn Sekhon, Ariel Garnica, and Thomas Struzzieri kept their classmates laughing as they recalled happy moments of fun and learning both in and out of the classroom.

"I had a great time and I hope the next four years are just like it," Struzzieri said.

During the ceremonies the students were also treated to a PowerPoint presentation featuring hundreds of pictures from throughout the past school year, set to popular songs like Katy Perry's "Firework" and Rascal Flatts' "My Wish."

To conclude the program, SJHS Assistant Principal Lisa Kappler reminded the students that "from here on, it's all about choices."

"Congratulations on concluding another education milestone," Kappler said. "Good luck in high school."



Grade 8 students enjoyed friendship, laughter, and memories over refreshments in the cafeteria following their moving-up ceremonies in June. They will soon begin their high school careers as freshmen and members of the Class of 2018.



Cahill Elementary School Students Help Launch New Safety Law



United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is surrounded by Cahill Elementary School students holding a homemade banner welcoming her during the launch of the Pedestrian Safety Act on the school campus.

Cahill Elementary School students who enjoy walking and biking to school showed their support for new pedestrian safety legislation during an announcement of the law on the school campus in May. Students welcomed United State Senator Kirsten Gillibrand with a homemade sign as she introduced the Pedestrian Safety Act of 2014, which allows states to use federal highway money for projects that make roads safer for walkers and bicyclists.

As part of a streetscape project launched by both the Village and Town of Saugerties, a traffic light will be installed at the intersection of Main Street and Washington Avenue, which is located at the corner of the school property. More than half of Cahill's student body walks or rides bicycles to school and many of them cross at Main and Washington twice daily.

Sofia Williams, a Grade 5 student, is among the walkers and recently took her first bike ride to school as well.

"I tried to stay as close to the curb as I could," she said, describing her biking experience along busy Main Street. She said she's happy about the traffic light, which will make the road safer for her and her classmates.

During Gillibrand's visit, Cahill students also helped promote the new "See Be Seen" initiative sponsored by the Saugerties Police Department and downtown businesses. Cahill Principal Susan Gies reminded the students of basic safety tips for crossing the street.

Also on hand for the senator's visit were Superintendent of Schools Seth Turner and members of the District's administrative team, as well as Ulster County Supervisor Mike Hein, Saugerties Village Mayor Bill Murphy, Town Supervisor Greg Helmsmoortel, and Saugerties Police Chief Joseph Sinagra.



Sofia Williams, a Grade 5 student at Cahill Elementary School, speaks about pedestrian safety as United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Ulster County Executive Mike Hein look on.

Important Dates Fall 2014

SEPTEMBER 3

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

SEPTEMBER 11

JR HS Open House

SEPTEMBER 23

SHS Open House

SEPTEMBER 25

Schools Closed for Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER 10

Half day for students

OCTOBER 13

Schools Closed for Columbus Day

OCTOBER 23

Parent Conference Night – Secondary

NOVEMBER 4

No School for Students
Superintendent Conference Day

NOVEMBER 11

Schools Closed for Veterans Day

NOVEMBER 13

Parent Conference Night – Elementary

NOVEMBER 26

No School for Students
Evening Parent Conference Comp Day

NOVEMBER 27 & 28

Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

'Embrace the Moment'

GRADUATION 2014

*"Class of 2014
on your mark,
get set, go!"*

— Valedictorian Shannon Aver



Shannon Averill and Meghan Creen Are Top Two at SHS

A pair of academically talented, athletic, and busy young ladies have earned the top spots in the Saugerties High School (SHS) Class of 2014. Shannon Averill is this year's Valedictorian and Meghan Creen is Salutatorian.

Shannon graduated with a four-year average of 101.055, which she earned through long hours of hard work hitting the books, but she didn't pressure herself to come out on top.

"There are a lot of smart people in our class," she said. "I was OK if I wasn't number one."

Shannon's dedication and work ethic went well beyond the classroom during her years at SHS. She was a member of student government, band, and the Catholic Youth Group, president of the Key Club,

and vice-president of National Honor Society. Shannon also played varsity soccer, basketball, and track, and was captain of all three during her senior year. A scholar athlete and member of two New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Teams, she was named the District's Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year.

As Shannon balanced academics, activities, and sports, she got plenty of help and support from SHS faculty and staff, in particular track coach Steve Eggink, biology teacher Janice Martin, English teacher Adile Jones, and calculus teacher Debra Cacchillo. Shannon said Eggink helped her make her college decision, Martin instilled a love of biology, and Jones often sent her supportive texts before track meets. Cacchillo, she said, is not only an outstanding teacher, but also a "great lady and a great example to us all."

Among Shannon's biggest supporters are two other District faculty members: her parents, Tom and Cathy Averill. Tom is principal of SHS and Cathy is a teacher at Grant D. Morse Elementary School, where Shannon spent the early years of her education. Of being the principal's daughter, Shannon simply said, "He's a principal in school and a dad at home. We have a really good relationship." She is thankful for her parents as well as her four siblings. "Without all their love and support, I wouldn't be where I am," she said.

Shannon will begin her studies in nursing at Monmouth University in New Jersey this fall. She has always been interested in the medical field and enjoys helping other people. Participating in the Ulster BOCES Pre-University/New Visions Health program in her senior year helped clarify her plans for the future.

"New Visions really opened my eyes to what's out there," she said.

While at Monmouth, Shannon will run as a member of the Division 1 lady Hawks track and field team. She said she will miss her SHS track teammates and will always think of high school with fondness.

"The four years I had here at Saugerties were amazing," she said.

Salutatorian Meghan Creen is the daughter of William and Linda Creen and attended both Morse and Mt. Marion elementary schools. She earned a four-year academic average of 100.76 at SHS, but was "shocked and excited" when she learned she was going to be salutatorian.

"It's a great honor," she said.

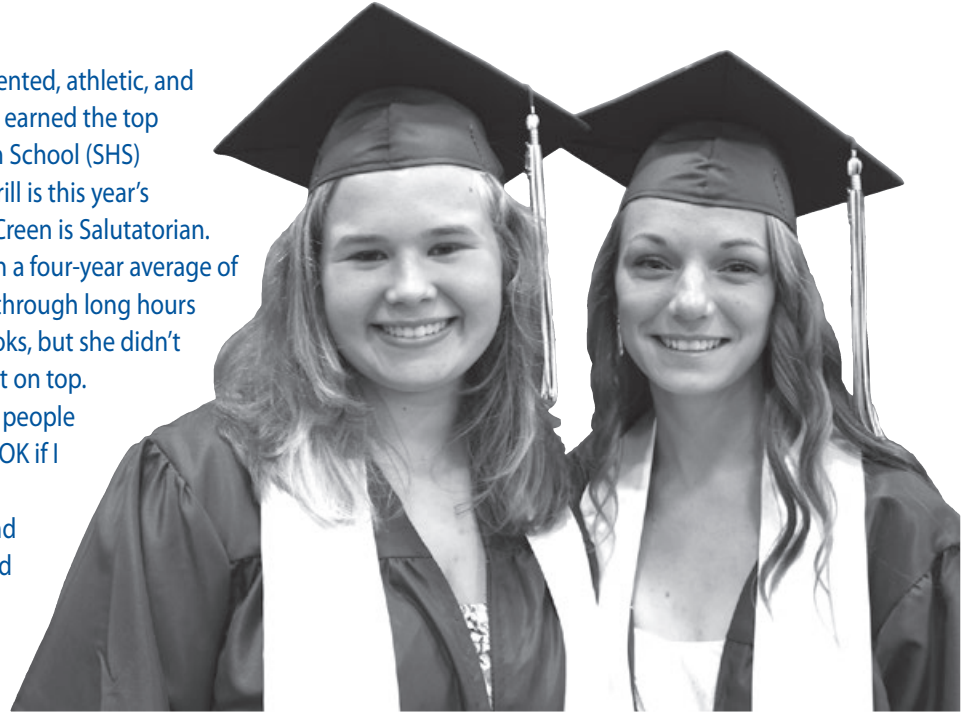
Meghan was active in many school organizations and clubs, including National Honor Society, Key Club, Spanish Club, Chess Club, the spring musical, and the Sawyer yearbook, for which she was an editor and photographer. Equally busy on the athletic fields, Meghan was a Scholar Athlete and member of the varsity girl's tennis and track teams, both of which were named NYSPHSAA Scholar Teams. Meghan said she enjoyed being part of these teams because she made friends from different grade levels and backgrounds through a shared love of sports.

Among Meghan's favorite instructors at SHS were English teacher Steve Stellavato, who helped her improve her writing, and Debra Cacchillo, who unraveled the mysteries of calculus.

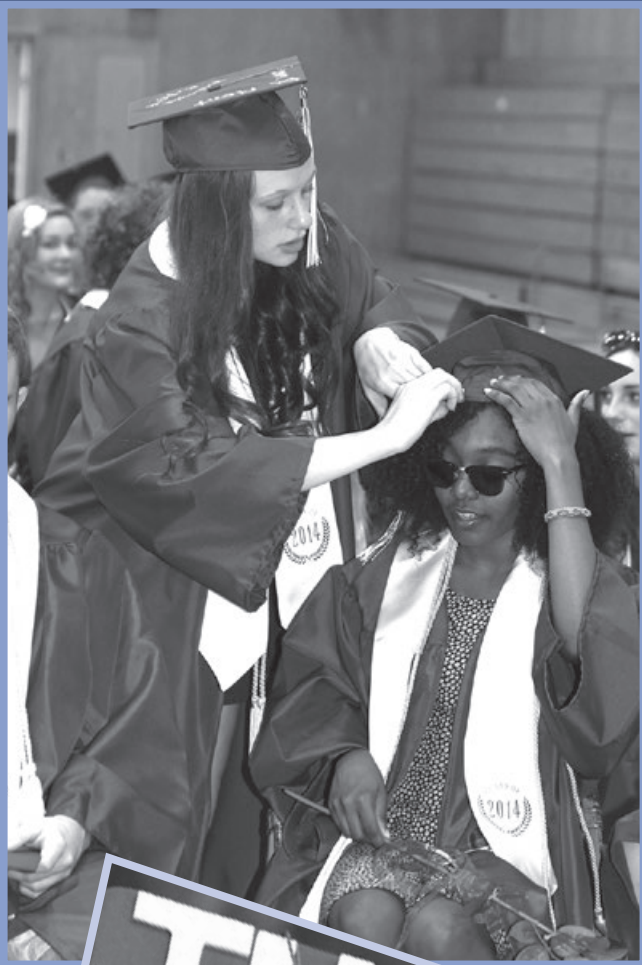
Meghan will attend the University of Buffalo this fall and plans to major in bio-medical engineering with a minor in Spanish. She credits her SHS biology teacher, Janice Martin, for "making bio fun" and getting her thinking about it as a career path. Meghan ultimately hopes to specialize in tissue engineering.

As she looks forward to the next chapter of her life, Meghan is also feeling sad about leaving behind friends and four years of experiences at SHS.

"It's been really great and I'm going to miss it," she said.



Valedictorian Shannon Averill, right, and Salutatorian Meghan Creen at graduation.



Cahill Elementary



Proud Cahill Grade 6 graduates leave the gymnasium following moving-up ceremonies, happily anticipating the fun and challenges of junior high school.

Lawrence M. Cahill Elementary School's three classes of Grade 6 students celebrated seven years of learning, growing, and fun during the school's annual moving up ceremony on June 23.

"Each of you has the potential to do great things and the ability to make your mark on the world, which you've already begun to do," Cahill Principal Susan Gies told the 42 students who will enter Grade 7 at Saugerties Junior High School this fall.

Gies expressed the hope that the students learned many things during their years at Cahill, among them a love for their country and the world around them and an appreciation for both the arts and the limitlessness of technology.

"I hope they've learned to love learning," Gies said.

While family members looked on proudly, individual students were honored for everything from academic success and outstanding physical fitness to good attendance, service, and citizenship. Many were recognized in more than one category. More than half the class was honored for the responsibility they showed by returning all their library books on time this year.

Teachers and staff who presented the awards offered advice to the newly minted junior high school students. Art teacher Elisa Tucci urged them to continue making art for the fun of it and librarian Patricia Manfrates reminded them not to use Wikipedia as a source for reports.

Physical education teacher Steve Below encouraged the students with words that apply in both sports and life. "If you give it your best shot, you'll never regret anything."

Cahill Elementary School Grade 6 graduates:

Aiden Becnel
Corey Beitel
Skyler Berry
Ashley Brennan
Jeremiah Brown
Austin Buley
Marissa Castaneda
Dakota Clark
Hannah Cooper
Cora Currey
George Dienos
Paul Doyle
Michael Dysard II
Sophia Elliot
Elizabeth Falcon
Augustus Franklin
Rayne Henry
Mia Iwanowski
Ethan Kleinke
Graeme Knisell
Madeline Kott
Russel Kovacs
Gavin Lyons
Mariana Martinez-Castaneda
Julie Mazariego
Amber Mignano-Campbell
Hannah Mills
Jody Nameth
Caitlin O'Brien
Ethan Quinto
Mykayla Rider
Morgan Sperl
Samantha Syvertsen
Caedan Torgersen
Lela Valles
Ethan Via-Pietrzak
Sabrina Whitaker
Eston Whittaker
Elena Williams
Peter Winters
Diego Zecena



Morse Elementary

The Grant D. Morse Elementary School family bid farewell to the 39 "phenomenal" members of its Grade 6 class on June 24 as they officially moved up to junior high school.

"In my five years as principal, I've seen these boys and girls grow into young men and women before my eyes," said Morse Principal Don Dieckmann. "It has been my honor and pleasure being their principal."

Before a large audience of family members eagerly snapping pictures, the students received awards for attendance, art, band, physical education, citizenship, and all their classroom subjects. More than half the class received the President's Award for Academic Excellence and five students received the Principal's Award for having achieved an A average in every subject for the entire year.

Two members of the Saugerties High School Class of 2014 who are also Morse alumni, Shannon Averill and Molly MacIsaac, offered inspiration and advice to the up-and-coming Grade 7 students.

Averill said that the foundation of her education began at Morse, not only in academic subjects but also in lessons of hard work and integrity learned from her teachers. She then assured them that "there's so much to look forward to in junior high," but at the same time reminded them, "You will always be members of the Morse family."

MacIsaac touched on similar themes. Morse, she said, is a "school that makes you feel like you're one of the family." She urged the students to choose their friends wisely and embrace all the new experiences they will have.

Physical education teachers Allyson Constable and Steven Buonfiglio praised the Grade 6 students for their hard work and ability to laugh and joke.

"This sixth grade was phenomenal," Constable said. "We will miss you."

Dieckmann urged the students to continue displaying the hard work, great character, and leadership they've already shown. If they do, he promised, "great things will happen to you."



Grade 6 girls are all smiles. From left: Mary Mullen, Eva Rothe, Annika Fisher, Julia Quinlan, and Erin Dudzic.

Grant D. Morse Elementary School Grade 6 graduates:

Garon Buchter
Megan Conley
Jeremy Cornelison
Madysen Craft
Mark Danza
Sophia Davalos-Pacheco
Randy Dodig
Erin Dudzic
Kenneth Farrell
Annika Fisher
Eric Frank
Ty Gallagher
Kyiah Giannelli
Anna Harp
Aidan Jurofcik
Tyler Keener
Corey Kirchner
Craig Laurey
Erik Leaning
Marissa Lucena
Matthew Morgan
Mary Mullen
Anthony Paff
Jared Podmayersky
Julia Quinlan
Alyssa Rose
Eva Rothe
Alissa Shultis
Skyler Sprague
Kaylie Sullivan
Seanté Sullivan
Lauryn Turk
Jonathan Urrutia
Carter Vail
Caleb Vickery
Julianna Wager
Aidan Wellstood
Scott Wickham
Maxwell Winnie

ng UP!

Mt. Marion Elementary



Grade 6 boys prepare to move up. From left, Romero Scarpa-Meade, Blake Friedman, Xavier DeThomas, Kane Losurdo, and Taylor Jordan.

Grade 6 students at Mt. Marion Elementary School shared both memories and hopes for the future as they took a “big giant step” and officially became junior high school students.

Moving up ceremonies held on June 25 celebrated the class’s many happy moments and milestones, from Kindergarten visitation day in the spring of 2007 all the way up to this year’s Medieval Times field trip and Ancient Egypt Day.

“What a wonderful year it has been,” said Principal Carole Kelder, who praised the students for their humanity and compassion in holding a blood drive and their ingenuity in building survival shelters after reading “Hatchet” and laughed with them about everyone’s enjoyment of “French Fry Fridays.”

Speaking on behalf of the class were Christian DeAngelis and Shane Hart.

In a heartfelt speech that earned him a standing ovation, DeAngelis, a student in the Basic Life Skills Program (BLSP), spoke of happy days of learning at Mt. Marion and expressed his gratitude to his teachers for all their support and guidance.

“My heart is grateful. I am so proud to be a Mt. Marion graduate,” he said.

Hart, who only began attending Mt. Marion this year, said that despite being a new student, he had a “great sixth grade experience.”

“Everybody was so welcoming. All my classmates are very kind-hearted people,” Hart said.

Many of the 50 graduates received awards for outstanding performance and effort in academic subjects as well as art, music, physical education, library, and student council. They were lauded not only for hard work, but also for showing a positive attitude.

Families in attendance were also treated to a slideshow commemorating important moments from throughout their children’s lives at Mt. Marion.

Hart said he believes that he and his fellow Grade 6 students are ready for the “big giant step we all have to take” to Grade 7.

“Our teachers have prepared us well,” Hart said. “If you’re responsible, seventh grade will be a piece of cake.”

Mt. Marion Elementary School Grade 6 graduates:

Skyler Benedict
Brendon Bergen
Zachary Bivins
Keira Blanchard
Abigail Bravo
Elizabeth Ciraface
Frank Cohen
Jasmine Daniel
Christian DeAngelis
Xavier deThomas
Isaiah Duncan
Melody Fisher
Blake Friedman
Amelia Furbush
Jody Greer
Makayla Hanley
Shane Hart
Taylor Jordan
Xea Kirkland
Samantha Larsen
Kane Losurdo
Eugene Marshall
Lucas McCann
Alexis McMullin
Maghan Micari
Jack O’Brien Bruno
Michael Ortiz
Aaliyah Ostoyic
Sammy Page
Justin Perez
Sierra Perry
Derek Prinz
Mya Riley
Mason Rodriguez
Rebecca Rosario
Kaylee Rutledge
Ramero Scarpa-Meade
Savannah Sirico
Sarah Stephens
Christopher Swanson
Ihovannie Torres
Lisa VanderSanden
Devon Weishaupt
Kelly Weiss
Billie Wells
Samantha Widener
Chasity Wilber
Lara Wimberley
Dawson Wood
Christopher Zehnick

Riccardi Elementary

Among the Grade 6 class at Charles M. Riccardi Elementary School are the world’s future musicians, FBI agents, inventors, teachers, pilots, and doctors and they all took one step closer to their goals in June as they said good-bye to their elementary school years.

Forty-two students who will be part of the Saugerties High School (SHS) Class of 2020 were honored before a standing room-only crowd of parents, siblings, and extended family at moving up ceremonies on June 19.

The festivities began with a slideshow of student photos created by Grade 6 class members Alexandra Goodwin, Alexis Sasso, and Sharan Sekhon. Set to music that included Miley Cyrus’s “It’s the Climb” and Danny Gokey’s “My Best Years Are Ahead of Me,” the slideshow featured both current and Kindergarten photos of each of the Riccardi “grads.”

Entering the cafeteria to the familiar strains of “Pomp and Circumstance,” the students passed a poster that read, “May the memories you made at Riccardi inspire the dreams for your future.”

Some of those memories were shared by Cameron Costello and Sharan Sekhon, who were co-presidents of Riccardi’s first student government this year. The two young women recalled some of the lighter moments of the class’s seven years at Riccardi, and expressed their excitement about what’s ahead.

“Sixth grade was one of the best years of our lives,” Sekhon said. “We became more than just a classroom, more than just friends. We became a family.”

Also addressing the class was Hunter Iggoe, a 2008 Riccardi alumnus and member of the SHS Class of 2014.

“You will fall in love with junior high school,” Iggoe said. “The next year will be wonderful. Spend it making new friends and being a better you.”

Many of the graduating Grade 6 students were recognized with awards for academics, music, physical fitness, performing arts, and service. When Principal Sue Osterhoudt had presented each student with a graduation medal, the assembled crowd rose in a standing ovation.

As they left the school at the conclusion of the ceremonies, families stopped to look at bulletin boards that displayed the graduates’ pictures and career hopes, as well as some of the lessons they learned at Riccardi and what they are looking forward to in junior high school. The future veterinarians, news broadcasters, and taco stand owners said that their years at Riccardi taught them to be themselves and treat others as they would want to be treated. And as for when they enter the doors of Saugerties Junior High School next year, they are excited about new sports, new friends, and more independence.

Their plans echo the words of Carmen Costello’s welcome address: “The next exciting experience is waiting for us just around the corner and we can’t wait.”



Leaders of Riccardi’s inaugural student council celebrate after the moving up ceremony. From left, Co-President Sharan Sekhon, Treasurer Nicole Peters, and Co-President Cameron Costello.

Riccardi Elementary School Grade 6 graduates:

Isabel Arter
Charlize Avena
Charles Baldwin
Cameron Bark
Abigail Below
Jessica Bucci
Christopher Cavallaro
Ethan Christiansen
Anthony Costello
Cameron Costello
Brayden DeGroat
Katelyn Eighmey
MacKenzie Feeney
Alexandra Goodwin
Aidan Gruen
Christian Jensen
Imani Johnson
Madison Johnson
Alfredo Martinez
Joseph Masula
Chad McPeck
Grace Meehan
Isaiha Merrihew
Jaden Mertens
Gabriela Mills
Kyla Misasi
Dominic Nace
Ilana Numssen
Darren Nyland
Jazmyn Oakley
Anthony Obermeyer
Tatum Padilla
Nicole Peters
Madden Reilly
Alexis Sasso
Sharan Sekhon
Jeremy Squires
Amber Torres
Joseph Warcholak
Liam White
Adrian Williams

SCENES FROM SENIOR PICNICS

Past & Present



Proving that history repeats itself, Class of 2014 graduates Nick Natale (top) and Billy Kirchner horse around at this year's senior class picnic in a style very similar to four senior boys from the Class of 1958. Although some things – like fashion! – have changed, senioritis is still a rite of spring in Saugerties, like everywhere else. SHS seniors have been enjoying end-of-year picnics for nearly 70 years and, as these photos illustrate, there's nothing quite like a day of fun in the sun with friends.

