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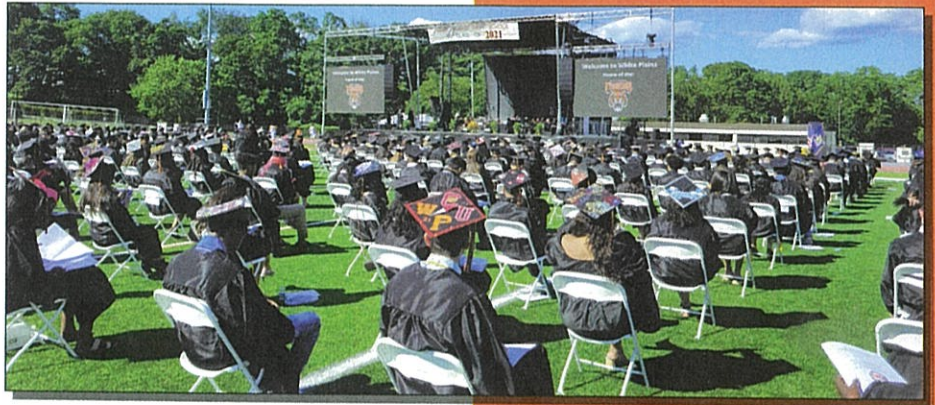
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SUMMER 2021

CONGRATS, GRADS!

Under beautiful bright blue skies at Loucks Field on June 23rd, we

celebrated the commencement of the White Plains High School Class of 2021. Principal Emerly Martinez recognized the graduates as "loyal, accepting and passionate" and commended their perseverance. *"Life will throw you plenty of curve balls and while you cannot always control those balls thrown at you, you will always have control of how you respond to them. Based on what I've seen this past year, I am confident that this class will leave WPHS with the ability to take on any challenge you encounter."*



Valedictorian Lauren Azrin and Salutatorian Catherine Stanton both reflected on the incredible experiences of a WPCSD education and shared wisdom and wishes for their classmates' futures. *"As we grow, each one of us has the chance to define ourselves, and to choose what we want in the world,"* said Lauren. *"Who we make our closest friends, how we spend our time, what we work for, and what we stand for. This is all ours to create."*

"Wherever we go from here, be it college, the work force or the armed forces, we're bound to meet people who think differently than we do," shared Catherine. *"We'll be ready, since it's what we've always known."*



▲ Valedictorian Lauren Azrin (left) and Salutatorian Catherine Stanton with White Plains High School Principal Emerly Martinez.



Headed to High School

More than 560 students were celebrated at the Highlands Moving Up Day Ceremony at Loucks Field on June 24th. Principal Ernie Spatafore shared his thoughts about the school year and the Highlands Class of 2021, 160 of whom were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. *"You need to know how proud I am to be your principal. Each day, whether you were virtual or in-person, I witnessed Highlands students overcoming obstacles of all kinds to persevere in learning and to contribute to our school community. You did not allow even the most dramatic of events to deter you from making the most of your Middle School experience."*





Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

In a year like no other, our students – those graduating and throughout our District – made us all #WPProud. I am in awe of our children's

resilience and tenacity and extend my deepest gratitude to our faculty and staff, parents, community, and Board of Education for your support and patience. Thanks to you, we did not just “get through it” but kept our promise of a rigorous, engaging, supportive learning environment for all students and experienced many incredible moments. From classrooms to athletic fields, extracurricular clubs to drama performances, a real prom to an exciting walk across the outdoor stage, it has been a year to remember. And, we are ready to come back in the fall stronger and more united than ever.

I am immensely proud of this year's graduates. Community-minded and engaged, they are well-prepared to make a positive mark on the world. I marvel at their inquisitiveness and

passion for truth-seeking. Their penchant for innovation and ingenuity will carry them far and their strength and resilience ensures they will meet the challenges of this changing world head-on. The Class of 2021 are Tigers forever and will remain an unforgettable part of the WPCSD community.

Summer is upon us! I hope our students and their families will have the opportunity to spend some time outside... but don't forget to exercise your minds as well. I encourage our community members to take advantage of the many recreational and educational activities available in our fine city. Most of all, I hope you stay well and have a wonderful, enjoyable summer. You have certainly earned it!

We will continue to communicate over the summer and keep you apprised of any changes or issues related to Covid-19. Next year we will expand our focus on social emotional learning and opportunities for students to access support or enrichment. When our doors open in September, we will be ready for another excellent year. Until then... don't forget to read!

Sincerely,
Joseph Ricca



U.S. Secretary of Education Praises District After Visit

“An inspiration to schools nationwide” is how U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona described the reopening effort at White Plains High School after his visit in April. The District was honored to host the Secretary and his team as they toured schools across the country, observing best practices and common challenges. When he walked into the building, Secretary Cardona said he saw a sense of community, open dialogue and relationships. In a CNN opinion piece the following month, Secretary Cardona acknowledged the District for having 70% of high schoolers and more than 90% of elementary students back in classrooms, especially considering how hard Westchester was hit by the pandemic. *“Through intentional collaboration among leaders, educators and stakeholders, they put student and staff safety and success at the center of every decision. Today, students who have been in the classroom for months have benefited from it,”* he wrote. Secretary Cardona also said he would bring these best practices back to President Biden and hopes that *“what he witnessed will influence education even when COVID-19 is past.”* National media coverage of the event included many photos of White Plains High School.



We were pleased to collaborate with the Westchester County Department of Health and White Plains Hospital to host two on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinics in May and June at White Plains High School and Highlands Middle School. And surprise – New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul stopped by to say hello!

Leroy Dixon Promoted to Eastview Principal

Assistant Principal Leroy Dixon was recently appointed Principal of Eastview Middle School, replacing Daisy Rodriguez Roncagliolo who took a position in another district. Mr. Dixon has been with the District for 17 years, serving most recently as Assistant Principal at Eastview since 2012. Mr. Dixon holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees from Iona College and a Professional Diploma from Mercy College. *"Mr. Dixon has all the tools required to continue the excellent work being done at Eastview,"* said Superintendent Ricca.

Rob Janowitz Named Principal at MAS

Rob Janowitz, who has been Assistant Principal at Mamaroneck Avenue School for 14 years, was recently appointed Principal. He began his administrative career in White Plains in 2004 as Assistant Principal at Ridgeway School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Education from Mercy College. *"Mr. Janowitz has had a long and successful relationship with the District and it is a pleasure to work with him,"* said Superintendent Ricca.



Leroy Dixon



Robert Janowitz

Thank You for Your Service

The Board of Education honored 30 retirees and 38 twenty-five-year staff members at its June meeting. Board President Rosemarie Eller congratulated and thanked these staff for their many years of dedicated service to the students of White Plains.

2020 RETIREES: Debra Benge, Francesca Binasco, Juan Borda, Marcia Denais, Vincent Dougherty, Guila Evangelista, Antonietta Farago, Diana Fierro, Carol Fumo-Alverio, Marlene Gillings-Gayle, Deborah Keating, Susan Kozlow, Pamela Marazio, Edward Marra, William McGuinn, Eileen McGuire, William C. Miller, Patricia Mincey, Gwendolyn Mordecai, Deborah Norwood, Phyllis Paul, Rochelle Retleff, Eugene Rutherford, Lorraine Seicol, Shabnam Tapia, Susan Shaw, Jill Shaw, Janet L. Tasco, Carol Tribble and Jaime Valencia.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE: Kelly Agar, Robert Baddeley, Michelle Badoo-Henry, Jennifer Biondi O'Sullivan, Nereida Bonilla, Kevin Brown, Deborah Brunetto, Maureen Cheesman, Marianne Cohen, Cristina Conomos, Craig Cropsey, Paul Davis, Lillian Diaz-Withers, Melissa Ann Dorchak, Leandro Francisco, Jr., Patricia Galluzzo, Evelyn Gonzalez Smith, James P. Hall, Rebecca Hegenaur, Tanee Johnson Bowman, Deborah Keating, Amy Kelly, Darrell D. Kidd, Jamie Lasalandra, Andrew Litchfield, Andrea D. Manigault-Adelakun, Kathy Marji, Mariana E. McCormack, SeRyeong Pahk, Bridget Y. Parker, Phyllis Paul, Evelyn Sarmiento, Gandolfo Scarpa, Yarina Sencion, Linda Smith, Linda Speranza, Shonda Watkins and Laura Fein Zottola.

Dr. Ricca Recognized for Distinguished Service

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Ricca received the Distinguished Service Award from the Lower Hudson

Council of School Superintendents, where he served as President this past year. The award recognizes his commitment and support of public education and better educational opportunities for children, as well as his leadership. Congratulations, Dr. Ricca!



Off to College!

More than 110 students in the White Plains High School Class of 2021 received scholarships and our graduates have been accepted to many of the top colleges and universities in the nation, including:

American University	Morgan State University
Bennington College	New York University
Berklee College of Music	Northwestern University
Binghamton University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Boston University	Spelman College
Bowdoin College	State University of New York at Albany
Brandeis University	Syracuse University
Bucknell University	Tufts University
Carnegie Mellon University	University of California-Berkeley
Colgate University	University of Delaware
Columbia University	University of Michigan
Cornell University	University of Pennsylvania
Dartmouth College	University of Virginia
Duke University	U.S. Naval Academy
Hampton University	Wesleyan University
Harvard University	Xavier University of Louisiana
Johns Hopkins University	
Middlebury College	
Morehouse College	

Education

Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rosemarie Eller, *President*
Charlie Norris, *Vice President*
Sheryl Brady
James F. Hricay
Cayne Letizia
Rose Lovitch
Randy Stein

The mission of the White Plains City School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.



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School Budget Passed

The 2021-2022 School District Budget of \$229,627,400 passed with 87.5% of the vote.

Thank you to all the members of the community who provided input during this process and to Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business. *"This election's results are a reminder of how supportive our community is of our school district,"* said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca. *"I am grateful that we have the opportunity to continue working on behalf of our children and that we are able to move forward with a sound fiscal plan that ensures our students receive the best education possible."*

Also on May 18th, James Hricay, Cayne Letizia and Rose Lovitch were re-elected to the Board of Education for three-year terms.

Scholar Athletes Celebrated

More than 300 varsity athletes on 26 WPHS teams were recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association as Scholar Athletes during the 2020-2021 school year, having maintained a GPA of 90% or above. Thirteen teams had 75% or more of the members earn this distinction and were named Scholar Athlete Teams. We also congratulate Varsity Softball Coach Ted O'Donnell on achieving 400 wins during his tenure at WPHS and Varsity Lacrosse Coach Mark Armogida for 200 wins. Board of Education members were presented with varsity letter plaques for their enthusiastic support of sports during the pandemic.



The community was treated to three wonderful performances of the WPHS Musical Production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" the weekend of June 4th-6th, featuring a cast of six: Arielle Beckman, Zoe Gopoian, Liam Keane, Max Kohn, Noah Maitland, and Arieanna Norfleet. Highlands Music Teacher Jennifer Irlen directed, WPHS Music Teacher Penelope Cruz was the choreographer and Sabrina Doolittle was the technical director. Gary West is the Director of Fine Arts, K-12.

Former Post Road Principal Manny Touron visited on a Sunday in May to give an outdoor concert. Retirees and friends gathered for a spirited reunion, listening to songs from Billy Joel to the Foo Fighters in Manny's unique, enthusiastic style. Pictured (left to right) are retirees Lori Mollo, Susan Lobato-Fiorella, Nancy Letts, Manny, Linda Shulman, Anthony Russo, Deana Guarino (current staff) and Catherine O'Brien. The Friends of White Plains Public Schools helped with arrangements for the concert.

