

CommunityLink

Summer 2019

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Class of '19 Shines

Moments before the White Plains High School Class of 2019 crossed the Westchester County Center stage as graduates on June 26th, they received sage advice: use your time and your humanity well, for yourself and for others.

Principal Ellen Doherty shared her hope that students will appreciate diversity and differences, but recognize that we are united in many ways and that a kind and peaceful world is within reach. She asked them to realize that every person has an endless supply of love. **“Love your neighbors; those who are not like you are the ones you can learn the most from.**



Love your family; they hold your history. Love your friends, because they love you. I hope you will always choose love and resist hate.”



Valedictorian Kalsoom Rashid also called for her fellow graduates to embrace and celebrate their differences in beliefs, opinions, aspirations, and culture, and to find a way to work together for good. She urged her classmates to persevere despite obstacles and to use their talents and passions to help society. **“The world is counting on us,”** she said. Kalsoom received several scholarships but has not yet chosen a college.

Salutatorian Kristina Radulovik, who received a scholarship from the White Plains Rotary Club and will attend UCLA in the fall, encouraged the class of 2019 to seize every opportunity to study and explore during the next phase of their lives. **“This really is just the beginning. Make every moment count!”**

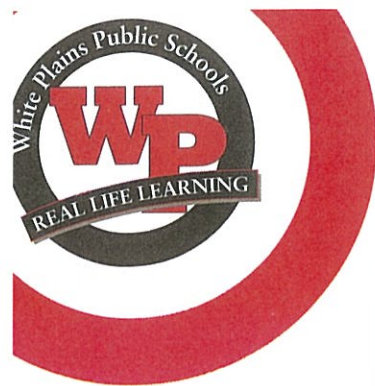
WPHS Salutatorian Kristina Radulovik and Valedictorian Kalsoom Rashid

Headed to High School

Nearly 500 students participated in the Highlands Moving Up Ceremony. In his address, Principal Ernie Spatafore recognized the impressive accomplishments of this 8th grade class: they helped earn the Highlands Middle School the *No Place for Hate* designation and recognition as a *School of Character*, were the first to take the Earth Science Regents as a grade and had nearly 150 members of their class inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

“While you are clearly an impressive group that has created a diverse community of tolerance and respect, that group is composed of individuals, he said. “And that is my message this afternoon: value yourself as an individual. Value your unique qualities and what you can contribute to the world. It is your special talents that will make a difference.”





Message from the Superintendent

We are proud to celebrate the many accomplishments of our students and reflect on a great school year. From the classrooms to the athletic fields, to the stage and our many clubs and activities, students at every grade level made progress and realized wonderful achievements.



As one of the finest and most dynamic school districts in the State of New York, we continue to offer exciting opportunities for students to explore and to learn in a positive, supportive and engaging environment. We are grateful to our children and their parents and guardians, to the Board of Education and to the faculty and staff who are so committed to ensuring that every child has access to the best educational experience every day. Everything we accomplish is as a community, a family, working together.

The Class of 2019 is a shining example of White Plains pride: bright, determined and focused. I am confident that these graduates' experiences in our schools have prepared them well to succeed at whatever they pursue next: whether they attend a college or university, join the armed forces, begin vocational training or join the workforce. We are #WPProud of their achievements and expect great things from them in the future. Congratulations to our 2019 graduates and to our Highlands students who celebrated moving up to the High School.

We encourage your children to exercise their minds and bodies over the summer — reading every day, getting outside whenever possible and taking advantage of opportunities to play and to explore. For our part, our staff will be involved with professional development and strategic planning for next year.

We are excited about the 2019-2020 school year and look forward to all it will have in store. In the classroom this will include expansion of higher-level science opportunities and STEM, social studies and enrichment. We also plan more support for the arts, athletics and extracurricular activities. In addition, facilities upgrades are already underway, as is improvement in parent communication systems.

We look forward to seeing you in September... but in the meantime, remember, our doors are always open!

Respectfully,
Joseph Ricca

Thank you for Your Service

The Board of Education honored 36 retirees and 34 twenty-five-year staff members at its June meeting. Four administrators received tenure at the same meeting. Board President Rosemarie Eller congratulated and thanked these staff members for their years of service to the students of White Plains.

2019 Retirees

Jose Agudelo
Janine Bassano
April Beamon
Cairenn Broderick
June Brown
Seadell Carlton
Bridget Cedrone
Lili Chang
Cathy Culp
Laura Dam
Fran DeFreitas
Joseph D'Emilio
Barbara Falk
Elaine Foley
Dalia Gonzalez
Stephanie Hettinger
Colleen Iodice
Donna Jones
Debra Lee
Brenda Madera
Alejandria Miele
Joan Mullee

Katherine Neglia
Beverly Paonessa
Alvera Pollard
Janet Pulcini
Jody Raynor
Donna Rivera
Barbara Schmidt Mora
Karen Searcy
Andrew Shea
Eleanor Smith
Nancy Snell
Carmela Staffiero
Irma Tumas
James Van Buren

25 Years of Service

Evelyn Alicea-Santiago
Ivana Amicucci
Juanita Banks
John Bannister
Gloria Barrera
Debra Bengé
Angela Berube

Cynthia Bonuomo
Joseph Boykin
Vilma Caban-Vazquez
Karin Cabral
Sandra Camacho-
Maldonado
Anne Canale-DeMicco
Denise Cherico
Boneida Cruz
Melissa DeFeo
Kim Dellava
Margaret Doherty
Susan Fowler
Brian Gallagher
Stephanie Hettinger
Vasendha
Gangadharan
Hrazanek
David John Jones, Jr.
Paula Knuckles
Linda Logiudici
Spencer Mayfield
Lamont McCormick

Michelle McCray
Alvera Pollard
Monique Reilly
Barbara Schmidt Mora
Joy Schneider
Michael Stevens
Karen Sullivan

Tenured Administrators

Myra Castillo,
Principal,
Church Street School
Merle Jackson,
Assistant Principal,
Church Street School
Katherine Barpoulis,
Coordinator,
Mathematics K-6,
Districtwide
Albert Laporte,
Coordinator,
Mathematics 7-12,
Districtwide

School Budget Passed!

The 2019-20 School District Budget of \$226,588,509 passed with 85.4% in favor. Two propositions - use of 2016 Capital Reserve Funds and establishing a new 2019 Capital Reserve Fund – also passed. Thank you to all the members of the community who provided input during this process and

to Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich. This budget will allow the District to continue providing high quality educational experiences for all 7,000+ students we serve with enhanced opportunities for all types of learners.

Also on May 21st, Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris were re-elected to the Board of Education for three-year terms.

WPHS Grads Admitted to Service Academies

Two White Plains High School graduates were among 28 students from the area nominated for admission to United States service academies. Ryan Grafman will attend the United States Naval Academy for four years and hopes to graduate in 2023 and be commissioned into the Navy or Marine Corp as an officer.

Clara Friend received the U.S. Army four-year ROTC Scholarship to Norwich University, the Senior Military College of Vermont. She will major in engineering and will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army when she graduates.

Stellar Spellers at Church Street



With funding assistance from the PTA, Church Street held its second annual spelling bee. Sixty students in grades 2-5, who qualified through a written spelling bee, participated. The panel of judges included Board of Education member Rose Lovitch, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Debbie Hand, Speech and Language Therapist Joy Schneider, teachers Monique Reilly and La-Sheila Brown, and Library Media Specialist Ben Talbot. Top spellers were 4th grader Anish Kodali, who was last year's champion, and 3rd grader Aryan Bansal.

Highlands Earns No Place for Hate Designation

The Anti-Defamation League officially designated Highlands Middle School a 2018-2019 *No Place for Hate* School. Highlands, which was honored at a special recognition ceremony, is committed to sustaining a safe and inclusive learning environment and successfully completed the program by implementing multiple school-wide activities to promote unity and respect, reduce bullying and foster a prejudice-free school. White Plains High School also earned the *No Place for Hate* designation during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.



Two Earn Jandon Scholarships

WPHS graduates Yaqueline Flores and Carolyn Ramos were awarded Jandon Scholarships by the Westchester County Board of Legislators in collaboration with the Jandon Foundation. The young ladies met the qualifications of excellent academic records and SAT scores, involvement in extra-curricular activities and evidence of good character. They will receive \$12,000 each, to be awarded throughout the course of their four-year college careers. Yaqueline will attend Mercy College and Carolyn will attend SUNY New Paltz.

Post Road Recognition

Parents and staff from the Post Road School community were honored by the Post Road PTA with the NYS PTA Jenkins Award in June. Recipients were:



- For exemplary leadership and service to children and to the Post Road PTA – Margaret Brown, Andrea Hazen
- Post Road PTA Outstanding Volunteers – Hope Bogart, Dorian Nerenberg, Eric Nerenberg, Jon Westlund
- Post Road Special Recognition – Melanie Alvarez, Wendy Lawner, Kristine McMath, Lee Moore, Donna Rivera, Joanne Schmidt, Lorraine Seicol
- Outstanding First-Time Volunteer – Angelina Russo



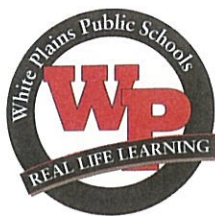
COLLEGE-BOUND

Once again, graduates of White Plains High School have been accepted to many of the top colleges and universities in the country, including:

Amherst College
Barnard College
Binghamton University
Boston College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Carnegie Mellon University
Colgate University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fordham University
Hamilton College
Howard University
Iona College
Lehigh University
New York University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Spelman College
SUNY/Albany
Syracuse University
Tufts University
United States Naval Academy
University of California
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
University of Vermont
Wesleyan College

Our students were also awarded more than 100 different scholarships!

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.



White Plains Public Schools
5 Homeside Lane
White Plains, NY 10605

Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

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High-Achieving Athletes at WPHS

During the 2018-2019 school year, 17 varsity teams were recognized as New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Teams, eight during the spring sports season. 490 students were Scholar Athletes who maintained a 90% or above GPA. **“Students who are involved in interscholastic athletics tend to do better in school and our student athletes are exactly that:**

students first and athletes second,” said WPHS Director of Athletics Matt Cameron. **“To see that 145 varsity athletes have over a 90 average in the 4th quarter speaks volumes about White Plains High School, our athletic department and the work that our coaches and student athletes do on a daily basis.”**

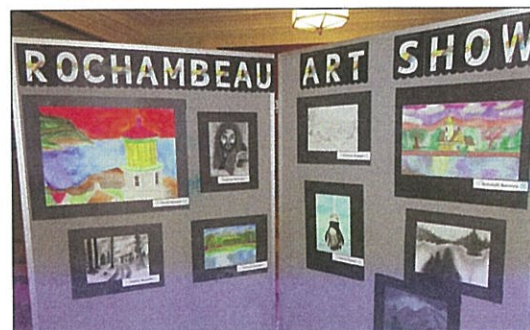
Eight varsity teams won league championships this year: Girls Soccer, Ice Hockey, Boys Basketball, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Indoor Track, Softball, Girls Tennis, and Girls Spring Track and Field. Students from Girls Swimming, Boys Tennis, Boys and Girls Indoor Track and Girls Track and Field competed in New York State Championships. The Softball team also earned All-Section and All-League honors.



Rochambeau Art Show

Seventy-five students at Rochambeau welcomed classmates, family members and friends to view their artwork on display at the annual Rochambeau Art Show in June,

coordinated by art teacher Lorraine Trovato-Cantori. Work included three-dimensional wall pockets, portraits, sculptures, and landscapes, all created in a variety of media.



Design: Jill Singer Graphics • Writing: Hillary Millman