

BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUMMER 2023

CLASS OF 2023 SPREADS ITS WINGS TO SOAR INTO THE FUTURE



Congratulations, Graduates!



Join Our Community Group E-Mail List to Receive Announcements and Future E-Newsletters From the District

Fill out the brief questionnaire and select which email lists you would like to join here: www.bufsd.org/join

This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.

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VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS OF THE CLASS OF 2023

Ross Center *Valedictorian* **Katherine Pena**

Katherine Pena graduated with a 107.21 weighted grade-point average, the highest GPA among all Brentwood high school students. Katherine was an AP Scholar with Distinction as well as a National Merit Award finalist. She served as co-president of the Student Council and was a member of both the Principal's Council and the National Honor Society. Katherine was first-chair violin in the Symphonic/Advanced Orchestra as well as a violinist in the Chamber Orchestra, which she also directed. Katherine will be attending Yale University in the fall of 2023 where she will pursue a degree in molecular, cellular and developmental Biology.



Ross Center *Salutarian* **Joshua Vasquez**

Joshua Vasquez graduated with a 104.96 weighted grade-point average. He was the main drum major for the Brentwood Green Machine Marching Band and also served as treasurer of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. In addition, Joshua was first-chair clarinet for the Brentwood High School Level 6 Wind Ensemble. Outside of music, Joshua was the captain of the East Brentwood Fire Department's Youth Squad and president of the BHS Paws for a Cause Club. Joshua was an AP Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. He will be attending St. Joseph's University of Long Island in Patchogue in the fall of 2023, pursuing a degree in psychology.



"The fact that we are sitting here today is a testament to our hard work, determination and grit. We are still so young, with so much life ahead of us."

"There's nothing we can't do. We just have to be kind to ourselves and to trust in this next chapter of our lives, which I hope will be more beautiful than the last."

"Our strength as a community shone through...as Brentwood is not just any community. We are an exceptional community; a fusion of ethnicity, race and religion." "As uncertain as the future may be, if we continue to use these Brentwood lessons that gave us our wings, we will be able to soar to limitless destinations."



VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS OF THE CLASS OF 2023

Sonderling Center *Valedictorian* Valerie Henriquez

Valerie Henriquez is the twin sister of Sonderling Center salutatorian Ericka Henriquez. She graduated with a 104.65 weighted grade-point average. Valerie served as an EMT and treasurer for the Brentwood Legion Ambulance Explorers program and was also a member of the Brentwood varsity tennis team. She served as president of the English Honor Society and conducted research under the Pioneer Academics Research Program while also serving as an ambassador to that organization. Valerie was a member of the Suffolk County Youth Council Board and assisted in the LILTA Mural Project and also received AP Scholar honors. Valerie will be attending Yale University in the fall of 2023, where she will be pursuing a degree in neuroscience.



Sonderling Center *Salutatorian* Ericka Henriquez

Ericka Henriquez is the twin sister of Sonderling Center valedictorian Valerie Henriquez. She graduated with a 103.64 weighted grade-point average and is the recipient of a Certificate of Recognition from the Long Island Latino Teachers' Association (LILTA) for the organization's Mural Project. Ericka was a volunteer EMT and secretary for the Brentwood Legion Ambulance Explorers Program as well as a varsity tennis athlete. Other positions held by Ericka include the secretary for the National English Honor Society and president of the Social Justice Peer Program. She also was a member of the BHS Art Honor Society and a member of the Suffolk County Youth Council Board, as well as an AP Scholar honoree. Ericka will be attending Yale University in the fall of 2023, where she will be pursuing a degree in political science.



"Do not be afraid of the unknown. We really do not know what the future holds and we have to grow to be okay with that. We are the authors of our own journeys."
"What I do hope for you is that you have one memory - just one - that you reflect back on and think of as your high school movie moment, your true happiness."

"Make sure to be your own biggest fan, your biggest hero. Let's allow ourselves to grow, be optimistic and be happy with our own authentic selves."





259 Total Scholarships Awarded - \$130,000 Total Scholarship Monies Awarded



93 Advanced Regents Diplomas

44 students are attending a four-year university through the Equal Opportunity Program that allows students to go to college debt free based upon their family income.



3 students attending Historically Black Colleges

3 BHS NY773 AFJROTC students received the \$220,696 Minuteman scholarship each and will participate in ROTC when they attend college.

CLASS C

The Class of 2023 has reported receiving approximately they are attending or through outside





18 of our students will be attending Ivy league universities this fall.

OF 2023

\$1,280,000 in scholarships either from the school scholarship donations combined.



294 Seal of Biliteracy Diploma Recipients.



21 students are committed to playing college athletics at a college or university in the fall.



11 students reported they are enlisting into the different military branches.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS ON MOVING-UP!



West Middle School's Principal's Award-winning students with WMS Principal Felicia Thomas-Williams.



East kindergarten students reacting to receiving their Moving Up medals.



Southwest kindergarten graduates holding up their diplomas.



North Elementary graduates facing their parents for a photo opportunity.



Loretta Park Elementary graduates prepare to sing the national anthem at their Moving Up ceremony.



Laurel Park elementary graduates pose for a photo at their Moving Up ceremony.

FREE SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM FOR KIDS

The district is offering free breakfast and lunch to all school-age children within the district this summer. Students can obtain free meals at one of five school buildings with no sign-up required. All food must be consumed on the premises of the location in which it was obtained. This program runs through August 18, 2023. Information about the Summer Food Service Program can be obtained by calling (631) 434-2316 or by visiting www.bufsd.org/departments/foodserves.