

# The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Fall 2019

## Deodhari Continues Excellence in Karate



By the Tusker Tribune Staff

Last Saturday night, Somers Middle School 6th grader Sierra Deodhari was crowned the female advance under 12 year old karate champion for the USA.

She will be competing in the very prestigious Junior International Karate Open and USA Nationals in 2020. It will be a five-day event featuring thousands of competitors from all over the world.

We congratulate Sierra on this amazing accomplishment!

Sierra also won the

2019 USA National event and will be featured this week in two different local news accounts.

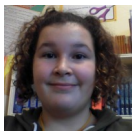
Last Sunday, she started the 2020 season off by winning the first American Junior event.

Sierra, who became a brown belt at age 7, is the holder of 2 international titles and, in 2016, was ranked #1 in the New York Karate Tournament for her age group.

Sierra, who trains at Croton Karate under Peter Doherty, has also won the USA Karate Federation Do Philadelphia Regional Open and took third place in the under 13 black/brown belt division.



## SMS Should Be Friendlier For Wheelchairs



By Anna Hagen  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Starting 6<sup>th</sup> grade I fractured my ankle so I am now in a wheelchair, and I discovered that our school does not take that much care for people in wheelchairs.

First, the elevator is in the copy room. It depends how many people are in there, or the size of the wheelchair, but it isn't that easy to access it with a bunch of teachers scrambling around.

Also, the schedules make us go up and down all day.



"I have to go from the first floor to the second floor, then up to the third floor, then down to the floor below, stay for two periods, then go to lunch, then go to the third floor for the remainder of the day" says Michael Abrams, a seventh grader in a wheelchair.

Even if kids aren't injured now, they could be injured at any time. So we should have our schedules to only have to go down once or no times.

We know that this may not be possible, but we just want people to know about this and to help us. Perhaps scheduling can be adjusted to help kids in wheelchairs get around more easily.

**The Tusker Tribune** is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:  
**Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202, Somers, NY, USA.**

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories.

If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at

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## Early NBA Awards Predictions



By Benji Cutler  
Tusker Tribune Staff

As you may or may not know, the NBA season starts in 5 days! Even though the NBA Awards will be announced in June 2020, I'm going to try my best as of now to predict the top 3 candidates, including the winner, of all the main awards!

The list of awards is MVP, Rookie of the Year, 6<sup>th</sup> Man of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Most Improved Player, and Coach of the Year. Enjoy!

### MVP:

Giannis Antetokounmpo  
Stephen Curry  
Kawhi Leonard



### Rookie of the Year:

Zion Williamson  
Ja Morant  
Tyler Herro

### 6<sup>th</sup> Man of the Year:

Lou Williams  
Spencer Dinwiddie  
Derrick Rose



### Most Improved Player:

Terry Rozier  
Eric Bledsoe  
Montrezl Harrell



### Defensive Player of the Year:

Giannis Antetokounmpo  
Rudy Gobert  
Kawhi Leonard

### Coach of the Year:

Doc Rivers  
Brad Stevens  
Mike Malone



Those are my NBA Awards predictions, and by the way, if you don't agree with these, keep in mind these are *my* predictions, and you can come up with your own if you want. See you at the NBA Regular Season!

The Tusker Tribune of Somers Middle School

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NEXT  
WEEK:

Another  
successful  
6th grade  
Field Trip!

