

Sayville Public Schools

**"THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS"**

District Newsletter  
Volume 33.1

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SUMMER 2017

DR. JOHN E. STIMMEL  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS



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# TIDINGS

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



## What a Difference a Day Makes

FOR THE  
CLASS OF 2017

A deluge of rain that coasted by with thunderstorms several hours before Sayville's Commencement on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> postponed the ten a.m. ceremony. But, on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at twelve noon, approximately 240 Sayville graduates in their iridescent purple and gold gowns gathered and celebrated under refreshingly sunny skies. With the lovely breezes coming from the Great South Bay, it was indeed well worth the wait.

Leading the processional for the last time was Superintendent of Sayville Schools, Dr. Walter Schartner who is retiring after forty-four years as an educator, thirty-nine in Sayville School District. He was accompanied by High School Principal Ron Hoffer, Board of Education President John Verdone, Board Vice President Thomas Cooley, along with district administrators, the incoming Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Stimmel, Assistant Superintendent of Business John Belmonte, and Board of Education members Maureen Dolan, Norm deVenau, and Keith Kolar. The enthused Class of 2017 marched toward their seats followed by the *Teachers Who Made A Difference*, and numerous Sayville Alumni participating in the *Annual Alumni Walk*.

The Class of 2017 listened to the philosophy and advice from Salutatorian Matthew Tomko, Valedictorian Michael Earvolino, and 2017 Class President Sean Barry. They were moved by the vocal selection *For Forever* sung by Class of 2017 *All-National* and *Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial* award-winning vocalist James Baio. They applauded Christopher Russo for joining the military. They cheered for each other as a community of "emerging adults" who—in the words of their class president—by finding their own "passions and interests," expect to have an impact on the future.

After Principal Ron Hoffer's final congratulations, the graduates sailed their purple and gold mortarboards upward against a cerulean-blue sky.

## MUSICAL Interludes

Following the processional, played by the Sayville High School Band (photo left) directed by Mrs. Kerry VanBoxel. Senior members of the High School Jazz Choir (left)—**Dylan FINDER, James Baio, Angelina Keller, Emily Osterloh, and Emily Llewellyn**,—sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America*.

(right) **The Patricia Ann Kubelle Memorial Award-Winning** vocalist **James Baio** gave an outstanding Broadway-caliber performance of "*For Forever*" from the 2017 Tony-Award Winning musical *DEAR EVAN HANSEN*. After the thunderous applause, Mr. Hoffer thanked Jamie adding, "That was amazing!"

(To see video of Commencement, including Jamie's performance, go to sayvilleschools.org/TIDINGS ONLINE.)



(left: r-l) Principal Ron Hoffer and retiring Sayville Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner marched with B.O.E. Vice President Thomas Cooley, B.O.E. President John Verdone, trustees Keith Kolar, Maureen Dolan, Norm deVenau, Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte, along with Class of 2017 Valedictorian Michael Earvolino, Salutatorian Matthew Tomko, and Class President Sean Barry. As Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Sayville's incoming Superintendent Dr. John Stimmel escorted the Alumni.



## SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS DR. WALTER SCHARTNER

On behalf of the Sayville Board of Education, all teachers and staff, retiring Superintendent of Sayville Schools Dr. Walter F. Schartner welcomed parents, siblings, grandparents, and other guests. "To the Sayville High School Class of 2017, thank you for establishing a new standard of achievement for other classes to emulate. You have added to the excellence that is the Sayville Public Schools."

“ Sayville High School has been designated a REWARD SCHOOL, the highest designation for a school in New York

State for six consecutive years. This is possible because of the High School community's success. This success is directly related to the success and hard work of our students with the support of the teachers, administrators, and families from Kindergarten until now.

I will not list all of your individual accomplishments or we would be here until dark. Mr. Hoffer will give more detail to specific accomplishments. I would like to spend a few minutes to highlight your next step in life, as this is my last day at Sayville Public Schools also. To do this, I will use the literature of one of my favorite authors, Dr. Seuss. This journey is described well in one of my favorite books written by him: *Oh, the Place You'll Go*.

[After reciting the poem, Dr. Schartner continued.]

Goals are dynamic but with purpose. If you focus on that purpose you will keep flying and void the prickly perch. Stay connected with your teachers and your school. Your input is always welcome. We are always looking for ways to teach our students to fly farther and faster while avoiding the hang-ups and bang ups.

To the Class of 2017, as you leave this ceremony this afternoon, on the path to your personal future, you have become a part of a great tradition, which is Sayville High School Alumni. Buildings and people change—but that tradition of excellence will remain our goal for as long as the Sayville High School is the center of pride for this community. Just ask the many alumni that have chosen to share your day by marching at the graduation. Remember all that have played a part in your achievement—parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators and this entire community. Remember that you have the power to do great and different things. You have the power to change the course of history through goodness, kindness, and intelligent decision-making.

As you reflect on your educational journey at Sayville Public Schools, take the advice of Dr. Seuss. "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

We are proud of each and every one of you, and we share your happiness this morning. Good luck and may God bless you in all that you do!



### CLASS OF 2017 SALUTATORIAN

### MATTHEW TOMKO

"SUCCESS" VISIT SAYVILLE.SCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS ONLINE FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEO.

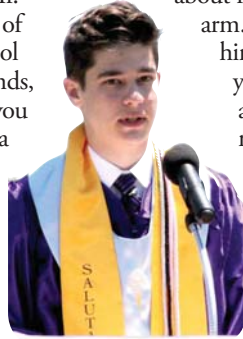
“ Thank you, Dr. Schartner, Mr. Hoffer, members of the Board of Education, Sayville High School faculty and staff, alumni, family, and friends, for this opportunity to speak in front of you today. I'd like to start by telling you guys a fact about myself; I *hate* public speaking.

There are many things I'd rather be doing other than speaking in public. The school was like, "Hey, Matt, congrats on being Salutatorian. Now you get the HONOR of speaking at graduation in front of 500 people; isn't that great?"

I thought, "No. No, that is definitely not great." Who thought that was great? Can't I just take my honor in the form of a small plaque that says, "Congratulations on being Salutatorian—and you don't have to give a speech"? You can't. I checked. I got a plaque but they wouldn't write that on it. So obviously, I wasn't chosen to speak at graduation because of my proficiency at speaking. But for some reason, I'm still standing up here.

I'm one of three students who were chosen to speak today, Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Class President, you all know that, but why us? Maybe somebody didn't get the memo stating that just because I did pretty well on that 'titration test' in Tenth-grade chemistry doesn't mean that I can successfully talk to or inspire 300 graduating seniors. I feel that there's a different skill set there. The only reason I can think of as to why I, in particular, was asked to speak today is because I am viewed as having achieved success in high school. OK, I had the second highest average in our class, but does that really equate to success?

Success is a weird thing, because as we grow up, its definition is always changing. In elementary school it was that guy who had



about fifty *silly bandz* around his arm. You know, "I wanna be like him when I grow up." And then you get to high school and apparently success looks like me and these other guys you're going to hear from in a minute. But then you get into the real world, and the people we view as the most successful are actors, musicians, and people who do nothing related to academics. I'll bet I probably have a higher high school GPA than Tom Cruise did, and I also probably had way more *silly bandz* than he did in elementary school. But he's the one making billions of dollars.

That's the thing, because as we get older, our view of success becomes broader and broader. There are so many things you can be successful at doing. Do you remember that businessman that Mr. Lecci brought in to speak to us? That guy was successful. Like private jets, best friends with Donald Trump kind of successful. I don't recall his story perfectly, but from what I remember, he wasn't valedictorian or anything special like that. Just a C student, and out of nowhere, some businessman just offered him an amazing job, and that's how he got his start. And you could say it was a fluke, or he just got lucky, but I think you need to have some kind of a way with people if they're willing to throw job opportunities at you. If I was in that position it would've gone something like this:

"You know, I want you to have this amazing job with a six-figure salary, and all you have to do is hold a conversation with me for five minutes and not be awkward about it."

"Ok, bye."

You know, I bet no one asked that guy to

speak at his high school graduation, but maybe they should have.

Every student, regardless of GPA, has demonstrated success in high school, and success which can be built upon in the future. I think one of the best examples of this is the "Senior Superlatives," which, as silly and funny as they might be, actually show those who have demonstrated a success that isn't necessarily academic. "Friendliest" are future businessmen and women, "Most Artistic" are the next DaVinci, "Most Rebellious." Nevermind. But you get the idea. I would also be remiss if I didn't mention my favorite success story from high school, because while I may be the one standing up here, there is only one man who got about fifty kids and teachers to wear a t-shirt to school with his face on it.

So I was told that eventually my speech would have to come to a clear, well thought-out point, which kind of caught me off guard. But I gave it a shot anyway. My point is this: over the past thirteen years, we have been measured against a very limited definition of success, and we are about to embark upon a journey where "success" has as many different definitions and measures as there are high school graduates. Once we leave here today, every single one of us has the opportunity to pursue his or her own definition of success, and we each have the same chance to achieve it. You only need to be good at one thing to be successful, and just because the school recognizes the guy that's good at taking tests, that doesn't mean that it's the only important thing. So find what you're good at, and run with it, unless it's illegal.

And now that I've made my point and wished you all a success-filled future, I'm going to go sit down, because I hate how everyone is looking at me. Thanks.



Sharing his thanks with everyone in attendance Michael also thanked Mrs.

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VanBoxel and the band.

...I played in the band at graduation for the past four years, and it can get pretty brutal over there, especially after playing *Pomp and Circumstance* for three days straight.

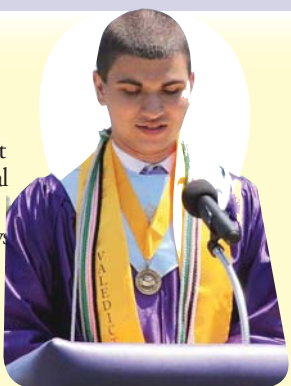
We all knew this day was coming, but now that we're actually here, it's a bit of a shock. Thirteen years of our lives have led up to this one day, each one was better than the last, even though we faced some challenges along the way. Like when we all looked forward to our trip to *Medieval Times*, only to discover that we were going to see *King Tut* instead. Or in Eleventh grade, when our guidance counselors were so excited to tell us that we had the opportunity to take not one, but *two* different SAT exams.

Class of 2017, we made it through those and the many personal challenges we faced, and now we're here together, maybe for the last time ever. We will cherish these memories because we'll share them forever.

Not only do we have these memories to hold on to, but we also have the many life lessons we learned along the way. Like in Frost Valley, Mr. Shaw taught us that if you ever get locked in a room, just take the door off the hinges. Or if one day in your adult life you find yourself forgetting the quadratic formula, you can always sing Mrs. Sinclair's jingle to help you remember. I also learned to never become too paranoid when it comes to studying. In Tenth grade, I rushed into Mrs. Dreyer's room asking her how I should study for a Chem test, and she said, "Michael you're going to go home and take a nap."

We all should be a little stressed out about our work, but we can't let it consume us. Of course there are many more, but hopefully we'll all learn at least one more lesson today. I'll start by quoting a man whose legacy is in everyone's pocket right now—Steve Jobs. He said, "Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart you will know it when you find it."

Throughout these thirteen years, I've always



taken my work very seriously. Because in my opinion, our work is a representation of who we are. It reveals our personality and our integrity, and I never want anyone to think less of me. On many occasions, whenever my friends saw my work, they'd always say I went too far with the assignment, that I took an extra step that I didn't need to take. The truth is, I never thought of it like that. Whatever I did, I considered it a necessity. I never

took an "extra step." Like for our research paper, Mrs. Sohl said it should be about 6-8 pages, but I handed in 10. I didn't hand in an assignment unless I felt like it was totally complete. It's a very simple process, we just need to ask ourselves, "Am I proud to call this my own?"

What I have also noticed is that if you are proud of what you are doing, it will be much easier to do because you'll enjoy doing it. I am now going to quote another man, a bit different from Steve Jobs, and that is Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. He said, "Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come." Never feel like what you're doing is a waste of time. As long as we have pride in our work, we will go far in life.

That brings me to my next piece of advice. Whatever you find yourself doing one day, do it your way. Obviously, there are some rules we all must follow, but in general, take the path you want to take. Steve Jobs always did what he wanted to do, and he didn't care what people had to say. He thought outside the box and ended up revolutionizing the world. Why do you think Apple's slogan is *Think Different*?

As we begin our lives in the real world, we need to understand that life doesn't have one simple solution. Think outside the box and find the solution that works best for you. Don't do what everyone else is doing just because everyone else is doing it. If you have a gut feeling about something,

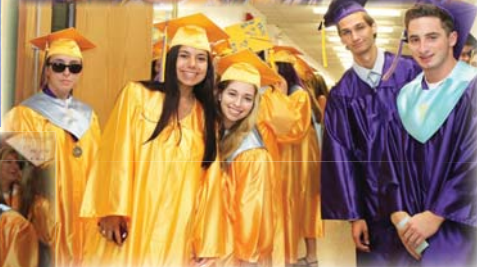
go for it, because you'll be grateful you did. We know ourselves better than anyone, so we can't let others tell us what we have to do.

Now, our successes aren't going to make everyone happy. But that's another fact of life: we can't make everyone happy. Like Taylor Swift said, "the haters gonna hate...shake it off." If you are proud of what you did, keep your head held high and own it. Be happy for yourself and show it with a big smile on your face. Staying positive is what will keep us going. Positivity allows us to think clearly, and is an overall better feeling to have. All negativity does is bring out the worst in us, like jealousy, which is one of the ugliest emotions there is, and it's not worth any of our time. Let's face it, when would you ever want to be with a negative person? If we stay true to ourselves, those who are closest to us will always be happy for us, and that's all that matters. That sense of dignity and happiness is what will propel us to our next success.

I'd now like to thank my parents, friends, and teachers who were always there to support me along the way. We need to appreciate our friends and family because without them, none of us would be here today. There are also a few people I'd like to thank in particular. Thank you, Mrs. Thelain, for not going completely crazy after we stole your whiteboard pen everyday. Thank you, Mr. Bannon, for giving me all those Bannon Bucks, even when you really didn't want to, and for taking the time to teach a few of us Calc BC this year, even when we booed you upon entry. And lastly, thank you Mrs. Brown and Mr. Caskey. You were the only two teachers I had all four years of high school and you pushed me to achieve things that I didn't think were possible.

So just remember, as long as you consistently do your best, think different, and own your successes, your greatness will surely come.

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Before announcing the Board of Education President, Principal Hoffer welcomed the Alumni, which represent graduating classes from our high school from 1947 through 2016. "As alumni, your attendance is greatly appreciated and it clearly reflects your pride, your enthusiasm, and your respect for your educational experience in our district. We thank you for joining us this morning, and we encourage you to join us each and every year at this ceremony."



## BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT JOHN VERDONE

“...GOOD MORNING TO THE CLASS OF 2017! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to each of you today. (Mr. Verdone explained he had tried consulting his daughter, a recent Sayville grad, to help him find the right message for his speech. Ultimately he had to work solo when her social life called.)

Right now, I am standing in front of the 242 students of the Graduating Class of 2017 with my final draft and words that are truly from the heart. Soon each of you will walk up to the podium and receive your diploma, but tomorrow will start a new day. Over the course of your lives you will see ups and downs, successes and failures. The sun will still rise and the sun will still set, and to quote [various sources]:

“Step outside, get some air and remind yourself of who you are and where you want to be.”

“Every so often talk to a three-year old just so you can understand life again.”

“Sometimes you need to stop thinking so much and just go where your heart leads you.”

“The future is yours, grab onto it, change it, find your place.”

Some of you know I am the proud parent of a son that has served our country in the United States Coast Guard. I feel it is an honor to recognize Christopher Russo (below) as he serves our country, protects our freedom and families.

God bless you and your service. As you move on to the new chapter in your lives, always find the time to spend with family and friends. On behalf of the Sayville Board of Education, congratulations. We wish you success in whatever your future may hold.

Have a wonderful summer.”

• Christopher Russo was recognized for his anticipated U.S. military service.



## CLASS OF 2017 PRESIDENT

## SEAN BARRY

## “ENDURING COMMUNITY”

“ Thank you Dr. Schartner, Members of the Board of Education, Mr. Hoffer, Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, Fellow Graduates. I would like to begin by thanking Dr. Walter Schartner for over thirty-nine years of committed and effective service to our school district, as we welcome Dr. John Stimmel as our next Superintendent.

It is an incredible honor to have worked alongside our class advisors, Ms. Backer and Mrs. Sinclair, as well as our stellar team of class officers. They truly deserve great recognition and our most sincere thanks.

I would also like to express my gratitude for my family, and friends who have supported me throughout my life, especially my mother and father who have been my mentors and always support me.

So here we are, ready to move on from these halls and streets which we will always call “Home.” We have all anticipated being here today, lined up as a class and addressed by the full swath of faculty and administration. We have all waited and waited for words which we have longed and suffered for... “Class of 2017, the wifi password is...”

For the last four years, seven years, even decade we have been surrounded by familiar faces relationships and routines.

This is the case for all graduating seniors throughout our nation, yet Sayville, and more precisely this class, have a distinct communal identity.

We can see ourselves being introduced to this community as far back as our memory permits. For some, it may have been our early careers in sports at the Baymen Soccer Fields or the Little League fields off Broadway. For others, it may be interacting with each other during our first recess or lunch during elementary school.

Here we met our first friends, some of whom we still have relationships with today.

Then you get a little older you start playing in the brass section of the middle school band, maybe you go fishing with your friends off the docks at the end of Foster Avenue, secure a spot at an eight-person lunch table in the cafeteria, get your hair cut by Mr. Nick on Main Street, take your first tech class with Mr. Kroll, go to the monthly dances, (or play basketball in the gym at the monthly dances).

It feels like yesterday you met your first crush in seventh grade, (and for the guys that means you began bathing in *Axe*), then you went mattress sledding at Frost Valley, and before you knew it, you were sitting in your first high school homeroom comparing schedules with your classmates. You blinked, and four homecomings, four sets of finals, a banquet, a prom, and now a graduation have all passed by.

Throughout that entire time, we have become the center of youth-involvement in our community. You took a class with the theatre department, tried out for JV tennis, combined competition with service with *Athletes Helping Others*, participated in the culture exchange through leadership club, harnessed your creativity in the the national art honor society, mastered gym hockey, wrapped gifts for Every Child’s Dream, danced in a skit for homecoming, earned your grades, held your first job, comforted your peers in times of loss.

Sayville High School is not a terrific school district just because it is academically sound, but because its teachers, faculty and staff provide opportunities to us, the students, to become engaged with our community while finding passions and interests of our own.

We have all interacted as a community in different ways. Whether you passed a chemistry test, or shaved your head for Saint Baldrick’s day. Whether you attended the school play, or spent hours upon hours rehearsing for the opening night. Whether you lost your voice cheering at a football

game, or led the team to victory yard by yard—you were there.

Aware of it or not, you had an impact in the formation and preservation of our community. The reality of this morning is that this is the last time that we will be together as a class, and whether it is in our conversations with each other or if it is deep within our intimate thoughts, the anxiety we face at the beginning of this new season of our lives is present. How will I fit in? Who do I want to become? When you go home and take off these ceremonial garbs, what will you remember?

Now emerging adults, it is our responsibility, and ours alone, to pursue those passions.

It is a daunting task, and it is natural to feel anxious about our future, but it is also our duty to remain true to ourselves and do those things which give us a sense of fulfillment and meaning. Where you find these passions, you will interact with people similar to and different than you. Here is where we create a lasting community, becoming the young men and women we aspire to be, with the ability to change the world we find ourselves in.

If our time together has taught us anything, it is that whether we intend to or not, we have an impact, a tremendous impact, in the communities we belong to. Class of 2017, you are in the summer of your lives, so enjoy it, because as someone here once said to me, “some risks are too big not to take.”

Thank you



Class President Sean Barry gave the Response for the Class of 2017.:

# PRAISE FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

VISIT [SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS](http://SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS) ONLINE FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEO COVERAGE.

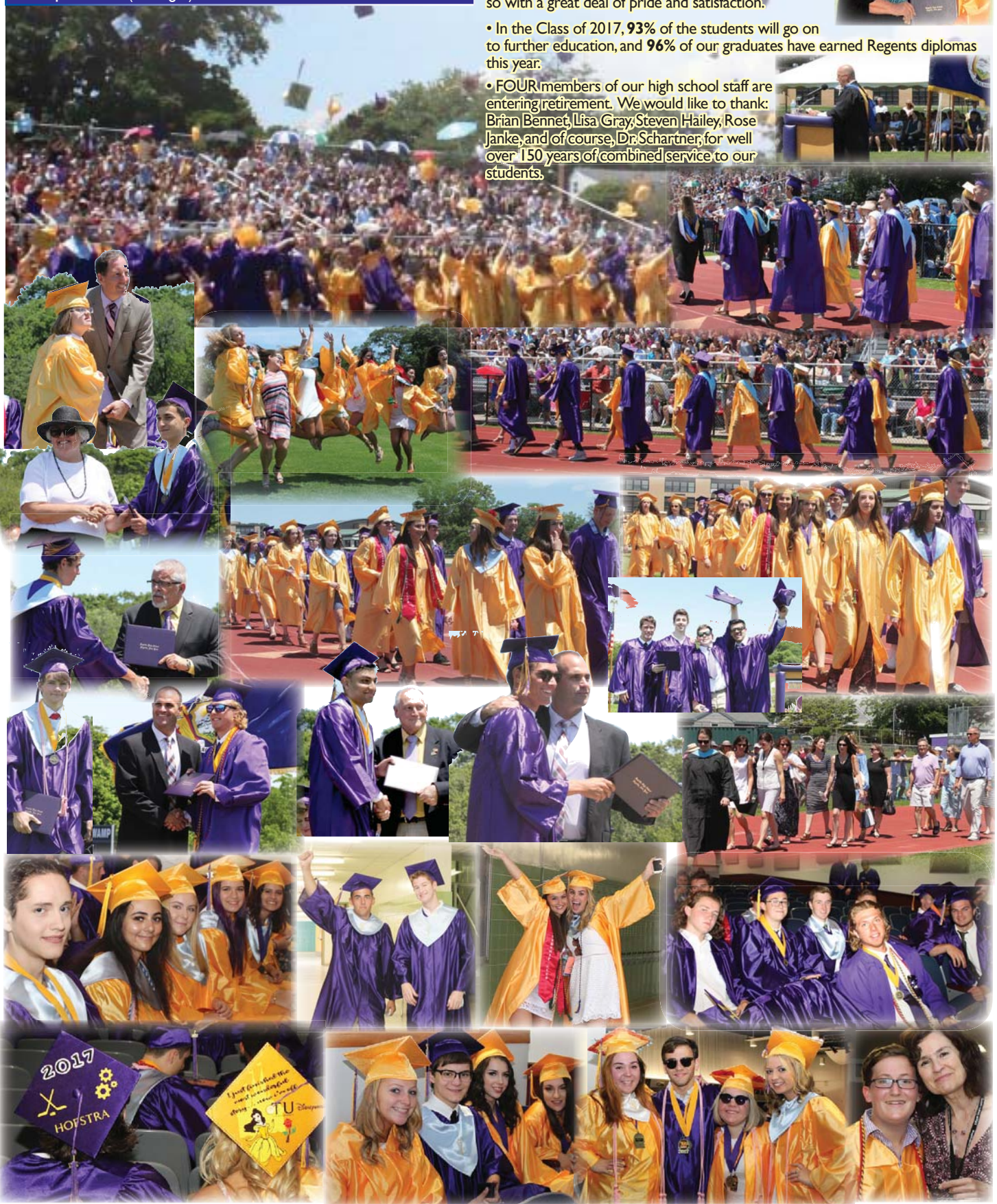
## "OUTSTANDING IN ALL ENDEAVORS"

High School Principal Ron Hoffer reflected on the Class of 2017's accomplishments (see right):

• The Class of 2017 has been an outstanding class to work with in all endeavors. Our students, your sons, daughters and friends, have earned many significant honors, both individually and collectively, and they have been outstanding representatives of our school and community. As I reflect on their accomplishments, I do so with a great deal of pride and satisfaction.

• In the Class of 2017, **93%** of the students will go on to further education, and **96%** of our graduates have earned Regents diplomas this year.

• **FOUR** members of our high school staff are entering retirement. We would like to thank: Brian Bennet, Lisa Gray, Steven Hailey, Rose Janke, and of course, Dr. Schartner, for well over 150 years of combined service to our students.



# Moving-Up

During the three Elementary Fifth-grade Moving-Up ceremonies, there were words of encouragement and welcome from Middle School Principal Thomas Murray along with wonderful awards, student, staff and parent recognition, as well as musical performances by the talented students. Each ceremony was followed by refreshments provided by the PTAs. (See Sayville School District website for full story and more photos.)

## Sunrise Drive

It was a lovely send-off and a new celebratory tradition. All the elementary students waited outside their classrooms and applauded the Fifth-graders as they walked through the halls one last time to their Moving-Up ceremony in the Cafetorium.

Once assembled before family and friends, the Moving-Up class opened with the traditional singing of *Sunrise Drive You Are the One*, composed and directed by Mrs. Amy Baron. In addition, Mrs. Baron directed the students in two musical selections *Unwritten* and a piece that held special significance *You Will be Found* from the Tony-Award winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

Completing his first school year as Sunrise Drive Principal, Dr. James Foy welcomed the assembly of students and parents, remarking that "Sunrise Drive is a place where students experienced a few firsts as well. Perhaps it is where you made your first painting or read your first book. Perhaps it was at Sunrise that you met your first best friend...the first place that you shared a presentation or project in front of your peers...first places you knew that people, outside of your family members, care for you and want you to grow to be the best person you can be...I feel that it is here at Sunrise, that you have all shown us the first few footsteps of the young adults that you will become....As you continue on your journey of firsts, next year you will all be attending a new school. I know that you may have some nervous feelings, but know that you are moving on to a place that will allow you to continue to grow and mature."

After Middle School Principal Tom Murray greeted the incoming Sixth Graders, recognition was given to the Fifth-graders for achieving excellence in academics, physical fitness as well as for outstanding character (see lists below).

Dr. Foy offered congratulations to the students and their parents, thanked Sayville administrators, faculty, staff, and Board of Education for their support, and closed by addressing the students: "Many of you have spent the last six years or close to it here at Sunrise Drive. Over that time, you have grown and matured into young ladies and gentlemen. Your independence has grown and so has your sense of responsibility. You have shown us many ways your commitment to service and helping others. I encourage you to continue those things for the rest of your lives."



## Lincoln Avenue

Lincoln Avenue Principal Dr. Michele LeBlanc welcomed families, friends, administrators, and guests, gave special recognition to graduating parents—those who served on the PTA board, the Site Based Team as well as those in the audience—and took a special moment to recognize "someone who is moving on. After thirty-nine years of service, our superintendent of schools is retiring this year. I would like to publicly thank him for all he has accomplished for Sayville Schools as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent. I would like to thank him personally for his mentorship and leadership. Congratulations, Dr. Schartner."

Speaking about "this group as cohesive, understanding, compassionate, and bright" students, Dr. LeBlanc stated, "Together, they have accomplished much, but one particular accomplishment is one that will stand up to the test of time. Lincoln Avenue celebrated its 50th anniversary this past March. This group of children may know more about Lincoln's history than most of us, which they translated into dance and song in Mrs. Cirillo's play, *50 Cheers for 50 Years*. In learning about "when I was your age," "walking up hill to school both ways," the farmland that used to exist on our school property, disco, mosh pits and of course, Beyoncé, we all developed greater pride in our recent history and our school. Students, I hope you can carry

that pride with you in the future as you move through Sayville Schools, and as you move through the next 50 years! You have learned about vast changes that have occurred, and it seems that change comes more rapidly these days, too rapidly to predict. I will end with a quote from



(above, l-r) LA New York State Comptroller • Catherine Batterberry, Colleen Doyle

Continues on page 7.

### List of Fifth-grade 2016-2017 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

#### Sunrise Drive

##### ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Gavin Acker  
Lia Yeon-Hong Bickerton  
Timothy Brady  
Skyler Collins  
James Erickson  
Andrew Faraci  
Sophia Furno  
Luca Hart  
Daniel Holahan  
Ella Holt  
Samantha Larkin  
Tyler Madison  
Elle Maslak  
Jessica Menze  
Brendan Meyers  
Nadia Moosa  
Melanie Sharkey  
Marissa Stephan  
Trey Tellier  
Liliana Yoder

##### SILVER AWARDS

Quinn Babcock  
Kaylee Cummings  
Ava Cutolo  
Mia DeSimone  
Ethan Entenberg  
Emily Helbock  
Owen Hinteman  
Emily Hodgkinson  
Sophia Montalto  
Elijah Osik  
Olivia Tusso  
Benjamin Young

##### FITNESS GOLD

Mullane Baumiller  
Timothy Brady  
Mia DeSimone  
Ethan Entenberg  
Sophia Furno  
Ella Holt  
Daniel Lahmann  
Madeline McKillop  
Brendan Meyers  
Morgan Reese  
Faith Roben  
Marissa Stephan  
Jake Trippree  
Leah Vanderborgh  
Delaney Walters



#### Lincoln Avenue

##### ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS

Daniel Blanco  
Charles Breen  
Alessandra Burk  
Ethan Cohen  
Kieran Daniels  
Kayla Diaz  
Taylor DiMenna  
Liam Dowling  
Colleen Doyle  
Robert Doyle  
Carly Dubay  
Isabella Gerena

##### Grace Keiley

James Kretz  
Elizabeth Mansfield  
Ava Rueb  
Brett Walther

##### SILVER AWARDS

Catherine Batterberry  
Madison DeCicco  
Thomas DeVito  
Daniel Duque  
Daniel Gunther  
Connor Henry  
Caleigh Mansfield  
Jackson Neugebauer  
James Talbot  
Christopher Zambrano

##### FITNESS GOLD

Meredith Albertelli  
Catherine Batterberry  
Abigail Breen  
Charles Breen  
John Criscuola  
Madison DeCicco  
Kayla Diaz  
Lindsay DiMenna  
Taylor DiMenna  
Liam Dowling  
Elodie Doxsee

##### Colleen Doyle

Carly Dubay  
Daniel Duque  
Mckenna Farrell  
Faith Fiorillo  
Isabella Gerena  
Olivia Gerena  
Daniel Gunther  
Grace Keiley  
Caleigh Mansfield  
Elizabeth Mansfield  
Rachel McAuliff  
Juliana Ott  
Ryan Probeyahn  
Sara Reddan  
Ava Rueb  
Courtney Thornton  
Amelia Sarni  
Elizabeth Sheehan  
Christopher Yonkers  
Zize Zhao

##### FITNESS SILVER

Emma Bianco  
Daniel Bianco  
Alessandra Burke  
Matthew Campos  
Ethan Cohen  
Anthony Contaldi  
Sabrina Conte  
Sofia Criscuola

(below, l-r) SD County Legislature Presiding Officer • Elle Maslak; SD Suffolk County NY State Comptroller • Skylar Collins, Emily Hodgkinson SD Triple "C" • Ethan Etenberg, Aidan Orlando; SD Executive Public Service Award (Suffolk County Executive Steve



Bellone) • Brendan Meyers; American Citizenship • Ava Cutolo; 3 Rs (Respect for self, others, school) • Ella Holt, Leah Vanderborgh, Nathaniel Kavanagh.

## Lincoln Avenue Moving-Up *Continues from page 6.*

our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln who stated, 'The best way to predict the future is to create it.' I predict The Lincoln Avenue Fifth-grade Class of 2017 will be very productive in creating a very bright future."

The Lincoln celebration continued with Middle School Principal Tom Murray greeting his new Sixth-graders. Students representing each Fifth-grade class (see right, top-bottom) Lucy Fielder, Alessandra Burke, Conor Henry) read their insightful essays about their years at Lincoln before each class received their certificates. Music teacher Christine Cirillo directed members of the Fifth-grade Chorus, who sang *Count on Me*. After specific awards from local politicians were given, the concluding number arranged by Ms. Cirillo *Fifth Grade's Done!* which was sung by the entire class. Finally, Dr. LeBlanc wished the students well with, "Congratulations to Lincoln Avenue Class of 2017, the Sayville High School graduating Class of 2024!"

(right, l-r) **LA Triple "C"**  
• Meredith Albertelli,  
Elizabeth Mansfield



(above, l-r) **LA County Legislature Presiding Officer** • Anthony Contaldi, Courtney Thornton

## Cherry Avenue



Welcoming everyone to the 2017 Moving-Up ceremony, Principal Dr. Lisa Ihne acknowledged parents, family, friends, and administrators present making particular mention to "thank Dr. Schartner for his thirty-nine years of service in the Sayville School District and congratulate him on his retirement and extraordinary career. He will certainly be missed. Congratulations to Dr. Stimmel who will be the next Superintendent of Sayville Public Schools."

Dr. Ihne continued by praising the students. "Since our Fifth-graders have been in Second grade, I have enjoyed getting to know them and their families. These students, in particular, have proven to be respectful, kind, and hard working. As much as I would like to keep them longer, it is time to move on to a new building, where exciting and challenging times lie ahead." Dr. Ihne turned to address the Moving-Up class. "Students, I am confident that you will take memories of Cherry Avenue with you and I am happy that the education you received to date has been the foundation for your learning. It is my hope that you will set goals, follow your dreams, remain positive, and persevere through the challenges ahead."

Thanking all the parents for their trust and for being part of their children's education, Dr. Ihne recognized those parents who were moving up as well. After, she introduced Middle School Principal Mr. Thomas Murray, who assured the incoming Sixth-graders they will enjoy the Middle School experience. This was followed by the presentation of the special awards (see below), Moving-Up Certificates, and the Annual Fifth-grade Class Gift, a "Peace Pole," that will be installed in *The McLary Garden* that was newly named in honor of Cherry's retiring green thumb and speech teacher, Patty McLary.

Before the ceremony closed, the entertainment included a charming slideshow prepared by the parents, followed by several musical numbers from *Moana*, beautifully paraphrased and directed by Kristi Woerner, Cherry Avenue's Music teacher.



(left, l-r) **CA New York State Comptroller** • Courtney Corcoran, Caitlyn Schutte, Avery Lazarus

(right) **CA County Legislature Presiding Officer** • Jack D'Andrea



## List of Fifth-grade 2016-2017 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

### Lincoln Avenue *continued*

**FITNESS SILVER**  
Emma Bianco  
Daniel Bianco  
Alessandra Burke  
Matthew Campos  
Ethan Cohen  
Anthony Contaldi  
Sabrina Conte  
Sofia Criscuola  
Jillian Dahlgren  
Mia D'Amore  
Angelina DeVito  
Robert Doyle  
Lucy Fielder  
Connor Henry  
Kodelia Keane  
Mitchell Kolar  
Gianna Maniscalco  
Sienna Maynes  
Jacob McCabe  
Zachary Minutello  
Jackson Neugebauer  
Jada Russell  
Thomas Trotta  
Brett Walther

### Cherry Avenue

**ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS**  
Evan Cook  
Courtney Corcoran  
Lily Corcoran  
Emma Dean-Stahl  
Kate Leigh-Manuell  
Abigail Cabrera  
Avery Lazarus  
Kylie Person  
Kieran Rosica  
Jack D'Andrea  
Genevieve Frawley  
Delaney Lutz  
Joseph Malossi  
Caitlyn Schutte  
Emily Watters  
**SILVER AWARDS**  
Josiah George  
Michael Laterza  
Faith Cummings  
**FITNESS GOLD**  
Luca Berlingieri  
Courtney Corcoran  
Emma Dean-Stahl  
Luke Hansen

Kate Leigh-Manuell  
Michael Luce  
Delaney Lutz  
Eilise Marino  
James Marino  
Allison McDonnell  
Michael McGuinness  
Logan McNamara  
Aislinn Parrott  
Savannah Perez  
Kylie Person  
Matthew Reina  
Keiran Rosica  
Caitlyn Schutte  
Danny Sullivan  
**SILVER**  
Julian Arena  
Travis Behm  
Molly Brady  
Abigail Cabrera  
Gia Caiazzo  
Kyla Canterella  
Rylee Chichester  
Maya Christiansen  
Lily Coan  
Evan Cook  
Lily Corcoran  
Faith Cummings

Jack D'Andrea  
Patrick Dolan  
Sean Folks  
Dominic Franzese  
Genevieve Frawley  
Grace Gaebardino  
Giovanna Grataski  
Aly Hoenes  
Joseph Malossi  
Devin Miller  
Nicholas O'Brien  
Erin Parrott  
Kyla Ricevuto  
Fallon Santoro  
Corrinne Schick  
Tyler Sebor  
Emily Waters  
Zachary Watson  
Carter White

(right) **Executive Public Service Award**  
• Abigail Cabrera



(above, l-r) **CA Triple "C"** • Josiah George, Kate Leigh-Manuell



(left, l-r) **Kemper Awards** • Tyler Sebor, Lily Coan



(left) **Suffolk Zone Award**  
• Eilise Marino, Luke Hansen



(above) **Cameron Riccomini Scholarship Award** • Delaney Lutz

(left) **Cherry Good Choice Award** • Kylie Person

# MIDDLE SCHOOL Class of 2017 MOVES UP

2016-2017 8th-GRADE  
DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS



Two hundred sixty members of the Eighth-grade class entered the auditorium while the Seventh-grade Orchestra played the march. For one final time, the now Moving-Up Class of



2017 assembled as Middle School students. The *Pledge of Allegiance*, led by Chris Kavanagh (above), was followed by the National Anthem, sung *a capella* by Gianna Romano (left) whose exceptionally exquisite voice amazed the audience.

After Principal Thomas Murray welcomed everyone to the celebration, he enumerated the class statistics (see below) with praise for their "outstanding academic discipline and personal integrity."

"As Eighth-graders you have more opportunities at your fingertips than I could ever dream of," Mr. Murray shared. "When I was in middle school, a typewriter was considered new technology.... It is how you use this technology that counts.... It is how

you treat people that will have the greatest impact on the world. You have the power of the technology and you have the power to change people's lives for good. I have the utmost confidence based on what I've seen and heard over the last three years, you will choose to raise people up." To bring home his point, Mr. Murray cited Dr. Seuss: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Mr. Murray added, "As a group of young men and women you have reflected the characteristics of true leaders. You have forged a path of high expectations for future groups to follow. John Quincy Adams once said, 'If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.' Your actions have and will continue to inspire others to dream more, learn more, and become more. The staff at SMS has been so proud and humbled to have had the opportunity to be your teachers. Thank you for three wonderful years. You epitomize the true meaning of excellence."

Directing some students to come to the stage and the rest to stand and face the audience, Mr. Murray cued the "Moving-up Class of 2017 and the future graduating Class of 2021!" to thank their parents with a very special message (see below, right), after which he closed by wishing them all congratulations.

**ALGEBRA** Nicholas Buffardi  
**ART 8** Julia Zaun  
**Studio in Art** Devon Coiro  
**BAND** Ryan VanBoxel  
**CHORUS** Courtney Giattino  
**COMPUTERS** Charles Amodemo  
**CONSUMER/FAMILY SCIENCE** Taylor Banks  
**ENGLISH** Sanjeeda Rahman  
**FRENCH** Jennifer O'Leary  
**LIVING ENVIRONMENT** Hannah Blaskiewicz  
**MATHEMATICS 8** Alexis Helman  
**ORCHESTRA** Grace Urmaza  
**PHYSICAL ED. (BOYS)** Tyler Schaefer  
**PHYSICAL ED. (GIRLS)** Mallory Kinahan  
**SCIENCE 8** Jag Reivers  
**SOCIAL STUDIES** Linda McAuliff  
**SPANISH** Christina Guiffre  
**TECHNOLOGY** Ariel Meza  
**BOE Gold Certificate** Zachary Zukofsky  
**Cameron Riccomini Scholarship** Kaitlyn Menze  
**Erin Halliday-Duffy Sunflower Scholarship**  
 Cash Carter, Erin Henn, Emily Hartman, and Hannah Blaskiewicz,  
**NYS Attorney Triple C Award** Jenna Guerra  
**SC Executive Award** Emma Clark  
**NYS Comptroller's Achievement Award**  
 Emily Rosado & Taylor Schmittze

**STATISTICS** In this new era of academic rigor, the Moving-Up Class of 2017 has risen to the challenges and have excelled.

- 106 students took the Algebra Regents—100% passed.
- 105 students took the Living Environment Regents—100% passed.
- 260 (98% of the class) students have met the requirements for a high school foreign language credit.
- 100 students have taken and passed the High School Studio in Art Class, which is 38% of the class.
- 98% of the Class is leaving with 1 High School Credit+
- 40% of the Class is leaving with 2 High School Credits
- 40% of the Class is leaving with 3 High School Credits

VISIT [SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS](http://SAYVILLESCHOOLS.ORG/TIDINGS) ONLINE FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEO COVERAGE.  
 CLICK ON THE MOVING-UP LINK FOR **MIDDLE SCHOOL**



## THE ARTS

- Our Music Program has competed around the country. NYSSMA students performed solos receiving top honors. Two students were selected to represent Sayville in the Long Island String Festival. Eleven students were selected to be part of the SCMEA All-County band/chorus/orchestra groups. Thirteen students achieved the highest rating, for their NYSSMA solo. Nine musicians received SMBA grants. The music department participated in a practice-athon raising a little over \$1,000.00 for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

## ATHLETICALLY

- Our teams have competed hard and have enjoyed success. There have been many undefeated seasons as well as Section XI Sportsmanship Award winners.

## PTA AWARDS

**GIRLS SPORTSMANSHIP** JADEN CATALINA  
**BOYS SPORTSMANSHIP** AIDAN MCCULLOUGH  
**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP** COURTNEY GIATTINO  
**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SERVICE** HANNAH BLASKIEWICZ  
**ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT** JAMES ANDERSON

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- For the past three years, we have had over 200 Presidential Community Service Winners – serving 20,000 hours of community service
- You raised money to beat cancer; support our soldiers, feed and clothe the needy, fight ALS, and collect toys, making Christmas a little brighter.



**TIDINGS**  
 FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DR. JOHN STIMMEL, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
 99 Greeley Avenue  
 Sayville, New York 11782

LINDA A. MITTIGA  
 SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER & DISTRICT WEBSITE EDITOR

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