

**Brooke Aufiero:** To put it most simply, Brooke is a hard worker. She completes assignments on time, puts forth her maximum effort into every assignment, asks for help when she needs it, spends time studying for tests and recognizes weaknesses and looks for ways to improve. She is motivated and has a true desire to learn. I believe that these characteristics are invaluable and will allow Brooke to be extremely successful in everything she does. - *Ms. Christine Murfitt*

**Maggie Bennett:** Maggie's tenacity towards mastering the content is remarkable. Her thirst for knowledge makes her stand out amongst her peers. In addition, she exhibits other skills such as timeliness, preparedness, and organization that allow her to be successful. Finally, her attitude, disposition, and kindness play an influential role in our class culture. - *Mr. Ray Williams*

**Matthew Bonfanti:** From the very first day of school, Matt has proven to be a respectful, driven student. He is an intelligent young man with a great work ethic and attitude. Matt is a well-rounded student who exemplifies the qualities Sayville Schools stands for. - *Mr. John Nielsen*

**Cassandra Bulmer:** Cassie is a young lady who faces obstacles with a smile on her face. Cassie never dwells on a negative experience or setback; she perseveres with grace and determination in all situations. I admire Cassie's ability to take any challenge in stride, to always do her best, and to choose to share her sense of humor and optimism with others. Cassie undoubtedly works hard in school to be successful, but to me, Cassie's genuine personality and her resilience are what make her so deserving of recognition. I feel lucky to have Cassie as a student. Cassie, your strong character is what makes you so wonderful. - *Ms. Amy Thomas*

**Kevin Bunk:** Kevin Bunk is a remarkable young man. There is not a person who knows Kevin who does not have only the best to say about him. He is the person who all of his friends rely on and with good reason, as Kevin is both loyal and dependable. Having known Kevin since sophomore year, it has been a pleasure watching him grow into such a mature and genuine person. I am proud to know him and to have had him as my student for two years! - *Ms. Georgia Psilakis*

**Thomas Cea:** Despite a challenging year for all students, Tom has never stopped exhibiting a tremendously positive attitude in class towards all aspects of academic and athletic endeavors. Tom's participation has not wavered from in person to virtual learning and his academic disposition is exemplar. - *Mr. Ray Williams*

**Lilly Clampett:** What's not to say about Lilly?! She enters my room with a cheerful greeting, and always has something kind to say. Lilly's work ethic amazes me – she is so conscientious, dedicated and cares about her education. I am so fortunate to have her in my class this year! Lilly is my ray of sunshine on a

cloudy day. Her parents should be proud of their wonderful daughter – I know I am. - *Ms. Alisa Galea*

**Ethan Entenberg:** Ethan is an absolute delight to have in Spanish class. Ethan has a positive attitude each day and it is infectious to those around him. He has a knack for Spanish that he shares with his classmates, and isn't afraid to make mistakes as he navigates language learning. Because of this, he is a wonderful example to others and helps make his peers comfortable in practicing language as well. Ethan is actively involved as a class officer and a member of Fashion Club, sharing his enthusiasm with even more than just those students in our class. - *Ms. Julia Sergison*

**Niyah Fortunato:** Niyah is a fresh of breath air during this very trying school year. She always comes into class with a smile on her face ready to engage in the lesson. She actively gets involved and even tries to get her classmates to participate as well, knowing class is better when we have more participation. I also want to acknowledge she makes it a point to speak to the other teachers in the room, even though she doesn't have an aide or use my co-teacher for resource room. Niyah is a wonderful young lady who I not only enjoy having in class, but have enjoyed getting to know. She is very deserving of this award and being recognized for just doing what is right. - *Mr. Adam Sznitken*

**Amber Gidden:** While most other students are following the leader, dressing with the same clothes and are afraid to be original; Amber lets her uniqueness shine. If you've ever seen her during a "Spirit Week" or around the holidays, she's the one who is dressed up in some kind of creative fashion, perhaps it's a bath robe and some bunny slippers, a beret, or maybe just some funky makeup. Although you may not know it because she is not a loud talker, this young lady's unabashed style and creativity leads by example and it is for this that I would like to recognize her. - *Mr. Evan Hammer*

**Erin Henn:** Erin is a young lady who has maintained a kind heart and positive spirit during the most challenging of times. She is extremely versatile in that she succeeds academically, personally and extracurricularly. Erin personifies perseverance and demonstrates diligence. She has grown so much in her four years at Sayville High School. - *Ms. Angela O'Hoppe*

**Taylor Hoss:** I have nominated Taylor for this award because of her outstanding character, enthusiasm, and perseverance. From the beginning of the school year Taylor has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to learning. The time and effort that she puts into her work are evident. Each day she comes to class motivated to do her best. Throughout the school year I have gotten to see not only what a hardworking and dedicated student Taylor is, but also what a kind person she is. Thank you for being such a great presence in our class Taylor! - *Ms. Alison Galea*

**Sara Jaklitsch:** Sara has been nominated for this award because of the outstanding character she has demonstrated this year. Each day Sara comes to class motivated and ready to learn. Sara is always one of the first people to raise her hand with a thoughtful answer to a problem. The focus and energy that Sara puts into her work is clear. She has shown unwavering diligence in a very challenging course. In addition, Sara is an incredibly kind person and has a positive impact on our class. Congratulations, Sara! - *Ms. Alison Galea*

**Ty Kolar:** Ty is an incredible person in and outside the classroom. I have had the pleasure of having Ty in both my Virtual Enterprises International and Sports Marketing classes. Each day, I've witnessed him work hard to complete any task he is assigned, be an outstanding friend to his peers and teammates, and display the utmost respect to all staff and faculty. Ty is one of the most humble and kind-hearted students I have met in my career. It is my absolute pleasure to award Ty with this honor. - *Ms. Hannah Michaelson*

**Will Kretz:** It is an honor to nominate Will Kretz for Breakfast of Champions. Will is a remarkable young man whose work-ethic and dedication are to be commended. He is an excellent student whose love of history and a genuine curiosity in social studies is undeniable. As a History Club member, Will's leadership was imperative in organizing research for the Veteran's Wall of Honor Project. The club is truly indebted to Will for this painstakingly work and could not have completed it without him! Will's genuine humility and infectious sense of humor, serve as a positive role-model for our students. It is truly a privilege to work with Will. There is no doubt he will go on to accomplish great things! - *Ms. Susan Hart*

**Luca Maron:** Luca has shown tremendous grit, resilience, and fortitude since last September when he was attending class virtually. Throughout that time, he remained adamant about participating in class and getting his work done to the utmost level. Now, his kindness, intellect, and forthcoming are being displayed in class each and every day in school.

**Jordan Messina:** Jordan is one of the most kind, polite, and hard-working students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching. She is always willing to help others, and her happy personality truly stands out. Jordan puts 100% effort into everything she does with a big smile on her face, and consistently excels at every level. - *Mr. John Nielsen*

**Aidan Orlando:** I nominate 9th grader, Aidan Orlando for the Breakfast of the Champions award. Aidan is an amazing young man who deserves to be recognized for his outstanding achievement. He made a beautiful transition into Sayville High School this year. This was my first year meeting Aidan, and he has demonstrated so many admirable qualities. Polite, studious, conscientious,

respectful, honest, diligent and hardworking are just a handful of words I think of to describe Aidan. It has been a pleasure to observe his academic and social growth this year. Aidan has become comfortable with who he is, and is always kind, caring and patient with everyone. His work effort is top notch, often staying past 10th period on Friday afternoons! He is willing to do what it takes to better his work and understanding of his academics. Aidan is an inspiration to other students. His comfort in asking questions on difficult topics certainly helps others in the class who are less comfortable admitting that they may need help or an additional example. Aidan never gives up, and he puts forth 100% effort every day. His dedication to school this year, including his academic responsibility, strong work ethic and desire to succeed shines through in every interaction with him. Aidan is currently involved in Student Government, swimming, playing the drums and mentoring at ISF, which is an inclusive sports program in which he helps kids with special needs. He is an excellent friend, student, son, sibling and person! He is an asset and an absolute pleasure to have in class. Aidan is an exemplary student! - *Ms. Amber Danisi*

**Sara Probeyahn:** Sara is a talented artist with a wonderful attitude. She is creative and happy to share her work with those around her. She has a positive and cheerful attitude that makes her a joy to be around.- *Ms. Diane Messing*

**Sanjeeda Rahman:** Sanjeeda Rahman is a young woman who is going to conquer the world! She is a student in my AP Spanish Language and Culture class and the Anchor Club President where she has played a key role in the club's success. Often the first to volunteer for an activity, she leads the club by her actions, not just her words. Sanjeeda is a role model for her peers, an honor student with an outstanding work ethic, a school leader with a tremendous sense of responsibility, and most importantly a kind and compassionate young woman. Sanjeeda is the definition of a true champion and is very deserving of this award! - *Ms. Melissa Rizzo-Shore*

**Tyler Schaefer:** Tyler Schaefer will be well recognized for his academic achievements as his senior year comes to a close. And while I can definitely attest to his powerful intellect and prodigious work ethic, I would like to comment on the strength of his character. Tyler is consistently the first person to raise his hand when the work of the world needs to get done. Whether it is motivating classroom discussion or cleaning up on Main Street, Tyler Schaefer is up to the task. In the words of poet Marge Piercy:

I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest

and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

I wish Tyler the very best as he moves on from Sayville High School, confident that he will continue to be of use. - *Mr. Doug Shaw*

**Jake Thorry:** It is with great pleasure that I write this letter that recognizes Jake Thorry for the Breakfast of Champions. As soon as I read the email requesting names to be nominated, I immediately thought of Jake, who was such a pleasure to get to know this year. Jake puts forth a great effort every day. He never takes a day off from his quest for learning and is prepared for class with his homework and participates often in a positive way. He is a genuinely kind, respectful young man with a great sense of humor and is a tremendous asset to Sayville High School. He will surely be missed when he graduates. - *Mr. Chris Surrusco*

**Christopher Travaglia:** It is my pleasure to nominate Christopher Travaglia for “Breakfast of Champions.” In addition to being a pleasure to have in class, Chris is my right-hand man when it comes to troubleshooting technical problems. His supportive attitude and tech assistance has been a big help navigating hybrid teaching and is greatly appreciated! - *Ms. Eileen Walsh-Ahrens*

**Natasha Yajadda:** Natasha Yajadda is an exceptional young woman. She has the ability to light up a room within moments of entering it. During class she is an asset to her classmates, always willing to help them if she can. Having known Natasha since freshman year, it has been a pleasure watching her grow and watching her always be a reliable source of comfort and joy to others! I am proud to know her and to have her as my student! - *Ms. Georgia Psilakis*

**Samantha Young:** It is an honor to recognize Samantha Young for her outstanding character and determination. In working with Sam for the last four years, I can say that she is easily the most independent and self-motivated student I have been lucky enough to work with. Samantha consistently takes responsibility for herself, whether it is school work, athletics, her personal commitments or college plans, Samantha gets things done. I’m consistently impressed by her thoughtful questions when we meet and her meticulous organization and planning. One of her teachers noted that during our school closure and then hybrid schedule, students had to make a conscious decision to take advantage of a situation or rise to the occasion and overcome unbelievable odds to be successful. Samantha, and not to one bit of my surprise, took the road less traveled by most students and worked as hard as she had in the past. In addition, Sam is incredibly kind and compassionate. It has been an absolute joy to work with someone like Samantha over the years and it is reassuring to know that such an intelligent, kind, hardworking young woman is going out in to the

world. I look forward to hearing of her many accomplishments! - *Ms. Colleen Backer-Restrepo*

**Katie Zender:** When asked to nominate a student for the Breakfast of Champions, I immediately thought of Katie Zender. Katie is not only academically at the top of my Anatomy students, she is at the top of having the best character. There is a saying “If you think someone needs a friend then be a friend”. I have watched Katie be that friend to several students including her brother. Katie is a kind gentle soul that also makes everyone around her feel comfortable with her presence. I am proud to be Katie’s teacher and nominate her as a Champion. - *Ms. Cindy Giannico*