



Great Neck Public Schools

William A. Shine–Great Neck South High School

Profile: Class of 2021

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CEEB Code: 332-172

Principal: Dr. Christopher Gitz
Asst. Principals: Adam T. Hopkins
John Duggan

Director of Guidance: Dr. JoAnnEyre Cruz
Counselors: Carly Bank
Christopher Erickson
Allison Gottfried
Erica MacDonald
Stacey Rapp
Dr. Joseph Stopanio

COMMUNITY Great Neck is a residential community of some 40,000 people on the North Shore of Long Island (in Nassau County), within easy commuting distance of Manhattan. Great Neck residents, typically well-educated, are concerned about education and have high expectations for their school system.

SCHOOLS About 6,600 students, grades K–12, attend the Great Neck Public Schools. There are three high schools: North, South, and Village (a small alternative high school), and SEAL Program, an alternative high school. There are two middle schools and four elementary schools. Our students have diverse backgrounds; they come from over 40 countries and represent a broad socioeconomic range. Approximately 1,255 students are enrolled in South High School for the 2020–2021 academic year.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION National publications often include Great Neck South High School among the top secondary schools in the country. These publications have based their conclusions on surveys of groups such as college admissions officers, the Carnegie Foundation, the Institute for Educational Leadership at George Washington University, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT Ninety percent (90%) of South High students achieve a “B” average or better. Ninety-five percent of the South High School Class of 2020 graduated and 96 percent entered college. Thirteen percent were recognized as Finalists or received Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

CURRICULUM South High School offers major sequences in several fields of study. In addition to courses required for graduation, students elect many others according to their abilities, interests, and future plans. Also offered are an independent study program that provides an opportunity for students to explore their own academic pursuits, guided by a teacher; a music program that has earned international, national, and state awards; and a choral program that results in a full-scale opera. Educational opportunities include Advanced Placement (AP), Independent Study, Honors, Regents, accelerated courses, career training, special education, TESL, six languages, including Mandarin Chinese and American Sign Language, and remedial education. South High School offers between 26 and 29 AP courses, depending on the school year. AP courses are available in art, art history, biology, calculus, chemistry, Chinese, computer science, economics, English, environmental science, French, government, history, Latin, music, physics, psychology, Spanish, and statistics.

CUMULATIVE AVERAGE

The cumulative average, computed at the end of eleventh grade, includes all subjects in which a student received a final numerical grade, with the exception of physical education. **There is no weighting of grades for honors and advanced placement courses.**

CLASS RANK

In accordance with Great Neck Board of Education policy, **students are not ranked by cumulative averages relative to their classmates.** A distribution of cumulative averages for the South High School Class of 2021, computed at the end of eleventh grade, follows.

DISTRIBUTION OF CUMULATIVE AVERAGES

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL – CLASS OF 2021

Cumulative Averages	% of Class
95 & above	8.92
90–94.9	41.08
85–89.9	28.03
80–84.9	13.38
75–79.9	7.01
74.9 & below	1.58

Past statistical analysis has indicated a correlation between scores on New York State Regents Examinations and final course grades of approximately +.80.

For the 2019–2020 academic year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Great Neck’s grading policy was as follows: grades for the fourth marking period were A (90-100), B (80-89), P (65-79), and F (64); grades for full-year courses averaged the four quarter grades; grades for semester courses averaged the two relevant quarters. Great Neck School District’s one-to-one iPad initiative and its provision of wi-fi hotspots in the community allowed for a continuation of instruction consistent with the rigorous expectations and high standards to which all Great Neck students are accustomed. Furthermore, please note that due to the cancellation of New York State Regents Examinations, students were granted exemptions based on their course work, which is reflected as an “E” on the academic transcript.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Subject Area	22 Units of Credit
English	4
Social Studies	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Foreign Language	1
Health Education	1
Physical Education	2
Art/Music/Drama	1
Electives	3

FUTURE PLANS

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL – CLASS OF 2020

Higher Education	95.1%
Four-Year Colleges	87.6%
Two-Year Colleges	7.5%
Other	4.9%

SCHOLARSHIP DATA

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL – CLASS OF 2020

Program	Recipients
National Merit Scholarship Competition	
Finalists	12
Commended Students	29

COLLEGE BOARD ADMISSIONS TESTS SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL — CLASS OF 2020

Test	Number Tested	School Mean	State Mean
SAT–Critical Reading	239*	643	528
SAT–Math	239*	691	530
SAT II: Subject Tests			
Biology E	61	707	
Biology M	33	744	
Chemistry	76	738	
Chinese	4	770	
English Literature	11	649	
French	1	670	
Italian	2	655	
Latin	1	800	
Math–Level I	16	669	
Math–Level II	108	749	
Modern Hebrew	1	460	
Physics	25	707	
Spanish	1	790	
US History	30	656	
World History	24	650	

* Represents 76% of class.

ACT (American College Testing) SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL — CLASS OF 2019**

Test	Number Tested	School Mean	State Mean
English	103	29.4	24.1**
Mathematics	103	28.6	24.1**
Reading	103	29.0	25.0**
Science	103	28.0	24.4**
Composite	103	28.9	24.5**
Writing	103	8.0	7.6**

**Awaiting 2020 data.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL — 2019–2020

Subject	Number Tested*	% With 3 or Better
Art: 2D	15	87
Art: Drawing	22	100
Biology	51	98
Chemistry	24	100
Chinese	10	100
Computer Science A	33	88
Economics: Macro	73	99
Economics: Micro	74	97
English Language & Composition	104	95
English Literature & Composition	68	87
Environmental Science	101	66
French Language and Culture	9	89
Government & Politics: US	47	74
History: United States	120	83
History: World	129	94
Human Geography	80	90
Italian	1	100
Latin	10	90
Math: Calculus AB	47	94
Math: Calculus BC	43	98
Physics 1	107	93
Physics 2	22	95
Physics C: E&M	12	100
Physics C: Mechanics	12	100
Psychology	194	88
Spanish Language	45	100
Statistics	76	86

* 674 students, representing 54% of the school, took one or more AP tests.

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS Participation in extracurricular activities is actively encouraged and supported. Ninety percent of the students participate in some 28 interscholastic athletic teams and over 65 clubs and activities. A sampling of the latter includes: Academic Team, African-American Culture Club, Asian Cultural Society, Astronomy Club, Community Action Committee, Computer Club, Debate Team, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Government Club, Harry Potter Club, Hebrew Culture Club, Key Club, Model Congress, Robotics, Science Olympiad, and Spanish Culture Club.

TRANSCRIPT CONVERSIONS Grading systems used at Great Neck South High School differ greatly from those in other districts. Grades are transcribed as CRD (credit) and are assigned as follows: 1 credit for a full-year course that meets everyday and .5 credit for a half-year course that meets everyday. Student transcripts from schools other than Great Neck South High School will be submitted for evaluation and perusal by admissions officers.

ACCREDITATION AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS Great Neck South High School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and certified by the New York State Education Department. The school holds institutional memberships with the College Entrance Examination Board, the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

VISITS BY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES College representatives are always welcome in our school to meet with counselors and interested students. In response to safety protocols related to COVID-19, visits by college representatives will be arranged virtually when possible. Schedules for these events are available each fall and are updated regularly through Students' Naviance account.

Board of Education: Barbara Berkowitz, *president*; Donald L. Ashkenase, *vice president*;
Donna Peirez, Rebecca Sassouni, Jeffrey Shi, *trustees*

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Teresa Prendergast

Assistant Superintendent for Business: John T. Powell

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education: Kelly Newman

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education: Dr. Stephen Lando

Assistant Superintendent for Special Education & Pupil Services: Dr. Joseph G. Hickey