

# VALUE Education

RyeNeck Schools  
LEARN • ACHIEVE • LEAD

Graduation 2023

## Superintendent's Notebook

Eric Lutinski, Ed.D.



We closed the spring with wonderful ceremonies to celebrate the conclusion of elementary school, middle school, and high school for the 2022-23 school year. Each was a memorable event, mostly because of the quality of our student speeches.

Our 5th grade enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning on June 15th on the F.E. Bellows fields. High School Student Senate President Tomás Fernández, who graduated this year, gave a remarkable and heartfelt address to the 5th grade students on their way to the big campus. The address by the Senate President is a new tradition that started at F.E. Bellows right before the pandemic. The Middle School Moving Up on June 21st celebrated our 8th grade and featured student awards from government agencies and service organizations and awards for academic excellence and effort. Student remarks were a cornerstone of this ceremony as well. This was a bittersweet ceremony for me, as the last students I knew as RNMS principal are now in our high school.

The Rye Neck High School Graduation took place on our football field, and the mild weather and high school band accentuated the joyful setting. Our high school tradition is to invite a graduate from ten years in the past as the keynote speaker. This year's graduate from a decade ago was Alyssa Vinzons, who is a nurse at the New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in the Pediatric and Infant Cardiac Intensive Care units. Her words highlighted the potential and promise of each graduate in the Class of 2023 and set the tone for their first step into the future.

To the Class of 2023: On behalf of everyone across the district, congratulations! We are excited to know that you are prepared for the next chapter of your life. Please remember all those who attended your graduation and the values, traditions, love, and spirit they all represent. We are confident you are equipped to handle the challenges beyond Rye Neck, and I look forward to seeing you on campus for Homecoming next fall.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

## A Message from High School Principal

Tina Wilson, Ed.D.



The Rye Neck Class of 2023 is a talented group of scholars, athletes, thespians, artists and musicians. Each of our graduates has worked to forge their own unique path. Rye Neck will be represented at 84 universities or colleges, including a record number of students who will attend school abroad in Canada, Ireland, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Some of our graduates will join the workforce using the knowledge and skills they honed during their time at Rye Neck. Regardless of the path ahead, this group faced adversity together, and developed generosity of spirit, a strong sense of community, and dedication to service: all key characteristics of the Rye Neck graduate profile.

The Class of 2023 completed 22,636 hours of community service in a wide range of activities. Throughout Westchester, they participated in the Polar Plunge and Toys for Tots; supported the less fortunate by assisting the Larchmont Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force and participating in Midnight Runs hosted by neighborhood churches; and volunteered at clean-up efforts after Hurricane Ida devastated the community. Additionally, they spearheaded fundraising campaigns to improve the lives of those impacted by natural, economic and political crises around the world. Our Panthers know that community is not just geography, but also the more intangible aspects that are felt with the heart.

Mahatma Gandhi believed "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." So, as our graduates embark on the next chapter of their lives, I am confident they will continue to share the Rye Neck spirit wherever their journey takes them.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!



## Class of 2023

Mercy Aguilar\*  
 Nada Aissaoui  
 Robyn Alberts\*  
 Ilias Alradi  
 Michaela Ann Alsiadi\*  
 Alara Grace Altinbas\*  
 Julian G. Alvarado  
 Jacob A. Anderson\*  
 Ryan Nicholas Baio\*  
 Henri Bano\*  
 Santiago Barajas\*  
 Andrew Bashli  
 Gabriella Bayer\*  
 Camila G. Becerra  
 Daniela Becerra  
 Joseph M. Bianchini  
 Kaitlyn R. Blanch\*  
 Adil Bolatov\*  
 Alexander Tarkazikis Boreland  
 Maximus Tarkazikis Boreland  
 Nicholas Franklin Boron\*  
 James T. Botsacos III  
 Alessandra Rose Brewer  
 Mirabelle Christina Monique Brown\*  
 Alexander Cajas  
 Gabriel Cajas\*  
 Max Truman Calcagni  
 Jack Christopher Calicchio  
 Sebastian Cardona\*  
 Alexis Castillo-Rios  
 Andrew Cavanagh  
 Miranda Chaffin  
 Brady Wolff Chamberlain  
 Lia Cilento  
 Jasmin J. Colon\*

Mia Grace F. Cooper\*  
 Tony H. Currie  
 Juliette Aoife Cusson-Buckley\*  
 Oceane Daumasson\*  
 Sheily R. De Leon  
 Jack DiMaggio  
 Savanna DiMurro  
 Victoria DiMurro  
 Carolina Doherty\*  
 Cindy M. Echeverria  
 Sophia Victoria Engelen\*  
 Arad Eshtiaghi  
 James Fall\*  
 Isabella Sophia Fasolino\*  
 Ethan Z. Felenstein\*  
 Tomás Thor Fernández Idunnarson\*  
 Gray Ferraro  
 Nathaniel Walker Findlay\*  
 Klara Anna Ingegerd Finkenberg\*  
 Krishna Finkenberg\*  
 Jack S. Fisher  
 Russell John Foster  
 Meaghan Fox\*  
 Alexis Friedman\*  
 Deyvi Fuentes Miranda  
 Clementine Garnier\*  
 Shelby Amanda Gellman\*  
 Erin E. Gjyrezi\*  
 Gabriel W. Gray  
 Jocelyn Greshes\*  
 Lizbeth C. Guevara\*  
 Robert A. Hutt Jr.  
 Kimichika H. Irie\*  
 Lola Jovanovic\*  
 Linto Kawai

Jiwoo Kim\*  
 Brandon Kingwood  
 Matthias J. Lauvau\*  
 Joseph Lavelle\*  
 Armandine Le Bertre\*  
 Emerly Lin\*  
 Ethan Lithgow  
 Anthony M. Loiacono  
 Kevin J. Longbucco  
 Juliana M. Lori\*  
 Amaris Mena Lugo  
 David Magill\*  
 Phoebe Marcuse\*  
 Talia T. Martelli\*  
 Said Mayorga  
 Cameron A. McClumpha  
 Angeline Medina\*  
 Bryan Mejia  
 Joshua Jericho Melegrito\*  
 Diana M. Micalizzi  
 Skylar Mindich  
 Maregli D. Miranda Velasquez\*  
 Madeline Anne Mitchell\*  
 Sebastian Motolinia\*  
 Brianne Murphy\*  
 Elias Murphy  
 Julia Murphy\*  
 Alexander Musicus  
 Dillon Ryder Nashelsky\*  
 Caleigh S. Nason\*  
 Bryan Obando Carvalho  
 Asha Ann O'Reilly\*  
 Joel Paredes  
 Cameron James Park\*  
 Daniella Angelie Pirrone\*

Jillian Romani\*  
 Arnesh Roy  
 Eduardo Ruigomez\*  
 Matthew D. Ryan\*  
 Kara Adelina Saimovici\*  
 William Anthony Saltus  
 Dulcinea Sarnicola  
 Lillian Schaub\*  
 Lucie S. Schmuck\*  
 Eytan Sebbane\*  
 William Shiffer  
 Harrison Bryce Simon\*  
 Jaden J. Snow  
 Skye Spencer\*  
 Matthew Franz Steeves\*  
 Colin L. Stone\*  
 Catherine Sykes\*  
 Lulu Tagger-Epstein  
 Gabriel Roberto Tan Chu Sze\*  
 Christian H. Thewes\*  
 Mariam Thiam  
 Jérémie R. Thinat\*  
 Olivia G. Tobin\*  
 Shae Marie Tunno\*  
 Anthony J. Vasquez  
 Linda C. Vasquez\*  
 Daniel Vera Machuca\*  
 Abigail Victory\*  
 Noah Vienne\*  
 Sophia Villegas-Laborde\*  
 Chelsea Wang\*  
 Luke West\*  
 Ronan T. West\*  
 Sofia C. Zapata

# College Acceptances - Class of 2023

Adelphi University  
 Allegheny College  
 American University  
 Amherst College  
 Arizona State University-Tempe  
 Babson College  
 Bates College  
 Beloit College  
 Bennington College  
 Bentley University  
 Boston College  
 Boston University  
 Bowdoin College  
 Brandeis University  
 Bridgewater State University  
 Bucknell University  
 Cal Poly  
 California State University  
 Carleton College  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 The Catholic University of America  
 Cedar Crest College  
 Central Connecticut State University  
 College of Charleston  
 Clark University  
 Clark Atlanta University  
 Clarkson University  
 Clemson University  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 Colgate University  
 The College of Saint Rose  
 Colorado College  
 Colorado State University-Fort Collins  
 Columbia University  
 Concordia University - Montreal  
 Connecticut College  
 Cornell College  
 CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College  
 CUNY City College  
 CUNY The City University of New York  
 CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
 Dartmouth College  
 DePaul University  
 Drexel University  
 Duke University  
 Eastern Connecticut State University  
 Elmira College  
 Elon University  
 Emerson College  
 Emory University  
 ESCP Europe Business School-London  
 Fairfield University  
 Fashion Institute of Technology  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Florida Institute of Technology  
 Fordham University  
 Franklin and Marshall College  
 George Mason University  
 The George Washington University  
 Gettysburg College  
 Goucher College  
 Hamilton College  
 Hampton University  
 Hartwick College  
 Haverford College  
 High Point University

Hofstra University  
 IE University - Madrid, Spain  
 IE University - Segovia, Spain  
 Indiana University-Bloomington  
 Iona College  
 Ithaca College  
 James Madison University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Johnson & Wales University-  
 Providence  
 Kean University  
 King's University College at the  
 University of Western Ontario  
 Le Moyne College  
 Lehigh University  
 Long Island University Post  
 Louisiana State University  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Loyola University Chicago  
 Lynn University  
 Manhattan College  
 Manhattanville College  
 Marist College  
 Marymount Manhattan College  
 McGill University  
 McMaster University  
 Mercy College  
 Miami University, Oxford  
 Michigan State University  
 Montclair State University  
 Morehouse College  
 Morgan State University  
 Mount Holyoke College  
 Mount Saint Mary College  
 Muhlenberg College  
 Nazareth College  
 NEOMA Business School, France  
 New Jersey Institute of Technology  
 The College of New Jersey  
 New York Institute of Technology  
 New York University  
 North Carolina A&T State University  
 North Carolina St. University at Raleigh  
 Northeastern University  
 Northwestern University  
 Ohio State University-Main Campus  
 Oklahoma City University  
 Oklahoma State University  
 Old Dominion University  
 Oral Roberts University  
 Pace University, NYC  
 Pace University, Westchester  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Point Park University  
 Providence College  
 Quinnipiac University  
 Ramapo College of New Jersey  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Rice University  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 Roger Williams University  
 Rollins College  
 Rowan University  
 Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
 Sacred Heart University  
 San Diego State University  
 San Jose State University

Santa Clara University  
 Savannah College of Art & Design  
 School of Visual Arts  
 Seton Hall University  
 Shelton State Community College  
 Siena College  
 Simon Fraser University  
 Skidmore College  
 South Carolina State University  
 St. John's University  
 St. Lawrence University  
 St. Mary's University  
 St. Thomas Aquinas College  
 Stetson University  
 Stonehill College  
 SUNY University at Albany  
 SUNY College of Technology- Alfred  
 SUNY Binghamton  
 SUNY Brockport  
 SUNY Buffalo State  
 SUNY University at Buffalo  
 SUNY College of Agriculture and  
 Technology at Cobleskill  
 SUNY Cortland  
 SUNY College of Technology - Delhi  
 SUNY College of Environmental  
 Science and Forestry  
 SUNY Farmingdale  
 SUNY Fredonia  
 SUNY Geneseo  
 SUNY Maritime  
 SUNY Morrisville  
 SUNY New Paltz  
 SUNY Old Westbury  
 SUNY Oneonta  
 SUNY Oswego  
 SUNY Plattsburgh  
 SUNY Potsdam  
 SUNY Purchase  
 SUNY Stony Brook  
 SUNY Westchester Community  
 Susquehanna University  
 Syracuse University  
 Temple University  
 Texas State University  
 Thomas College  
 Trinity College Dublin  
 Tufts University  
 Tulane University  
 Union College  
 University of California - Berkeley  
 University of California - San Diego  
 University of California - Santa Barbara  
 University of Cincinnati - Main Campus  
 University College Dublin  
 University College London  
 University of Colorado Boulder  
 University of Colorado Denver  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Denver  
 University College Dublin  
 University of Florida  
 University of Georgia  
 University of Hartford  
 University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign  
 University of Maryland, College Park

University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
 University of Massachusetts-Boston  
 University of Massachusetts-Lowell  
 University of Miami  
 University of Michigan - Ann Arbor  
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
 University of New Hampshire  
 The University of North Carolina at  
 Chapel Hill  
 University of North Carolina at  
 Greensboro  
 University of North Dakota  
 University of North Texas  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Rhode Island  
 University of Richmond  
 University of Rochester  
 University of San Francisco  
 University of Southern California  
 The University of Tampa  
 University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
 The University of Texas at Austin  
 The University of Texas at Dallas  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Utah  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Virginia  
 University of Washington-Seattle  
 University of Waterloo  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 Utah State University  
 Utah Valley University  
 Utica University  
 Vassar College  
 Villanova University  
 Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Virginia Tech  
 Wagner College  
 Wake Forest University  
 Wellesley College  
 Wesleyan University  
 West Virginia University Institute of  
 Technology  
 Western Connecticut State  
 University  
 Westminster College  
 Wheaton College - Massachusetts  
 Wilkes University  
 Williams College  
 The College of Wooster



### Chelsea Wang Class of 2023 Valedictorian

Senior Chelsea Wang is the Class of 2023 Valedictorian, but she's not one to tout her accomplishments and doesn't like being in the spotlight. In fact, she never officially announced where she's going to college next year because she doesn't agree with the emphasis placed on that decision. Instead, she thinks people should focus more on the best option for themselves and less on if they'll be judged for their choice. She says, "people can get a fantastic education no matter where they go."

The self-proclaimed perfectionist thinks it's incredibly important to be well-read and "doesn't think she'd be Valedictorian without that, even if the books she read didn't relate to what she was learning in class." As an introvert, she used books to help her interpret other people and understand the different realities we experience. Her strong opinions on social issues are both created and challenged by the books she reads.

One of the topics she's passionate about is amatonormativity: a concept coined by Rice University professor Dr. Elizabeth Brake. Amatonormativity "is the widespread assumption that everyone is better off in an exclusive, romantic, long-term coupled relationship, and that everyone is seeking such a relationship." Chelsea says "love without being understood is empty." People can't control their romantic attractions and to place "so much emphasis on something you don't control feels really damaging to her." She's interested in how different our society would be if amatonormativity wasn't so embedded. She wonders "how do people act differently when there is a romantic attraction or validation at stake and is this difference authentic to ourselves?"

Instead, she thinks platonic relationships should be prioritized more. She says friendship is a very beautiful thing, but acknowledges that it's not given the same value as romantic relationships. She finds it strange that someone might have no problem asking a partner to move across the country with them, but asking a friend to do the same isn't considered socially acceptable because friendship isn't seen as important as familial or romantic relationships. She says, "the expectations of friendships are much lower than those two because of the way our laws and society are structured." As an avid reader, she likes to read books with powerful friendships at the core because she's drawn to that connection, but she says it's rare to find stories that center on friendships as opposed to romantic relationships.

Chelsea likes to do her own thing and despises the societal "norms" and pressure placed on people, especially in high school. Admittedly, she has negative impressions of people. Because of Rye Neck's size, she says people are seen in their entirety, which can be good and bad. Her emphasis on friendships comes from watching people settle for convenient relationships rather than valuing their sense of self. Her advice to those who might think like she does: "there are people out there who will like you for you, don't settle for less."

### Nathaniel Findlay Class of 2023 Salutatorian

Senior Nathaniel Findlay is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2023: an achievement he is honored to have earned because he is constantly in awe of how intelligent and dedicated his entire grade is.

While Salutatorian wasn't necessarily a goal for him, he sets incredibly high expectations for himself and feels an internal pressure to do well. He knew his grades were strong and he was confident in his ability, but he didn't know for sure where he stood compared to his peers; so the announcement was a little bit of a surprise. He admits senioritis (the common phenomenon where many seniors tend to "check out" once they've submitted their college applications) hit in mid-January; but the lack of stress not only helped him continue to do well in his classes, he really got a chance to enjoy the end of his senior year.

Nathaniel's transcript includes 8 AP classes, 5 of which he took senior year. However, his favorites were classes like Bioethics and Social Inequalities in the United States, which challenged him to think beyond the obvious solutions and explore perspectives that had no real right answer. It was about learning to see the merit in both sides of an argument. Nathaniel says he's always been better at justifying his thoughts than selecting multiple choice answers, so classes revolving around student voice and discussions honed in on those skills and led to an interest in psychology, which directed his college search.

In recent months, Nathaniel has garnered several accolades for his performance as Dmitry in "Anastasia," including winning the Metro Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Male Role; a nomination for Outstanding Duet at the Metro Awards with Lulu Tagger; and a nomination in the 2023 Roger Rees Awards. He also was awarded Best in Fest at the NY Thespian Festival, and a Superior Rating in both Solo and Duet Musical Theatre at the NY Thesys. Despite all of this, he didn't apply to colleges for theater.

At the time his applications were due, he was more interested in studying psychology and law. He's passionate about the relationship between politics and mental health, which he says needs to be addressed more in society. He's frustrated by the idea that "people can't just exist...if someone has a problem in their life, it's always criticized by someone who's not experiencing that problem and, therefore, can't see it from that point of view." To combat the issue, he's founded projects that use his passion, music, to raise awareness and money for disadvantaged LGBTQ+ teens in the city who don't have a similar socioeconomic environment as Westchester County. All of this led him to commit to Georgetown University.

He imagined continuing theater as an extra-curricular, but now he's "kind of at a crossroads." Music and theater is "what he wants to do, and can't imagine just stopping." As of right now, he is looking at pursuing a double major in theater and psychology, but is open to putting his name out there. Nathaniel is excited to just "see what happens" and explore this fall, because if something isn't the right environment, he'll be able to search and find it somewhere else.

Previously a fierce competitive swimmer, his first stint with acting was in 8th grade when he played the Tin Man in Rye Neck Middle School's production of "The Wizard of Oz." When the pandemic hit a year later and his swim team was forced to stop, he joined productions at Artistree Performing Arts in Mamaroneck and he's been doing at least 2 shows at a time ever since (he's done 6 this year). While his schedule is hectic between rehearsals, homework, and going out with friends, he says it is "absolutely worth it." For Nathaniel, "acting is about constantly learning and playing," and he is always able to find something new to enjoy each day. He admits there is still so much left for him to learn and is excited to expand his horizons directing a short film this summer and hopefully producing productions in Georgetown.

Though unsure of what the future holds, Nathaniel is ready to make it his own and is excited to see who and what the future holds.



# Class of 2023

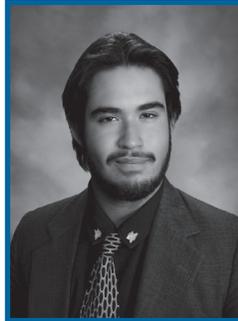
This issue of Value Education celebrates members of Rye Neck's Class of 2023. These students illustrate the range of talent and commitment to success possessed by Rye Neck's entire student body.

These graduates balance their enthusiasm for learning with a broad sampling of extracurricular interests. Rye Neck successfully harnesses their energy through challenging academic programs and rich extra- and co-curricular activities. These opportunities help them develop leadership and production skills and hone special talents that ultimately result in a strong work ethic, a sense of personal empowerment, and value of teamwork.

## SANTIAGO BARAJAS

### SUNY Binghamton

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- Varsity Football Team - Captain, All-League
- Varsity Wrestling Team
- Varsity Lacrosse Team
- Debate Club
- Panther Pride Athletic Department Award
- Three-Year Award - High School Band
- Outstanding Achievement in Video Production Award
- Senior Internship Program - LMC Media



- Clarkson University Leadership and Achievement Award
- Department Awards for Exceptional Achievement in World Language
- Peer Leadership Award
- Independent Learner Program
- Model UN, Student Environmental Council, KEY Club, International Club, Student Athletic Cabinet
- Girls Varsity Soccer - Captain, All-League Honorable Mention
- Rye Neck Athletics Scholar Athlete Award
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Flanders Investment and Trade

## MIRABELLE BROWN

### UC Santa Barbara

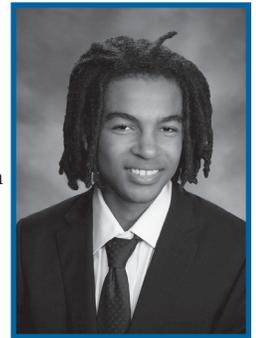
- Blue Ribbon Award for Consistently Outstanding Academic Excellence
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Merit Commended Student
- National Honor Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- Thespian Scholar Award, International Thespian Society
- Highest Average in Math for Four Years
- Department Awards in Math and Science
- Exceptional Achievement in the Study of Two World Languages (French & Spanish)
- Student Environmental Council (President), Glee Club, Model UN, International Club
- Student Senate Member
- Independent Learner Program
- Rye Neck Theater Productions
- Track & Field Team - All-County, All-League
- Varsity Girls Soccer - Most Improved Player
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - F.E. Bellows Elementary School



## JAMES FALL

### University of Massachusetts - Amherst

- National Honor Society
- Thespian Scholar Award
- 2022 Rye City Youth Human Rights Award
- Senior Class Officer - Events Coordinator
- Rye Neck Citizenship Award for Participation in School and Community
- Department Award for Creativity in the Arts
- Racial Unity Club - Co-Founder
- Boys Varsity Soccer
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Daniel Warren Elementary School



## ETHAN FELENSTEIN

### University of Wisconsin

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- AP Scholar
- National Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- Albert Einstein Achievement Award for Forensics
- International Honor Thespian Award
- New York Thespian Thespy Superior Rating
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Artistree Performing Arts



## SOPHIA ENGELEN

### University College London

- Blue Ribbon Award for Consistently Outstanding Academic Excellence
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- ADP Foundation National Merit Special Scholarship
- National Honor Society - President
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- St. John's University Women in Math Award for AP Calculus & Pre-Calculus
- St. John's University Women in Science Award for AP Physics & AP Biology
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Award for Outstanding Achievement in Math & Science



## TOMAS FERNANDEZ

### Columbia University

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- AP Scholar with Honor
- National Honor Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- Student Senate President (12), Vice President (11), Senate (9-12)
- Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award
- Department Award for Highest Average in English for Four Years
- Department Award for Exceptional Achievement in Native Language
- The Albert Einstein Achievement Award for Environmental Science



## 6 • Graduation 2023

- Department Award for Exceptional Achievement in Native Language
- Albert Einstein Achievement Award for Environmental Science
- Leonhard Euler Award for Pre-Calculus
- Debate Club, Spanish Club, Environmental Club, GSA, Women Empowerment Club, SADD, Racial Unity Club, CODA Youth Summit, Westchester County Envirothon, Outcasting Radio Show
- Rye Neck Alumni Scholarship
- Award for Community Service of 100 Hours or More
- Senior Internship Program - Daniel Warren Elementary School

### KLARA FINKENBERG

#### SUNY Albany

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- AP Scholar with Honor
- National Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- Senior Class President
- Parents Club of West Point Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award
- Department Award for Excellence and Achievement in Reading & Writing
- Department Award for Four Year High School Band
- Varsity Field Hockey - Two-Year Captain, All-Section, All-League, MVP (9, 11)
- Rye Neck Athletics Service to Program Award
- Senior Internship Program - SPCA of Westchester



### ALEXIS FRIEDMAN

#### University of Georgia

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- AP Scholar with Honor
- National Honor Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- Department Award for Excellence and Special Interest in United States History
- University of Rochester Frederick Douglass/ Susan B. Anthony Award
- Junior Commissioner for the Rye City Sustainability Committee
- Advisor for the Rye Youth Council
- Independent Learner Program, Mind Your Mind Club (President), Core Curriculum Council, Student Athletic Cabinet, *The Panther's Tale*, SADD, KEY Club
- Girls Varsity Soccer - Captain, All-League
- The Police Chiefs Association Chief Joseph DelBianco Memorial Scholarship
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Lisa Urban, Chief of Staff of New York State Assemblyman Steven Otis



### JOCELYN GRESHES

#### University of Pennsylvania

- AP Scholar with Honor
- National Honor Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- Congressional Gold Medal Award
- Princeton Prize in Race Relations Certificate of Accomplishment
- Stanford University China Scholars Program
- National Security Language Initiative for Youth for Korean Studies
- Brandeis University Book Award
- St. John's University Women in Science Award for Environmental Science
- Organization of Chinese Americans Westchester and Hudson Valley Chapter Jean Wood Chang Award



- The Peter Anthony Fasolino Memorial Scholarship
- Mamaroneck Library Teen Advisory Committee - President
- Researcher for Human Rights Today - Leader, Host
- BookShare Organization and the AAPI Awareness Committee - Founder
- *The Panther's Tale* - Editor
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Cecile Cana, Firm Administrator, Davidoff Hutcher & Citron

### TALIA MARTELLI

#### Fairfield University

- Blue Ribbon Award for Motivation, Effort, Growth and Improvement
- National Honor Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- International Honor Thespian Award
- Metro Awards Nominee - Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Female Identified Role
- St. John's University Women in Science Award for Physiology
- Michael P. Canno Scholarship
- Girls Varsity Tennis
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - F.E. Bellows Elementary School



### DILLON NASHESKY

#### Northwestern University

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- AP Scholar with Honor
- National Merit Scholar
- National Honor Society
- International Thespian Society and International Honor Thespian Award
- Department Award and Leonhard Euler Award for AP Statistics
- Department Award for Outstanding Contribution to the High School Chorus
- Rochester Institute of Technology Innovation and Creativity Award
- New York Thespian All-State Performer, Superior Rating
- Rye Neck Theater Productions - multiple lead roles
- Artistree Performing Arts Theater Productions/Classes/Cabarets
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Artistree Performing Arts



### EDUARDO RUIGOMEZ

#### Johns Hopkins University

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Honor Society
- International Thespian Society and Thespian Scholar
- 2022 Rye City Youth Human Rights Award
- Albert Einstein Achievement Award for Chemistry
- Boys Varsity Soccer
- Rye Neck Theater Productions - actor, stage crew, sound crew
- Racial Unity Club - Co-Founder
- KEY Club, GSA Club
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - MIDL Technology



**SKYE SPENCER**

**University of Virginia**

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- Rochester Institute of Technology Innovation and Creativity Award
- St. John's University Women in Math and Science Awards for Calculus I, Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science
- Department Awards for Achievement in Psychology and Photography
- 2021 President's Volunteer Service Award
- Wendy's High School Heisman School Award
- Independent Learner Program
- SADD (Vice President), Mind Your Mind Club, Student Environmental Council, KEY Club (Treasurer)
- Varsity Girls Soccer - Captain, All-Section, All-League
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Red Wagon Design



**OLIVIA TOBIN**

**University of Richmond**

- Blue Ribbon Award for Service, Leadership, Achievement and Rye Neck Spirit
- AP Scholar
- National Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award
- St. John's University Women in Math and Science Awards for AP Chemistry, Calculus I and Algebra II
- Varsity Softball - Captain, All-League, All-Section Honorable Mention (12)
- Girls Varsity Tennis - Captain, All-League
- Old Timer's Athletic Department Award
- Con Edison Scholar Athlete of the Week - Softball
- SAC, SADD (President), HOSA, Mind Your Mind Club, KEY Club
- Independent Learner Program
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - Dr. Eric Spender, MD FAAOS



**MATTHEW STEEVES**

**University of Waterloo**

- AP Scholar
- National Honor Society
- National Merit Commended Student
- Albert Einstein Achievement Award in AP Chemistry and AP Physics
- Leonhard Euler Award for Pre-Calculus
- Department Award for Excellence and Achievement in Reading & Writing
- Boys Varsity Tennis - Captain, All-League
- United States Tennis Association Junior Board
- US Open Ball Crew
- Award for Community Service of 100 hours or more
- Senior Internship Program - HOK Architecture and Planning



**Student Scholarship Fund Committee**

The Student Aid Scholarship Fund Committee (also known as the Student Aid Fund) had a great year last year. The Fund awarded fifteen graduating seniors a total of \$17,500 to put to use in their next level of study. Several local organizations generously donated funds to be given to students who met specific criteria.

The Ann Wilson Scholarship was given to Mercy Aguilar. This scholarship is awarded to a senior who has demonstrated leadership, is hard working, and is dedicated to community service. The Rye Neck community is very proud of Mercy and wishes her continued success in her college career.

These scholarships are made possible by annual donations from the Rye Neck community. Thank you to everyone who donated this year. Please keep us in mind for your 2023 charitable donations. Donations can be sent to the Student Aid Fund, P.O. Box 265, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

**RYE NECK VARSITY STUDENT ATHLETES CONTINUING THEIR ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC CAREERS AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL**



Congratulations to our seniors who committed to continuing their athletic career in college.

Seated (left to right):

- Luke West - Lacrosse - Muhlenberg College
- Alex Boreland - Track & Field - Ithaca College
- Jaden Snow - Track & Field - Muhlenberg College
- Max Boreland - Track & Field - Ithaca College

Standing (left to right):

- Joe Lavelle - Cross Country - Elon University
- Katie Blanch - Softball - Williams College
- Colin Stone - Track & Field - Williams College
- Ronan West - Lacrosse - Haverford College

Not pictured:

- Ilias Alradi - Track & Field - R.I.T.
- Lillian Schaub - Field Hockey - SUNY New Paltz

Rye Neck Public Schools  
Administration Building  
310 Hornidge Road  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
White Plains, N.Y.  
Permit No. 4374

### Board of Education

Gloria Golle, President  
Rebecca Mansell, Vice President  
Patty Nashelsky, Trustee  
Jennifer Rubin, Trustee  
Devina O'Reilly, Trustee  
Elizabeth Yong, Trustee

## Dear Rye Neck Resident

### Administration 914-777-5252

Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent  
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance  
Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

# Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

## The Class of 2023

Melinda Folchetti  
Senior Class Advisor



It is an amazing thing when the third week in June comes and goes. It seems like just yesterday, members of the Class of 2023 were asking for recommendations and revising personal essays. In those early days of the senior year, the tasks that lay ahead seem monumental, and we are all somehow shocked when the fourth quarter progress report rolls by and we are lining up for graduation!

But anyone in the Class of 2023 can vouch for the fact that the days just don't magically fly by without a significant amount of blood, sweat and tears! In the course of the last 10 months, these seniors have poured their hearts into everything that stood between themselves and the next phase of their lives--the post high school plan!

And the results of the energy with which the Class of 2023 tackled the challenges it faced are worth noting. This class boasts

83 members of National Honor Society, 14 AP Scholars with Distinction, 14 AP Scholars with Honor and 11 AP Scholars. It also numbers among its students 6 National Merit Commended Students and 3 National Merit Finalists. On the athletic fields, 88 seniors participated in sports, and Rye Neck's teams made countless appearances in sectional and league championship competition.

Our athletes also had 4 All-State and 13 All-Section appearances, as well as 3 Con-Ed winners. In the theater, in addition to launching two successful productions, our students garnered 11 Metro Award nominations and came home with three wins! The Student Internship Program (SIP) placed 136 interns! And collectively, the Class of 2023 has accumulated more than 22,636 hours of community service and earned more than \$66,000 in scholarship awards--and counting!

Rye Neck's Class of 2023 is indeed one for the record books. One of our biggest classes, it is composed of 137 goal-oriented, talented and compassionate individuals. These students could be depended upon to lend a helping hand, to plan and coordinate a fund-raiser, and to invigorate school spirit as needed--for homecoming, for a holiday, for a friend.

There is no doubt that the mark this class leaves on Rye Neck is a positive one, filled with memories of a meaningful--even if at times trying--shared moment in history. And also filled with hope for a bright and opportunity-filled future.

Congratulations Rye Neck Class of 2023! You will be missed.