



JAGUAR NATION

JULY 2016 • VOLUME 5, No. 9

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATES RECEIVE DIPLOMAS AT COMMENCEMENT

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Students and staff have been working hard this Spring on all the required State testing for both academics and our career & technical programs. As we close out another successful school year, we reflect back on a few highlights:

- The annual Junior-Senior Prom was held on Friday, June 3. King Cody Adams and Queen Kaycie Sconda reigned over a fun-filled evening.
- The National Technical Honor Society inducted twenty-six new members on May 25. Congratulations to all the students and the new officers for 2016-2017.
- Our TOPS program held their annual closing ceremony on June 16.
- Academy Juniors had a successful night of student presentations at this year's Technology Awareness Program on June 16.

Our Graduation ceremony took place on June 22. I want to wish all of our seniors the very best of luck in their future endeavors.

Best wishes go out to our 19 students who are competing at the National SkillsUSA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky! Students and advisors left on June 20 and will be returning home on June 25.

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler

Upcoming Events:

New Student Orientation - August 18



SOMERSET COUNTY
VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
14 Vogt Drive • P.O. Box 6350
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
(908) 526-8900

www.scvts.org

One hundred sixty eight students received their diplomas in sixteen different vocational programs ranging from Automotive Technology to the Performing Arts. The ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium of Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School located at 14 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater.

Principal Diane Ziegler welcomed graduates and their guests. Diplomas and awards were presented by Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft, Board of Education Vice President Sarah Costa, Board of Education members Theodore Smith, Stephen Rodzinak, Juan Torres, and Board Secretary Raclene Catterson.

The Career and Technical Education Valedictorian for the class of 2016 is Culinary Arts student Erin Kopecky of Bound Brook. The Career and Technical Education Salutatorian is Integrated



SCVTHS Class of 2016 Commencement Ceremony on June 22, 2016

Technology Systems student Jay Patel of Somerset. Valedictorians from the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences are Alexandra Lilly of Martinsville, Kiran Raja of Bridgewater and Jonathan Garaffa of Skillman. The Salutatorian from the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences is Samyak Gupta of Flemington.*

SCVTHS CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATES

Meagan Ackerman	Theater Arts	Basking Ridge	William Guevara	Automotive Tech.	N. Plainfield	Joseph Paolillo	Welding	Hillsborough
Cody Adams	Carpentry	Bedminster	Jacqueline Guillen	Law & Public Safety	N. Plainfield	Thomas Pastor	Theater Arts	Bridgewater
Kayla Agins	Health Occupations	Raritan	Samyak Gupta	Academy	Flemington	Jay Patel	Integrated Technology	Somerset
Julia Aiello	Culinary Arts	Raritan	Aboubacrine Haidara	Automotive Tech.	N. Plainfield	Suraj Patel	Academy	Somerville
John Alicea	Auto Body	Bound Brook	Tabitha Hanay-Reaves	Dance	Westfield	Swati Patel	Academy	Somerset
Keaton Assante	Cosmetology	Hillsborough	Mahogany Hayes	Auto Body	Somerville	Alberto Peralta	Plumbing	Bridgewater
Alexa Auletta	Graphic Comm.	Basking Ridge	Mary Heath	Health Occupations	Bridgewater	Manual Perez	Carpentry	Bridgewater
David Barker	CTE	Branchburg	Madison Hendershot	Cosmetology	Raritan	Nina Pilitowski	Cosmetology	Gillette
Rebeca Bianco	Cosmetology	Manville	Dyamon Hobbs	Law & Public Safety	Bound Brook	Zoe Podejko	Cosmetology	Raritan
Joseph Blass	Electrical Construct.	Branchburg	Matthew Hober	Carpentry	Basking Ridge	Karissa Port	Graphic Comm.	Branchburg
Sean Boland	Law & Public Safety	Hillsborough	Ilana Horowitz	Cosmetology	Branchburg	Harini Prayaga	Academy	Bridgewater
Lauren Bottino	Graphic Comm.	Bridgewater	Allison Hovey	Cosmetology	Branchburg	Kiran Raja	Academy	Bridgewater
Luke Brennan	Electrical Construction	Bound Brook	Stephanie Hunter	Graphic Comm.	N. Plainfield	Raquel Ramos	Health Occupations	Manville
Sam Bucek	Academy	Bridgewater	Benjamin Incantalupo	Electrical Construction	Flemington	Justin Reeves	Welding	Somerset
Joshua Buonavolonta	Culinary Arts	Somerset	Alexander Insdorf	Academy	Belle Mead	Catherine Reisser	Graphic Comm.	Bound Brook
John Cabrera	Auto Body	Raritan	Rebecca Jackson	Welding	Raritan	Marquise Reliford	Electrical Construction	Hillsborough
Luke Calabrese	Carpentry	Basking Ridge	Amirah James	Theater Arts	Bernardsville	Tiffany Richardson	Cosmetology	Bedminster
Matthew Calapatia	Academy	Hillsborough	Mya Jordan	Dance	Bernardsville	Edwin Rivas	Automotive Tech.	N. Plainfield
Luke Calder	Theater Arts	Bridgewater	Mark Juarez	Electrical Construction	Hillsborough	Zachary Rogina	Automotive Tech.	Bernards Twp.
Robert Camacho	Auto Body	Manville	Masood Karimi	Academy	Somerset	Steven Anthony Rogolofi	Plumbing	Bridgewater
Alexis Campbell	Cosmetology	Bridgewater	Thomas Kelly	Plumbing	N. Plainfield	Siven Romero	Carpentry	Bound Brook
Ashley Capooica	Cosmetology	Somerville	Samuel Kenny	Electrical Construction	N. Plainfield	Connor Rosseland	Electrical Construction	Bridgewater
Jordy Chaves	Automotive Tech.	Bridgewater	Ramya Kommidi	Academy	Franklin Park	Danielle Russo	Cosmetology	Somerset
Joseph Chesson	Automotive Tech.	Somerset	Connor Komoroski	Integrated Technology	Hillsborough	Kayla Ryan	Culinary Arts	Bridgewater
Johnathan Christian	Electrical Construction	N. Plainfield	Erin Kopecky	Culinary Arts	Bound Brook	Vanessa Saharko	Theater Arts	Hillsborough
Patrick Christian	Welding	N. Plainfield	Juliana Kosty	Academy	Franklin	Anthony Santana	Agricultural Science	Somerset
Patrick Christian	Graphic Comm.	S. Bound Brook	Patrick Kusik	Carpentry	Millington	Alexis Santos	Cosmetology	Warren
Cassidy Ciancia	Agricultural Science	Hillsborough	Amanda Lamperti	Culinary Arts	N. Plainfield	Myah Scavo	Graphic Comm.	Bridgewater
Caitlyn Cifelli	Auto Body	Bound Brook	Brandon Leal	Electrical Construction	S. Bound Brook	Gavin Scholte	Welding	Bridgewater
Gianni Cintron	Auto Body	Hillsborough	Aaron Lee	Academy	Raritan	Sarah Sconda	Graphic Comm.	Bridgewater
Michael Conover	Plumbing	Hillsborough	Alison Lenahan	Dance	Clinton	Mackenzie Serrano	Automotive Tech.	N. Plainfield
Ryan Cook	Theater Arts	Bridgewater	Alexandra Lilly	Academy	Martinsville	Mitali Shah	Academy	Hillsborough
Jose Cordero	Integrated Tech.	Bound Brook	Max Lindvor	Diesel	Raritan	Shanaya Shah	Theater Arts	Basking Ridge
Kelly Cordon	Cosmetology	N. Plainfield	Daniel Lopez	Graphic Comm.	S. Bound Brook	Elizabeth Sherman	Academy	Somerset
Alejandra Cortes	Health Occupations	S. Bound Brook	Alina Lou	Academy	Hillsborough	Alexander Shu	Academy	Somerset
Samantha D'Agostino	Carpentry	Raritan	Hannah Lukac	Graphic Comm.	Bound Brook	Christopher Silva	Academy	Green Brook
Emily Dayton	Cosmetology	N. Plainfield	Victoria Marcune	Graphic Comm.	Neshanic Sta.	Harleen Singh	N/A	Bridgewater
Juliana de Diego	Theater Arts	Bedminster	Paul Marinelli	Plumbing	Pluckemin	David Sosidko	Academy	Pittstown
Ian Dominic De Los Reyes	Academy	Bridgewater	Kayla Matos	Cosmetology	N. Plainfield	Quinton St. Rose	Electrical Construction	Franklin Twp.
Dana DePirri	Dance	Neshanic Sta.	Christine Mayorga	Health Occupations	Bound Brook	Sarah Stedter	Welding	Neshanic Sta.
Erica DePropso	Dance	Raritan	Robert Mazuch	Health Occupations	Bound Brook	Kennard Stephenson	Cosmetology	Bound Brook
Millie Doshi	Health Occupations	Bridgewater	Jacqueline McCarthy	Theater Arts	Hillsborough	Alexis Taylor	Cosmetology	Somerset
Michael Elemio	Automotive Tech.	Bridgewater	Shane McIntire	Law & Public Safety	Basking Ridge	Anthony Thompson	Culinary Arts	Somerset
Matthew Feaster	Automotive Tech.	Somerset	Daniel McNeil	N/A	Bridgewater	Mackenzie Trotter	Health Occupations	Somerset
Julie Fendt	Cosmetology	Manville	Maryn Megaloudis	Graphic Comm.	N. Plainfield	Taylor Vaughn	Cosmetology	Peapack
Alexander Floyd	Plumbing	S. Bound Brook	Angelo Mel-Tos	Graphic Comm.	N. Plainfield	Joselyn Velasquez	Graphic Comm.	Manville
Claire Foster	Academy	Flemington	Diana Mendoza	Cosmetology	Manville	Havanna Velazquez	Cosmetology	Peapack
Jonathan Garaffa	Academy	Skillman	Matthew Mikszal	Law & Public Safety	Bridgewater	Angelique Villacis	Health Occupations	N. Plainfield
Devin Gardner	Law & Public Safety	Manville	Eric Moeller	Automotive Tech.	Raritan	Olivia Waryzbuk	Cosmetology	Branchburg
Jacqueline Gassler	Graphic Comm.	Branchburg	Christopher Nila	Diesel	Bridgewater	Raven Wesner	Graphic Comm.	S. Bound Brook
Stephen Giordano	Theater Arts	Whitehouse Sta	Fernando Nunez, Jr	Plumbing	Somerset	Rachel Yoo	Dance	Bridgewater
Michael Giorello	Carpentry	Branchburg	Richard Ojeda	CTE	Hillsborough	Dylan Yossafat	Theater Arts	Bridgewater
Destiny Gist	Graphic Comm.	Branchburg	Sabrina Olivieri	Dance	Clinton			
Owen Goska	Integrated Technology	Manville	Jaquelin Ortega	Health Occupations	N. Plainfield			
Kieran Green	Law & Public Safety	Manville						

For more information, contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or email jstrickhart@scvts.net.



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JULY 2016

SCVTHS STUDENTS HELP HONOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*
James Strickhart • *Editorial*
Sharleen Leahy • *Graphic Production*
Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*



First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

The Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Carpentry Program recently finished creating new silhouettes for Safe and Sound Somerset to honor Somerset County residents who lost their lives as a result of domestic violence. The silhouettes each bear an engraved heart with the name of a Somerset County resident and the year they died. The silhouettes serve as an emotional and moving reminder of the effects of domestic violence in our county.

Six new silhouettes were created and will be used this upcoming

October at a candlelight vigil to remember the victims and bring awareness to domestic violence in Somerset County. Veronica Finlay, Development Director at Safe and Sound Somerset, explained how important it was “collaborating with the community on this project.” Ms. Finlay thanked Lowe’s for donating the materials to make the silhouettes. Additionally, this project had special meaning for the students of SCVTHS, as two of the domestic abuse silhouettes represent a SCVTHS student and her mother, who both lost their lives this past year.

Safe and Sound Somerset, formerly known as The Resource Center of Somerset, is a private, nonprofit agency which has been serving people affected by domestic abuse in Somerset County for over 35 years. Founded by a small group of volunteers who provided emergency shelter for women escaping abusive relationships, Safe and Sound Somerset provides services to survivors of domestic abuse—women, men and children—free of charge. The agency has expanded services to include not only emergency shelter but legal advocacy, outreach counseling, community education, volunteer Domestic Violence Response Teams working with local police departments, transitional housing and more.

For more information about Safe and Sound Somerset or to find out more about domestic abuse, including tips for teens on warning signs of abusive relationships, please visit the website, www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org or call the Department of Community Affairs at 908-359-0003, ext. 223.*

For more information on this story contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or jstrickhart@scvts.net.



(left to right): SCVTHS Carpentry student David Dabrowski of South Bound Brook, Veronica Finlay of Safe and Sound Somerset, SCVTHS Carpentry student Luke Calabrese of Basking Ridge, SCVTHS Carpentry Instructor George Lee, and SCVTHS Carpentry students Jimmy Arias of Branchburg and Steven Romero of Bound Brook pose with the newly created silhouettes.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Catherine Chen

Catherine Chen

Catherine Chen, a sophomore in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School’s Student of the Month for June 2016. Catherine is the daughter of Irene Jao and Eric Chen of Warren.

Social Studies Instructor Dr. Louise Tokarsky-Unda nominated Catherine for the Student of the Month Award because “Catherine is a diligent, responsible student who works beyond what is expected. She is attentive, studious, and observant. The quality of her essay responses and the questions she asks demonstrates that she devotes many hours every day to studying and thinking critically about what she learns in school. Her peers enjoy collaborating with her on group projects, as she is a good listener, as well as a good leader.”

Catherine is a member of the Math League, New Jersey Science League, Science Bowl Team, Humanitarian Club, SkillsUSA and the Watchung Hills Varsity Ultimate Frisbee team. Catherine is also involved in volunteering at the Murray Hill Chinese School, Robert Wood Johnson Somerset Hospital and several nursing homes. Furthermore, she plays violin in

the New Jersey Youth Symphony, where she has performed at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and the NJEA Teacher’s Convention in Atlantic City.

Some of Catherine’s accolades include being accepted into the regional and all-state orchestra, National Spanish Exam Gold medalist, SkillsUSA Gold medalist, Principal’s Honor Roll, Silver Award in Scholastic Writing, placing in the top ten percent of test takers for the New Jersey Science League, and playing on the Ultimate Frisbee team representing the Northeast Region at the National Youth Club Championships this summer.

When she has free time, Catherine enjoys reading, taking pictures, running and watching Korean dramas.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Catherine hopes to attend medical school and specialize in pediatric surgery. “I aspire to use what I have learned to help those who don’t have access to adequate healthcare,” Catherine said. In addition, Catherine has a personal goal to travel to every continent.

When told she was to be the recipient of the Student of the Month Award, Catherine wanted to thank all of her teachers for creating such a vigorous but stimulating learning environment, allowing her to reach her fullest potential.*