

# Hyde Park Central School District Connections

July 2024

## From the Desk of Dr. Pedro Roman

### Dear Hyde Park Community,

Congratulations, everyone! You made it across the finish line with flying colors. From our 280 FDR graduates to the many students advancing to kindergarten, fifth grade, and freshman year in high school, you should be proud of all you have accomplished.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Whether you are heading to college, starting a career, or progressing to another grade in our district, remember to apply the lessons you've learned in your everyday lives.

Thank you to our families, educators, support staff, administrators, volunteers, community members, and partners. This success would not be possible without your continued partnership and support of our students and school community. On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire school community, **THANK YOU** for all that you have done and continue to do to inspire and ensure every student succeeds and thrives.

To keep the learning going while school is out, I challenge everyone in our district to visit the Hyde Park Library to borrow some books or purchase one to read over the summer. I'm excited to hear about your book recommendations when I visit our schools and classes in the fall. Additionally, we are hosting the Summer Food Service Program, which offers free breakfast and lunch for all children 18 years and under. Please visit FDR in the large cafeteria. Breakfast will be served from 8:15 to 8:45 am and lunch from 10:30 to 11:15 am, Monday through Friday, July 8 through August 20.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

With Hyde Park Pride,



Hyde Park Central School District  
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## CONGRATULATIONS! FDR Class of 2024 moves on to the next stage



FDR saw 280 students graduate during the annual commencement ceremony on June 21 where they were recognized for their academic efforts and the ability to power through challenging situations.

Valedictorian Delaney Jarvis noted that the Class of 2024 began high school when COVID-19 was still raging across the world, but this only made them stronger as people. When it comes to the future, Jarvis told her fellow graduates that no matter how much someone influences them, they have the final say in their life choices.

"We are all immensely powerful since we, as individuals, are the only ones that can define our life and destiny," Jarvis said. "Throughout life, you will always face hardships, but those hardships are opportunities to find ourselves."

Peter Buttitta, FDR social studies teacher and track and field coach, was this year's commencement speaker who encouraged students to defy the odds and push past the limits of their potential. He noted how the United States Men's Hockey team beat the

Soviet Union team during the 1980 Winter Olympics when it seemed impossible.

"The world loves underdog stories, individuals who defy and succeed when it's not likely," Buttitta said. "Pushing past your fears is truly where the magic happens."

Morgan Hannon, who will study physical adaptive education at SUNY Cortland, said she will miss her friends and the sense of camaraderie she felt by being part of the school community.

"I loved how our whole school came together during homecoming and pep rallies," Hannon recalled. "We're like a community."

Aaron Giron will miss the teachers who provided him with worthwhile advice that will be beneficial as he enters the electrical/energy program at SUNY Delhi.

"They made a good path for me, so I know what to do from here on in," Giron said of his teachers. "It feels like a big accomplishment; like you overcame a big challenge that took a while."

[Click here for more graduation photos](#)

## Haviland students ready for the next journey



Despite the rain, Haviland saw 281 of its eighth graders take the leap to high school during an outdoor moving up ceremony June 24.

Families and staff gathered in front of the historic entrance to Haviland where students waved to the audience when their name was called rather than walk on stage to receive a certificate.

In her opening remarks, Assistant Principal Tiffany Walton-Henry noted that middle school is a time for transformation where students discover their passions and learn life lessons from teachers and each other that will help them as they begin high school.

"Remember this is just the beginning," Walton-Henry said. "High school will offer you new opportunities and it's up to you to seize them with the same determination and enthusiasm as you've shown here."

Remi Stromen was one of three student speakers who reflected on their time at Haviland. She acknowledged the teachers for organizing field trips and Spirit Week events, but also for encouraging her to work harder in school.

"As we move up to high school, let's carry these memories with us and continue to build on the strong foundation made here," Stromen said. "With the people around us that have loved and supported us all these years, we can go forward as a group and become better."

Stromen's advice to her classmates was to stay out of teenage drama and focus on themselves in order to succeed.

"Ninth grade and up will be the most important years of our lives as we take a big step into adulthood," Stromen said. "By putting all our differences aside, we will be able to find the best versions of ourselves."

While Chris Hartwell will miss his teachers, he is looking forward to attending FDR where he plans to be involved in one of the many clubs offered after school.

"I'm going to look through them and try to find something I'll like," Hartwell said of the clubs. "I feel very relieved and excited to start a new chapter of my life."

Quinn Eidel's experience at Haviland was largely positive where she made great friends and had amazing teachers. She plans to join FDR's girls' basketball team, as she has a knack for the game.

"I'm definitely excited for a more challenging sport and meeting new friends," Eidel said. "It was a great year and I learned a lot."



## Seniors honored at annual recognition breakfast

Two FDR seniors were celebrated, along with students from 12 other Dutchess County school districts, during the annual Dutchess BOCES Distinguished Graduate Recognition Breakfast on June 6 at the Culinary Institute of America.

BOCES Deputy Superintendent Jodi DeLucia and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino welcomed guests before breakfast and the recognitions followed, with each district presenting its own students.

Delaney Jarvis and Gemma Corrado, this year's valedictorian and salutatorian respectively, were honored for their successes in academics and extracurricular activities.

Jarvis is pursuing a degree in robotic engineering and kept busy during her time at FDR volunteering in the community and being involved in the National Honor Society. On top of this she was nominated for the 2024 Presidential Scholars program.

Corrado, who will study flight technologies and operations at Bowling Green State University, was a three-season student athlete who ran cross country, as well as indoor and outdoor track. Additionally, she was recognized as a "Commended Student" in the 2024 National Merit

Scholarship Program.

Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman said the breakfast was an opportunity to recognize these exceptional students who achieved a milestone in their academic journeys.

"Each student has shown remarkable personal growth," Roman said. "They have not only excelled academically, but they have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities."

Pius Kayiira, founder and CEO of the Winner's Circle Project and FDR graduate, was this year's keynote speaker. He encouraged students to maximize opportunities as they arise.

"Approach everything with the right energy because at the end of the day I don't know the last time I hired somebody and said, 'Wow, what was your SAT score?'" Kayiira said.





## Elementary students ready for sixth grade

*Fifth grade students from Hyde Park's elementary schools celebrated the completion of elementary school with heartwarming ceremonies held in late June.*

### Netherwood



Fifty-one students are moving up to Haviland where they will take the skills they learned at school, which include kindness, perseverance and hard work, with them in order to meet challenges head-on.

"You have new challenges to face, new fears to overcome, new ideas to explore and new friends to make, but I can tell you all are ready," Principal Stephen Hicks said. "You have set the bar high for our future fifth grade classes."

Additionally, Hicks noted that parents attending the ceremony were very appreciative of the dedication the teachers provided to their children over the past six years at Netherwood.

"Never forget that a part of you stays with Netherwood and a part of Netherwood goes with you," Hicks said.

### North Park

The moving up ceremony on June 24 was a celebration of 87 fifth graders who will be missed, but are ready for the next step in their educational journey.

"We know they will take the North Park Pledge with them as they embrace kindness and unleash courage moving forward," Principal Megan D'Alessandro said.



### Ralph R. Smith

Seventy-seven students were acknowledged for their hard work and growth as they move up to sixth grade during a June 24 ceremony. This year, the departing students walked through the school's hallways to receive cheers from their younger peers and teachers and later by parents outside.



Principal Matthew Darling encouraged students to read over the summer to keep their brains active, as well as to put away the smartphones and go outside to enjoy quality time with the people they love.

"Ten years from now you won't remember the TikTok video that you watched, but you will remember the experiences and memories you made with your family and friends," Darling said. "I am certain that this group of OWLs will enter sixth grade ready to accept the challenges that lie ahead."

### Violet Avenue

Violet Avenue saw 58 fifth graders take part in the Moving Up Day ceremony on June 25 where each student received a certificate.

Principal Nicolle Strang addressed students and their families with words of praise and encouragement and everyone was treated to a video showcasing the fifth graders and all of the activities they participated in throughout the year. This all preceded a reception hosted by the school's PTA for the now rising sixth graders and their families.

"It was a wonderful celebration to honor these 58 students from three different homerooms," Strang said. "Congratulations to all."



## FDR students sign on to careers

Three FDR seniors were among 50 students from Dutchess BOCES' Career and Technical Institute (CTI) who signed commitment letters to start a career with local businesses and military branches during a ceremony May 30.

Austyn Moyer, who studied automotive technology, will work at Ruge's Auto Group; Maleek Byabusha, studying nursing, will join the U.S. Army, and Kyanna Moore, studying cosmetology, will work at Eclectic Hair Studio.

Kyanna Moore's goal post-CTI was to gain employment and was thrilled that she did.

"I just feel good about myself," Kyanna Moore said. "Everybody always feels great after getting their hair done, I just want to help embrace that."

Studio owner Cynthia Moore (no relation) noted it was the first time she hired a CTI student from a ceremony

like this. What impressed the businesswoman most about her mentee was her willingness to learn beyond her eight-week mentorship session.

"She came back after to get extra hours and made herself available," Cynthia Moore said of Kyanna Moore. "It wasn't required of her and that was pivotal to me."

CTI Principal Nick Millas informed graduating students that CTI's goal is to give them the tools to gain entry-level employment, but to also raise the bar once their foot is in the door.

"Our vision here is to turn out a workforce and not just workers, but good citizens, good community members, people who care about where they live, where they work," Millas said. "I think the representation in this room speaks to that."

*Photos from top: Austyn Moyer, Maleek Byabusha, and Kyanna Moore.*



# CTI graduation sees many Hyde Park students march on

Hyde Park saw 60 of its best and brightest graduate from Dutchess BOCES' Career & Technical Institute in fields as varied as cosmetology and welding during the annual Recognition Night June 12.

Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman was in attendance to celebrate the students on their accomplishments as they crossed the stage at the Majet J. Nesheiwat Convention Center to accept their certificate from CTI Principal Nick Millas. The principal noted that this year's academic performance from students was among the best he has seen in his education career.

"Many of our classes had a 100 percent pass rate on industry assessments and final exams," Millas said. "This is no easy feat when you consider the uniqueness of CTI."

Congratulations to everyone!

## Automotive Technology

- Seth Jamison, Camren Lewis and Austyn Moyer will join the workforce
- Amaris Topping will attend SUNY New Paltz

## Animal & Plant Science

- Maleah Bishop will attend Dutchess Community College

## Computer Networking

- Izaya Garcia and Marcos Salazar will attend Dutchess Community College

## Construction Trades

- Yangel Miranda Lozada will join the workforce
- Joseph Palermo will attend Dutchess Community College

## Cosmetology

- Amalia Martinez will attend Dutchess Community College
- Elsa Martinez will join the workforce
- Avery Robinson will attend Capri Cosmetology
- Darryl Smack will attend the University of New Haven
- Gabrielle Dalce will attend Lincoln University
- Charlotte Herriman will attend SUNY New Paltz
- Jaelin Meade will attend the University of Albany
- Kyanna Moore will attend Hair on Hudson Trade School
- Abigail Valle will attend Iona University

## Culinary Arts

- Austin Terhune will attend the Culinary Institute of America
- Ronald Fernandez-Hernandez will attend Monroe College
- Harrison Ford, Cameron Gray and Jack Sala will attend Dutchess Community College
- Cody Hicks and Athenz Greece Hiyolin are undecided
- Marco Quinteros will attend Alfred State College

## Early Childhood Education

- Destini Baker and Carter Nealy will attend Dutchess Community College
- Amaria Edwards, will attend Morgan State University

## Fashion Design & Merchandising

- Shaolin Prime Floyd is undecided

## Graphic Design

- Clair Ryan will attend Dutchess Community College

## HVAC / Plumbing & Heating

- Donovan Marshall will join the workforce

## Introduction to Health Occupations: Nursing Assistant

- Angelina Aiello, Ava Montgomery, Ava Fager and Jeffrey Millin will attend Dutchess Community College
- Maleek Byabusha will join the U.S. Army
- Stephanie Sumano Mendoza is undecided

## Security & Law Enforcement

- Maddox Buel will attend SUNY Delhi
- Mackenzie Coffey will attend Salem State University
- Crystal Cruz and Aiden Plass will attend Dutchess Community College
- Marchellus Grant will join the workforce

## Small Engine Technology

- Michael Donohue, Zeeshan Hina, Edwin LaFumee and Gian Veach will join the workforce

## Trade Electricity

- Joshua Grimm will attend Norwich University
- Orlando Soto and Louis Valentino will join the workforce

## Trade Electric

- Hunter Micucci and Noah Ruessler will attend Dutchess Community College

## TV / Video Production

- Jacob Smith will attend Dutchess Community College

## Welding & Fabrication

- James Colaizzo will attend Marist College
- Bradley Tuttle and Gavin Seidl will attend the Modern Welding School
- Andrew Butler, David Vega and Aidin Wilson will join the workforce

# Netherwood teachers kick it out of the park

As part of a series of fun activities held to celebrate the end of the school year, a team of Netherwood fifth graders participated in a friendly competition on June 24 in the form of a kickball game.



Students and teachers lined up to take their turns pitching and kicking the green ball by the school's playground. Even Principal Stephen Hicks took time out of his busy schedule to participate.

Ultimately the teachers emerged victorious in the short game, but everyone had a fun time regardless.

