

VALUE Education

Rye Neck Schools

Graduation 2025

Superintendent's Notebook

Eric Lutinski, Ed.D.

Rye Neck concluded the 2024-25 school year in grand fashion, with beautiful ceremonies for our Rye Neck elementary, middle, and high schools. Our students are featured in each event, with key roles in addition to being honorees.

Our 5th grade kicked us off on June 18th from the friendly green grass of the F.E. Bellows field. Senior class speaker Spencer Elliot gave wise advice for the students moving up to Middle School, while principal Mike Scarantino reinforced the positive mental attitude that is a hallmark of FEB. Music teacher Mr. Galgano and the students wrapped up the event with "A Hundred and Ten, It's All About Them": a spirited song that featured the name of every student in the class.

The Middle School's Moving Up allowed our 8th graders to share reflections with their classmates on June 24th. Principal Jason Doerr used advice from soccer champion Mia Hamm as a framework and reflected on the fun our students had over the past year, while Team Leader Cathy Toolan used her signature style to capture memories of the year through poetry. Student artwork on the program cover accentuated the positivity of student empowerment with a "The Sky's the Limit" panther theme.

Record heat could not stifle the energy with which our band introduced Valedictorian Anaïs Brown, Salutatorian Shotaro Oshikawa, and the rest of our Rye Neck High School Graduates on the evening of June 25th. Continuing our tradition of inviting ten-year graduates as our keynote speakers, Rye Neck Class of 2015's Graça Tito's speech included moments of audience participation and emphasized the importance of being able to change your mind. Principal Melinda Folchetti invoked Jackie Robinson's words about the value of impacting others, and encouraged students to use the skills and habits developed at Rye Neck to navigate future journeys.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

As you read this, Rye Neck's new Superintendent is Michael Burke, a veteran educator and superintendent with extensive experience in New Jersey. I understand the depth of quality and character the Rye Neck School District has to offer and I am confident that the collaboration between Mr. Burke and the community will be a special combination for our students.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.



A Message from High School Principal Melinda Folchetti

Here we are again! Another year behind us, another summer stretching out before us! The Class of 2025 is stepping off into the future--September and all its electricity a distant memory, the rush of all the June celebrations is just beginning to fade. And what a future it will be!

In Kindergarten, the Class of 2025 made history in Rye Neck for its size: it is the biggest class that has ever been (or probably ever will be) in Rye Neck. But there is so much more than numbers to this group of uniquely talented, driven and compassionate individuals. Throughout the year, these students proved themselves in all the usual ways--incredible college acceptances, breaking records in theater, music and the arts, earning league and sectional titles in athletics, being honored for writing and speaking on the state and national levels--just to name a few. But our students are ever looking outward, and to their credit, were also instrumental in developing an increased community focus, as evidenced by drives for school supplies, baby needs and toys for Ukrainian children. Mentorship between high schoolers and students from the middle and elementary schools expanded through the growth of programs such as Binary Bingo, Experiment Night, Grassroots Soccer, and the Science Symposium.

It is through this wider gaze that this class wins hearts. This is shown most vividly in the gifts they chose to leave. Their donations to St. Michael's Angels in honor of Michael Maffei, the Usman-Isiaka family in honor of classmate Abu, and the JCK Foundation, in honor of everyone yet to come show their commitment not just to the idea of community, but to this very community and the people in it. These people, in myriad ways, impacted the life of the class--Abu and Michael through their presence, and the JCK Foundation for being here every year and emphasizing mindfulness and mental health. What a meaningful and profound tribute!

Our annual commencement exercises, which took place in the cool of our air conditioned gym, were moving and joyful, and of course, bittersweet! In the words of our keynote speaker, Graça Tito, it is "saudade"--a Portuguese word that has no exact translation in English. "It is a fusion of joy and sorrow . . . It's being so utterly excited for the life that is about to unfold for you . . . while feeling heartache for the chapter that is closing." And what a brilliant chapter it has been!

Thank you, Class of 2025, for making this year enjoyable, exciting, moving, and of course, memorable. Enjoy every minute of this summer, and every second of this new adventure!





Class of 2025

Melaney Acevedo Mendez*
 Angie Aguilar
 Sofia Alterio Bueno Da Silva*
 Jedd Amos*
 Zoe Anticono
 Nicholas Apicella
 Peter Apoldo
 Killian Aubry*
 Lara Auffarth*
 Ella Aulfinger
 Natalie Baio
 Christian Barrios
 William Barrios
 Kyra Bayer*
 Marco Begazo
 Anthony Bondi*
 Logan Bravo
 Thomas Briscoe*
 Anaïs Brown*
 Sophia Buettner*
 Ensar Burrja*
 Quinn Byron*
 Katherine Calicchio
 Rachelle Candamil
 Phoebe Carmel*
 Paxten Carrington-Young
 Valentine Casciano*
 Elizabeth Castillo Villela*
 Alejandra Ceja
 Armando Cilento
 Isabella Clements*
 Alex Cordazzo
 Ava Crea
 Romeo Daumasson
 Eleonore Delcourt
 Paul Denaro
 Mark DiMaggio III*
 Nicolas Doherty

Zaidi Dorsett
 Terence Du*
 Syaïre DuBose
 Alexis Dubowsky*
 Ana Dwyer*
 Amiya Eboli*
 Maximiliaan Engelen*
 Gabriella Fasolino*
 Ayla Felenstein*
 Nicolas Fernandez*
 Abigail Flynn*
 Fiona Fox*
 Charlotte Geary*
 Matthew Golle
 Natasha Gozlan
 Litzy Gramajo Echeverria
 Ella Grann*
 Sabhbh Grenouillon*
 Marco Griffo*
 Elvis Guevara Umana*
 Jayana Hammer*
 Kyle Harris
 Zachary Harrison*
 Katherine Harvey*
 Sarah Heaton*
 Gray Heckert
 Waldemar Hernandez Villatoro
 Alexander Hull*
 Sorahisa Irie*
 Ayana Ite*
 Sasha Jaramillo*
 Lily Kapustin
 Aidan Kenny*
 Alexander Kerr*
 Jacob Kligman*
 Catherine Lawhon
 Parme Le Bertre*
 Raymond Lin*

Melani Linares*
 Juiliana Longo
 Daniella Lori*
 Jack Lucas
 Mason Lugo
 Stefano Maffei
 Lily Mansell*
 Lilah Martelli
 Cara McClumpha*
 Carys McGrory*
 Vitalina Miranda Miranda
 Elizabeth Mitchell*
 Sean Mohr*
 Lucia Monreal*
 Sabrina Musicus
 Payton Namaga
 Mia Nason
 Giuseppe Novello
 Tara O'Reilly*
 Angel Ortiz
 Julian Ortiz
 Shotaro Oshikawa*
 Pasquale Pappalardi*
 Rachel Park*
 Robert Pecchia
 Alessandra Perez*
 Samai Phillip
 Christina Pirrone*
 Hiroto Plugh
 Olexandr Popovych*
 Gregory Posy
 Shelby Preisser*
 Samina Quli*
 Matthew Radford Rubin*
 Bram Raftery*
 Abigail Ramos*
 Alexandra Reshetnyak*
 Isabela Rios*

Lucas Rizo-Patron*
 Amayah Roberts
 Jean Rodriguez
 Mia Rodriguez
 Ashley Rosales-Muir
 Rocco Ruscitto*
 Joseph Saldiveri
 Ainara Schube Barriola*
 Aritz Schube Barriola*
 Giuliana Seemer*
 Andrew Showers Jr.*
 Caitlin Showers*
 Emma Showers*
 Natalie Silva*
 Jackson Simon*
 Kyle Snow
 Emma Spellman*
 Maya Sperling*
 Daniel Stone
 Kimberly Tapia
 William Tauber
 Maimouna Thiam
 Salimata Thiam
 Nora Toomey
 Ryan Truta*
 Abubakar Usman-Isiaka*
 Usman Usman-Isiaka*
 Ryan Varga
 Peter Walsh*
 Abigail Weidemann*
 William White
 Marianna Zarate
 Ethan Zhou*

*National Honor Society

Class of 2025 College Acceptances

Adelphi University	Hawaii Pacific University	Salve Regina University	University of Colorado
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	High Point University	San Diego State University	University of Connecticut
Alfred University	Hobart and William Smith	Santa Clara University	University of Delaware
Arizona State University - Tempe	Hofstra University	Savannah College of Art & Design	University of Florida
Auburn University	IE University - Madrid	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Georgia
Bard College	Indiana State University	School of Visual Arts	University of Hartford
Bath Spa University	Indiana University - Bloomington	Seton Hall University	University of Idaho
Baylor University	Iona University	Siena College	University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
Belmont University	Iowa State University	SKEMA Business School-Raleigh	University of Iowa
Bentley University	Ithaca College	Skidmore College	University of Kansas
Berklee College of Music	James Madison University	South Carolina State University	University of Kentucky
Boise State University	Johns Hopkins University	Southern Methodist University	University of Louisville
Boston College	Johnson & Wales University - Providence	Springfield College	University of Maine
Boston University	Le Moyne College	St. Bonaventure University	University of Maryland-College Park
Bucknell University	Lehigh University	St. John's University - New York	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
California Institute of Technology	Liberty University	St. Lawrence University	University of Massachusetts-Boston
California State University	The London School of Economics and Political Science	St. Thomas Aquinas College	University of Miami
• Long Beach	Louisiana State University	Stetson University	University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
• Northridge	Loyola University Maryland	Stonehill College	University of Michigan - Twin Cities
Cardiff University - UK	Loyola University Chicago	SUNY University at Albany	University of Mississippi
The Catholic University of America	Maine College of Art & Design	SUNY Alfred State	University of Missouri - Columbia
Clarkson University	Manhattan College	SUNY Binghamton	University of Montana
Clemson University	Manhattanville University	SUNY Brockport	University of Mount Saint Vincent
Cleveland Institute of Art	Marist University	SUNY Buffalo State	University of Nevada - Las Vegas
Coastal Carolina University	Maryland Institute College of Art	SUNY University at Buffalo	University of New Hampshire
Colby College	Massachusetts College of Art & Design	SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill	University of New Haven
College of Charleston	McGill University	SUNY Cortland	University of North Carolina
College of the Atlantic	Mercy University	SUNY College of Technology at Delhi	University of North Dakota
Colorado State University	Miami Oxford University	SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry	University of North Florida
Columbia University of NYC	Michigan State University	SUNY Fredonia	University of Oklahoma
Concordia University - Canada	Middlebury College	SUNY Geneseo	University of Oregon
Connecticut College	Monmouth University	SUNY Morrisville	University of Pennsylvania
Cornell University	Montclair State University	SUNY New Paltz	University of Pittsburgh
CUNY	Mount Saint Mary College	SUNY Old Westbury	University of Rhode Island
• John Jay College of Criminal Justice	Muhlenberg College	SUNY Oneonta	University of Richmond
Curry College	New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts	SUNY Oswego	University of Rochester
Drew University	New York Institute of Technology	SUNY Plattsburgh	University of Southern California
Drexel University	New York University	SUNY Polytechnic Institute	University of South Carolina
Duke University	Nichols College	SUNY Potsdam	University of South Dakota
East Carolina University	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	SUNY Purchase	University of St. Andrews - Scotland
Edinburgh College - UK	North Illinois University	SUNY Rockland Community College	University of Tampa
Elon University	Northeastern University	SUNY Stony Brook	University of Tennessee
Embry - Riddle Aeronautical University	Northwestern University	SUNY Westchester Community	University of Utah
ESCP Europe Business School - London	Oberlin College	Syracuse University	University of Vermont
ESSEC Business School, Singapore	Ohio State University	Texas A&M University-College Station	University of Virginia
Exeter College - UK	Oregon State University	Texas Christian University	University of Washington - Seattle
Fairfield University	Pace University NYC	The New School	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Fashion Institute of Technology	Pace University Westchester	Towson University	Ursinus College
Florida Atlantic University	Paul Smiths College of Arts & Science	Tufts University	Vanderbilt University
Florida Institute of Technology	Pennsylvania State University	Tulane University of Louisiana	Vassar College
Florida State University	Pratt Institute - Brooklyn	Universita Bocconi - Italy	Vermont State University
Fordham University	Princeton University	University of Alabama	Wake Forest University
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Providence College	University of Arizona	Washington State University
Franklin and Marshall College	Purdue University	The University of British Columbia	Washington State University in St. Louis
Furman University	Quinnipiac University	University of California	Wellesley College
George Mason University	Rhode Island School of Design	• Berkeley	Wesleyan University
Georgia Institute of Technology	Rochester Institute of Technology	• Davis	Wilkes University
Georgia Southern University	Roger Williams University	• Irvine	William & Mary
The George Washington University	Royal Holloway University of London	• Los Angeles	Yale University
Hamilton College	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	• Santa Cruz	
Hartwick College	Sacred Heart University	• San Diego	
Haverford College	Saint Louis University	• Santa Barbara	
		University of Chicago	
		University of Cincinnati - Clermont College	



Anaïs Brown Class of 2025 Valedictorian

Anaïs Brown is Rye Neck High School's Class of 2025 Valedictorian: an honor earned not only through academic excellence but through creativity and heartfelt connection to her community.

Anaïs is headed to Vanderbilt University this fall to study Computer Science, inspired by a love of logic, data, and innovation that began with a lucky scheduling change freshman year when the only available elective was Intro to Java. Though she had no idea what to expect, she quickly fell in love with the class, especially the process of learning a new language, something she already enjoyed from speaking French at home and studying Spanish in school. From there, her passion deepened with AP Statistics, AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles. She views computer science as a way to understand how the world works in a different dimension by solving problems logically and efficiently with the help of a computer. Though Vanderbilt doesn't offer a data science undergraduate major, Anaïs is confident she'll find ways to bridge her interests, potentially by combining computer science with psychology and data science to enhance the treatment and understanding of mental health issues in teenagers.

Her academic path wasn't without challenges, particularly the internal pressure to meet expectations from others. Although being Valedictorian wasn't a fixed goal, Anaïs remembers putting it down as a hopeful ambition in a letter she wrote to herself in freshman seminar, which she opened this past April. Reading that, she thought, "Wow. I put so much pressure on myself even back then. Where did that come from?"

As a student, Anaïs always loved learning. She knew she was good at obtaining and keeping a new skill through practice, but something shifted in high school. Suddenly, things got more competitive and stressful, especially when she started taking AP classes and noticed her grades were not as high as she was used to. She was struggling to find balance in her life when her counselor gave her some advice that she takes with her to this day. "You can have perfect grades and terrible mental health, or slightly lower grades and a better life," Mr. Miller said. She realized that "grades don't define her as a person: they're just a number." When feeling the pressure of an assignment, she envisions herself in the future and asks "am I really going to worry about this in a week from now? I just have to put what I know on the page and hope it all works out."

Last year, Anaïs was surprised to win the Harvard Book Award, which is given to the junior "who displays excellence in scholarship, character and commitment to others." Upon winning that award, people started telling her she was sure to be Valedictorian and she felt the pressure to stay in the running. "It was such a silly stressor that added so much more pressure to my senior year," she said. "I'm glad it wasn't a long-term goal of mine because I would have been crushed to have put in all that work if it didn't work out." She thinks it's more important to set intentions rather than goals. So, instead of Valedictorian being the goal, she set the intention to do her best and see what happens.

Anaïs's high school experience wasn't just about academics. She found a powerful outlet in the form of her Independent Learners' Project, which explored the connection between creativity, mental health, and fashion waste. Struggling with burnout in 10th grade from perfectionism and academic pressure, Anaïs turned to crochet, first as a hobby, then as a social ritual with friends in what became known as "Yarn in the Barn." These three-hour weekend sessions provided a safe space to connect, decompress, and create. With her involvement in the Eco Club, Anaïs launched "Plarn in the Barn," using plastic bags and old t-shirts to create plastic yarn, or "plarn," to craft reusable goods and raise awareness about fashion waste. Her passion for sustainability and mental wellness intertwined, showing how creativity can transform lives and communities.

Anaïs also thrived in extracurriculars, participating in soccer, track, and musical productions, highlighting Grease as one of her favorite memories. "Being in sports and theatre introduced me to people I wouldn't have met otherwise," she says. "Even in a small school, there's always someone new to connect with."

What will she miss most about Rye Neck? "The senior lounge," Anaïs said with a smile. "It's basic, but something about sitting there, seeing everyone pass through and talking about their daily lives or joking around with each other, creates a sense of collaboration that you don't realize you'll miss." She also shares a deep appreciation for her teacher Ms. Swick, with whom she's taken five classes and who has inspired her passion for math and technology.

To underclassmen and her younger self, Anaïs offers this advice: "Balance is so important, don't prioritize academics over everything else. You're only a teenager, so don't put so much pressure on yourself. Everything that's meant to happen will happen. Be compassionate because you never know what someone else is going through. And have grace for yourself and others, all the time."

Shotaro Oshikawa Class of 2025 Salutatorian

Shotaro Oshikawa, Rye Neck High School's Class of 2025 Salutatorian, embodies a quiet determination, intellectual curiosity, and a humble sense of purpose.

In the fall, Shotaro will attend Johns Hopkins University, where he plans to study cognitive science: a passion that grew out of a fascination with language, how it works in the mind, and how people, regardless of where they come from, can learn to communicate with one another. Already fluent in English and Japanese, he studied Italian in high school and is now setting his sights on learning American Sign Language (ASL). Cognitive science offers the perfect mix because "it encompasses a bunch of different topics under one umbrella."

While his academic achievements are impressive, being named Salutatorian wasn't a goal of his. He "didn't even know he was in the running" until it was announced. He claims his success comes from consistently staying on top of his work and "not slacking off." He has always loved learning, which he said comes naturally to him, and he tries to find something interesting in every subject. One standout class for him was AP Statistics. "It was one of the few subjects where I could immediately see how the material applied to real life."

Though he joked that he's "very unathletic," Shotaro has been a dedicated member of the Cross Country team for all four years of high school, and joined both Winter and Spring Track in 10th grade. He specializes in the 100- and 200-meter dash, as well as the long jump. "I like running and exercising," he said. "I don't care how well I do. I just like being there, pushing myself without feeling too much pressure."

The extracurricular activity Shotaro is most proud of is Mock Trial, where he started as an understudy in 9th grade when a key witness was absent and he had to step into a trial at the last minute. "It was a disaster," he recalled. "I mumbled a lot, couldn't answer tough questions, and it messed up the case." Mock Trial challenged him in so many ways, from rehearsing and public speaking to thinking on the spot and constructing logical arguments. "It pushed him to put himself out there." Those moments, he said, taught him the importance of structure and preparation because he is "bad at staying consistent and studying when he doesn't have a strict due date or task to complete."

By his senior year, he had risen to the role of lawyer. "As a lawyer, you get the most control and you have to think on your feet." This year's case was particularly memorable because it involved a deepfake audio allegedly created by a student to sabotage a superintendent running for state senate. "It was incredibly relevant to what's happening today with AI and misinformation," he said.

Outside of school, Shotaro indulges in a variety of hobbies, most of which begin with him randomly stumbling upon something new and deciding to learn it. He's recently gotten into reading nonfiction, especially books that trace something's history, such as a recent read on the history of math. He's also dabbled in digital design using Blender, teaching himself how to use the software just by experimenting. He likes finding something interesting and diving into it.

As he prepares to leave Rye Neck, Shotaro will miss the closeness of the school community. "I've been here since third grade," he said. "The small buildings, the fact that everyone knows each other, it really feels like home." But he's also looking forward to the broader horizons college will bring. "In a small community, social roles can become really defined. In a larger place, you have the chance to meet new people" and reshape how you're seen.

To underclassmen and his younger self, he offers advice based on what he wishes he'd done more of: "Relax. Don't stress so much about grades, tests, or friendships. Stay on top of assignments, take care of things one at a time, and things will work out."



Class of 2025

This issue of Value Education celebrates members of Rye Neck's Class of 2025. 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 an understanding of the value of teamwork.

THOMAS BRISCOE

University of California, Los Angeles

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Honor Society
- Tri-M Honor Society
- Department Awards in Music & Science
- St. Michael's College Book Award for Leadership and Community Service
- Alfred University Ceramic Association of New York Award
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Member of STEM Club
- Senior Internship Program - Carvel



AMIYA EBOLI

New York University

- National Honor Society
- World Language Honor Society
- Meritorious Achievement in English Award
- St. John's University Women in Science Award
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
- Italian Club, Art Club and Key Club
- Cross Country Runner, Cross Country Coach's Award
- Future Business Student Leadership Fellow at NYU Stern
- Senior Internship Program - Larchmont Temple Preschool



ENSAR BURRJA

SUNY Stony Brook

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Honor Society
- Department Awards in Math, Social Studies, & World Languages
- St. Bonaventure Bonnie Scholarship Award
- Vice President of Student Senate
- Member of Chess Club
- Varsity Track and Field, Cross Country
- Thomas DeLitto & Sons Scholarship
- Senior Internship Program - Brenkovich Financial



ABIGAIL FLYNN

SUNY Fredonia

- National Honor Society
- Student Advocacy 29th Annual Overcoming the Odds Award
- Department Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Independent Learner Program
- Tri-M Music Honor Award & Honor Society Certificate of Recognition
- Department Award for Outstanding Musician, Four Year Chorus Award and Outstanding Contribution to Music & Theater
- International Thespian Society Honor Award
- Metro Award Nominee for Stetson University - The John B. Stetson Scholarship Award - Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group
- Claire Julian Memorial Scholarship, E.J. Flynn Memorial Scholarship, Michael P. Canno Scholarship and The Woman's Club of Mamaroneck Scholarship
- Senior Internship Program - School of Rock



RACHELLE CANDAMIL

University of California, Los Angeles

- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- NYS Senator Mayer Citizenship Award
- Rye Neck Peer Leadership Award
- Keuka College George H. Ball Community Achievement Award
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- RNSF Impact Award
- Member of Key Club (Treasurer, President), Art Club, SADD Club, Rye Neck Environmental Council
- League of Women Voters of Westchester County
- Kiwanis Club of Mamaroneck Scholarship
- Senior Internship Program - Smile Starters Pediatric Dentistry



CHARLOTTE GEARY

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society, French Honor Society, Thespian Honor Society and Thespian Scholar Award
- Exceptional Achievement in the Study of Two World Languages Award
- Clarkson Student Leadership Award
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Student Senate and Mock Trial Team
- Rye Neck Theater Productions
- Varsity Swim Team
- The Chief Joseph DelBianco Memorial Scholarship Recipient
- Senior Internship Program - Scalise and Hamilton



ELIZABETH CASTILLO

Northwestern University

- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society
- University of Rochester Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- International Club and Co-Founder of Connections Club
- National Science Olympiads of Guatemala
- League of Women Voters of Westchester County
- Model UN, Art Club
- Questbridge National College Match Scholarship
- P.E.O. Chapter AJ Scholarship Winner
- Senior Internship Program - Rye Neck High School Social Worker



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ELLA GRANN

Duke University

- AP Scholar with Honor
- Blue Ribbon Award for Consistent Academic Excellence
- National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honor Society, Thespian Honor Society and Thespian Board Secretary
- Enrichment Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Independent Learner Program
- New York State Youth Leadership Award
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Regional Scholastic Silver Key Award in Novel Writing
- American Association of University Women Award for Excellence in Writing
- Rye Neck Theater Productions
- Environmental Club and Founder & President of the STEM Board
- Senior Internship Program - Regeneron



ALEX KERR

University of Southern California

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, Thespian Honor Society and Thespian Scholar Award
- Student Senate and Leadership Award for Senior Class Officer
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Leonhard Euler Award for Excellence in Precalculus
- University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award
- Rye Neck Theater Productions and Thespian Board Vice President
- Students Against Destructive Decisions
- Varsity Track, Cross Country and Football and Athletic Director's Honor Roll
- Senior Internship Program - Artistree



SABHBH GRENOUILLON

Universita Bocconi - Italy

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honor Society
- Rye Neck 21st Century Leadership Award
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Department Awards for the Study of Two World Languages (Spanish & French), Creativity in the Arts, Thespian Scholar
- St. Vincent's Youth Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service
- Rye Neck Theater Productions - Art Crew
- Rye Neck Field Hockey - Coach's Award
- Member of SADD, Women in Business and Project Hope Clubs
- Senior Internship Program - Jean Pierre Laffont Photos



CARYS MCGRORY

University of Chicago

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Thespian Honor Society, Global Seal of Bilingualism
- English Department Award for Excellence & Achievement in Reading & Writing
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- St. John's Women in Science Award for Physics & AP Physics
- Student Sage Award for Academic Excellence & Social Leadership
- Metro Awards - Best Overall Production, Roger Rees Award for New Faces for Solo Performance in Voice
- Rye Neck STEM Board, Rye Neck Environmental Council, Rye Neck French Club, Science Communication Coalition
- Rye Neck Soccer and Outdoor Track & Field Teams
- Senior Internship Program - HB Music



KATHERINE HARVEY

University of Pittsburgh

- AP Scholar with Honor
- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and Science Honor Society
- New York State Comptroller Student Achievement Award
- St. John's University Women in Science Award
- St. Bonaventure Scholarship Award
- HOSA Vice-President and HOSA Student of the Year
- Student Environmental Council and Outreach Officer
- League of Women Voters of Westchester County
- Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Track (Captain) and Athletic Director's Honor Roll
- Girl Scouts
- Senior Internship Program - FE Bellows



LUCIA MONREAL

University of Tennessee

- National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society
- St. John's Women in Science Award for AP Environmental Science
- Art Department Award for Outstanding Achievement in Fashion Design
- Keuka College George H. Ball Community Achievement Award
- Rye Neck Volleyball
- Chelsea Piers Travel Volleyball
- Volunteer Service - Futbol for Kids, Rye Nature Center, Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding
- Senior Internship Program - Rye Nature Center



ALEXANDER HULL

Rochester Institute of Technology

- AP Scholar with Honor
- College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program for Academic Honors
- National Honor Society
- The Albert Einstein Achievement Award for Chemistry
- Liviu B. Saimovici Memorial Scholarship
- National Student Leadership Conference for Engineering
- Rye Neck Science Olympiad
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Member of The Narwhals Band
- Senior Internship Program - Makelnspires



OLEXANDER POPOVYCH

Cornell University

- AP Scholar
- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society, Science Honor Society
- Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Science
- Albert Einstein Achievement Award for Chemistry
- International Club and Key Club
- Founder and President of Friends Across Borders
- YMCA Swim Youth Coach
- Senior Internship Program - Carvel



BRAM RAFTERY

Princeton University

- AP Scholar with Honor
- National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist
- National Honor Society
- Department Awards for Physical Education, Social Studies, Science, Independent Learner Program
- Keuka College George H. Ball Community Achievement Award
- Model UN (Best Delegate), Photography Club
- Schoolhouse SAT Bootcamp Tutor
- Senior Internship Program - Rye Neck Middle School/High School Library



NATALIE SILVA

University of Virginia

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Honor Society (President)
- Student Sage Award - Russell Sage College
- Women in Business Club (Founder and President), Mind Your Mind Club (Vice President), Students Against Destructive Decisions Club
- Varsity Volleyball (All League)
- Teen Council, Robin Hood Foundation
- "Realize The Dream" Youth Advisory Council
- Senior Internship Program - Virtue Labs



ABIGAIL RAMOS

Pratt Institute

- National Honor Society
- Outstanding Achievement in AP Art and Design 2D Portfolio
- Outstanding Contribution to the High School Yearbook
- Outstanding Service to the Art Department
- Teaching Assistant at Daniel Warren Elementary School for the Art Club
- Art Club
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Senior Internship Program - Rye Neck High School Art Department



JACKSON SIMON

University of Miami

- National Honor Society
- Athletic Director's Honor Roll
- International Club
- Varsity Soccer (All-League Honorable Mention)
- Indoor Varsity Track (All-League Honorable Mention, Section I All-Sportsmanship Team)
- Outdoor Varsity Track (All-League, Section Champion, State Qualifier)
- Community Service with the Larchmont Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force and Jay Heritage Center
- Senior Internship Program - New York Soccer Club



ISABELA RIOS

Salve Regina University

- National Honor Society
- Department Awards for Science and Math
- Mind Your Mind Club, Key Club
- Varsity Cheerleading
- Peter Anthony Fasolino Memorial Scholarship
- Rye Neck Student Fund Scholarship
- Thomas DeLitto and Sons Scholarship
- Senior Internship Program - Rye Neck Elementary Schools Art Department



ABIGAIL WEIDEMANN

Auburn University

- AP Scholar with Honor
- National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society (President), Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honor Society, World Language Honor Society
- Department Awards for Science and Unified Arts
- St. John's University Women in Science Award for AP Environmental Science, Lawrence University Book Award
- Environmental Club (Secretary), Italian Club (Secretary), Mock Trial Team (Captain), Science Olympiad
- Varsity Track (Coach's Award) and Varsity Golf (Captain, All-League Honorable Mention, Section I All-Sportsmanship Team)
- The Police Chiefs Association Chief Joseph DelBianco Memorial Scholarship, Kiwanis Club of Mamaroneck Scholarship, Mamaroneck Knights of Columbus Scholarship, Mark DiMaggio Sr. Scholarship
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Senior Internship Program - Marine Education Center



MIA RODRIGUEZ

Iona University

- Blue Ribbon Award for Motivation, Effort, Growth and Improvement
- Rye Neck Peer Leadership Award
- The 21st Century Student Citizen Leadership Project
- University at Albany Multicultural High School Achievers Award
- Ednar B. Taylor Scholarship
- Rye Neck Student Fund Scholarship
- Rye Neck Cheer Team
- Senior Internship Program - Kidz Korner Daycare



MATTHEW RUBIN

University of Michigan

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Blue Ribbon Award for Character, Service, Leadership, Achievement & Rye Neck Spirit
- National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Thespian Honor Society
- Leonhard Euler Modern Mathematics Precalculus Award
- Russell Sage College Student Award
- Senior Class Secretary, Head Stage Crew Manager (Metro Nomination for Outstanding Performance by Stage Crew), Key Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions
- 3 Sport Varsity Athlete Award - Varsity Winter Track (Captain), Varsity Soccer and Varsity Spring Track (All League, Section Champion, All State Qualifier)
- Award for 100 or more Community Service Hours
- Senior Internship Program - JCK Foundation



Committed Athlete Spotlight

These students have committed to continuing their athletic and academic careers at the following schools:

Rye Neck Sports: from left to right



Kyle Snow - SUNY Morrisville - Football
Ainara Schube Barriola - NYU - Cross Country
Joseph Saldiveri - Wilkes University - Football
Rocco Ruscitto - SUNY Plattsburgh - Soccer
Shelby Preisser - Haverford College - Softball
Christina Pirrone - Pace University - Cheer
Ayana Ite - Hamilton College - Swimming
Ryan Truta - Vassar College - Tennis

Outside Sports:

Mark DiMaggio - Yale University - Rowing
Catherine Lawhon - Northeastern University - Rowing
Tara O'Reilly - George Washington University - Rowing
Lucas Rizo Patron - University of Richmond - Golf
Aritz Schube Barriola - California Institute of Technology - Soccer
Ethan Zhou - Boston University - Swimming

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Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance
Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

Mark Lauten
Senior Class Advisor



As the Class of 2025 heard again and again, they were the biggest class ever to pass through Rye Neck. However, despite the size of this group, these students all shared a spirit of closeness and unity that buoyed their celebrations and supported them during challenges. They made sure everyone got a chance to shine during showcases like Junior/Senior Day and contributed to each other's newly introduced Capstone Projects. These seniors are proof that Rye Neck is a special place, where even a group of over 150 people can feel like a family.

With such a large class graduating this year, there are a great number of achievements to celebrate. This group contains 85 National Honor Society members, 7 AP Scholars, 12 AP Scholars with Honors, and 28 AP Scholars with Distinction. Additionally, 6 students were commended to the National Merit Program, and 3 were semifinalists. In the realm of athletics, members of the class contributed to a League Championship and a Regional Championship. Furthermore, the class contains 2 students who were All-Section Selections. Finally, 8 students will be continuing their athletic journey at the collegiate level. This spring, the Student Internship Program (SIP) placed 145 interns, where students gained valuable experience outside the classroom. These students also completed more than 29,680 hours of community service, while earning over \$81,000 in scholarships. The Class of 2025 certainly has a lot to be proud of!

Throughout their years at Rye Neck, these seniors fostered a sense of camaraderie and caring exemplified by their class gift of charitable donations to several local concerns. As these students end their time in our classrooms, it is clear they have already been thinking about how they can impact the world outside of them. While each of these graduates may be pursuing their individual goals of higher education, employment, or other areas of interest, it is also clear that there is a firm understanding of how to use their skills to serve the greater good. Now that they have graduated from this place, with this group, the Class of 2025 is ready to move onto bigger places and even larger groups. However, I am confident they will carry the sense of community that Rye Neck has instilled in them always. With that knowledge, these young people will not only go on to do great things for themselves, but for all those around them, too.

Congratulations Class of 2025!

** Value Ed is on the Move**

As of September 2025, issues of *Value Education* will no longer be mailed home.* Instead, we will email them through ParentSquare and post them on our website.

*The only exception to this is the annual Budget issue in May, which will be mailed home.

Residents without children in the District

Join the Rye Neck Residents Group on ParentSquare to stay informed about what's going on in our District. You can either fill out the form under Community Partners on our website or scan the QR Code to the right.



We encourage everyone to join us on ParentSquare by downloading the app.

Apple Users



Android Users

