Summer 2025

EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District News

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

On June 22, Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School held its 34th annual commencement ceremony at Hofstra University's David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Center.

Board of Education Trustee Mr. Seth Greenberg encouraged students to embrace discomfort as a path to growth. "Leave your comfort zone," he said. "Growth lies on the other side of discomfort. Do the thing that makes your voice tremble. Take risks, try new things and speak up, sign up, show up – even when your hands shake."

Several student speakers shared meaningful remarks expressing the importance of growth through action and leading with grace. Salutatorian Chloe Lee reflected on the importance of mindfulness and being present. "Let's celebrate not just the finish line, but the entire journey that got us here because this isn't just the end of high school but also the beginning of everything coming next."

Valedictorian Jillian Zhang shared a heartfelt message about connection and care. "Always give yourself grace, and never forget to say 'I love you.' Not always verbally, but in the way you treat your loved ones," she said.

Student Government President Vidhit Singh was next to speak. "Any and every effort makes a difference," he said. "Whenever we choose to care – even a little – we set a chain in motion."

Class of 2025 co-presidents Evan Alter and Ziyad Kazi also offered reflections. Evan spoke first about the importance of leaving comfort zones. "Your potential doesn't live in comfort zones – it lives in the risk you take when you're unsure," he said.

"We don't have the luxury of seeing every consequence before we act," Ziyad added. "Clarity won't come from the outside; it must come from within – through your values, your perspective, your inner compass."

Finally, Dr. Dvorak shared a message of excitement and encouragement for what lies ahead. "While I hope you have a vision for your future, I am even more excited for the parts you haven't planned – the opportunities you can't yet see, the unexpected conversations, experiences and discoveries that will shape you in profound ways," she said.

The commencement was the last celebration of the Class of 2025. We wish them a meaningful post-high school journey.



Superintendent's Message



Dear Plainview-Old Bethpage Community Members,

On behalf of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District and the Board of Education, congratulations to the Class of 2025! This year, we achieved a 99% graduation rate with 83% of students graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma. The Class of 2025 received over $10 million in scholarships and $97,000 in community awards.

As the 2024-25 school year draws to a close, we take pride in celebrating the many achievements that reflect the dedication, creativity and hard work of our students, staff and community. This year, our students excelled in a wide range of areas – breaking school records and winning state championships, earning recognition as Regeneron STS semifinalists and at the ISEF Science Fair, receiving honors at NYSSMA, and presenting another memorable Electrify Strings performance.

We also introduced POB Perk at both the middle and high school levels and continued to grow the impactful work of the Senior's Club. The student-led heART Initiative brought joy and creativity to our elementary schools through a series of hand-painted Kindness Murals, led by high school students and supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. Our scholar-artists had their work showcased in The Heckscher Museum of Art, and throughout our own schools. Students earned accolades in debate, public speaking, robotics, technology, media and journalism, bringing home awards from across Long Island and New York State.

Our schools remain proudly designated as No Place for Hate, and our students completed thousands of hours of community service. In partnership with the community, we filled 500 duffle bags with essentials for Long Island teens in foster care and shelters during this year's Power of Belonging event. We also deepened our Culture of Care initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to empathy, inclusion and belonging.

These accomplishments are made possible thanks to a dedicated faculty, staff and administration supported by the Board of Education and an engaged PTA and other community partners.

As we move into the summer months, I hope everyone takes time to rest, recharge and take pride in all that was accomplished this year. While students and staff enjoy a well-deserved break, planning is already underway to ensure a smooth and successful start to the 2025-26 school year. I look forward to seeing you in the fall and continuing to support every learner across our District.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary O'Meara
Superintendent of Schools





Leading The Class

JILLIAN ZHANG, VALEDICTORIAN



While at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, Jillian was the president and co-founder of the heART Initiative, through which she led the creation of five large-scale murals at elementary schools throughout the District. A National Merit Semifinalist, she has received numerous accolades, including recognition from the Chinese Language Association of Secondary Schools and a Silver Key from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. She has also achieved top honors at the Long Island Science Congress in both the junior and senior divisions. As co-president of the Science Honor Society, she managed a membership of 200 students and coordinated major events such as the District's STEAM Night.

In addition, Jillian was the first two-term president (Secretariat) in the 53-year history of the school's Model United Nations Club, where she organized the largest Model UN conference on Long Island, welcoming over 300 student delegates. She was also a member of the Particle Physics Research Team, representing the school in the international Beamline for Schools Competition and collaborating on proposals involving CERN's Proton Synchrotron.

Beyond her academic and leadership commitments, Jillian tutored students in grades 1 through 11 across a range of subjects from Algebra 1 to U.S. History. She further develops her artistic talents by studying at The Art Students League of New York in Manhattan, where she takes advanced courses in figure drawing and other media.

Graduating with a GPA of 103.6, Jillian will attend Princeton University to major in civil and environmental engineering, while continuing to explore her artistic and musical passions as a dedicated pianist.



CHLOE LEE, SALUTATORIAN

During her tenure at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, Chloe made a lasting impact through her leadership and service. As vice president of community service for the National Honor Society, she spearheaded various outreach initiatives while actively contributing to both the Environmental Club and the Youth Against Cancer Club. Her academic excellence in science earned her recognition from the Science Teachers Association of New York and the Long Island Science Congress.

Beyond the classroom, Chloe led the Plainview Fire Department Cadets as captain and advocated for pediatric cancer awareness as a Cancer Kids First ambassador. As a legislative ambassador for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, she traveled to Albany to lobby in support of cancer biomarker testing legislation. Chloe was also an all-division athlete on the varsity swim team and was selected as POB's Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Ambassador during her sophomore year.

Graduating with a GPA of 103, Chloe will attend Dartmouth College, where she plans to study biomedical engineering.

Class of 2025 Community

Anthony Monaco Memorial Sports Scholarship: Joshua Lipetz

Baha'i Race Unity Award: Yunhan Liu

Benjamin W. Sofe Memorial Scholarship: Ashley Boudin

Brian Harley Assa Memorial Scholarship: Hayley Levy

Brian Harley Assa Memorial Scholarship: Joshua Lipetz

Brooke Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship: Samantha Paradise

BSDC Scholarship for Special Needs Awareness: Sydney Monka

Concerned Citizens of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Community Carol Meschkow Memorial Award: Eunice Lim

Concerned Citizens of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Community Title IX Gender Equity Award: Camryn Lubin

Crestwood Country Day School Scholarship: Haley Eisenstein

Crestwood Country Day School Scholarship: Sage Moghaddam

Debbie C. Bernstein Kindness & Compassion Scholarship: Rebecca Lipetz

Frisch Financial Scholarship for Excellence in Finance: Benjamin Lincoln

Gottlieb-Weiner Family Scholarship: Margot White

Jeffrey M. Bernstein Anti-Bullying Scholarship: Vandita Singh

Jeffrey Miller Award: Joshua Lipetz

Jordan Abramowitz Memorial Scholarship: Aidan Taylor

Joseph Morello Memorial Scholarship: Joshua Lipetz

Joshua Golbert Memorial Award in Music: Morgan Shishko

Karen Smith Memorial Art Scholarship: Kayla Jasser

Kathleen McNally Dillon Scholarship: Haley Kim

Kevin D. Berkowitz Memorial Scholarship: Sophie Hu

Leonard & Miriam Berkowitz Memorial Scholarship: Parshwa Shah

Leonard & Miriam Berkowitz Memorial Scholarship: Jillian Zhang

Linda Lippolt Ray of Sunshine Scholarship: Ally Yagaloff

Long Island Blood Services Scholarship: Julia Kesselman

Lucian Veneziano Memorial Scholarship: Vidhit Singh

Mark Koehler Scholarship: Hayley Levy

Maury D. Golbert Music Award: Viktor Vasic

Michael Eichenbaum Memorial Lacrosse Scholarship: Samantha Feinberg

Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship: Evan Alter

Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship: Ellie Feifer

Nanette Strenger Memorial Learning Ally Scholarship: Parshwa Shah

Opa Grille Scholarship: Jazlyn Orbegoso

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Evan Alter

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Hannah Berk

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Sawyer Bogaty

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: John Bromberg

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Faith Cohen

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Haley Eisenstein

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Ellie Feifer

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Samantha Feinberg

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Jacob Ferencz

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Bria Hospodar

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Evan Irushalmi

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Rachel Levine

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Jack Ostroff

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Thomas Petrsoric

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Victoria Robinson

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Joshua Stromer

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Molly Thompson

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Logan Todisco

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Matteo Weiss

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Adam Weltsch

P.A.L. - Nassau County Police Activity League Scholarship: Heather Wiedeman

P.A.L - Plainview P.A.L.'s Anthony Green Memorial Award: Sean Fenster

Paul Rubin Memorial Scholarship: Hailey Richman

Plainview-Bethpage Lions Club Award: Sofiya Chetyrchinskaya

Plainview Hospital Medical Scholarship: Aidan Taylor

Plainview Hospital Nursing Scholarship: Amanda Narissi

Plainview Little League Scholarship: Sawyer Bogaty

Plainview Little League Scholarship: Jillian Pollack

Plainview Powerball/Mega-Millions Facebook Page Scholarship: Rebecca Forgash

Plainview Powerball/Mega-Millions Facebook Page Scholarship: Rebeccah Grossfeld

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship: Ava Aaronson

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship: Sawyer Bogaty









Scholarships and Awards

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship: Faith Cohen

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship: Ellie Feifer

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship: Hayley Levy

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship: Molly Thompson

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship: Sophie Turkel

Plainview-Old Bethpage Senior Citizen Club Scholarship: Benjamin Cheser

Plainview-Old Bethpage Senior Citizen Club Scholarship: Rachel Levine

Plainview-Old Bethpage Senior Citizen Club Scholarship: Hayley Levy

Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club Scholarship: Lara Glasser

Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club Scholarship: Thomas Petrsoric

Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club Scholarship: Emily Ralton

Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club Scholarship: Joshua Stromer

POB Chamber of Commerce Award in Memory of Marcia Finkelstein: Parshwa Shah

POB Chamber of Commerce Scholarship: Joanna Chertoff

POB Chamber of Commerce Scholarship: Faith Cohen

POB Fantasy Football Scholarship: Joshua Lipetz

POB Fantasy Football Scholarship: Demeter Stathakopoulos

POBAOA Leadership Scholarship: Parshwa Shah

POBAOA Leadership Scholarship: Arjun Khashu

POBAOA Leadership Scholarship: Krisha Kothari

R.A.G.E - Residents Against Garbage Expansion Scholarship: Benjamin Cheser

R.A.G.E - Residents Against Garbage Expansion Scholarship: Margot White

Rae Saltzman Scholarship: Jordyn Kalish

Rae Saltzman Scholarship: Emily Ralton

Rechler Equity Partners Scholarship: Aadi Mehta

Rinaldi Scholarship Fund: Simon Hazut

Ruth Gaiptman Memorial Scholarship: Callie Lepselter

RVC Blue Speaks Scholarship: Allison Gleicher

SCOPE Education Services Scholarship: Chloe Ng

SEPTA Scholarship: Rising Star Award: Madison Castagna

SEPTA Scholarship: Rising Star Award: Spencer Horowitz

SEPTA Scholarship: Rising Star Award: Jordyn Kalish

Spencer Cares Scholarship: Hannah Berk

Spencer Cares Scholarship: Samantha Feinberg

Spencer Cares Scholarship: Bria Hospodar

Spencer Cares Scholarship: Joshua Lipetz

Spencer Cares Scholarship: Hailey Richman

Spencer Cares Scholarship: Victoria Robinson

Stacy's Warriors Scholarship: Haley Eisenstein

Stacy's Warriors Scholarship: Lena Hemmerdinger

Stacy's Warriors Scholarship: Emily Ralton

Steve Pollicino Memorial Scholarship: Sarah Bluestein

The Susan Rusinek Memorial Scholarship: Marisa Schlossman

Swimmer Scholar Award: Joseph Meder

The Oyster Bay Arts Council, TOBAC Artistic Achievement Award: Romy Park

Tri-M Music Honor Society Awards: Emily Gregori

Tri-M Music Honor Society Awards: Bennett Lam

Tri-M Music Honor Society Awards: Romy Park

Tri-M Music Honor Society Awards: Morgan Shishko

Trio Hardware Scholarship: Irena Zhang

Office of the NYS Attorney General Triple "C" Award (Letitia James): Bari Cohen

Office of the NYS Attorney General Triple "C" Award (Letitia James): Emma Leblond

Office of the NYS Attorney General Civic Ambassador Award (Letitia James): Joshua Stromer

Office of the State Comptroller Student Achievement Award (Thomas P. DiNapoli): Matteo Weiss

National School Development Council Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning (George L. Duffy): Haley Brodzansky

National School Development Council Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning (George L. Duffy): Parshwa Shah

Congressional Recognition for Excellence in History and Civics Award (Thomas R. Suozzi): Ryan Chin

New York State Senate Citizenship Award (Steven Rhoads): Anna Kapassakis

New York State Senate Citizenship Award (Steven Rhoads): Jordan Michaels

New York State Senate Citizenship Award (Steven Rhoads): Jack Ostroff

County Executive Blakeman's Community Service and Academic Excellence Award (Bruce A. Blakeman): Demeter Stathakopoulos

New York State Senate Rising Star Award (Jack M. Martins): Abby Sussman

Office of the Nassau County Comptroller: High School Math, Accounting and Finance Award (Elaine Phillips): Matthew Horowitz









Next Steps for the Class of 2025









Adelphi University
American University
Bentley University
Bethel University (MN)
Binghamton University
Boston University
Brown University
Bryant University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Cornell University
CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
CUNY Queens College
Dartmouth College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach
Emory University
Fairfield University
Farmingdale State College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Memorial University
Florida State University
Georgetown University
Hamilton College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Illinois State University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kansas State University
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Long Island University - Brooklyn
Manhattanville University
Marist University
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Miami University-Oxford
Michigan State University
Molloy University
Nassau Community College
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University-Main Campus
Ohio Technical College
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus
Pratt Institute – Brooklyn
Princeton University
Purdue University-Main Campus
Quinnipiac University
Rice University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University
Skidmore College
St. John's University-New York
St. Joseph's University, New York - Long Island Campus
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University
Suffolk County Community College
Suffolk University
SUNY at New Paltz
SUNY at Purchase College
SUNY College at Geneseo
SUNY College at Oswego
SUNY College at Plattsburgh
SUNY College of Technology at Canton
SUNY College of Technology at Delhi
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Maritime College
SUNY Old Westbury
SUNY Oneonta
Syracuse University
Temple University
The George Washington University
The New School
The University of Tampa
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
The University of Texas at Austin
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
University at Albany, SUNY
University at Buffalo, SUNY
University of Bridgeport
University of California-Los Angeles
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hartford
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Mississippi
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina-Columbia
University of South Florida-Main Campus
University of Tampa
University of Washington-Seattle Campus
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
William & Mary
Yale University

Moving Up in Plainview-Old Bethpage





Judy Jacobs-Parkway Elementary School

Old Bethpage Elementary School









Pasadena Elementary School

Stratford Road Elementary School









Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School

Howard B. Mattlin Middle School





Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
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Tara Rock, Trustee

Dr. Mary O'Meara, Superintendent of Schools

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Central School District

Congratulations Educators and Staff

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District is pleased to recognize 39 dedicated educators and staff members who have earned tenure. This outstanding accomplishment highlights their commitment to educational excellence.

Katie Bak
Jessica Berry
Ryan Beucke
Robert Bliss
Dr. James Bolen
Kristen Carroll
Joanna Clampitt
Lauren Conroy
Dr. Christopher Dillon
Kristin Durante
Kerry Farrell
Elizabeth Fiscina
Helayn Flyer
Julia Gabrinowitz
Sasha Kohli
Jordana Kottler
Chelsea Kramer
Regina Lee
Nicolette Lodato
Jessica Macklin
Tracey Massetti
Kaitlin McNulty
Kaitlyn Milne
Christina Panvini
Joseph Parisi
Janina Pereira
Courtney Picciurro
Emily Pillar
Jordana Prince
Christina Psihogios
Michael Randazzo
Jee Rho
Elizabeth Sonnick
Lauren Staudt
Carly Takojeff
Shawn Ulahannan
Robyn Vann
Nirel Weinstein
Dr. Stephanie Yohe



Wishing all the best to our retirees for their years of dedicated service and lasting impact to the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District.

Jerrold Assa
Dr. Joyce Barry
Francis Buck
Thomas Cahill
Laurie Catterson
Joseph Colalupo
Lourdes DeSimone
Noel Donovan
Grace-Marie Epstein
Selene Fields
Rose McGee
Stefanie Hernandez
Jeneane Lynn-Claps
Joanne Kady
Marjorie Klein
Kim Krage
AnnMarie LeBlanc
Marsha Kramer
Joan Moore
Patricia Ninivaggi
Sara Price
Thomas Severino
Jeffrey Salzberg
Grace Signoretti
Lori Stitt
Lynn Winters
Faith Zaccoli
Stuart "Jay" Wechter

