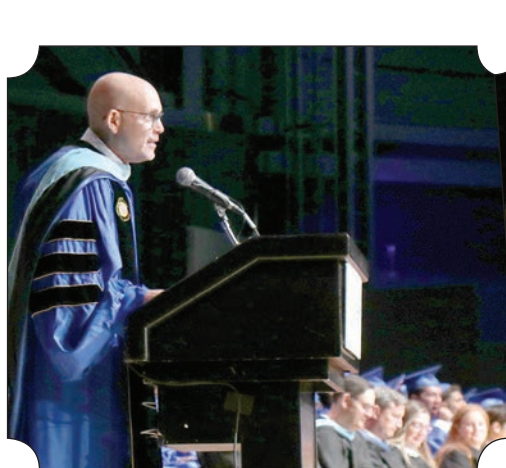




Discovery

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



See inside
for more
graduation
photos

Celebrating the

class of 2026

Congratulations to the Great Neck Public Schools Class of 2026! In late June, families, friends, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate this important milestone as graduates from North High School, South High School and Village School received their diplomas. This year's graduating class includes 270 students from North High, 356 students from South High and 17 students from Village School, each leaving Great Neck with memories and a strong foundation to support any path they choose to follow.

Commencement ceremonies were filled with tradition and celebration as students reflected on their journeys and looked ahead to the opportunities that await them. We congratulate every graduate and wish them continued success in all they pursue.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

BY KENNETH R. BOSSERT, ED.D.

Dear GNPS Community,

Congratulations to the GNPS Class of 2026! We are proud of all our graduates have accomplished and wish them every success as they begin their next chapter. Their achievements reflect years of hard work, the dedication of our educators and the support of their families.

The months of July and August are a busy time for our district. Hundreds of students are participating in enrichment courses, recreation programs and camps offered through our recreation department that encourage continued discovery, learning and fun.

The summer also provides valuable time to complete maintenance and improvement projects to protect our infrastructure and enhance our facilities. Major projects for this year include the renovation of the South High auditorium and construction of the new North athletic field on Arrandale Avenue.

On July 1, the Board of Education and administrators celebrated the groundbreaking for the North athletic field, a milestone made possible through the overwhelming support of voters in May 2025. Over the coming months, the site will be transformed with the district's first synthetic field, a resurfaced track,

new grandstands and concessions, renovated public restrooms, dark-sky-compliant lighting and other site improvements. This project is funded entirely through the district's Capital Reserve Fund, so there is no additional cost to taxpayers and no impact on the tax levy.

We're grateful that our community also supported a similar proposition on the ballot in May 2026, which will allow similar track and field improvements on the South campus. We anticipate that work on the South campus will begin in summer 2027.

As I often say, "The race for excellence has no finish line." Thank you for your continued support that allows us to build upon our tradition of educational excellence, invest in learning environments and provide every student with opportunities for success. Enjoy a safe and restful summer, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday, September 1!

Follow Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Bossert on Instagram!



dr.bossert_great_neck_super
Ken Bossert



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT BY GRANT TOCH

Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of the Board of Education, congratulations to all our graduates! The entire Board attended all three high school graduation ceremonies, applauding our graduates as they received their diplomas.

As a parent of a Class of 2026 graduate, I had the pleasure of participating in commencement festivities not only as Board president, but also as a proud father. From this perspective, I can confidently say that our seniors have achieved remarkable accomplishments, made possible by the supportive faculty and outstanding programs in our district. Our Board is committed to ensuring that Great Neck remains one of the top districts in the state and the nation, and that exceptional academic and extracurricular opportunities will be available to all students for many years to come.

Following the excitement of graduations and moving-up ceremonies in June, the Board quickly got to work for the start of the 2026–27 year. At the reorganization meeting on July 1, we welcomed new trustee Marisa Brandeis Kermanian and congratulated fellow trustee Joanne Chan on her reelection. I've had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Brandeis Kermanian through the UPTC and other parent organizations in the district, and I look forward to her valuable contributions as the newest member of the school board.

It is an honor to serve our community as Board president. On behalf of my fellow trustees, we wish everyone a relaxing summer, and we look forward to welcoming our new ex officio student members, North High senior Letizia Kaya, South High senior Cassandra Zheng, and Village School senior Alexander Geller, to the Board in September.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS FOR 2026-2027

Board meetings take place in the E.M. Baker Elementary School auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. For the most up-to-date meeting information, visit www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/meetings.

Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 7 p.m. at Phipps

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Tuesday, January 12, 2027

Tuesday, January 26, 2027*

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

Tuesday, February 23, 2027*

Tuesday, March 2, 2027

Wednesday, March 31, 2027

Tuesday, April 13, 2027

Tuesday, May 4, 2027

Tuesday, May 18, 2027, at 10 p.m. at Phipps

Wednesday, June 2, 2027, at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 15, 2027, at 7 p.m.

**Snow date, if needed*

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Great Neck Board of Education officially began the 2026–27 school year at its annual Reorganizational Meeting on July 1. District Clerk Suzanne Mallozzi administered the oath of office to newly elected trustee Marisa Brandeis Kermanian and reelected trustee Joanne Chan, who were both chosen by the community in May to serve three-year terms on the Board.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Grant Toch as president for the third consecutive year, and Steve Chen as vice president for the upcoming school year. Trustees also approved the annual reorganizational agenda, including appointments to key administrative positions and service providers that support the district's operations throughout the school year.

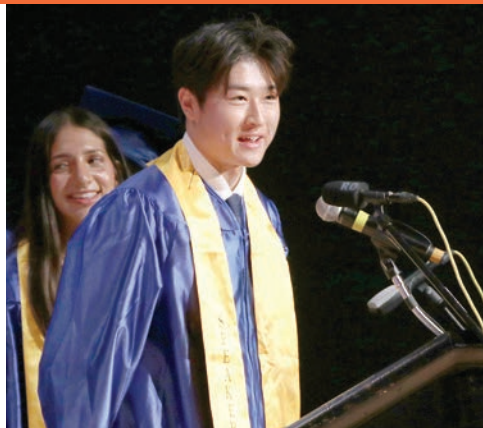


2026–27 Board of Education (left to right): Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth R. Bossert, Trustee Donna Peirez, Vice President Steve Chen, President Grant Toch, Trustee Joanne Chan and Trustee Marisa Brandeis Kermanian.

Great Neck Schools Celebrate th



John L. Miller-Great Neck North High School



William A. Shine-Great Neck South High School



the Class of 2026

Congratulations to all our graduates who celebrated this exciting milestone in front of friends, family, faculty and administrators. Commencement ceremonies marked the culmination of years of hard work and growth for our Great Neck students.



The Village School



Adult Learning Center



Top of the Class 2026

The Great Neck Public Schools celebrated graduates from the district's three high schools: John L. Miller-Great Neck North High School, William A. Shine-Great Neck South High School and Village School. A look at the valedictorians and salutatorians for North and South high schools follows.

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN

Sophia Li is an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship recipient and a Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) Scholar. She served as president of the Envirothon team, co-president of the North High Robotics team, earned medals on the Science Olympiad team and volunteered as a Peer Tutor. A talented figure skater, Sophia also volunteers in the community as a coach for a therapeutic ice-skating program.



Sophia has earned regional and national recognition for her work as a member of the North High science research program. Most notably, Sophia was honored as a Regeneron Top 300 Scholar during her senior year for her research.

Sophia will attend Harvard University.

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL SALUTATORIAN

Julian Elihu is an AP Scholar with Distinction and a National Merit Commended Student. He served as president and founding member of the Artificial Intelligence club, co-founder and co-president of the Physics and Astronomy team, co-president of the Photography and Videography club, and a member of the Quiz Bowl team and DECA.



Julian conducted impressive work through the school's science research program and in partnership with universities and institutes. In the areas of astronomy, physics and AI research, Julian has worked independently and with mentors from the UC Berkeley Center for Cosmological Physics and Brookhaven National Laboratory. In the area of biomedical research, Julian conducted award-winning independent ophthalmology research and has a patent pending for an interpretable AI system to detect macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Julian will attend Yale University.

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN

Chloe Ning is an AP Scholar with Distinction and National Merit Commended Student and earned a perfect score on the PSAT. She was a member of the South High Math team, an all-star competitor in the Nassau County Interregional Math League, and the founder and captain of an all-girls VEX Robotics team. Chloe played Bb and bass clarinet in the school's symphonic band and wind ensemble, and she mentored elementary musicians through the Great Neck South Music Buddies program.



Chloe earned accolades through competitions including the Nassau County Math Tournament, as well as the Nassau County Interregional, New York State, and American Regional Mathematics Leagues.

Chloe will attend MIT.

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SALUTATORIAN

Elaine He is an AP Scholar with Distinction, National French Exam Gold Medalist and National Merit Scholarship Finalist. She served as a coordinator for the South High Art club, a competitor on the Math team, and a member of the Philosophy club.



Elaine pursued advanced work in AP-level art courses, had her work featured in local exhibits, and received top honors through several juried art competitions, including Gold Key and Silver Key awards in the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition. She shares her artistic abilities and inspires young artists as a volunteer at the Gold Coast Arts Center. In addition to her success in challenging math courses, Elaine was a top scorer on the Nassau Math Tournament Team and further enriched her studies through a math program at Boston University. She provides weekly tutoring for middle school students in both math and French.

Elaine will attend Northwestern University.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE IN ACTION

In March, the district proudly welcomed New York State Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty A. Rosa and Regent Felicia Thomas-Williams for a visit highlighting the implementation of the district's Portrait of a Graduate.

As New York State continues to develop its own Portrait of a Graduate initiative, Great Neck was selected as one of the districts where state education leaders could observe how the framework is being translated into meaningful classroom experiences. During a visit on March 18, guests interacted with Board trustees, administrators, staff and students, and engaged in conversations about how teaching and learning are evolving to prepare students for success in college, careers and life.

Commissioner Rosa and Regent Thomas-Williams participated in a Morning Meeting routine with a first grade class from Lakeville Elementary and observed an engaging high school biology lesson. These two activities provided a glimpse into the ways our schools are integrating the core concepts of the Portrait of a Graduate and New York State learning standards into daily instruction.

Great Neck's Portrait of a Graduate was developed during the 2024–25 school year through a partnership with Molloy University. It was informed by extensive feedback from students, families, staff and community members. The resulting framework identifies eight attributes that our community believes every Great Neck graduate should develop by the time they complete their PreK–12 education.

With our Portrait in place, the district began important work this past school year to align curriculum and programs with the key attributes. During the district's 2025–26 Superintendent Conference Days, administrators and faculty collaborated across grade levels, departments and schools to ensure the Portrait is reflected in instruction and student experiences. Additionally, each elementary school hosted a special professional development session for faculty dedicated to this topic.

This visit by Commissioner Rosa and Regent Thomas-Williams provided an opportunity for state education leaders to see how Great Neck is putting the Portrait of a Graduate into practice while helping shape the statewide conversation about preparing students for future success.



Assistant Superintendent Dr. Daniel Holtzman presented the district's Portrait of a Graduate to all faculty during Superintendent's Conference Day in August 2025.



Throughout the 2025-26 school year, faculty collaborated to ensure the Portrait is reflected in instruction and student experiences.

**Scan the QR code
to view a video of
Commissioner Rosa's visit.**





GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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2026–2027 Board of Education

Grant Toch, *President*

Steve Chen, *Vice President*

Marisa Brandeis Kermanian, *Trustee*

Joanne Chan, *Trustee*

Donna Peirez, *Trustee*

Superintendent of Schools

Kenneth R. Bossert, Ed.D.

Follow us!



Great Neck Public Schools
#DiscoverGreatness

Mission Statement

The Great Neck Public School District provides an innovative and collaborative educational environment that supports academic excellence and the social and emotional growth of all students so that they may become lifelong learners and compassionate, productive members of a diverse, global society.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Retirement

Thank you to our 2025–26 retirees for their years of dedicated service to the Great Neck Public Schools. Their commitment has left a lasting impact on our students, colleagues and school community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and wish them every success and happiness in retirement.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Diana Haanraads, Assistant
Superintendent for Elementary
Education

ADMINISTRATORS

Steve Goldberg, Principal, Village School

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Anne Alexandrou, E.M. Baker
Karen Cuchel, South High
Carol Goldberg, North Middle
Craig Gootman, Pupil Personnel Services
Peter Gottfried, South High
Joan Greenberg, South High
Rita Flaherty, South High
David Manuel, South High
Richard Marchese, North High
John Motchkavitz, South High
Karen Pagano, Lakeville
Marianne Roofeh, South Middle
Laura Talamo, North High
Valerie Williams, E.M. Baker
Jonathan Zimmerman, North Middle

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS SUPERVISORS

Michael Powell, North Grounds

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Francisco Alvarado, Transportation
Xianzhong Tang, North Middle

OFFICE STAFF

Ellen Albrechtsen, Lakeville
Concetta DiFiore, Pupil Personnel Services
Sherry Graffinga, Saddle Rock
Cheryl Savage, Purchasing
Sarah Scala, South High
Donna Weber, Transportation

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES

Elise Feinman, Parkville

PARAPROFESSIONALS

Elena Bucher, North High
Sevda Cabas, North Middle
Josephine Caccamo, J.F. Kennedy
Elsy Esquivel-Huete, Adult Learning Center
Rosaleen Fox, North High
Lucy McWilliams, North Middle
Michael Meehan, North High

