

PM RAIDER CONNECTION

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

The Patchogue-Medford High School class of 2026 celebrated a milestone achievement during this year's commencement ceremony. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty, and staff, graduates proudly crossed the stage to receive their diplomas and commemorate the culmination of their high school journeys. The event featured meaningful remarks from student leaders and educators, reflections on the experiences that shaped the class of 2026, and plenty of memorable moments shared among classmates. We invite you to take a look back at this special occasion and enjoy photos capturing the excitement, pride, and accomplishments of our newest alumni. For even more photos, visit the district's Facebook page.



A Message From the Interim Superintendent

It is with immense excitement and pride that I congratulate the class of 2026. Your journey at Patchogue-Medford High School has been nothing short of extraordinary, and I am deeply honored to have served as your Superintendent during such a milestone year. From celebrations to shared memories, your energy, pride, and enthusiasm made this an absolutely unforgettable school year.

As this exciting chapter ends, your paths forward will be unique. Some of you will continue your education, while others will enter the workforce, serve our country through military service, or embrace important family responsibilities. No matter which direction you choose, carry with you the most powerful tool you have: a commitment to lifelong curiosity. Keep learning, stay flexible, question your assumptions, and always remain open to new ideas and experiences. The world belongs to those who never stop growing!

I also want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible staff members who are embarking on a well-deserved retirement. Your unwavering dedication to our students and community is truly commendable. Day after day, you showed up with open hearts, providing our students with a safe, nurturing, and supportive learning environment. Your years of service have made a lasting impact that will be felt for generations to come.

This year has also been deeply personal for me. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as your Interim Superintendent, and while my heart is full of gratitude, it is also touched with bittersweetness as I retire after 25 remarkable years of service to this community. Every role I have held in this district has shaped me, challenged me, and brought me tremendous joy. I could not have asked for a more extraordinary community with which to share this journey.

Patchogue-Medford will always hold a very special place in my heart. Once a Raider, always a Raider! I look forward to watching this incredible district continue to thrive and achieve wonderful things in the years to come. Thank you for a career filled with purpose, passion, and pride.

With gratitude and warmest wishes,

Lori Cannetti
Interim Superintendent of Schools



A Message From the Incoming Superintendent

Dear Patchogue-Medford School Community,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the class of 2026 on your high school graduation. This important milestone marks both a celebration of your accomplishments and the beginning of an exciting new chapter. Whether you pursue college, vocational training, careers in the workforce, or service in the military, I wish you a future filled with success, health, and happiness. As a class and as individuals, you have left a lasting impression in our classrooms, on our performance stages, through athletic competition, and in service to the community. I hope you will remain connected to the Patchogue-Medford community for years to come.

To our younger students advancing to new schools and opportunities, I encourage you to embrace the many academic, extracurricular, and enrichment experiences available to you. I look forward to supporting your continued growth and success.

To our retiring educators, I extend my deepest gratitude for your dedicated service and the profound impact you have made on your students, colleagues, and our community. I offer special congratulations to Ms. Lori Cannetti, Interim Superintendent, on her well-deserved retirement after a distinguished career as an instructional leader in the Patchogue-Medford School District. While your daily presence will be greatly missed, your legacy will endure through the educational programs you helped shape and the countless lives you have touched.

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, I welcome the opportunity to serve this community and provide our students with an education that inspires curiosity, builds confidence, and creates meaningful opportunities for growth and achievement.

Sincerely,

Patrick Harrigan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

WHERE TO NEXT?

Looking Ahead at Where the Class of 2026 Is Headed

As members of the class of 2026 embark on new journeys, they do so with the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained throughout their time in the Patchogue-Medford School District. This year's graduates will pursue a variety of paths, including higher education, career and technical training, military service, and entry into the workforce. Whether they are continuing their studies, learning a trade, serving their communities, or exploring new opportunities, each graduate leaves with a unique vision for the future. We are proud of all they have achieved and wish them success, fulfillment, and continued growth in the years ahead.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Adelphi University■ American University■ Boston University■ Bryant University■ Canisius University■ Central Carolina Community College■ Clemson University■ Coastal Carolina University■ College of Charleston■ CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College■ CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice■ Curry College■ East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania■ Farmingdale State College■ Five Towns College■ Florida Institute of Technology■ Florida International University■ Francis Marion University■ Hartwick College■ Hofstra University■ Hudson Valley Community College■ Hunter Business School■ Iona University■ Long Island University■ Marist University■ Marymount Manhattan College■ Marywood University■ Massachusetts Maritime Academy■ Mercy University■ Mercyhurst University■ Mitchell College | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Molloy University■ Morgan State University■ New York Institute of Technology■ Nova Southeastern University■ Pace University■ Pennsylvania State University■ Pennsylvania College of Technology■ Pratt Institute■ Purdue University■ Quinnipiac University■ Rider University■ Rochester Institute of Technology■ Sacred Heart University■ Saint Leo University■ Savannah College of Art and Design■ School of the Art Institute of Chicago■ Siena University■ St. John's University■ St. Joseph's University■ State University of New York University at Albany■ State University of New York Binghamton■ State University of New York Brockport■ State University of New York University at Buffalo■ State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill■ State University of New York College at Cortland■ State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi■ State University of New York at Fredonia | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ State University of New York College at Geneseo■ State University of New York Maritime College■ State University of New York at New Paltz■ State University of New York College at Oneonta■ State University of New York at Oswego■ State University of New York Plattsburgh■ State University of New York College at Potsdam■ State University of New York Purchase College■ State University of New York Stony Brook University■ Suffolk County Community College■ The New School■ The Ohio State University at Columbus■ The University of Alabama■ The University of North Carolina at Charlotte | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The University of Tampa■ Touro University■ United States Military Academy■ University of Connecticut■ University of Delaware■ University of Florida■ University of Hartford■ University of New Hampshire■ University of New Haven■ University of North Carolina Wilmington■ University of Richmond■ University of South Carolina-Columbia■ University of St Andrews■ Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology■ Wesleyan University■ Western New England University■ York College of Pennsylvania |
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ACADEMIC LEADERS

Patchogue-Medford High School Celebrates Its Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Class Essayist

As the Patchogue-Medford High School class of 2026 graduated, the district recognized three students whose academic achievements, dedication, and commitment to excellence have distinguished them among their peers. Taylor Tor was named valedictorian, Michael Russell earned the title of salutatorian, and Chloe Lin was selected as class essayist. Together, these students exemplify the hard work, perseverance, and passion for learning that define the class of 2026.

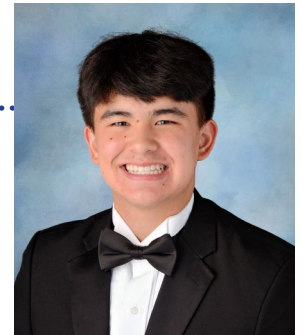


VALEDICTORIAN: TAYLOR TOR

Taylor Tor earned the distinction of valedictorian with an impressive weighted GPA of 104.65. Throughout her high school career, she demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and a strong commitment to personal growth. Taylor's dedication to excellence has made her a role model for fellow students and a respected member of the school community. Following graduation, she will attend the University of Connecticut, where she plans to major in physiology and neurobiology on a pre-med track.

SALUTATORIAN: MICHAEL RUSSELL

Michael Russell was named salutatorian after achieving a weighted GPA of 103.87. Known for his thoughtful approach to learning and unwavering determination, Michael consistently challenged himself academically while maintaining a strong commitment to his goals. His hard work and perseverance have earned him the admiration of both classmates and teachers. This fall, he will attend the University of South Carolina, where he plans to study biochemistry on a pre-med track.



CLASS ESSAYIST: CHLOE LIN

With a weighted GPA of 103.50, Chloe Lin was selected as the class of 2026 essayist. Chloe's academic success reflects years of diligence, responsibility, and dedication to her studies. Her ability to balance rigorous coursework while maintaining a strong record of achievement has distinguished her throughout her time at Patchogue-Medford High School. After graduation, she will continue her education at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she plans to pursue a degree in engineering.

The Patchogue-Medford School District congratulates Taylor, Michael, and Chloe on this well-deserved recognition and wishes them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their academic journeys. Their accomplishments serve as an inspiration to current and future students, and the district looks forward to following their future achievements.



ACADEMIC DISTINCTION EARNED BY THE CLASS OF 2026

The Patchogue-Medford School District is proud to recognize members of the class of 2026 who have earned academic distinction through their outstanding performances and commitment to excellence. These honors—*Summa Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude*, and *Cum Laude*—reflect years of dedication, perseverance, and rigorous academic achievement. We celebrate these students for their hard work both inside and outside the classroom and congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition as they prepare to graduate and begin the next chapter of their journeys.

Summa Cum Laude

Noah Abdur Rasheed
Alexander Alleyne
Alain Almelia
Jhon Arizaga
Renato Avecillas-Martinez
Rylynn Berard
Max Bochicchio
Matthew Buccinna
Despina Carver
Marcuso Colon
Kate Comiskey
Gabriella Corrado
Matthew Cox
Brendan Cox
Robert DeLellis
Kaylee Deveny
Miles Diekmann
Ashley DiLorenzo
Martin John Dornagon
Gina Fox
Cinthia Gonzalez Cruz
Derek Graham
Moncerath Gutierrez
Matute
Connor Hayes
Caitlin Hole
Isabella Iuliucci
Brendan Jagde
Joseph Klepper
Gracie Kohler
Mackenzie La Spisa
Liam Langlan
Chloe Lin
Martin Lopez Campoverde
Jasmine Maher
Lilly March
Johanna Martinez Bernal
Sophia Mateo

Skylar McAvoy
Oscar Mercedes Duran
Daniela Miranda
Charles Monahan
Valentina Moran
Olivia Moreno
Aiden Morin
Maddie Mulderig
Kayla Newman
Kayra Ozler
Nimay Parrish
Daniella Reyes
Nicholas Richards
Lilly Rosenberg
Tristan Rosenthal
Addison Ruland
Michael Russell
Kaitlyn Russo
Samantha Skartsiaris
Caden Smith
Davian Soto
Violet Tirelli
Taylor Tor
Ellie Tosi
Gianna Touya
Sofia Vargas
MaryCatherine Vetter
Layla Walker
Julia Ward
Aidan Wetzel
Heidi Wilken

Magna Cum Laude

Elan Aguiar
Manha Ahmed
Natalie Alamia
Tristan Almonte
Brandon Alvarez
Melissa Aragon

Angelo Arriaza
Christian Atencia
Angela Barrera
Amelia Beckles
Amber Bhatti
Brennan Brady
Riley Brody
Aiden Brower
Julian Bryant
Yarelis Cabrera
Kellan Castillo
Marie Cataldo
Ashley Chavez
Marc Compere III
Giavanna Cordray
Kaylee D'Avanzo
Brayden Davis
Ella DiLorenzo
Evan DiPrima
Sienna Duran
Javen Eason
Roger Estrella Torres
Sophia Fox
Evan Fraser
Sofia Fuentes Argueta
Olivia Garcia
Tyler Gleason
Reah Celina Gonzales
Brian Hadzicki
Sophia Hatch
Rae Ann Hess
Madison Hofmann
Joshua Jaipersaud
Andy Jara Palomino
Andrew Kaspar
Ella Kelly
Nicholas Kurzak
Charlotte Lake
Joseph LaMartina
Lindsay Le

Gianni Leonardi
Reily Lopez
Shannon Malone
Hayley Mantione
Kimnberly Maurad
Coraizaca
Caden Mazzarella
Shayne Mucha
Olivia Murphy
Onyinyechukwu Okonkwo
Gavin Pinto
Jackson Rall
Brittney Reyes Garcia
Alley Reynolds
Danna Rocano
Jackson Rocco
Meah Russell
Rhianna Sanchez
Jose Sanchez
Paulina Sanchez
Brittany Santiago
Kiersten Schafer
Brody Scherz
Mackenzie Search
Brooke Silverstein
Angelica Sobieski
Matthew Sutherland
Aidan Travalee
Kara Yaccarino

Cum Laude

Ariel Alfaro Argueta
Mia Arevalo
Emmie Barbal Cassino
Matthew Chiovaro
Joseph Coppola
Hary Cuevas Sanchez
Wilsilenia Del Rosario
Eusebio

Jack DiPalma
Madison Eddington
Liam Fleischman
Desirae Gallagher
Cheryn Gonzalez Rendon
Maria Guaman Gordillo
Jorge Guillermo Merchan
Marco Guncay Encalada
Maximus Hargrove
Isabella Jadykin
Colin Jennings
Gabrielle Kalouch
Ashton Klugewicz
Benjamin Krieger
Lilia Lepre
Lyliana Lombardi
Tomas Lopez Luciano
Josseline Lucero Quito
Julianna Matute
Luke McCarthy
Brady Melito
Lizbeth Morocho
Quinonez
Maria Navarrete Cruz
Alexis Oakley
Gabriel Once Zhicay
Ontonio Papaleo
Emilio Parada
Edwin Rivera Cajamarca
Dabney Rocano Bonilla
Emely Rodas Matute
Alyssa Rodriguez
Abigail Rosenkrans
Victoria Ruiz
Danna Sarmiento Punin
Christopher Solomos
Chloe Somerlad
Daniel Taveira
Leilani Ximines
Aileen Zaruma Zhicay

Celebrating Student Milestones

Students throughout the Patchogue-Medford School District marked important educational milestones this June during a series of moving-up ceremonies held at each school. These special events celebrated the successful completion of another school year and recognized students as they prepared for new opportunities and challenges ahead. We invite you to enjoy this collection of photographs capturing these memorable occasions and the excitement of students as they take the next steps in their educational journeys.



Oregon Middle School



Saxton Middle School



South Ocean Middle School



Barton Elementary School



Bay Elementary School



Canaan Elementary School



Eagle Elementary School



Medford Elementary School



River Elementary School



Tremont Elementary School



BITTERSWEET MOMENTS

HONORING THE RETIREES WHO HELPED SHAPE OUR DISTRICT

The Patchogue-Medford School District extends its sincere appreciation to the educators and staff members who are retiring this year. Each of these individuals has played an important role in shaping the experiences of our students and strengthening our school community through their years of dedication and service. As they transition into the next stage of life, we celebrate their accomplishments and thank them for the lasting difference they have made. Their influences will continue to be felt throughout our schools for years to come.

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| ■ Dana Augi, Special Education Teacher, 30 years of service | ■ Gina Draghi, Elementary Classroom Teacher, 29 years of service | ■ Michelle Ragonese, Special Education Teacher, 27 years of service |
| ■ Denise Bassin, Psychologist, 26 years of service | ■ Maria Filosa, Special Education Teacher, 34 years of service | ■ Krista Reid, Math AIS Teacher, 26 years of service |
| ■ Lori Canalini, Teaching Assistant, 6 years of service | ■ Carolyn Gaughran, Librarian, 10 years of service | ■ Antonietta Robertazzi, PT Special Education Aide, 25 years of service |
| ■ Nicole Cancellieri, Elementary Classroom Teacher, 31 years of service | ■ Catherine Gersbeck, Special Education Teacher, 29 years of service | ■ Michael Rudnicki, Music Teacher, 28 years of service |
| ■ Lori Cannetti, Interim Superintendent, 25 years of service | ■ Michelle Jordan, Principal Office Assistant, 21 years of service | ■ Susan Rudnicki, Music Teacher, 33 years of service |
| ■ Maureen Carmody, ENL Teacher, 19 years of service | ■ Lisa Kovitz, Reading Teacher, 24 years of service | ■ Elizabeth Sblendorio, FT Special Ed Aide, 11 years of service |
| ■ Phyllis Cattell, Elementary Classroom Teacher, 31 years of service | ■ Sherry McPherson-Berg, Social Worker, 28 years of service | ■ Robyn Schaefer, Social Studies Teacher, 30 years of service |
| ■ Carolyn Christopher, Teaching Assistant, 6 years of service | ■ Christine Molinaro, Special Education Teacher, 30 years of service | ■ Sharon Schelberg, Elementary Classroom Teacher, 19 years of service |
| ■ Beth Corpac, Reading Teacher, 22 years of service | ■ Jennifer Mott, Special Education Teacher, 30 years of service | ■ Theresa Silver, Librarian, 22 years of service |
| ■ Susan Davison, Special Education Science Teacher, 13 years of service | ■ Paul Pecorale, Special Education Teacher, 27 years of service | ■ Catherine Spiller, Elementary Classroom Teacher, 29 years of service |
| ■ Laura DeCarlo, PT 1:1 Aide, 19 years of service | ■ Brenda Pepper, Senior Account Clerk, 10 years of service | ■ George Michael Taylor, Special Education Teacher, 31 years of service |
| ■ Denise DiMarco, Elementary Classroom Teacher, 27 years of service | ■ Diane Porfido, FT Health Aide, 11 years of service | ■ Christine Wenke, Reading Teacher, 29 years of service |

Patchogue-Medford Schools

241 South Ocean Avenue
Patchogue, New York 11772
www.pmschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Lori Cannetti, *Interim Superintendent of Schools (Retired)*

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A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Pamela Julian-Petersen Receives 2026 Exemplary Volunteer Award

In every school district across the country, there are unsung heroes doing amazing, selfless work in service of students. Certainly, we are no strangers to such individuals in the Patchogue-Medford School District. That's why we are so proud to recognize Pamela Julian-Petersen as the recipient of the 2026 Exemplary Volunteer Award for Patchogue-Medford High School.



She co-founded the Raiders Youth Girls Basketball Program, helping create opportunities for young athletes and strengthening the pipeline to the district's middle and high school programs. In addition, she played a key role in expanding participation in cheerleading and helped establish the district's competitive cheer program.

For many years, Ms. Julian-Petersen has dedicated countless hours to supporting students, families, and schools throughout the district. Her volunteer service has touched nearly every level of the educational community, from PTA leadership positions at multiple schools to her current role as president of the PTA Council, where she helps foster communication, collaboration, and community engagement. Ms. Julian-Petersen has also made a lasting impact through her work with student athletics.

Beyond her work with students, Ms. Julian-Petersen has been a dedicated advocate for public education, organizing community presentations, supporting district initiatives, and encouraging informed civic participation. A retired elementary educator with 33 years of service, she continues to champion opportunities for children and families through her volunteer efforts. The district congratulates Ms. Julian-Petersen and thanks her for her extraordinary commitment to the Patchogue-Medford community.

BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS DIANA ANDRADE AND MARC A. NEGRIN FOR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

The Patchogue-Medford School District extends its sincere gratitude to outgoing Board of Education Vice President Diana Andrade for her 12 years of dedicated service to the district's students, families, and community. Additionally, the Board would also like to thank outgoing Trustee Marc A. Negrin for his years spent serving the students of our district.

Serving on a board of education is a significant commitment that requires thoughtful leadership, collaboration, and a steadfast focus on providing students with the best possible educational opportunities. Throughout their tenures, Ms. Andrade and Mr. Negrin demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting student success, strengthening district initiatives, and helping guide important decisions that benefited the entire school community. The district thanks Ms. Andrade and Mr. Negrin for the lasting impact of their leadership. Their dedication and advocacy have helped shape the Patchogue-Medford School District. We wish them both all the best in their future endeavors.