

# Syosset Pride

*A Publication of the Syosset Central School District*

[www.syossetschools.org](http://www.syossetschools.org)

## Syosset High School *Class of 2019*

During the 61st Syosset High School Annual Commencement, held on June 26 at Hofstra University, over 470 seniors accepted their high school diplomas while supported by family, friends, teachers, administrators and the Board of Education.

This year's class was highlighted with two National Merit Scholars, nine National Merit Finalists and 30 Commended students; as well as a Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalist and three Regeneron Scholars.

Syosset High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Raymond Gessner, delivered the welcoming remarks on behalf of the High School administration. Citing the theme of the 2019 yearbook, he advised the graduates, "Be bold in expressing your ideas, be brave in following your dreams and use your beauty to be an inspiration to everyone you meet."

Superintendent Dr. Thomas Rogers encouraged the students to dream big and find their passion. "Each of you has dreams, ideas, plans," he stated. "Don't just follow the ones you can achieve. Pursue the ones that inspire you."

Board of Education Trustee Ms. Anna Levitan further emphasized the significance of

passion in her remarks to the graduates. "It is passion that separates those who are able to weather adversity from those who cannot," she stated. "It is passion that allows someone to rise up to great challenges."

Board of Education Trustee Mr. Chris Ulrich focused on the pursuit of wisdom. "My hope for you as you go forward in life is that you will always seek wisdom."

Class of 2019 Student Government President Sahil Rustami and Senior Class President Charles Zandieh presented the class gift, a variety of amenities for the school courtyard, after a lighthearted banter from the podium.

Class Speaker Diya Chadha spoke about her educational journey during her time at Syosset. "Syosset gave us passion, inquisitiveness and thoughtfulness," she said, and advised the graduates to "take the education that Syosset gave you, use your voice and make some change."

Salutatorian Sabrina Eager expressed her gratitude for the education she received in Syosset, stating, "Having teachers who believed in me and my potential gave me the confidence to know I had a voice worth listening to."

Valedictorian Cooper Scher

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spoke about the transformation during the four years of high school, and those to come in the future, stating, "Don't forget that the foundations of our characters were formed during the transitional four years [at Syosset]."

During the ceremony, the Elisabeth T. Babcock Award, PTA/STA Scholarship Awards and Personal Achievement Awards were presented to deserving students. In a touching

moment, Mr. Gessner recognized and thanked three graduates who plan to serve our country, Andrew Giovinco, who will be entering the U.S. Air Force Academy, and Matthew Majoy and James Galvin, who will be entering Reserve Officer Training Corps programs.

Congratulations, Class of 2019!



## The Syosset Board of Education and District Administration would like to congratulate the Class of 2019.

Syosset High School's 2019 graduating class continued to bolster the Syosset tradition of excellence with an impressive array of awards, achievements and accolades, including:

- A 100% graduation rate, with 98% pursuing full-time, postsecondary education.
- 2 National Merit Scholars, 9 National Merit Finalists, 30 National Merit Commended Scholarships.
- 14 NYS Scholarships of Excellence.
- 3 Regeneron Scholars and 1 Regeneron Finalist.
- \$22.7 million in scholarships awarded.
- 55 recipients of the NYS Seal of Bilingual Award.
- 7 NAFME All-Eastern musicians, 4 NAFME All-National musicians.
- 24 NYSMMA All-State Awards.

The Board of Education and District Administration would like to extend special congratulations to Syosset High School, H.B. Thompson Middle School

and South Woods Middle School on achieving the No Place for Hate designation from the Anti-Defamation League. We are so proud of all the students in our secondary schools who work to maintain a positive, supportive school climate and commit to stand up against bias and bullying.

With the strength of the Syosset curriculum and resulting academic success, a focus on the arts, an extracurricular program that offers opportunity for every student, and a strong embrace of diversity, it is no surprise that Niche.com recently named Syosset Central School District the third best school district in New York State, with all 10 Syosset schools individually ranked within the top 23 schools in the state. Congratulations to the faculty, students, parents and guardians, and community members who have all played important roles in achieving this success.

We look towards the 2019-2020

school year with great excitement. With advancements in technology, curriculum and the physical learning environments, Syosset students will have even more opportunity to deeply connect with the learning process. And while there will be some construction inconveniences at the start of the year, the end result of the work will be facilities that are safer, more engaging for students, more favorable for community members and more reflective of the distinction of the District. We would like to thank the community for its patience as the work is being completed. We are working as efficiently as possible to complete the much-anticipated transformation of our facilities, and we know they will become a source of pride for the community.

We wish everyone a great start to the new school year.

The Syosset Central School District Board of Education and Administration





## VALEDICTORIAN COOPER SCHER

Very active both inside and outside of the classroom, Class of 2019 valedictorian Cooper Scher has always wanted to make a difference and improve the lives of those around him. His passion lies in biomedical engineering and political science and he plans to pursue both areas of study as a freshman at the University of Virginia.

As a member of Forensics, Cooper enjoyed being exposed to a diversity of perspectives on important national issues. He was the recipient of several awards, including semifinalist at the National Forensics League, finalist at the Princeton University Invitational and semifinalist at the Yale University Invitational. Cooper pursued his passion for helping others as an officer of Student Government, managing a student blood drive and contributing to various charitable efforts. His other school activities included Model UN, where he was named an outstanding delegate at the

Johns Hopkins University Model UN Conference, and Ethics Bowl, where he was twice named a semifinalist at the Regional Tournament at Hofstra University. Cooper was also a member of the varsity baseball team.

Outside of school, Cooper taught English classes to Spanish-speaking community members, conducted quantum physics-related research at the Brookhaven National Laboratory and inspired youth across several states to become engaged in the political process through his work with Move the Future, a student internship organization he helped found.

Cooper was named a National Merit Commended student, was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Language Honor Society, and a recipient of the New York State Seal of Biliteracy Award. Cooper was also the recipient of the Syosset Principals' Association Award.

## SALUTATORIAN SABRINA EAGER

Artistic in nature, with a passion for research and a love of sciences, salutatorian Sabrina Eager is certainly a well-rounded student. She discovered a passion for cognitive science research while taking a class on the perception of music and art through neuroscience, psychology and philosophy, and by conducting autism research during a summer program. She will continue to pursue this passion at Dartmouth College. She is excited to be attending the first liberal arts college to own and operate a functional magnetic resonance imaging device (fMRI) for research purposes and plans to major in cognitive science.

In addition to her love of research, Sabrina is a dancer, having performed with the Syosset High School Dance Club and the Korean Club K-pop Dance Group. She finds joy in marrying her love of science and the arts. She volunteered choreographing student performances at the Stony Brook University Social Competence & Treatment Lab, which helps kids and teens with autism spectrum disorder and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder connect with one another and make friends. Sabrina was

also a volunteer at the S.E.N.S.E. (Social Emotional NeuroScience and Endocrinology) Theatre, an intervention research program that utilizes theatrical techniques and established behavioral strategies to promote social competence.

Sabrina was a member of the SHS Pre-Medical Society and competed as a member of Forensics in Oral Interpretation, reciting her poetry collection on anxiety disorders. She placed sixth at the Princeton University Invitational in December 2018.

Sabrina was the recipient of many awards and accolades. She was one of two SHS students to receive the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Award. She was named an AP Scholar with Distinction and was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Language Honor Society. She received Honorable Mention at the National Speech and Debate Association New York State Championship. Sabrina has also been recognized for her artistic talent, being named an All-County Artist for both ceramics and photography.

# ELEMENTARY STUDENTS MOVE UP TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

On June 18, fifth grade students from the seven Syosset elementary schools participated in moving-up ceremonies as they celebrated the culmination of their elementary education and advancement to the secondary level. The students, eager and well-prepared to enter H.B. Thompson or South Woods middle schools this fall, beamed with excitement as they prepared to officially become middle school students.

Baylis



Berry Hill



South Grove



Robbins Lane



Walt Whitman



Willits



Village





# Middle School Students Advance to High School

During afternoon ceremonies held at the LIU Tilles Center on June 24, eighth graders from H.B. Thompson and South Woods middle schools reflected on their middle school experiences and received their certificates as they officially moved up to Syosset High School.

Board of Education Trustee Andrew Feldman addressed the HBT students, offering encouragement, advice and faith in their abilities. “Believe in yourself, be persistent, and don’t ever give up,” he advised the graduating class. Board of Education Trustee Carol Cheng provided the welcoming remarks to the South Woods students, stating, “Your journey now continues through high school

and beyond. It is a time to explore, to examine, to experience.” She assured the students they are ready for the challenge. South Woods Principal Michelle Burget and HBT Principal Kevin Bonanno commended the students’ commitment to excellence, personal achievements, and service to school and community.

As Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers presented the Class of 2019, he expressed faith in their ability to succeed and reminded them of the importance of kindness. “You are joining a community of literally thousands of students and hundreds of adults,” he remarked. “Imagine the ripples of accumulating goodwill a daily act of kindness from each of you could create.”

## H.B. Thompson Middle School



## South Woods Middle School



# Spring Athletic Wrap-Up

## **VARSITY BOYS GOLF TEAM:**

Nassau County Champions, LI Champions.

## **VARSITY BOYS TENNIS TEAM:**

All-State honorees: Kabir Rajpal, Peter Bukary, and Brian Gao.

All-American honors, Nassau County Section VIII Individual Champion: Kabir Rajpal

## **VARSITY BOYS SPRING TRACK:**

1600m County Champion: Justin DePinto

800m County Champion: Hunter Pick

## **VARSITY GIRLS GOLF:**

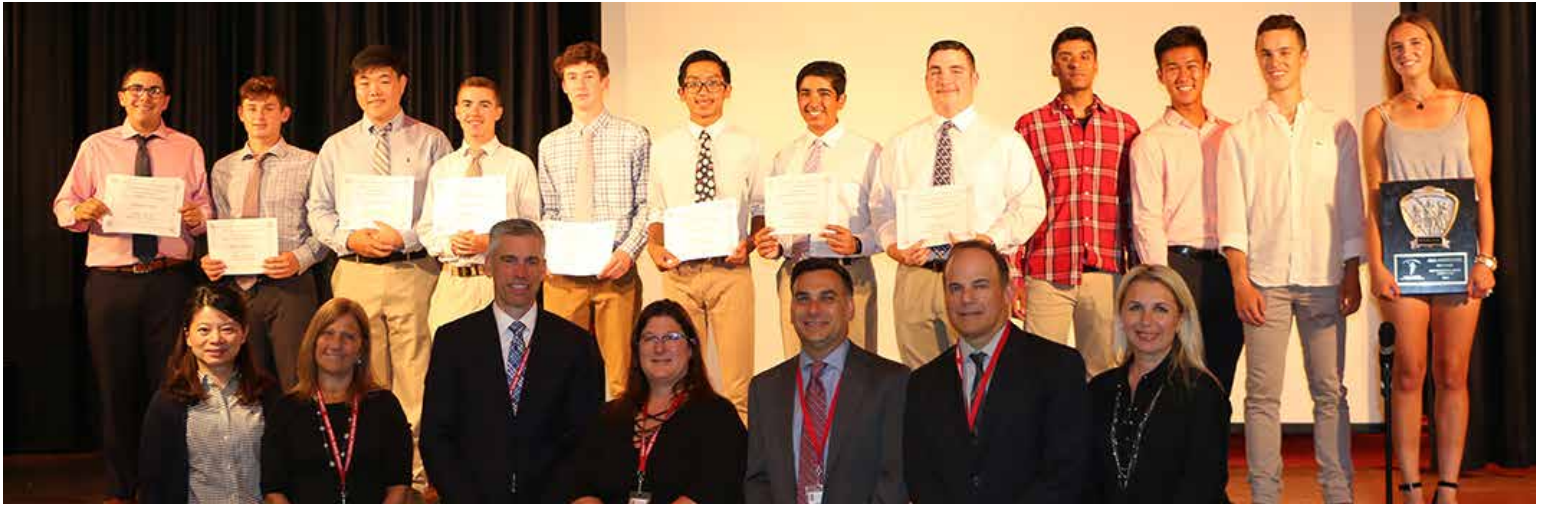
Nassau County Champions, State Qualifier: Malini Rudra

## **VARSITY GIRLS SPRING TRACK:**

Nassau County Individual Champion in Pole Vault, New York City Championship Qualifier: Anna Hatzioannou

Congratulations to Kendall Halperin, a three-sport athlete (soccer, basketball, lacrosse) who attained All-American and All-County status.

Congratulations to track coach Rich Cafiero, who was named New York State Coach of the Year.



## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The District would like to thank the Syosset community for its patience and understanding as the construction work was completed throughout the District. An extensive amount of work was done over the summer to modernize learning spaces, update aging facilities, enhance security and ease traffic. As previously communicated, work will continue well into the school

year on the track and field, the high school security vestibule and the high school fitness center. Please be assured a safe environment for students and staff will be maintained while the work is completed, and steps are being taken to minimize noise and disruption. Please visit the District website at [syossetschools.org/facilities](http://syossetschools.org/facilities) for pictures and information on all the projects being done.



*Remodeled Syosset High School student lobby.*



*Modernized Walt Whitman Library.*



*Renovated Pool Deck.*





## National Association for Music Education Honors (NAfME)

### 4 SYOSSET STUDENTS NAMED NAFME

#### ALL-NATIONAL MUSICIANS:

Sami Ahn, Gabrielle Bieder, AJ LaBarca, Hannah Lee

### 9 SYOSSET STUDENTS NAMED

#### NAFME ALL-EASTERN MUSICIANS:

Susanna Hur, Kevin Xu, AJ LaBarca, Hannah Lee, Nicole Rampanelli, Pardiss Mehrzad, Albert Shabae, Sami Ahn, Gabrielle Bieder

## Nassau Music Educators Association

### 13 SYOSSET STUDENTS SELECTED AS

#### ALL-COUNTY INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ MUSICIANS:

Charles Freeman  
Kyle Scott  
Jake Marin  
Lizzie Shyer  
Chase Aaronson

Benjamin Hasselbring  
Christopher Zandieh  
Ethan Chiu  
Stephanie Massimo  
Luca Alexandru

Ethan Lubell  
Kayla Kessler  
Zach Levine

## Long Island Arts Alliance Scholar-Artists

### 3 SYOSSET STUDENTS RECIPIENTS OF THE LONG ISLAND ARTS ALLIANCE SCHOLAR-ARTISTS AWARDS, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE “BEST OF THE BEST” ON LONG ISLAND IN BOTH ACADEMICS AND IN THE ARTS:

Siyu Yang, *Scholar Artist in Music*  
Tiffany Wu, *Scholar Artist in Visual Arts*  
Chloe Catton, *Award of Merit for Media Arts*



\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

Resident of  
Syosset Central School District



**Syosset Central School District  
extends a warm welcome to all  
returning students and to those  
new to the District.**

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**Sept. 30, Oct. 1** – Schools Closed in Observance  
of Rosh Hashanah

**Oct. 3** – Elementary PTA Meetings

**Oct. 7** – Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 8 p.m.

**Oct. 9** – Schools Closed in Observance of Yom Kippur

**Oct. 10** – Middle School PTSA Meetings, 10 am

**Oct. 14** – Schools Closed in Observance of  
Columbus Day

**Oct. 18-20** – Homecoming Weekend

*Please view the District and school calendars on  
the website for all activities and events.*

## **IMPORTANT NOTE Regarding Fall Athletics:**

We are looking forward to another great Fall Athletics season. Due to ongoing construction, the high school football schedule may be impacted. Please look out for information from the coaches about possible location and schedule changes. For up-to-date information, please call the Athletics Hotline at (516) 364-5748 or visit the Athletics section of the District website.



## **We are pleased to announce that monthly Board of Education meetings will now be livestreamed!**

One of the key components of the strength of the Syosset Central School District is the strong connection with our community. We are always working to build on and enhance that connection. Community members can now view the Board of Education meetings live or watch a recording of the meeting at a later time. To access the video, please visit the District website at [www.syossetschools.org](http://www.syossetschools.org). Select Minutes, Agendas and Video from the Board of Education drop-down menu, where you will find a link to the livestream.

# **SyossetPride**

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### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Tracy Frankel, President      Rob Gershon, Vice President  
Carol C. Cheng      Christopher DiFilippo      Andrew Feldman  
Anna Levitan      Susan Parker      Thomas A. Rotolo      Chris Ulrich  
Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools