

# Syosset Pride

*A Publication of the Syosset Central School District*

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

## Innovative Spaces, Collaborative Places Cultivate a Love of Learning

Syosset students started off the 2018-2019 school year with new technology and renovated spaces to ignite their curiosity, spark inquiry and motivate them in their learning journey. The District has taken an intentional, purposeful approach to integrating technology into the curriculum, with the goal of creating a student-centered learning environment that engages, excites and motivates. Along with the integration of new technology, classrooms and libraries have been remodeled to allow for more collaboration and experimentation. The areas are not only enhancing classroom experiences, but also encouraging individual exploration and creativity outside of the typical classroom parameters. Both the advancements in the technology made available to the students and the enhancements to the physical environments in which students learn underscore the District's commitment to creating a cohesive K-12 learning community predicated on meaningful collaboration that engages all.

### SHS Learning Commons

An Innovation Lab was constructed at the high school over the summer, and students are taking full advantage of all

the new space has to offer. The lab provides students with the opportunity to create, invent and learn while engaging them with exciting technology such as robotics, green-screen technology and video game design. It's a collaborative environment where teamwork is emphasized and students develop communication and leadership skills as they work through complex problems together. Remarked ninth-grade student Jake Miller, "We did many teambuilding activities, including building a Hot Wheels track and programming a robotic mouse to get to a piece of cheese." His classmate Josh Burrows added, "These activities helped us demonstrate leadership because in some cases, we had to collaborate on ideas in order for the mouse to follow the maze."

The lab is a place where students are encouraged to take risks, and failure is actually encouraged. Students are empowered to express themselves in a manner that plays to their individual strengths. If writing a traditional essay is a struggle, a student can create a website to explore a topic. If written words are difficult, students can build their descriptive language



vocabulary by using imagery to construct a video. The work the students are engaging in demonstrates the breadth of opportunities available. Students have completed mini-documentaries, created visual memoirs, and reflected on their learning experience and shared their impressions with others through the video discussion platform FlipGrid.

After reading Elie Wiesel's "Night," 10th-grade students in Ms. Badolato's English classes further researched Holocaust survivors and shared their knowledge and personal feelings on what they discovered through mini-documentaries they created utilizing the web-based video editing platform WeVideo. Ms. Blaney's ninth-grade Honors English students reflected on a challenge they faced in their lives and created visual memoirs using the graphic design tool Canva. The students used images, colors, text and fonts to represent their personal feelings. And students in Ms. Blaney's 11th-grade English

class researched a chosen topic and then created a persuasive website on the topic using the website creation tool Weebly.

And if all that wasn't impressive enough, the Innovation Lab even has the ability to create superheroes! Ms. Leonardi's child study class recently visited the lab where, with the help of green-screen technology and some creativity, students were turned into superheroes complete with capes, masks and the ability to scale tall buildings in a single bound!

The lab, together with the newly redesigned library and the pilot classroom, form the SHS Learning Commons, which has already become the hot spot at the school, with many opting to spend their lunch hour or start their day off in the new space. Comfortable places to read, workspaces that lend themselves to collaboration, flexible furniture and even a smartboard for student use create an environment that students enjoy being in. The result is engaged students

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# A Message from Your *Superintendent*



Dear Syosset Community,

Just before the New Year's break, I met with my "Student Cabinet" – groups of youngsters representing the elementary, middle and high schools – to get a kids'-eye view of their Syosset experience and to hear what's on their minds. These are some of my favorite days of the year, both because our students are a delight to be around and because they never fail to share profound insights.

I open each meeting by letting them know that the event is not just some formality – we take their thoughts seriously, and we've made some significant changes after reflecting on previous student input. My first year, our fifth-graders worried that science and social studies were being crowded out by the state's emphasis on testing English and math. We've since restructured the elementary day to find more time, shifted our elementary science curriculum to offer fresh lessons to pursue and incorporated some of the new social studies frameworks.

More recently, we've focused on technology and the classroom environment. It is clear students are excited by collaborative tasks and the adaptable learning spaces that support them. We recently showed the Board of Education the results of a series of redesigned pilot classrooms, where the focus is shifted from the front of the room to interactive learning stations that can be grouped and re-grouped around the room with flexible furniture and agile technology. These classrooms have become thriving hubs of activity that we are beginning to expand Districtwide.

We've also asked students to reflect with us as thought partners on gender disparities we observe in certain classes. Their perceptions have identified subtle ways in which we unintentionally reinforce gender stereotypes even at early ages. One of the fifth-grade girls in my Cabinet observed that she might find

robots more appealing if tasked with "putting on my makeup," reminding us adults that the more typical fighting (remember BattleBots?) or competing might narrow the underlying coding work's appeal.

Students have also led us to identify prerequisite courses at the secondary level that act as filters and bottlenecks. The student-led G.I.R.L. Talk speaker series is addressing stereotypes by inviting women role models in leadership positions to share their experiences. The District is also making some instructional shifts that may have the collateral benefit of addressing enrollment disparities as well.

First, we are approaching technology instruction, particularly coding, as an emerging literacy for all, rather than a discrete skill to be acquired by some, and we are starting with all students at an early age. Specific coding languages will undoubtedly evolve, so the goal isn't necessarily a particular proficiency, which is ephemeral, but rather an understanding of algorithmic thinking, which is fundamental. Our elementary library/media specialists have been leading the way – teaching colleagues and students alike – and sending students to the new middle school EV3 robotics program with a deeper foundation. The strategy is not unlike the one that has made the District's music programs so successful – empower every student to make music from an early age and support each as far as they wish to pursue it. When technology becomes both a toy and a tool for all, students will pursue proficiency long before the stereotypes set in.

Second, we're also focused on the important transition from eighth grade to the high school. We're fortunate to have a high school with an incredible breadth and depth of offerings, and students understandably want to take advantage of all they can. To strike the right balance between instructional opportunities and student stress, we

added an orientation night just for parents, an interactive online catalog and an in-person meeting with a guidance counselor. As part of this effort, we've refined the course descriptions with sensitivity toward gender-neutral descriptions, and the consultations with the guidance counselors are designed to help families see beyond some of the stereotypes associated with different courses or departments.

The goal is not to steer students, but to help them steer themselves, and not just through the courses and professions that exist today, but to empower their minds to roam toward what may exist tomorrow. Whether it's the libraries or makerspaces in every building, the Districtwide coding curriculum, the use of technology or even the very furniture in the classroom, each shift we make is designed to spark creativity and imagination – those most irreplaceably human of traits – through engagement and empathy.

It only takes a few moments chatting with students to realize the tremendous potential of their generation. They'll inherit some thorny problems to solve, but they'll have more powerful tools at their disposal than we can yet imagine and a stronger intellectual foundation than ever. I'm a natural optimist, but the hours I spend with our students is like a booster shot for the soul. I can't wait for my next dose.

Dr. Tom Rogers  
Superintendent of Schools

# A Message from Your *Board of Education*

Dear Syosset Community,

We hope you all enjoyed the holiday season and are staying warm this winter. There is always much activity happening across the District, and this year is no exception. As announced to the community in October, we accepted the resignation of Dr. Michael Cohen from the Board due to work commitments and personal reasons and have been operating as an eight-member board since that time. We will continue to do so until the next regular school board election in May 2019. We once again extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Cohen for his many years of dedicated service to Syosset. The District has benefited greatly from his astute leadership, and we wish him all the best.

We begin 2019 looking ahead with excitement. It is so rewarding to see our students inspired and motivated by the remodeled learning spaces throughout the buildings. Our cutting-edge curriculum has benefited from the infusion of exciting technologies, and the physical settings our students are learning in must also support the key competencies essential for success in today's rapidly changing environment. The flexible learning spaces being piloted by the District are increasing engagement and collaboration, and are empowering our students to make choices and take ownership of the way they learn in a classroom. Desks on wheels move easily to support group interactions, standing workspaces allow for stretching and burning energy, and cozy reading spaces are the perfect solution when students need a quiet space to recharge. It's certainly a transformative approach, and one that elevates the educational experience for our students and staff.

The District continues to advance the security-related initiatives previously outlined to the

community. The visitor management system has been fully implemented in all buildings, and we must compliment our high school students on the seamless rollout of the student identification badges, which the students use to swipe-in to the building every morning. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the high school parents and guardians for their cooperation and support as this new protocol was implemented. (We know it's not easy to add one more thing to remember in the morning!) We have seen the successful implementation of many security-focused initiatives over the last 12 months, including installation of vestibules at all buildings, upgrades to the surveillance system, additional perimeter fencing, GPS tracking on buses, corridor wall glazing, and increased security staff and coordination with the Nassau County Police Department. And while these robust initiatives are essential in safeguarding our district, we are proud that we have maintained the welcoming environment our students and community have always enjoyed.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the Citizen's Security Advisory Committee for its work over the last six months. The Committee provided essential feedback into the security-related initiatives undertaken by the District in the areas of facilities, social-emotional wellness and District communications during emergency situations. Community members, Board members, administration, the security and facilities teams, our mental health professionals and staff representatives worked together to build a shared understanding of best practices in school safety, engage in productive conversation and identify areas of focus. We appreciate the involvement of our community members in this critical topic.

While many are hoping for snow and to engage in some winter activities, such as skiing, snow-tubing or even just enjoying some hot cocoa, we have our eye on the summer. There will be a lot of activity across the District as we break ground on many of the Phase 2 capital projects we've been planning for some time. These substantial projects will improve learning spaces, athletic fields and traffic safety around the school buildings, enhancing our facilities to support the rigorous curriculum and athletic needs of the District. The work will also further advance our security initiatives. Frequent updates on the construction projects will be posted to the website, and we encourage you to follow along with our progress.

For a summary of the events of every Board meeting, please refer to our monthly "Board Meeting Notes," found under the Board of Education tab on our website. To contact us, you can refer to our email addresses online or in the District calendar. Online question forms are also available on the Board of Education section of the website by clicking on "Audience to the Public." As always, we encourage you to attend these meetings and look forward to seeing many of you there!

Warm Regards, The Syosset Central School District  
Board of Education

Tracy Frankel	Rob Gershon
Carol C. Cheng	Anna Levitan
Christopher DiFilippo	Susan Parker
Andrew Feldman	Chris Ulrich

# Innovative Spaces, Collaborative Places Cultivate a Love of Learning

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who are amplifying their intellectual agility in preparation to successfully navigate and participate in our ever-changing global society.

## Innovative Spaces to Ignite Curiosity

At the elementary level, school libraries are being upgraded with new technology and furnishings, and much like the high school, students are stimulated and motivated by the bright and engaging spaces. The flexible workspaces can be reconfigured to best support teaching methods for a variety of lessons, contributing to greater focus and productivity.

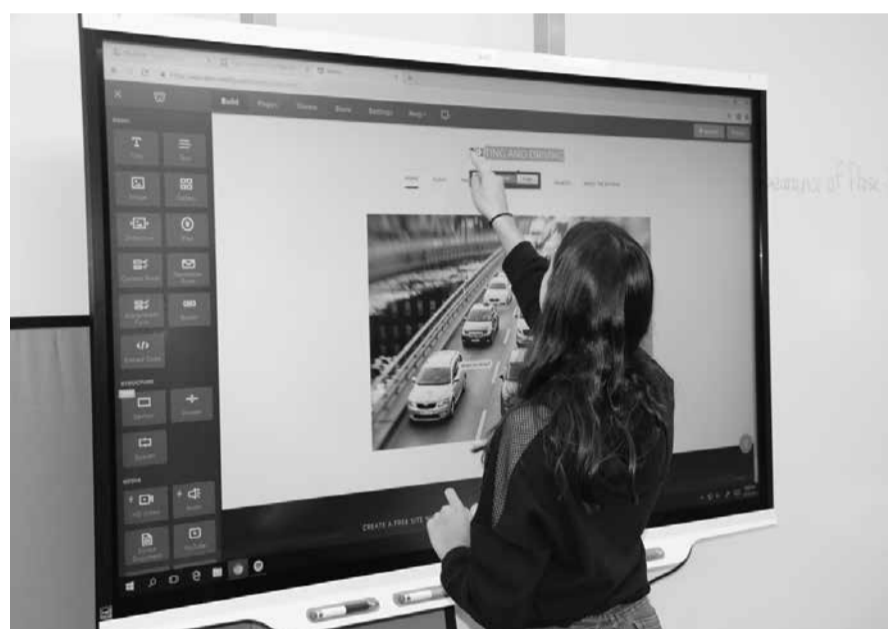
Fifth-grade students at Willits School are embracing the new technology. As part of their Teacher's Interpretation Book Clubs unit, students created their own WeVideo podcasts by working in teams to write, revise, plan, rehearse and produce podcasts that are available to current and future fifth-grade readers. The students even had the opportunity to participate in a Google Hangout with students from the South Woods Middle School Podcasting Club.

## Lego Robotics in Action

The technology departments at the middle schools have implemented the much-

anticipated Lego EV3 Robotics Program into the curriculum, a program that underscores the District's commitment to cross-cutting programs and bringing the latest technology to students. This cross-curricular STEM solution teaches not only core computer programming logic and reasoning skills, but also science, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity. In this student-led approach to learning, students begin experimenting with the coding platform in a drag-and-drop system and progress to creating their own coding at the more advanced levels. A data logging feature allows for carrying out science experiments by providing a tool to predict, collect, view, analyze and manipulate data from sensors and use interactive graphs to track the data.

These new initiatives, along with the many other efforts such as the rollout of 1:1 Chromebooks for all secondary students and the expansion of the kidOYO coding program, provide students with new opportunities to expand their knowledge and develop their intellectual agility. And while the technology is impressive, what is extraordinary is the innovative way in which students are using the technology to enhance their learning, develop their skills and find their passions.



*"We empower all learners in an educational community with the tools and skills necessary to navigate through an information-rich world and engage with new technology that cultivates a culture of learning in a collaborative global community."*

*-SHS Library Media and Educational Technology Specialist Team*



# AROUND THE SCHOOLS

## A Pirate's Adventure at South Grove

In celebration of "Parents as Reading Partners" (PARP) month, South Grove students helped school mascot Grover on a treasure hunt by completing activities and unlocking clues to uncover a treasure hidden by a mysterious "PARP Pirate." In the culminating event, the treasure was discovered and the PARP Pirate was revealed, none other than Principal Mi Jung An! The treasure was a Day of Play held in November. This event was inspired by a teacher-led, global effort to encourage young children to use their imagination, interact with each other and enjoy some unstructured time.



Principal Mi Jung An unveils the PARP treasure!

## Power of Good Week

In recognition of National Bullying Prevention month, Baylis designated the week of Oct. 22 as the Power of Good Week, during which students engaged in activities designed to strengthen their ability to form healthy relationships, develop empathy and show compassion for one another. Each day began with a kindness-focused quote read by a school peer mediator, and students discussed the meaning of the quote during class. The week culminated with a Kindness Workshop during which students signed a kindness banner demonstrating their commitment to maintaining a culture of kindness at Baylis.



Baylis students commit to kindness.

## Doodling Their Way to Deeper Understanding

Third-grade students at Walt Whitman are learning how to process information visually and engage with subject matter at a deeper level by utilizing the Cornell Method and Sketch Notes to enhance the way they take notes. The students built an understanding of how pairing words with images helps facilitate recall, then started creating their own rich visual notes. The approach, which aids students in organizing and expressing ideas both visually and verbally, has enhanced the way students engage each other in conversation within their book clubs.

## Village Builds Character

Village School has implemented a new program that allows for deep discovery of essential character traits. Each month, a new character trait is focused on. At the beginning of each month, Principal Jeffrey Kasper introduces and explains the trait, then teachers maintain focus on the monthly trait through their lessons. At the end of the month, a student from each class who best exemplified the trait receives a certificate. Village students are excited about the new program and have already mastered respect, responsibility and kindness.



South Woods students collect for local food pantries.

## Filling Local Food Pantries

The South Woods Middle School AAA Club, Business Club and sixth-grade Student Council partnered to educate students about hunger on Long Island. Almost \$2,000 was raised and about 800 cans of food were collected for rock Can roll, a nonprofit hunger-relief organization that works to provide healthy, nonperishable food to local agencies. Another 20 boxes of food collected were donated directly to Long Island food pantries. Teacher Diane Burke even created a kidOYO coding challenge related to collecting cans to further engage the students.

## Coding and Crosscutting

Throughout December, Willits students participated in several Hour of Code events, a worldwide effort that encourages students to learn the fundamentals of computer science in a kid-friendly way. Students utilized a variety of coding platforms and languages through KidOYO and Code.org. A new crosscut lesson was added this year, during which students engaged in 40 minutes of active physical movement while

applying their algorithmic thinking. The students loved having opportunities to “enter” lines of code, debug their programs and act out the movements associated with each algorithm.



*SHS Peer Leaders pay a visit to Berry Hill to help first-graders spread kindness.*

### **At Berry Hill, Kindness Rocks!**

Ms. Halleran’s first-grade class has been working to spread kindness throughout the District by sharing their handmade kindness rocks. Students painted unique rocks and then created a rock garden to display their sentiments. They even recruited high school students to help with the project. Ms. Balducci’s health class visited Berry Hill to help paint rocks and spend some time with their younger peers.

### **H.B.T. Spirit Week**

The month of November closed with one of the highlights of the year for H.B.T. staff and students, the annual Spirit Week! Students engaged in teams across grade levels to compete in games and competitions ranging from athletic events to Jeopardy and Jenga. And along with the fun and games, students pumped up their fundraising efforts, collecting more than 150 coats for the One Warm Coat Drive and more than 300 pounds of coats, blankets, hats and scarves for Long Island Cares. And the Student Activity Club collected almost \$200 as part of its Pie Face fundraiser.

### **Soles for Those in Need**

Robbins Lane Chorus Cares and Student Council collected 284 pairs of shoes and boots to donate to Heeling Soles, an organization that puts shoes directly on those in need. Dr. da Silva and Mrs. Kleinman have been organizing this holiday event for the past three years, and once again, the Syosset students were very generous and were reminded of those less fortunate during the season of giving.

### **VE Nails the Elevator Pitch**

All four Syosset High School Virtual Enterprise businesses recently attended the LIU Post Virtual Enterprise Leadership Conference and Elevator Pitch Competition. The teams had 30 seconds to pitch their mock businesses to a panel of regional business leaders. Two firms placed in the top 10 percent and two placed in the top 25 percent. Ethan Feder, CEO of Tota Vita, placed third overall and received an award of \$250 to be placed into the business, a subscription meal plan that focuses on the health of its customers.

# Syosset Sets the Standard

To provide an education to Syosset students that is unmatched, the faculty is continually engaged in professional learning. And, as leaders in their field, Syosset educators are often looked upon to share their knowledge and their unique approaches to engaging students.

Just before the start of the school year, the entire instructional staff came together for three days of engagement, inspiration and learning to prepare for the school year ahead. Teachers experimented with new technology available, shared expertise on crosscutting strategies and focused on mental wellness. The District also facilitated a unique opportunity for the faculty and staff to engage in breakout sessions with Jim Wright, a nationally-known education trainer and expert on creating positive school climates.

The true focus throughout the three-day event was honoring the student voice. The District has a strong commitment to ensuring the students’ voices are recognized, heard and respected. This commitment was most evident on day three of the event, when students from each of the District’s 10 schools stood in front of a packed auditorium and conveyed how their teachers supported them in finding their voice and passion. It was a moment that brought tears and applause from the rapt audience, and one that most certainly left a lasting impression that will help guide their focus throughout the school year.

### **Leaders in Their Field**

A team of teachers and administrators worked for close to a year to develop a new standards-based elementary report card. The team presented its work to the Long Island Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (LIASCD), where other school districts expressed enthusiasm and a desire to learn more about the work done by Syosset.

H.B. Thompson eighth-grade English teacher Kea Cetinkaya ran a workshop at the New York State English Council’s annual conference. An educator who attended the workshop praised its content and commented that she took away “new ways to add strategy to aid instruction.”

Syosset High School English teacher Ann Blaney was a presenter at the National Conference of Teachers of English (NCTE) in Houston, which attracts thousands of educators from all over the country. Ms. Blaney was asked to present by the Education team at the Folger Shakespeare Library, which is a research and education library in Washington, D.C.

South Woods Middle School teachers Susan Fisher and Stephanie Russell and Principal Michelle Burget led a workshop for local teachers and school leaders at a recent LIASCD conference, the theme of which focused on the student voice. The workshop outlined how to create a student-driven, schoolwide experience centered on diversity and inclusion, and was based on the powerful South Woods as One “living museum” the middle school students created in 2018.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Rogers and Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante congratulate the National Merit Semifinalists.



Syosset High School National Merit Commended Students with Dr. Tom Rogers and Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante.

## NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS, COMMENDED STUDENTS NAMED

The National Merit Scholarship Program has named 10 Syosset High School seniors as National Merit Semifinalists. These students are honored for being among the highest scorers in the state and nation on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This distinction is given to only approximately 16,000 students nationwide from the 1.6 million entrants. These students have qualified to compete for approximately 7,500 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$32 million, to be awarded this spring.

Congratulations to Ariel K. Blumenberg, Sabrina Eager, Sean S. Han, Benjamin S.

Huang, Jasmine Li, Rayyan Nabi, Michael F. Wang, Lynnne Yang and Tingan Yang on this achievement. The Board held a moment of silence at its September meeting for the late Sabrina Kaplan, a newly enrolled Syosset student who also received this honor.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation also named 31 Syosset High School seniors Commended Students in the program. These students are included in the 34,000 top scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT based on a national selection index, and are being recognized for their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.

## H.B.T. MATH ELITE

H.B. Thompson Middle School students Griffin Hon, Katherine Li and Maggie Liu have been accepted by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury. These students are part of an elite group of 85 students chosen from approximately 500 of the top-ranking math

students on Long Island. Selection by the institute indicates that a student is among the top one-tenth of 1 percent in math of all students on Long Island in his or her grade. Students accepted into the program will spend 50 hours in class over the course of 20 Saturday mornings studying mathematical and problem-solving topics.



H.B.T. students Katherine Li, Griffin Hon and Maggie Liu.



Debaters Malini Rudra (left) and Diya Chadha with Forensics coach Lydia Esslinger.

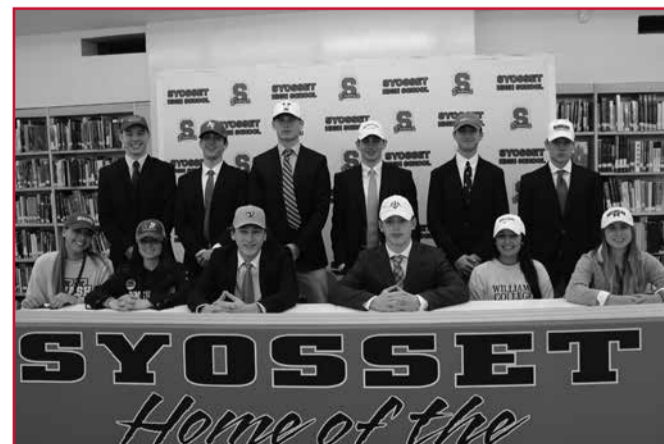
## FORENSICS REPRESENTS USA AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Forensics, Syosset High School's speech and debate team, continued its successful record in public speaking with the recent win by two seniors at an international competition in Hawaii. Diya Chadha and Malini Rudra were selected by the Hawaii Tourism Authority to represent mainland USA at the 2018 International Global Tourism Summit in Honolulu. The competition drew debaters from Australia, Canada, China, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Japan, New Jersey, New Zealand and Taiwan. Many of the 2,000 members of the tourism industry from 32 countries who attended the summit watched the final round featuring the two teams with the best records from preliminary rounds of competition as Team USA, Diya and Malini, defeated Team Taiwan.

## SYOSSET'S DISTINGUISHED ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Syosset High School's National Athlete Commitment Day was held on Nov. 15, at which time it was announced that 12 Syosset student-athletes will play sports at the collegiate level. The District would like to congratulate the following students:

- Joe Cawley – Boys Lacrosse – Stevens Institute of Technology
- Anthony Celauro – Boys Lacrosse – Stony Brook University
- Melissa Esswein – Girls Lacrosse – University of Michigan
- Andrew Giovinco – Boys Lacrosse – United States Air Force Academy
- Rebecca Korn – Girls Lacrosse – Binghamton University
- Ryan Lebson – Boys Lacrosse – Stony Brook University
- Christian Lyons – Boys Lacrosse – Manhattan College
- Rachel Mahler – Girls Basketball – Washington University (St. Louis)
- Matt Majoy – Wrestling – Washington & Lee University
- Cameron Mayer – Baseball – Tufts University
- Jack Monfort – Boys Lacrosse – Yale University
- Malini Rudra – Girls Golf – Williams College

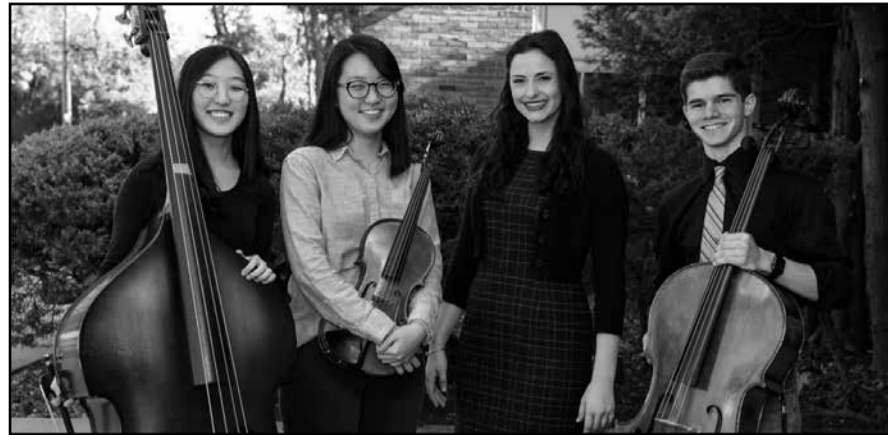


Syosset High School athletes sign letters of intent.

# MUSIC & ART *Highlights*

## All-National Honors

Four Syosset High School students were awarded All-National Honors by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Double bassist Sami Ahn and soprano Gabrielle Bieder were selected to perform with the NAfME All-National Symphony Orchestra and Mixed Choir, respectively. Violist Hannah Lee and cellist Anthony LaBarca were selected as All-National alternates. Sami and Gabrielle traveled to Orlando, Florida, to rehearse and perform at Walt Disney World. All four students performed as juniors in the New York State School Music Association All-State Festival last year and were then deemed by NAfME to be among the finest All-State musicians from around the country. Congratulations to all four students on this very impressive accomplishment!



*Pictured from left: Sami Ahn, Hannah Lee, Gabrielle Bieder and Anthony LaBarca.*



*Pictured from left: Kevin Xu, Gabrielle Bieder, Pardiss Mehrzad, Nicole Rampanelli, Anthony LaBarca and Sami Ahn.  
Not pictured: Susanna Hur, Hannah Lee and Albert Shabaev.*

## All-Eastern Musicians

Nine Syosset High School students were named All-Eastern musicians. These students are among the very best high school musicians from Maine to Delaware and will be performing with the All-Eastern Band, Orchestra or Chorus in Pittsburgh next April. Best of luck for an outstanding performance!

## All-State, All-County Musicians

Congratulations to the many students recognized by NAfME at the local level. Thirty-four Syosset students were recognized as All-State musicians, which is the largest number in the state. In addition, 318 Syosset students in grades 4-12 were selected for Nassau All-County, which is the largest number in the county!



*Student Composer Aileen Park*

## NYSSMA Young Composer

Syosset High School senior Aileen Park was selected for the NYSSMA Young Composers Showcase. Aileen's original song, "Within Reach," was selected from among hundreds of entries, and she was invited to the NYSSMA Winter Conference, where she will present her composition and work to a distinguished panel of composers.

## Newsday/LI Arts Alliance Scholar Artist

Anthony LaBarca was selected as a Newsday/Long Island Arts Alliance Scholar Artist. Anthony, known as AJ, was the winner of this year's Sound Symphony and Long Island Symphony Concerto competitions. AJ is also a member of the distinguished New York Youth Symphony and a two-time NYSSMA All-State cellist.



*LI Arts Alliance Scholar Artist Anthony LaBarca.*



# HOMECOMING

It was another exciting Homecoming and Spirit Week as students celebrated their school spirit, gave back to the local community and focused on the importance of a positive and healthy lifestyle.

The annual Walk-a-Thon was held on Oct. 9, this year benefiting the Center for Developmental Disabilities. The students raised over \$2,000 for the Center, which is located across the street from the high school and serves students with autism and other developmental disabilities.

On Oct. 10, the 12th annual Health Fair was held, with a focus on mental health and wellness. Approximately 48 presenters, including faculty, staff and students, educated the student body on topics such as mental health, the importance of sleep, suicide prevention, and the dangers of distracted driving and substance abuse.

On the last day of Spirit Week, students showed their Syosset pride by dressing in school colors and attending the pep rally held on the main athletic field. The Adelettes kicked off the event with a beautiful rendition of the national anthem. In between introductions of the senior athletes, the marching band, kickline and cheer team entertained the crowd. The robotics club had a very enthusiastic reaction to their homemade T-shirt launchers, which they used to launch T-shirts supplied by the high school Student Government into the stands.

The community came out in support of the most-anticipated events at the end of the week. The stands were packed for the varsity football game, and the crowd cheered as the Braves won against Hempstead with a final score of 35-12. The Homecoming Carnival, organized by the high school Student Government, was a big success, raising \$20,000 over the weekend! Proceeds from the carnival are used to support student groups and clubs throughout the year. The District would like to thank everyone who came out to support our students.



## Did you know?

### WKWZ 88.5 FM *The Beats From the Basement*

The Syosset Central School District's own radio station, WKWZ, broadcasts live right from the high school and is run by a group of talented students who not only select the music, but also produce the shows and handle off-air responsibilities. The station broadcasts sports shows and music shows for every genre and every decade, as well as Board of Education meetings and sporting events live. Said SHS student and WKWZ Community Manager Gianna Magrino, "People should tune in to our station because it is a great way to



WKWZ Music Manager Hargobind Gill.

support our hardworking staff and students. We play a wide variety of music; there is a show for everyone. We broadcast every weekday from 2:30-9 p.m."

Participation in the station is open to all students who are interested in radio, sports broadcasting, or even those who just like to talk. Students gain experience and the freedom to grow and learn using professional radio equipment. Community members can listen to the broadcast by tuning in to 88.5 FM or visiting the website at [shsradio.caster.fm](http://shsradio.caster.fm). The station also has an Instagram account, @wkwz885.

## Capital Construction Projects

The District is hard at work on the Phase 1 and 2 capital construction projects, which are focused on essential facility and security updates throughout all of the buildings. To keep the community informed and up-to-date, the District maintains a milestone-tracking chart that is posted online. To view the chart, visit the District website at [syossetschools.org](http://syossetschools.org) and click on the "Facilities Improvement Plan" image.

WINTER 2019

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