

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

On the evening of June 24th, Commack High School's Class of 2016 and their proud families, teachers, and friends gathered to celebrate a milestone, to reflect on the past, and to embark on new adventures. We wish our graduates a future filled with wonder and discovery, and a fond farewell to Principal Catherine Nolan, who retired at the end of June.

The graduation ceremony marked the completion of thirteen years of effort and dedication by the students, their

families, and our staff and administrators. The class cohort earned a 97.8% graduation rate, and 97.1% of the class will be attending college. Five of our seniors are entering the military, while a few others will be seeking certification in a business or vocational school, and six students will be directly entering the workforce. A record 4,400 college applications were processed by the Counseling Center this year. Our graduates will attend prestigious universities across the U.S., and in Israel.

Class Highlights

Total Regents Diplomas	98.9%
Graduates Attending College	97.1%
Acceptances to Highly & Most Competitive Colleges	829
Total Value of Scholarships	\$45,007,889
Graduates Receiving Scholarships/Awards	346
National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists/Finalists	4
National Merit Scholarship Commended Students	16
National Hispanic Recognition Scholars	5
New York State Merit Scholarship	19
President's Award for Educational Excellence	250
President's Award for Educational Achievement	28



More photos at www.commackschools.org



The first day of school is
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016



Back to School Checklist

- Read the info for your school(s) in the Back to School Section on the website.
- Check the website for Backpack News, Lunch Menus, Community Events, School Visitation Dates, Odd/Even Day Schedule (on calendar).
- **Parent Portal Class Schedule/Assignment Postings:**
Commack High School - Friday, August 26 - 12 noon
Commack Middle School - Monday, August 29 - 12 noon,
Grades K-5 - Tuesday, August 30 - 8 am
- Update your email address in the Parent Portal.

Making the Grade! Eight Additions to CHS Top Cohort Group

The students pictured below were added to Commack's Class of 2016's Top Cohort group. These students' final averages exceeded 100%! Congratulations!



Evan Abreu
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute



Danielle Iacovelli
University of Delaware



Alexandra Juliano
University of Delaware



Brooke Kiront
University of Maryland,
College Park



Michelle Maldari
State University of New
York at New Paltz



Jared Richman
Syracuse University



Amy Sheinbaum
Binghamton University



Jacquelyn Valsamis
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute



NOMINATE AN ALUMNUS OF DISTINCTION

Each year the Commack High School honors Commack alumni based on career achievements, community involvement, charitable work, etc.

Nomination forms are posted on the Commack Website, and must be postmarked by September 16, 2016.

A Spectacular Commack Summer



The children loved making pizza in the Kid's Cuisine class.



Cougar Camp Boys Tennis players take a break from the action to pose for a photo.



Thanks to Christopher Longstreet and Home Depot for the assist!

Over 350 Commack students in first through sixth grades enjoyed their summer days at the SCOPE Summer Enrichment and Music Program, held at Sawmill. This year's programs included old favorites like A Minute to Win It, Mad Scientist, Commack Survivor, Sports Club, Engineering, and Kids Cuisine. The children played games, built their own solar cars (photo on right, above), cooked pizza from scratch (photo on left), and designed packages to protect eggs dropped from a second floor window! New favorites that included Train Like an

Athlete, Lego Masters, and Wearable Art had the children tracking their pulse rate after racing through obstacle courses, filming their own LEGO movie, creating Egyptian wear, backpacks, and tie-dye T-shirts. On the last day, students and parents enjoyed stellar performances from members of the Band, Drama Kids, and Musical Theater classes.

"We have a wonderful group of kids here who are excited about every class they take," said Dr. Nancy Lopes, Summer School Principal. "It's the perfect place for

kids to try something new, and our teachers bring so much talent and enthusiasm to their classes, and you can't help but have fun as you grow!"

Cougar Camp hosted over 1,000 youngsters this year, who polished their athletic skills in sports such as baseball, football, soccer, tennis, track, field hockey, badminton, lacrosse, gymnastics, softball, fencing, and cheerleading, danceline, and kickline, under the supervision of teachers, coaches and our dedicated high school student volunteers.

Superintendent's Message

There's always a great deal of activity in our schools, and the summer months are no exception. Many of our children took advantage of our Cougar Athletic Camp, Summer Explorations and Music Programs, and our Cedar Road School extended year program. We upgraded our technology infrastructure and software to build capacity for the increased use of mobile devices. Our choice of the Microsoft platform ensures student and staff data privacy, our top priority in the academic environment. We have nearly 4,000 computers in District, and our IT techs are hard at work installing the necessary components to provide a robust computing system.

This fall our website will have a new look and many new features you can easily navigate on any device. I urge you to update your contact information on the Parent Portal, and to opt in for text messaging and non-emergency phone calls so that we can inform you of the many school and community events and opportunities. Attendance calls are also considered a non-emergency message, so it's important to read

the information found on Page 4 of this publication.

A big thank you to our facilities department, whose members are hard at work replacing flooring, renovating classrooms and labs, installing water bottle refilling stations, painting, waxing, deep-cleaning, and completing hundreds of other tasks, large and small.

I look forward to another exciting and successful year, as we nurture our students' love of learning and continue to be amazed by their discoveries and accomplishments. By providing the opportunities and the tools our students need to explore their interests, we are preparing them for future success.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald James



Middle School Science Honors

Three Commack Middle School students earned accolades at the NYS Science Congress Junior Division: seventh graders Rohan and Christopher, and eighth grader Faizali. The students qualified for the state competition by placing at the Long Island Science Congress Competition.

Rohan was awarded a gold medal, and earned the Best in Fair distinction in the Physical Sciences division for his project, "An Investigation of the Influence Architectural Design Has on Minimizing Damage from Tsunamis."

Christopher was awarded Honorable Mention in Physical



Sciences, and Faizali received Honorable Mention in the Life Sciences division.

In photo with the young scientists are: Director of Math, Barbara Gerson, math and science research teacher Tom Shea, Director of Science, Alison Offerman-Celentano, and Principal, Anthony Davidson.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
September 6, 2016

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS
Thursday, September 8, 2016
Hubbs Administration Center at 8:00 p.m.*

Thursday, October 20, 2016
Commack High School at 7:30 p.m.*

*The Board will convene at 6:30 p.m. and is expected to adjourn into Executive Session. Public meetings will commence at times stated above.

9-11 CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY
Commack High School Heroes Memorial Track
6:30 p.m. All Welcome.

**SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
KICK-OFF**
Get involved in our schools! All local business and professionals welcome!
Thursday September 15, 2016 from 4-5 p.m.
Hubbs Administration Center Conf. Room A

HOMEcoming - October 22
Parade at 12 noon* followed by Alumni of Distinction and team festivities
Football Game Kick-Off at 2:30 p.m.

CCC RED RIBBON WEEK 5K RUN
Saturday, October 29, 2016
Free Kid's Fun Run at 8:30 a.m., 5K at 9 a.m.
*Check the website for road closure information!
More info on the Community Events page on the Commack Website
www.comackschools.org

Breakfast Program Waiver

Consistent with past years, the Commack Union Free School District has applied for a waiver of the school breakfast program. This waiver was requested after a poll of primary, intermediate, and middle school parents determined that the large majority of families would not avail themselves of a breakfast program. Interested parties may address comments or suggestions to the attention of Laura A. Newman, Assistant Superintendent for Business, PO Box 150, Commack, NY 11725.

POSTAL PATRON
Commack Union Free School District
Commack, New York, 11725

NON-PROFIT
CARRIER ROUTE
PRE-SORT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
Commack, NY 11725

Opt In Today! Action Needed

Parents & Guardians

To continue receiving non-emergency communications from the Commack School District (texts and phone calls), you are required to grant us permission to contact you, due to recent clarifications by the FCC to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

If you haven't already signed up for the InfoCenter App, you can create an account by clicking "Sign Up" at <https://schoolmessenger.com/start>. Be sure to use the email address that the District has on file for you in the Parent Portal.

InfoCenter App for Parents

InfoCenter provides access to all the messages and information sent by the Commack School District. Accessible from any internet-enabled device, InfoCenter visually displays and organizes alerts, notifications, and attachments for easy review and reference. InfoCenter also allows you to customize how you receive communications from our schools and District.

Once you've created your account, the records associated with your email address will be linked automatically. You can then:

- View the records associated with your account.
- Review the last 30 days worth of messages for all your children.
- View your contact information, and configure how you'd like to receive notifications.

Detailed instructions will be sent via email and posted on the website.

Fall Athletic Tryouts

August 15 - 7am
High School Football

August 22 - 7am
High School Cheerleading, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Boys Golf, Gymnastics, Boys/Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, and Volleyball

August 22 - 5pm
Girls Volleyball

September 6 - After School
Middle School Soccer, Football, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Field Hockey, and Girls Tennis

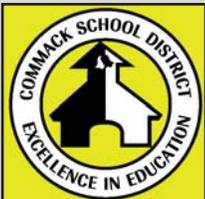
Mini Reunion - All Grown UP



Just prior to their graduation ceremony, students who were in Randi Seideman's first or second grade classes at Wood Park Primary School gathered for a fun photo.

Special Summer Kudos to:

- Stephanie O'Brien, who received the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award. Mrs. O'Brien teaches chemistry at Commack High School and is one of our Master Teachers.
- Jake, a senior at CHS, whose article "An Empirical Biomarker-based Calculator for Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease: The Nieto-Narayan Formula" was published by bioRxiv, a Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory online journal for biology findings, and also by the Cornell University Library Journal.
- Trevor, Nicole, and Mike, whose poster "Resolving the Primary Cause for Floor-Fractured Craters on the Moon Using GRAIL and LOLA Data" won third place in the university level NASA Lunar Exploration Science Forum.



Commack Courier

www.commackschools.org

Commack Board of Education:

Steven Hartman - President
Janine DiGirolamo - Vice President
Trustees: Jarrett Behar,
MaryJo Masciello, Pamela Verity

Superintendent of Schools:
Dr. Donald A. James