



Commack Courier

A BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLICATION



Hats Off To The Class of 2023!

Graduation signifies a coming of age—a time to bid farewell to Commack High School and embark on a new chapter in life. On June 23, 483 seniors in the Class of 2023 walked across the stage and received a diploma as a last remembrance of their time in our schools.

Dr. Jordan Cox, Commack's Superintendent, reflected, "It seems that when we look ahead or plan, time seems to slow down, but when we look back on the weeks or years that have passed we think, 'Where did the time go?'" In the blink of an eye, the once timid kindergartners are now high school graduates ready to take on the world. These students have grown and matured, learned both academically and personally, and have made lifelong friends. They are ready to take on the challenges of the world with the confidence and determination our teachers and schools have instilled in them.

As Dr. Cox told the graduates, "Life is not a dress rehearsal. I implore you to live in the present moment, to fully embrace the here and now. Make time stand still when things are good, be present in those moments."

We are so proud of all that the Class of 2023 has accomplished, and we know that they will continue to do great things. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Congratulations!

Diploma Statistics

98% Graduation Percentage
Advanced Regents Diplomas - 77%
Attending College - 461 students - 95.5%



2023 IB DIPLOMA CANDIDATES



This year, 46 academically gifted seniors completed the requirements for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. This is a prestigious accomplishment that is not easily gained. These students underwent a rigorous two-year program of study. Additionally, they completed an independent research paper and participated in actions that served to help local as well as global communities. Congratulations to the IB Diploma Class of 2023.

Honor, Bravery and Commitment



Congratulations to four of our seniors in the Class of 2023 for their commitment to serve our country.

Following graduation from these highly respected institutions, Minwook K. will be attending West Point Military Academy, Carey C. will enter the US Army Reserves ROTC, Joey M. will be joining the National Guard/Army ROTC, and Eric R. will be entering the Navy ROTC.

We are extremely proud of these brave young men and women and are thankful for their service now and in the future.

National Merit Winner

Congratulations to Emma V. !
Emma won the National Merit
Rochester Institute of
Technology Scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded to students who are National Merit Scholarship finalists and choose RIT as their first choice school to attend.



2023 Western Suffolk BOCES Award Winners

ALIVE Outstanding Student Award
Nickolas E. \$100 - Aircraft/Drone Tech

ALIVE Scholarship
Michela D. \$1,500 - Photography/Digital
Nickolas E. \$1,000 - Aircraft/Drone Tech

Elwood Soccer Club
Devin V. \$250 - Computer Game Design

Faculty Association Scholarship
Michela D. \$50 - Photography & Digital Imaging
Ryan T. \$50 - Audio Production

Joseph A. McGuire Memorial Scholarship
Jori D. \$350 - Criminal Justice



Commack High School's Top Cohort Group



Aamna Ali
Rochester Institute of
Technology



Juliette Amram
Muhlenberg College



Gianna Angus
Clemson University



Alex Argila
Binghamton University



Ava Ashkenas
Tulane University of
Louisiana



Brandon Berkoff
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University-Daytona Beach



Norah Birdsall
Stony Brook University



Ryan Boyle
Quinnipiac University



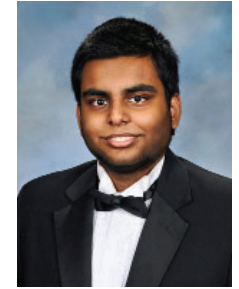
Julia Briordy
The University of Alabama



Magdelene Byrd
University of Virginia-Main
Campus



Jasmine Carpio
University of Pittsburgh-
Pittsburgh Campus



Rishin Chatterjee
Boston University



Julia Ciurleo
University of Maryland-
College Park



Samantha Corti
University at Buffalo



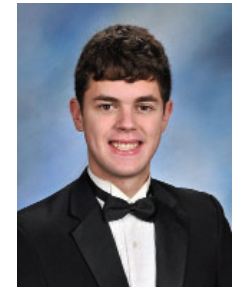
Lorenzo Cristiano
University of Michigan-Ann
Arbor



Gabriella Cummings
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute



Mikalah Curran
Manhattan College



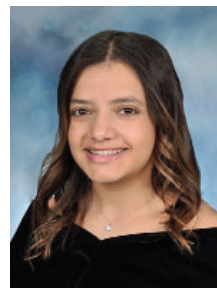
Thomas Demato
University of Delaware



Ryan Eckerle
University of South
Carolina-Columbia



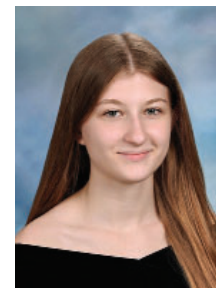
Juliana Edwards
University of Delaware



Athena Efthymiou
Stevens Institute of Technol-
ogy



Lexi Elferis
University of South
Carolina-Columbia



Sara Erakovic
Stony Brook University



Mara Estreich
Binghamton University



Travis Esturo
Binghamton University



Dominick Faini
Worcester Polytechnic
Institute



Katherine Fishbane
Rochester Institute of
Technology



Julianna Gembs
Cornell University



James Giampapa
Fordham University



Meredith Gilbert
University at Albany, SUNY

Congratulations to the Class of 2023



Michael Gitz
Hartwick College



Grace Glovinsky
Fordham University



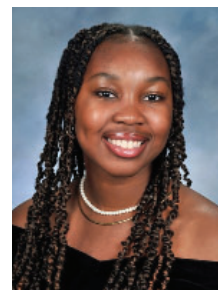
Zachary Goldman
*University of Maryland-
College Park*



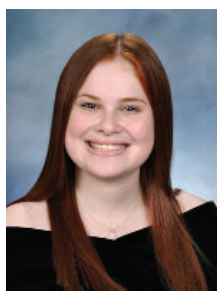
Ava Greenberg
William & Mary



Jarod Guerra
Fordham University



Naude-Linn Guerrier
*Rochester Institute of
Technology*



Sara Held
Adelphi University



Jordan Hub
*Indiana University-Bloom-
ington*



Jacob Infald
Ithaca College



Sheza Kashif
Stony Brook University



Jake Katzman
Undecided



Alisha Khan
*Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University-Daytona Beach*



Grace Kim
Yale University



Vincent King
Hofstra University



Shoshana Kofler
University of Delaware



Tyler Kurtis
Florida State University



Jack Lamberg
Binghamton University



Hailey Leyberman
University at Buffalo



Meiya Lin
Cornell University



Amanda Linzer
University of Delaware



Christopher Luo
Cornell University



Lia Maglione
Fairfield University



Blake Mancuso
Marist College



Marissa Mauro
University of Delaware



Alina Mirman
University of Delaware



Mackenzie Newman
Loyola University Maryland



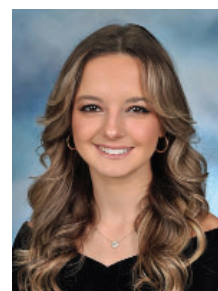
Lindsey Nigro
James Madison University



Warnakulasuriya
Perera
Binghamton University



Madeline Pettit
*University of South
Carolina-Columbia*



Elaina Phelan
*University of South
Carolina-Columbia*

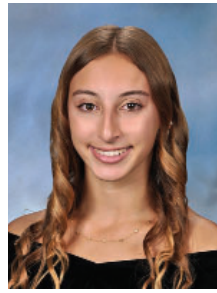
Commack High School's Top Cohort Group



Victoria Pincus
University at Albany, SUNY



Nicholas Piombino
William & Mary



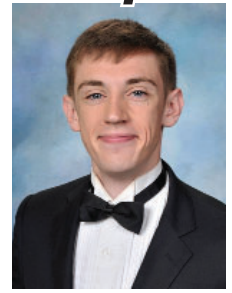
Sofia Piombino
*University of South
Carolina-Columbia*



Gavin Primis
*University of South
Carolina-Columbia*



Stephanie Ramirez
Farmingdale State College



Eric Realmuto
University of Florida



Ava Regan
University of Dayton



Max Reiter
University of Georgia



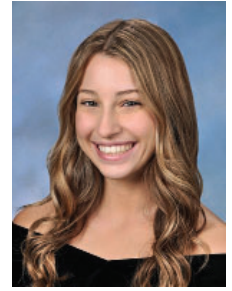
Alexa Robins
Fordham University



Gianna Rodriguez
*Kent State University at
Kent*



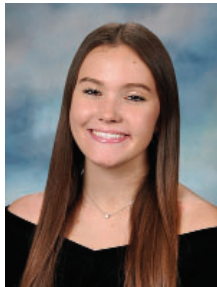
Philip Rosengarten
SUNY College at Geneseo



Mackenzie Rossiter
James Madison University



Zaphiria Rotos
Hofstra University



Jacqueline Seifert
Vanderbilt University



Jillian Singer
University of Delaware



Julia Slippen
Binghamton University



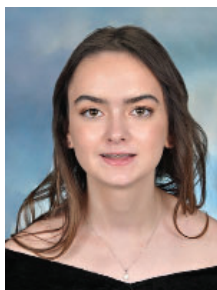
Amelia Tawadros
Villanova University



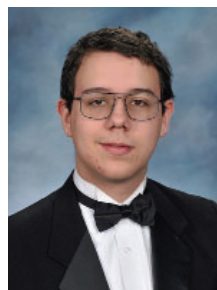
Matthew Tobias
University of Georgia



Ashley Trotta
*University of South
Carolina-Columbia*



Emma Van Cott
*Rochester Institute of
Technology*



Samuel Vilardi
*Rochester Institute of
Technology*



Madison Walsh
*University of South
Carolina-Columbia*



Eliana Yaker
University of Georgia



Bryan Yuk
*University of Virginia-Main
Campus*



Marnie Ziporkin
Sacred Heart University

The students recognized have met the highest standards of academic achievement at Commack High School. They have taken risks to build rigorous course schedules inclusive of International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and college-equivalent courses. They have met these academic challenges with the highest levels of success, achieving grade point averages of 100 or above. As they move on to their next journey in life, we believe that the experience these students have shared has undoubtedly made them reflective, principled, and knowledgeable and we trust that they will continue to strive towards the highest levels of scholastic and career achievement.

**Congratulations
to the
Class of 2023!**

Commack Named Best Community For Music

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation named Commack as a 2023 Best Community for Music Education for its outstanding music education programs. The awards program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of the curriculum. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. This is Commack's thirteenth Best Communities for Music Education recognition as the District received this honor in 2002, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Director of Music, Mark Stuckey, stated, "Music education has been widely supported by our Board of Education, District and Building Administration, parents and community members. Our students' love of music is fostered by our talented and devoted teaching staff, which we are fortunate to have. This year, we were able to see our music program connect across the district, through a new initiative this year, the Commack School District: Nights of Music. We brought together students of all ages for a Jazz Night, Band Night,



String Night and Vocal Night. It was wonderful to hear the students perform at the intermediate, middle school and high school levels. Additionally, they had the opportunity to work together on a musical selection that featured local and world-renowned guest musicians that held clinics with our teachers and student musicians. None of this is possible without the support of the people mentioned above. We look forward to another strong year of music in our schools during the 23-24 school year, and bring home another distinction to the Commack family.

ALS Ride For Life



Each year, students in Commack eagerly await the arrival of the ALS Ride for Life, and welcome them with cheers and encouragement. The riders and their supporters travel across Long Island to spread awareness of this devastating disease. Stopping every year at Burr, strong supporters of the research to find a cure, donated \$6,000 this year, and well over \$50K in previous years. For the first time, the riders also stopped at Sawmill and were greeted by the entire school to show their support.

Educator of the Year

Commack High School teacher, Carmelina Zitarosa, was chosen amongst outstanding nominees for the 2022- 2023 District Educator of the Year. She is one of the most kind and caring people who has walked the halls of the High School.

Whether you are in her classroom, watching her talking to a student, or having a conversation with her, it is evident that she embodies the qualities of an outstanding educator: dedication, passion, compassion, and the ability to ignite a love of learning in her students.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Carmelina and are thankful for her and all of our dedicated educators.



From left to right in photo: CTA President Joe Bisulca, CTA Vice President Rob Ciani, Indian Hollow Principal Brian Simpson, Carmelina Zitarosa (CHS & District Educator of the Year), BOE Vice President Steven Hartman, Mary Ellen Herbold (CMS Educator of the Year), BOE Trustee Susan Hermer, Amy Dank (Intermediate Educator of the Year), BOE President Justin Varughese, Jennifer Lombardo (Elementary Educator of the Year), BOE Trustee Dr. William Hender, and Superintendent Dr. Jordan Cox.

HuntingTONY Award Winners



Congratulations to our talented performers and their director at Commack High School for their HuntingTONY Award wins! This year, they won three HuntingTONY Awards:

Best Ensemble In a Play: The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered
Best Musical: Into the Woods
Best Supporting Actress in a Musical: Julia G.

Sawmill Science Stars



The fifth grade team at Sawmill won first place in the National Science League! These brilliant young minds were honored at a Board of Education meeting. We are so proud of these students and can't wait to see what they can accomplish in the future! Way to go Sawmill!

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, Associate Superintendent for Business & Operations; PO Box 150; Commack, NY 11725.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax-2Mail.pdf> (link is external), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Eighth Graders Moving On Up

Congratulations to the Class Of 2027



Rainbow Fish

After listening to the story "Rainbow Fish," by Marcus Pfister, Rolling Hills kindergarteners created their own beautiful fish using the concept of collage, sharing their shiny scales with friends just like the fish did in the story!



Wood Park's Inclusive Playground



The second graders at Wood Park have worked cooperatively all year to continue the school's goal of creating an accessible playground for all students and community members.

This vision began last year when second graders challenged the staff to think about how to add interactive equipment to the playground to help make it accessible to all and teach others about the importance of inclusivity.

Last year, students and staff worked together to create a beautiful Core Board on the playground. The students learned how alternative and augmentative communication devices help to promote independence, expand communication and increase social interactions for our students and community members with speech & language difficulties.

This year, we had the opportunity to continue our vision by adding a xylophone to our playground (photo on right). The xylophone allows students that may not want to or cannot climb on our playground equipment the opportunity to play with friends in a different way.

Our second graders had the amazing opportunity to visit Commack High School and participate in a variety of service-learning and peer-to-peer projects through partnerships with the 8:1:2 teams,

music, science and speech departments. Together the students created bracelets and key chains and planted small flower pots. These items were then sold at a fundraiser held at Ralph's Italian Ices to support our mural and inclusive playground projects. At the high school, the youngsters were immersed in a variety of classroom and environmental settings where they worked collaboratively with their high school counterparts toward a common goal. Students were constantly engaged, motivated, and eager to learn new topics and share their experiences with their peers at Wood Park.

"We want to thank the Commack High School team for not only partnering with us to make these trips a reality, but also for your incredible generosity," Wood Park Principal Michelle Collison said. "The funds collected from the CHS Rock the Socks event for Down Syndrome Awareness Day were donated to Wood Park and our playground legacy project. Additionally, we would like to thank the muralist, Diana O'Brien, Advantage Rental, Aboff's and Ralph's for their support and generosity."



SUMMER 2023 PROJECTS

- All primary schools will be getting new playground equipment
- The electrical service at the primary schools will be upgraded in preparation for the new a/c systems
- Work will begin on the air conditioning systems for the gyms and cafeterias
- The fire alarm systems will be upgraded at all schools except Rolling Hills (already done)

HIGH SCHOOL:

- The library is being upgraded to reflect the current use of library facilities
- A Mock Trial Courtroom is being created
- The cafeteria seating area and serving lines are being updated
- The East and West courtyards are being renovated
- The student parking lot behind the bleachers will be repaved
- Initial work on the air conditioning systems for the gyms and cafeterias will begin
- The old handball courts are being converted to pickleball courts

INDIAN HOLLOW:

- The parking lot will be repaved
- The faculty bathrooms will be renovated
- A new school sign will be installed

SMITH'S LANE:

- New windows and exterior doors are being installed

CHS
Library
Study
Rooms



Burr Flag Day Celebrations



To celebrate Flag Day, Burr students presented the flag, performed patriotic music, honored veterans, and recited interesting information about the history of the flag. Additionally, they honored Mr. Sledge, their partner at the VA hospital, and thanked him for his dedication to helping veterans and Burr with their patriotic celebrations.

WAC Science Awards

Commack High School science research students participated in the WAC Lighting Invitational Science Fair. The fair, which was hosted by Commack this year, featured 24 Commack projects in a pool of 266 representing some of the most prominent research schools in New York. At the competition, one of only a few which are adjudicated by professional scientists, nine Commack projects were distinguished by Grand Awards. The Commack students and their projects are:



Jonathan Z.

1st Place, Behavioral and Social Science
Differential Diagnosis of Sleep Disorder Subtypes with Neural Aperiodic Components

Jin K.

2nd Place, General Biology
Behavioral Analysis of Circadian Rhythms of PerL, PerO & w1118 strains in *Drosophila melanogaster*

Rishin C.

3rd Place, Medicine and Health
The Effect of Curcumin and Curcumin Derivatives on the Decidualization and Cell Proliferation of Endometrial Stromal Cells

Abigail K. , Alexandra S.

Honorable Mention, General Biology
The Effect of Water Hardness on the Cardiovascular Health of *Daphnia magna*

Arda A. , Jack H.

Honorable Mention, General Biology
The Effects of CBD oil on Termite Trail following Behavior

Anna R.

Honorable Mention, Medicine and Health
PERG Parameters Associated with Visual Field Global Indices and OCT Thickness Measurements in Glaucoma Suspects

Jasmine C. , Meiya L.

Honorable Mention, Medicine and Health
The Effectiveness of Supplements on *C. albicans* as a possible Treatment for Estrogen-Induced Yeast Infections

Sahaj P. , Mehek S.

Honorable Mention, Medicine and Health
Effect of MAPK1 gene in combination with KRAS gene and/or Tp53 gene expression on Lung Adenocarcinoma patient survival

Commack's Future Business Leaders



This year, forty members of the Future Business Leaders of America traveled to Rochester to compete at the state level. This competition takes place every year and hosts approximately 500 competitors. This year was our biggest year in history, with 27 placements in a variety of events. The Business Department is extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of each of these individuals.

Congratulations to the following students: Arda Alptekin, Alexander Cekada, Ishana Chadha, Akarsh Chilakala, Jack Damato, Adam Fawaz, Julian Feldman, Matthew Fingerman, Tyler Grimm, Billal Halimi, Benjamin Kavesteen, Charlie Keiser, Manya Khatri, Abigail Kleiman, Aaron Mathew, Talia Mishkin, Patrick Moran, Shivani Muthukumar, Saharsh-Reddy Peddireddy, Farah Raufi, Anam Riaz, Ryan Scheinman, Max Schillen, Casey Schwartz, Ayan Sheikh, Ishaan Singh, Daniel Steinberg, Nicholas Whalen, Victoria Wroblewski and Jonathan Zhang.

Sweetbriar Friends

Sweetbriar Nature Center visited kindergarten students at North Ridge to teach them about different animals, their habitats, and how Sweetbriar takes care of them. They absolutely loved holding and touching the animals, especially the bunnies and snakes. This was a great interactive learning experience, and a quick trip to Smithtown to visit Sweetbriar.



Every year the Indian Hollow families are treated to a one-of-a-kind Field Day presented by Mr. New, IH's PE teacher. This year's event did not disappoint! Students participated in organized stations with a Commack Community theme. The gym was transformed into our own portion of Commack, and the children toured the town on scooters.

Field Day Fun @IH



Students decorated bags as houses and businesses, which outlined the streets with clues written on them as they journeyed through Commack. Students also participated in the always highly anticipated relay races and enjoyed an outside picnic lunch with their families. Fun was had by all, the weather was great, and it was another successful Field Day at Indian Hollow.

Tribute to the Troops



The Commack School District held its Tribute to the Troops Lacrosse game in April to honor our veterans and active military members. The event, which took place at the Commack High School Hero's Memorial Field, brought together members and leaders of the Commack community.

The evening began with speeches by Superintendent of Commack Schools, Dr. Jordan F. Cox; Suffolk DA, Ray Tierney; Huntington Town Supervisor Edmund Smith and Smithtown Town Supervisor, Edward Wehrheim.

This year, the lacrosse team played in tribute to the brave men and women who have selflessly served our country. The game was between the Commack Cougars varsity boys lacrosse team and William Floyd. Both teams showed great sportsmanship and dedication to the cause. In the end, the Commack Cougars team emerged victorious, with an 8-7 win against William Floyd in overtime.

The Commack School District is committed to honoring those who have served and ensuring that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

Students Against Destructive Decisions



Members of Commack High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club presented IMPACT Teen Drivers' "What Do You Consider Lethal?" program in collaboration with Stony Brook Medicine to all 11th and 12th graders. This presentation brings awareness to young drivers about distracted driving, safe driving practices, and the responsibilities of young drivers. This year's theme, "Road safety is no accident," was highlighted through high-energy multimedia presentations and participation discussions.

Members of Commack High School's SADD club are trained by staff from Stony Brook's Trauma Center and is the only school on Long Island that does this peer-to-peer presentation format. The advocacy work these students are doing caught the attention of the media. SADD students were featured on NBC News, News 12, and Newsday.

Commack Math Superstars!



Congratulations to the Commack Middle School Math Award recipients for the 2022-2023 school year: Mollie B., Alicia S., Antonio C., Sebastian Z., Ishana K., Andy H., Kenneth W., Charlotte B., Shane R., Blake M., Lyla L., Natalie P., Rishika S., Ethan T., Ruby B. and Joseph P.

All these students exemplify what the Middle Years Programme is all about and encompass many of the IB Learner Profile traits. These students are thinkers who care about others, are principled in their actions and reflect in order to grow. Congratulations to all the winners!



Commack High School was happy to have The Long Island Math Fair back as an in-person event on April 28th at Hofstra University. Math research students and students who self-selected participated in this annual event. Each student researched and presented their findings on topics in mathematics that are not studied in traditional math courses.

Topics included Calculus and medical imaging, bullet trajectory to find "Who's the Shooter?", the probability of rolling every roll in Yahtzee, and whether Apple watches count steps based on leg movement or arm movement.

We are proud of all sixteen students who presented their findings. Juliette A., Jack D., Jack L., Shivani M. Alexander P., received gold medals, Sophie C. received a silver medal and Nisa E., Ashley G., Juyeon K., Elaina M., Matthew O., Mya O., Mehek S. and Conor S. received bronze medals.

Thank you to Mr. Derek Pope, who guided the Math research students throughout the process. Thank you also to Mrs. Carol Barbagallo, Mrs. Amy Cappiello, Mr. Bobby Varughese, and Mr. Derek Pope for chaperoning and judging the presentations, which helped make the Long Island Math Fair possible.

Intergenerational Partnership at North Ridge



First and second graders at North Ridge Primary School are connecting with our greater community. They joined in the GrandFriends Intergenerational Reading Partnership and read to residents of The Bristol Assisted Living at East Northport who are dealing with dementia and visual issues such as macular degeneration. A former Northport District teacher from The Bristol who taught K-6 for 30 years read to our students. WPIX Channel 11 covered and broadcast this heartwarming event.

Eleven former teachers who reside at The Bristol want to maintain a sense of purpose and still be able to do what they love – read to children. After a resident and former teacher expressed that she wished she could participate but no longer could see, the program was expanded to include residents who could no longer read. Barbara Heaphy, the Director of Recreation at The Bristol said, “Residents look forward to visiting with the North Ridge Primary students and reading to them, and residents who can no longer read for themselves are very appreciative of the kindness of the young

readers who bring the pages to life for them.”

North Ridge Primary Principal, Katherine Rihm, said, “The students enjoy the visits from The Bristol residents and second graders who have mastered the ability to read are very pleased to be able to brighten the day of The Bristol residents who can no longer read for themselves.”

The GrandFriends Intergenerational Reading Partnership between North Ridge Primary School and The Bristol began on March 2nd, 2023, on National Read Across America Day. The students and residents meet twice a month.

Dr. Jordan Cox, Superintendent of Commack Schools, applauds the exceptional efforts made by our students to engage with the community. He said, “Every school within our district demonstrates remarkable acts of kindness towards others, instilling in students the significance of lending a helping hand.”

Gold & White Night



The much anticipated competition between the eighth graders is a rite of passage at the end of the school year!

A Fond Farewell to our Retirees



*We wish our retirees the best that life has to offer and a happy and healthy next chapter in their lives.
We will miss your knowledge and experience, and we will miss YOU!*

Margaret Alexandrovich
Theresa Bassett
Leah Bernstein
Toni Boble
Abbye Boker
Susan Brandel
Lisa Jo Brennan
Coreen Cellana
Anne Chimelis
Diane Cotter

Mona DeMarco
Julie Dimou
Jill Donnelly
Robert Dubriske, Jr.
Christine Farino
Francine Farrell
Sean Fitzsimmons
Debra Fornaro
Craig Gorton
June Guarrera

Gina Hawkins
Marianne Huber
Douglas Marks
Annette Masci
Sonia Moronta-Mastrandrea
Francis Murphy
Kathleen Olesen
Jacqueline Oster
Jeanne Owen
Scott Rubinstein

Paula Saltzman
Melanie Scandariato
Mia Schwartz
Doreen Sulfaro
Robert Van Allen
Diane Wilson
Thalia Yassen

25 Years of Service - Silver Anniversary



A huge thank you and our deepest appreciation to those listed below for a quarter of a century of service and dedication to our students and schools. Your contributions to this district are immeasurable!

Mark Algeri
Shelly Atlas
Barton Ayres
Catherine Bongo-Liselli
Eric Bush
Alison Butler
James Del Giudice
Michelle Dick
Maria Edlund
Jennifer Freck

Gary Giacchetto
Frank Hansen
Peter Jensen
Michael Kaminicki
Lucy Kozlowsky
Jennifer Lombardo
Maureen MacKenzie
Barbara McFadden
Nancy McGeever
Ann McLocklin-Libbey

Jennifer Murphy
Francis Musto
John O'Donnell
Susan Oelcher
Debra Polizzi
Cathy Pugh
Daniel Revera
Geraldyn Russo
Donna Sahagian
Paula Saltzman

Janice Samuels
Mark Schwartz
Danielle Siani-Leahy
Paul Slackman
Paul Sleavensky
Kathleen Soria
Christine Valenti
Neal Weinhaus
Toni Ziegler

News from Our Athletes

TRACK & FIELD



Commack Field and Track Star Julie T. was crowned the NY State Division 1 Shotput Champion with a throw of 43' 2 3/4". She also took the Silver medal in the Division 1 Discus throw. Julie is the NYS indoor and outdoor Shot Put champion. She has won the All American twice for indoor and outdoor Shot Put. Julie has broken every throwing record in Commack!



Congratulations to both the Girls and Boys Varsity Track and Field teams for making it to the AA County Championships. The boys captured the Suffolk County Title!



Daniel P. finished 4th in the Pentathlon at the NYS Track and Field Championship.



Congrats to Girls Track Coach Tracie Morenberg on being named League 2 Coach of the Year. Boys Track Coach Paul Sleavensky was honored as League 2 and Suffolk County AA Coach of the Year.



Extra special thanks to volunteer Bob Williams for his excellence in capturing photos of our athletes, rain or shine, always with a smile and a kind word of encouragement.

More kudos!!

Congratulations to:

- ★ Nicole B. is the County Champion in the 100-meter hurdles.
- ★ Seville L. is the county champ in the long jump.
- ★ Nick V. competed in the 100-meter dash at counties.
- ★ Ed B. was named the indoor League 2 Coach of the Year!



#GOCOUGARS



Commack Cougars Champions

BOYS TENNIS



Division 1 Title for 3 Years in a Row!

A spectacular season for our Boys Varsity Tennis Team with an undefeated 13-0 season. They won the Suffolk County 2023 Team Championship, as well as the Division 1 Title. The team has a 49 win streak in Suffolk County!

Congratulations to Eddie L. who won the NYS Tennis Singles Championship! Eddie went undefeated this year in team matches and all throughout the postseason. He won the **Suffolk County title for the 3rd year in a row** and qualified for the state championships. In the state championships, he played outstanding and cruised through to the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, he had a huge comeback win after trailing 4-6, 3-4 ultimately finishing the match 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. In the state finals, he played his absolute best tennis against a very tough opponent from upstate New York with a 6-2- 4-6, 6-2 scoreline and played a combination of outstanding defense and controlled offense.



BASEBALL



League 1 Champs for Three in a Row!

Commack Varsity Baseball finished with a regular season record of 18-2 and earned the League 1, Suffolk County, and Long Island Championships. It was the first time our baseball team advanced to the State Championship.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Congratulations to senior Ashley K. She was selected for the LI Lacrosse Games for her outstanding performance on the girl's lacrosse team this year. She broke the school record for most assists in a career (91 and counting)! Two incredible accomplishments!



SOFTBALL



League 1 Champs!

The Commack Varsity Softball Team had a spectacular season with a record of 13-4!

BADMINTON

Please join Coach Dellisanti and Coach Valdes in congratulating a number of our athletes who have been recognized as All-County Badminton players for the 2023 season.

This is the first time in school history that the boys and girls badminton program made it to the County finals the same year.



More photos and Athletic News including tryout dates for Fall 2023 are on the Athletic Page on the Commack Website.

www.commackschools.org/cougarathletics.aspx

Keep in Touch with Us!

Update your Information Before School Begins in September

Parents!

Parents and guardians are automatically enrolled in our email notification system. Messages are sent via home and cell phone, email, text, and push notification (Push notifications are available through the **SchoolMessenger App**). Please make sure your contact information is up to date on the Parent Portal. You can control how we contact you (your preferences) via the app - find out more about this and other information just for parents in the Student & Families section on the Commack Website: www.commackschools.org/Parents.aspx.

Community, Staff, and Parents!

Community members and parents can hear about community events, fundraisers, District Board of Education and Budget meetings, receive sex offender notifications and more by signing up for **Community Connect Email**. The link to sign up is under the Our Community drop-down on the home page of the website.

Another major means of improving our communications is the new **Commack School District App** - have you downloaded it to your smartphone or tablet? It is available at the App Store or Google Apps and is a way to stay "in-the-know" about District or school happenings through push notifications right to your device. The app also makes navigating the District website more efficient by having targeted links for each school for lunch menus, calendars, and school websites.

Everyone!

Check the Commack Website for latest and greatest about our students and staff and for general information.

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to see all the wonderful people, events, and programs in the Commack Schools!

Twitter: @CommackSchools

Instagram: @CommackSD

Facebook:

@CommackSchoolDistrict

www.commackschools.org

Back to School Information

The first day of school is September 5, 2023.

Check out our website, social media, and app for the latest news and updates from our schools.

<https://www.commackschools.org>



Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Commack Union Free School District does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, age, marital status, partnership status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, sexual orientation, gender (sex), military status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status or political affiliation, and additionally does not discriminate against students on the basis of weight, gender identity, gender expression, and religious practices or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or federal non-discrimination laws in employment or its programs and activities. The District provides equal access to community and youth organizations.



Commack School District

www.commackschools.org

Commack Board of Education:
Justin Varughese - President
Steven Hartman - Vice President
Trustees: William Hender,
Susan Hermer, and Gus Hueber

Superintendent of Schools:
Dr. Jordan F. Cox