

COPIAGUE *Connections*

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



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MEET THE Top 10 of 2019



Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School has announced the top 10 students for the graduating Class of 2019. With a weighted GPA of 103.39, Aaron Eng has been named the valedictorian. Abigail Romero has been named salutatorian with a weighted GPA of 103.13.

Valedictorian Aaron Eng is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and a member of the National Honor Society, Global Ambassadors Club and Quiz Bowl. He has been awarded a Rotary Youth Leadership Award. He has been a member of the marching band for five years and volunteers with the Key Club and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Aaron plans to major in civil engineering at Princeton University.

Salutatorian Abigail Romero is

an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, a National Hispanic Scholar and vice president of the National Honor Society. She has participated in the Farmingdale State College STEP Program since sophomore year. She has participated in the independent science research program and her research has been recognized and honored with awards. Abigail is also on the varsity winter track team and was a member of the varsity field hockey team. She is in the wind ensemble, plays in the jazz band, is a member of the pit orchestra for the musical productions and was vice president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Abigail plans to major in pre-med and has been accepted to Yale University. She is still considering her college choice.

The District congratulates the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School graduating Class of 2019 top 10 students:

- Aaron Eng, Valedictorian
- Abigail Romero, Salutatorian
- Aleksandra Bugajczyk, third
- Owen Rosenberg, fourth
- Liam Mahabir, fifth
- Jackson Bright, sixth
- Jonathan Conlon, seventh
- Jahnay Cuffy, eighth
- Melinda Mercedes, ninth
- Kailee St. Angelo, tenth

LEARNING FROM THE *Eagle*

The eagle proudly stands as the mascot for the Copiague School District, symbolizing courage and the ability to explore and grow. Eagles are considered fearless, tenacious and strong. As it is representative of the Copiague Schools, we asked students from across the District, our superintendent of schools and a District alumnus what being an Eagle means to them. Here's what they said:

**Walter O'Connell,
Class of 1964**

"Copiague High School was born in my childhood kitchen, when my father was tasked by the Board of Education to create a high school. To me, being a Copiague Eagle means loyalty and unity."



**Dr. Kathleen Bannon,
Superintendent of Schools**

"I have spent many years of my professional adult life in Copiague. It is my adopted home. To me, being a Copiague Eagle means acceptance. Every person – man, woman or child – is fully embraced and accepted, whether they've spent their entire lives in Copiague or they're new to our community. As a lifelong "Daler," I am proud to also be a Copiague Eagle."



A Shift in Presenting Voting Information

At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the Department of Justice reminded Long Island schools about the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ensures there shall be no discrimination in voting rights. The Department of Justice will now require school districts to provide voting information in the form of newsletter articles, website stories,

banners, flyers, etc., in the predominant languages for each jurisdiction. Last year, English and Spanish were deemed by the federal government to be the predominant languages spoken in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Therefore, moving forward, the District will be providing all voting information in both English and Spanish.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Laura Gavey, **President**

Doris Fischer, **Vice President** Rosemary Natoli, **2nd Vice President**

Christopher Madden Peter Robinson Brian J. Sales Kenneth Urban

Dr. Kathleen Bannon, **Superintendent of Schools**

What does being a *Copiague Eagle* mean to YOU?

**Madison Aquafredda,
Grade 5, Susan E. Wiley
Elementary School**

"It means we all have to look out for each other because we are all in this together, no matter what. Our goal in Copiague is to soar high."



**La'nay Pinkard,
Grade 2, Deauville
Gardens East
Elementary School**

"To me, being an Eagle means to have good sportsmanship and respect for your school and community."



**Oliver Rudny,
Grade 3, Great Neck Road
Elementary School**

"You get to learn new things every day. Learning in Copiague is so much fun. We work on goals for ourselves that we can share, accomplish and achieve. We may not always be able to do our best, but we always try our best and always treat others how we want to be treated."



**Kyree Scott, Grade 12,
Walter G. O'Connell
Copiague High School**

"An eagle is a bird that symbolizes strength, pride and courage. There is no other school that represents an eagle like Copiague. You need to lead by example and be your own person. To be an eagle, you don't need to be black or white because we have open arms for all. We are family and we don't drop anyone or let anyone be down."



**Orlandis Rosario, Grade
4, Deauville Gardens
West Elementary School**

"Being a Copiague Eagle means we are all Eagles who support our school. We call ourselves Eagles because that is our mascot. We are all Eagles, so we have to support each other, be kind and work together as a team."



**Samantha Sattler,
Grade 12,
Walter G. O'Connell
Copiague High School**

"Being an Eagle means being part of and soaring in a diverse community that's bigger than yourself."

**Bradley Williams,
Grade 8, Copiague
Middle School**

"Eagles stand out, so you should dare to be different. Don't stay confined to what someone thinks you should be. Make connections with those around you; help someone who may need it."



**Emmylie Coreas, Grade 8,
Copiague Middle School**

"It means to have pride in your school and enjoy being surrounded by friends and family. It means to get involved in your school and community. An eagle flies – you have to spread your wings and do what you love."

