



COPIAGUE. Connections

COPIAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

Summer 2016

Class of 2016 *Leaves* the *Nest*

The 57th commencement exercises of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Class of 2016 were celebrated on June 23 by members of the Board of Education, administration, family, friends, faculty and invited guests, finalizing the completion of the seniors' careers as Copiague Eagles.

Following the advancement of colors and playing of the national anthem, performed by the concert band, graduates were treated to congratulatory remarks and sage advice from Board of Education President Brian J. Sales and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bannon as they prepared for the next chapter in their lives.

"Each of you has left an indelible imprint on Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School," said Dr. Bannon. "We know you will continue to leave a positive impact on everything you do after this point. Your transition

to college, work or the military is the next step for you, and if you do what you have done at every transition so far, and maximize your nervousness and excitement, you will be unstoppable."

Karla Lopez took the podium to deliver the salutatory address, followed by valedictorian Dawn Gioia, who performed her spirited speech in the form of a rap. Last to speak, Joseph Agosta proudly gave his address to his first graduating class as Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School principal.

"As you move on in life, remember the values, pride and sense of community each member of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School staff has worked so hard to provide," said Mr. Agosta. "I charge you with the task of continuing to put what you have learned to good use and to be a positive force in your community."



Following the distribution of diplomas, class representatives, Dr. Bannon and Mr. Agosta presented a posthumous diploma to the family of Wilson Gil-Torres, who passed away earlier this year, and released a cluster of white balloons in his memory.

In unison, the graduates turned their tassels from right to left and joyfully tossed their caps in the air, ready to spread their wings and make their mark on the world. Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

Copiague School District
Copiague, N.Y. 11726

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**Valedictorian
Dawn Gioia**
Arcadia University

**Salutatorian
Karla Lopez**
Boston University



3. Adrian Chochorek
New York University

4. Marcus Weeks
Cornell University



5. Kasandra Hanson
University of New Haven

COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES

Here is just a sample of colleges and universities where you'll find the Class of 2016 this fall:

Alfred University
Boston University
Delaware State University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Florida SouthWestern State College
Full Sail University
Hofstra University
Johnson & Wales University

Long Island University, Post
North Carolina Central University
New England College
Saint Peter's University
Seton Hill University
St. John's University
University of Massachusetts
Valley Forge Military College



Class Spotlight

Number of Graduates: 369
Number of Students who Graduated with an Advanced Regents w/Honors Diploma: 13
Number of Students who Graduated with an Advanced Regents Diploma: 109
Number of Students who Graduated with a Regents Diploma: 221
Number of Students Attending Four-Year Colleges: 130
Number of Students Attending Two-Year Colleges: 145
Number of Students Entering the Military: 8
Community Scholarships Awarded at Senior Awards: \$66,825

6. Maegan Tosun
Stony Brook University



7. Patricia Estevez
University at Albany, SUNY

8. Ethan Taveras
SUNY Binghamton



9. Axel Pineda-Portillo
Farmingdale State College

10. Joshua Mohan
Florida Institute of Technology



EIGHTH-GRADERS MOVE **Up** AND ONWARD

Gathered in the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School gymnasium, eighth-grade students from Copiague Middle School received their diplomas of completion during a moving up ceremony on June 22.

Before an audience of family, friends, students, administrators, faculty and members of the Board of Education, Assistant Principal Michael Ferretti, the evening's master of ceremonies, officially began the event with his welcome remarks. Following the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by the sixth- and seventh-grade band, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bannon congratulated the students for reaching this stage in their educational careers and offered some keen advice as they transition to high school.

"Your middle school teachers have prepared you well for the high school classes you are going to take, and the high school teachers are ready to take you to the next level academically," said Dr. Bannon. "If you continue to put hard work and effort into your schoolwork, you will be successful in high school." In

addition to her words of encouragement, Dr. Bannon challenged the students to branch out and be active in the school clubs, music programs and athletics that will be available to them in high school.

During her address as class representative, Student Council President Nicole Hernandez reminisced about her middle school experiences and the lessons she had learned, and expressed her anticipation for the many opportunities that await them next year.

Last to speak, Principal Andrew Lagnado took the podium where he provided sage advice and farewell comments to the graduating class of 2020. "Stay motivated, focused and goal-oriented," said Mr. Lagnado. "Go that extra mile, because what you put into it will determine what you get out of it. These next few years will lay the groundwork for your futures, so remember to always make positive decisions and work hard."

Following the presentation of diplomas, the recessional of students took their first steps as middle school graduates while the band performed "Westwind."



Fifth-Graders Ready for the Next Step

The District celebrated the academic milestones of its fifth-grade students during Class Day Moving Up ceremonies held at their respective schools on June 16 and 17. Administrators, family, faculty, friends and invited guests came together to recognize the graduating class of 2016 at Deauville Gardens East, Deauville Gardens West, Great Neck Road and Susan E. Wiley

elementary schools.

During the ceremonies, students were honored for their outstanding academic achievements, citizenship and leadership. Awards for academic excellence in core subject areas, as well as presidential education awards, were bestowed upon deserving fifth-graders.

The students were treated to words of encouragement and

congratulatory remarks from their fellow classmates and their respective principals. In between award presentations, students demonstrated their talents and entertained the audience by performing musical selections.

During her address to the fifth-graders at Deauville Gardens East and Great Neck Road, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen

Bannon advised them to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them during the next phase of their careers in the Copiague school system.

"Everyone sitting in this room can be whatever they choose to be," said Dr. Bannon in her address at DGE. "However, you can't do it by sitting back and letting life pass you by. Build on what you started at Deauville

Gardens East Elementary School. This was the first step, and you are ready for the next step, which is middle school. I encourage you to make the most of what the middle school has to offer you."

As they heard their names called, students made their way to the front of the room to receive their diplomas, finalizing the completion of this chapter in their educational journeys.

Save the Date

Tuesday, Sept. 6
First Day of School

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brian J. Sales, **President**

Laura Gavey, **Vice President** Doris Fischer, **2nd Vice President**
Michael L. Greb Rosemary Natoli Everett E. Newman III Peter Robinson

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