



Summer 2019

Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Bright Future Ahead

There was not a cloud in the sky as the 233 members of Lynbrook High School's Class of 2019 made their way onto the field of Marion Street Elementary School during their commencement ceremony on June 27. Proud family, friends, faculty, Board members, and building and central administrators applauded as the graduates prepared to close the chapter on their memorable high school careers.

Salutatorian Sam Cohen addressed his peers while praising the class for all that they accomplished together. He also focused on the meaning of closure during this pivotal time in their young adult lives.

"Don't look for closure," he advised them. "Look for gratitude, look for love and look around you, because the friends sitting next to you and the family cheering you on aren't going anywhere."

During her valedictory address, Kaylie Hausknecht recalled entering the high school for the first time, lessons learned and her own self-growth. She encouraged her peers to go forth and welcome the unexpected that life brings.

"Let us revel in the great gift of wonder that we have all been given," Kaylie said. "Then, and only then, can we make a unique and meaningful contribution to our world."

Lynbrook High School Principal Joseph Rainis shared the Class of 2019's impressive achievements, while Superintendent of Schools Dr. Melissa Burak asked the graduates to reflect on four requests. This included advising the students to "stay hungry," working toward their passions; "work like an artisan," carving their initials in all they do; "live in beta," to keep improving; and "think like a parent," putting their best selves forward while making appropriate and difficult decisions along the way.

"If you start off with these ideals in mind, you will always be prepared for whatever lies ahead," she told them. "I have no doubt you will be just fine and continue to make all of us proud."

Keeping with tradition, the graduates stood with their fellow alumni as they tossed their caps high and exited the commencement ceremony, looking to the bright future ahead.



By the Numbers

Academics

- 93% received Regents Diplomas, 75% received Advanced Regents Diplomas, 51% received Advanced Regents Diplomas with Honors, 12% received Advanced Regents Diplomas with Mastery in Math and Science, nine students received Regents Diplomas with Nassau BOCES Career and Technical Endorsement, and nine students graduated with Career Development and Occupational Studies credentials
- Two National Merit Scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- Accepted to more than 210 colleges and universities
- Offered more than \$15 million in scholarships
- One Joseph M. Barry Technical Center BOCES Student of the Year
- One science research work published in the Theranostics journal
- Two Regeneron Science Talent Search semifinalists
- One top prize in the category of Physics and Astronomy at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
- 102 National Honor Society members

The Arts

- 11 All-County and four All-State musicians named
- One All-Eastern and All-National musician
- 22 Tri-M Music Honor Society members
- 24 National Art Honor Society members
- Several showcased their work at the All-County Art Exhibition and the LIU Post "Advanced Visions" exhibition, with one being specially recognized for her work
- Offered more than \$1 million in scholarships and earned acceptance into some of the most renowned art programs in the country

Athletics

- Four conference championships
- One All-State athlete, one Honorable Mention All-State athlete, 22 All-Conference athletes, 10 All-County athletes, three Honorable Mention All-County athletes, two All-Classification athletes and seven All-Division athletes
- 17 Nassau County Scholar-Athletes and one Nassau County Player of the Year
- Two Academic All-American athletes

Altruism

- Five Eagle Scouts
- Five Girl Scout Gold Award recipients
- One semifinalist in the 2019 Coca-Cola Scholars Program



LHS VALEDICTORIAN KAYLIE HAUSKNECHT:
SPECTACULAR SCIENTIST AND STUDENT

Kaylie has accomplished a tremendous amount in her young adult life. Not many people can say that they had the best physics project in the world, had their science project judged by space scientists or were deemed a National Merit Scholarship winner. Adding the title of valedictorian to her belt was the cherry on top of a successful academic career at Lynbrook High School.

With a passion for both science and math, Kaylie made strides in Lynbrook High School's Science Research program, which she admits she will miss, along with her peers, when she enters Harvard University in the fall.

"I'm going to miss having a tight-knit community of people whom I have always had classes with and how we have grown so close over the years," she said.

As a junior, Kaylie was one of only five national finalists in the Genes in Space contest for her DNA experiment proposal for the International Space Station. During her senior year, her skills as a scientist further developed. She was a Regeneron Science Talent Search semifinalist and competed in the prestigious Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Her research at Intel earned her first place in the Physics category, the Best in Category award for Physics and Astronomy, and the European Union Young Scientist Award, allowing her to represent the U.S. at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists in September.

When she was not researching in the lab, Kaylie was being a leader in her school and community. She was a semifinalist in the 2019 Coca-Cola Scholars Program for community service. Among her school roles, Kaylie served as president of the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society and Science Olympiad team. She also was co-captain of the Mathletes team and co-president of the Math Honor Society.

If Kaylie's high school career is any indication of the future that she will have, we know it will be full of opportunities and great things to come.



"My favorite part of kindergarten was when we went on the field trip to see the show 'Cat in the Hat.' I'm going to miss playing with my friends."
- Ava Schwarz, Kindergarten

"My favorite memory is staying in a cabin at Frost Valley with some of my best friends, and I'm going to miss the teachers that I've had this year."
- Ellie Gillis, North Middle School

"My favorite memory of West End was the second grade game show assembly. I'm going to miss the gym teachers."
- Ethan Berbeck, West End

"My favorite part of South Middle School was meeting new people. I'm going to miss my teachers."
- Joseph Patitucci, South Middle School

"My favorite memory is Class Night and the whole grade coming together to win senior year. I'm going to miss the sports the most, including lacrosse and volleyball, and going to the championships with my team."
- Victoria Strife, Lynbrook High School

"I'm going to miss all the teachers and all the fun times I've had with my friends. My favorite memory was going to Camp Coleman this year."
- Aaron Malinka, Marion Street

"My favorite memory was when I performed as a lead in the school play this year. I'm going to miss all my teachers."
- Addison Norris, Waverly Park

LHS SALUTATORIAN SAM COHEN:
A TRUE ROLE MODEL

Both bright and determined, Sam was a natural born leader at Lynbrook High School. He was highly involved as editor-in-chief of the high school's newspaper, Horizon, and his writing skills earned him numerous accolades as part of the Horizon staff. Sam served as president of the Lynbrook High School Student Government Association, treasurer of the National Honor Society, co-captain of the Mathletes team and co-president of the Math Honor Society. He was also a valuable member of the school's Science Olympiad team and a Marine Club board member.

Sam's musical talents made him an asset within the high school music department, where he was president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and was the school's jazz band pianist, orchestra concertmaster and a violinist in the chamber orchestra. The music department also provided him with some of his favorite memories.

"My number one favorite memory from high school is probably the Disney trip," he recalled. "We went my sophomore year and performed. It was a lot of fun."

Even with his busy schedule, Sam took pride in his academics. Along with valedictorian Kaylie, he was selected as a National Merit Scholarship winner in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program during his senior year. Like many of the graduating seniors, Sam made valuable connections during his journey through Lynbrook High School. He admits that the bonds he formed and the Lynbrook community are what he will miss the most as he leaves to continue his education at Harvard University in the fall.

"I'm going to miss all the teachers because I've had a lot of great ones," he said. "I'm also going to miss the local businesses, the music program, the science department and the general spirit of the community."



Next Stop: HIGH SCHOOL

Lynbrook North Middle School and Lynbrook South Middle School eighth graders celebrated the end of their middle school careers during their respective commencement ceremonies at Lynbrook High School on June 24. Proud family, friends, staff, Board members and administrators packed the decorated high school gymnasium for both ceremonies to honor the graduates.

North Middle School Principal Sean Fallon reflected on the graduating class and wished them the best of luck in high school, while South Middle School Principal Joseph Wiener also praised the Class of 2019 and encouraged the graduates to reflect on their own social and emotional growth.

Class speakers Ellie Gillis at North and Kate Chiulli

and Riley Fowler at South shared their middle school experiences and the memories that were made. During the ceremonies, many members of the Class of 2019 also received awards and scholarships for their notable academic achievements, character, music abilities and more.

At South's ceremony, the eighth grade chorus performed under the direction of Annie Pasqua, with returning alumnus David Padilla. At North's ceremony, a video yearbook was presented that featured photos of the graduates. One by one, students were called up to receive their certificates of completion. Members of the Board of Education congratulated each graduate as loved ones cheered. The Class of 2019 exited the ceremony with their heads held high, ready for high school.



READY FOR A New Adventure

STUDENTS LOOK FORWARD TO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEXT YEAR

Introducing LHS's Class of 2031

Lynbrook's littlest graduates took the stage at Lynbrook High School to mark the end of their memorable journey at the Lynbrook Kindergarten Center. Dressed to impress in their class colors, the students performed a poem and several songs for loved ones, the district's central administration, Board of Education members and faculty. Principal Ellen Postman reflected on the friendships that were formed, while Board trustee Alicemarie Bresnihan congratulated the young students and their families. Music teacher Madeline Jabin received special recognition for her upcoming retirement during the ceremony. Each class took a final bow on stage with their teachers as proud family and friends cheered the graduates on to first grade.

Marking History at Marion Street

Although the rain clouds stormed in, the weather did not put a damper on the celebration as Marion Street fifth graders moved up on June 25. Family, faculty, Board members, and building and central administrators packed the school gymnasium for the special occasion. Principal Theresa Macchia introduced fifth graders Kaden Rogers and Alexa Rutigliano, who spoke about

looking ahead and looking back on the memories made. Before presenting the certificates, Mrs. Macchia spoke about it being a significant year as the school marked its 90th anniversary. She congratulated the graduates and offered them words of advice, relating back to the book "Only One You" by Linda Kranz that the students read this year.

"As you venture out to new adventures, remember there is only one you and you can make the world a better place," she said.

Waving Goodbye to Waverly Park

Loved ones filed into the Lynbrook High School auditorium for Waverly Park's fifth grade graduation ceremony on June 25. The proud graduates performed several songs with the help of music teacher Madeline Jabin and recited a creative gradewide poem and their "Last Will and Testament" of what they will leave Waverly Park. In addition, guest speaker Dr. Gerard Beleckas, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, PTA members and Principal Allison Banhazl praised the fifth graders.

"You worked hard and we're proud of you," Ms. Banhazl said, "not only as a class but as an inspiring group of individuals. It has been an honor and a

privilege to be your principal this year, my first graduating class."

The graduating class performed one last song as a slideshow of photos was presented of all the wonderful times the Class of 2019 shared.

The End of an Era for West End's Class of 2019

West End fifth graders entered the Lynbrook High School gymnasium for their graduation ceremony on June 25, ready to begin a new chapter. Several graduates were recognized with awards, including the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence, the Presidential Award for Educational Achievement and the Lynbrook Teachers Association Award.

The students performed songs with the help of music teacher Maria Stella Kruh and proudly received their certificates from Principal Dr. Cindy Lee, who offered encouragement for the future. She reminded the graduates to "always do what people think you can't do," that you "only fail when you stop trying," that "the only person you should try to be better than is the person you were yesterday" and that "the start of something new brings the hope of something great."



A Year to Remember

REFLECTING ON ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

SEPTEMBER

- Seniors Sam Cohen, Juliana Condoleo and Kaylie Hausknecht were selected as semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- A record total of 108 students from Lynbrook High School's classes of 2018 and 2019 earned the designation of Advanced Placement Scholar.
- Seven student-musicians earned All-State music honors from the New York State School Music Association.

OCTOBER

- Six orchestra students were selected to perform at the Long Island String Festival Association's Nassau Secondary Festival.

NOVEMBER

- West End Elementary School science teacher Annmarie Roth was designated as a New York State Master Teacher.

DECEMBER

- Nine seniors made their college commitments to play their sport of choice at their desired colleges.
- Senior Kaylie Hausknecht was designated as a Coca-Cola semifinalist in the 2019 Coca-Cola Scholars Program.
- A record 114 student-musicians from throughout the district were selected to perform at the Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County Festivals.
- Senior Leo Glassman was selected to perform double bass in the 2019 National Association for Music Education All-Eastern Honors Concert Band.
- Seniors Jessica Grisales and Billy Miatta earned the Nassau Zone Outstanding Physical Education Student Award.

JANUARY

- Seniors Juliana Condoleo and Kaylie Hausknecht were among 300 semifinalists in the 2019 Regeneron Science Talent Search, one of the nation's most prestigious science and math competitions for high school seniors.
- Virtual Enterprise students earned the silver award for company branding for their company "Fit Pet" during the Virtual Enterprises Long Island Regional Conference and Exhibition. "Fit Pet" was also selected as a top 50 Virtual Enterprise company in the program within the United States.
- Junior Emma Lenz shared her published book, "Memories of Lynbrook," with kindergarten classes for her Girl Scout Gold Award.

FEBRUARY

- Junior Dom Barbuto was selected to join the New York State Sportswriters Association Class A All-State team for football.
- The staff of the high school's newspaper, Horizon, attended Adelphi University's Press Day and took home top awards during the annual Quill Awards portion of the day. Horizon staff won first- and second-place awards in five of the six categories that they entered while competing against 29 schools across Long Island and Queens.

MARCH

- Junior Keira Derrig and senior Samantha Farber were honored as All-County Art Senior Scholar recipients. Both had their artwork displayed at the All-County Art Exhibition, sponsored by the Art Supervisors Association.
- Senior Millie Coria received the Nassau BOCES Outstanding Student award for animation and digital media design.
- Senior Rylan Blondo scored more than 1,000 points in his high school basketball career.
- The district received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for its commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting.
- The Key Club won the Perfect Paperwork Award, Membership Retention Award and Treasurer's Award during the New York District Key Club Leadership Training Conference.

APRIL

- Junior James Parco was honored with the bronze President's Volunteer Service Award.
- For the seventh consecutive year, the district was recognized as one of the 2019 Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation.
- Five teams of elementary school students from throughout the district earned honorable mention awards for their projects in the 2019 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Student Science STEM competition.

MAY

- Seniors Sam Cohen and Kaylie Hausknecht were 2019 National Merit Scholarship winners in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Senior Kaylie Hausknecht competed in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and earned first place in the Physics category and the Best in Category award for Physics and Astronomy.

JUNE

- West End Elementary School second grader Lucas Pollin was the winner of the district's Summer Reading Logo Contest.
- Senior Jason Sitt was designated as the first-place winner in the Alzheimer's Foundation of America's 2019 Teens for Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship Essay Contest.
- South Middle School eighth graders Lauren Berkowitz, Mimi Berkowitz, Emma Casey and Mia Ciociano earned the top spots in the districtwide middle school T-shirt design contest sponsored by the Children's Place.
- Seniors Sarah Gaudet and Siobhan Stapleton were recognized with the Academic All-American Award for swimming from the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association.

Lynbrook Public Schools
Lynbrook, NY 11563

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Communication Corner

Save the Date: August 29

KC Open House
9:30-11 a.m. Group A
1:30-3 p.m. Group B

9 a.m. NM/SM Gr. 6 Orientation
10 a.m. HS Gr. 9 Orientation

September 4

Schools Open - Students Return

Summer Projects Update

Scheduled summer projects will include the installation of security vestibules at the Kindergarten Center, all three elementary schools and both middle schools. All vestibules will be completed by the end of the summer. In addition, a bathroom at West End and five bathrooms and a locker room at Marion Street will be worked on during the summer months. In-house projects which will not require contractors will consist of classroom construction at Marion Street and Waverly Park. There will also be another classroom added to the Lynbrook Kindergarten Center.



#GIVEAHOOTFOR...



Follow Dr. Burak's Twitter account, @LynbrookSupt. Look for weekly tweets with the hashtag #GiveAHootFor...



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