

Summer 2018

Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT



Just as the wind began to pick up on the evening of June 22, the breeze brought a clean slate for the 226 members of Lynbrook High School's Class of 2018, who prepared to embark on their next chapter in life, full of new opportunities and possibilities.

In his salutatory address, Jack Hunter focused on four lessons which he related back to Disney, the theme behind the seniors' Class Night victory this year. One of the lessons he presented to his fellow graduates was derived from "Hakuna Matata" from Disney's "The Lion King."

"As we find ourselves in new kingdoms next year, we must remember to step into the jungle. Live a little. Talk to new people – practice your roar," he said.

Valedictorian Dustin Mandell followed by stating how proud he was of his fellow graduates and offered encouragement as they look towards the future. "We have the skills, tools and now, freedom to go out and do what we love," he said.

"Let's follow our passions and make life worthwhile."

While highlighting the many accomplishments that the Class of 2018 has achieved, Principal Joseph Rainis spoke about positive impressions that the graduates left on the school and the community. He also discussed the meaning of time and how quickly it passes, encouraging the graduates to embrace every second.

"Your time is now," he said. "As you leave Lynbrook you have the opportunity to create, to persuade and to change your communities and with it, the world we live in."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Melissa Burak also spoke highly of the graduates and the positive mark that they made in the high school, from embracing the district's 2017-18 theme, "Where Tomorrow Begins Today," to their various charitable efforts.

"Lynbrook was only your foundation," she said. "The choices you make and paths you take from here on will be your most decisive. Class of 2018, continue to be driven, continue to care about others, continue to speak up to be a positive change agent."

Before the conclusion of the ceremony, Mr. Rainis asked all the LHS alumni in the stands to rise as he asked the Class of 2018 to join their fellow alumni. In unison, the graduates tossed their green caps high, ready to take on the future and all that it holds.

CLASS OF 2018: By the Numbers

Academics:

- 96 percent received Regents diplomas, 40.5 percent received Advanced Regents diplomas, 37 percent received Advanced Regents diplomas with Honors, 28 percent received Advanced Regents diplomas with Mastery in Math and Science, nine students received Regents diplomas with Nassau BOCES Career and Technical Endorsement and seven students graduated with Career Development and Occupational Studies credentials.
- Seven were awarded Scholarships for Academic Excellence by the State of New York.
- One was named a Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- Accepted to more than 230 colleges and universities.
- Offered more than \$13 million in scholarships.
- 114 National Honor Society members.

The Arts:

- 11 All-County and six All-State musicians named.
- 22 National Art Honor Society members.
- 24 Tri-M Music Honor Society members.
- Two percussionists participated in the Day of Percussion festival.
- Offered more than \$1 million in art scholarships and earned acceptance into some of the most renowned art programs in the country.

Athletics:

- Five All-State athletes, 33 All-Conference athletes, seven Honorable Mention All-County athletes and five All Classification athletes.
- Three Nassau County Scholar-Athletes.
- Two Nassau County Unsung Hero award winners.
- One New York State MVP swimming champion and All-American.

Altruism:

- One President's Volunteer Service Award recipient by the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- One Eagle Scout.
- Three Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients.
- One semifinalist in the 2018 Coca-Cola Scholars Program.



LHS VALEDICTORIAN DUSTIN MANDELL:
Leading the Way

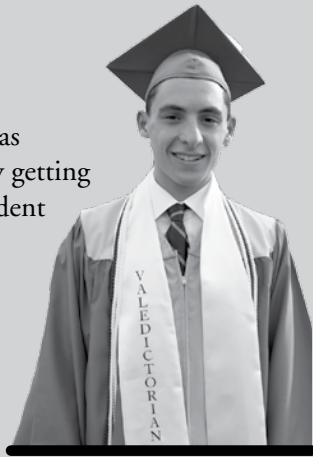
Lynbrook High School's valedictorian Dustin Mandell has a bright future ahead of him as he has prepared himself during his high school career by getting highly involved in the school community. As student body president, Dustin had the opportunity to guide his fellow classmates and provide a voice for their needs and wants. The role was one of Dustin's fondest memories in high school, as he enjoyed the positive benefits that went along with serving his peers.

In addition to being an integral part of the student government, Dustin was editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper, Horizon. He collaborated with a staff of 20 students to edit, write and lay out five issues for print publication. Horizon won several awards during the 2017-18 school year, and Dustin took home the award for Most Outstanding Reporter during Adelphi University's annual Quill Awards competition.

While Dustin is a driving force in the journalism world, he also has a knack for mathematics and was a member of the school's Mathletes Team, in which he competed in various competitions. In the fall of 2017, he was selected as a Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Program based upon his excellent 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test score.

Looking back, Dustin enjoyed the small-school community feel of Lynbrook High School. "Walking around the hallway and knowing everyone's names, as well as interacting with teachers and faculty in a friendly way, has made LHS a bubble isolated from the outside world," he said. "This bubble has nurtured us into the people we are today and developed our moral character with compassion."

He will surely be missed by the lives he has touched at LHS as he ventures off to the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, where he plans to major in mathematical economics. Dustin is also interested in studying finance and management, as well as law and legal studies, with the hope of possibly having a future career in law or business.



LHS SALUTATORIAN JACK HUNTER:
A Source of LHS Spirit

Not just book smart, salutatorian Jack Hunter has fully embraced his Lynbrook High School pride, spreading his love for his fellow classmates for the past three years as the Class Night chairperson. As chairperson, Hunter helped the Class of 2018 score another victory during this year's Class Night with the theme "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse." The seniors danced, sang and acted in front of the Lynbrook community, showcasing all of their many talents. "Being chair afforded me the opportunity to meet people I never would have otherwise met, watch all the hidden talents in our grade come to life on stage and in art, and celebrate our back-to-back sweeping victories," he said.

In addition to Class Night, Jack was a leader in the school as a member of student government and the op-ed editor of the school newspaper, Horizon. A musically inclined student, Jack was involved in the school musical and has served as principal violist in the school orchestra, participating in All-County and Long Island String Festival Association competitions.

He also joins the ranks as a skilled athlete. With a passion for swimming, he has competed at the county level and was a co-founder of the boys' varsity swim team during his sophomore year. Since its establishment, the team experienced its greatest success this last year, with members competing at the New York State level. Jack takes his swimming skills into the Lynbrook community as well, working as a lifeguard and swim coach at the Lynbrook Village Pool during the summer months.

Reflecting on his years at Lynbrook, he enjoyed all the people that he had the opportunity to meet. "My favorite part about attending LHS was making friends with people with such diverse talents and backgrounds," he said. "For a tiny school, it's crazy how much the student body has to offer, especially if you are willing to step outside your comfort zone."

In the fall, Jack will take his talents to the University of Georgia as a biology major on a pre-medicine track. If his high school involvement and positive attitude is any indication of his future, it will sure be bright.



Heading to High School

Eighth-graders in both North and South middle schools celebrated the next step in their academic journey during their respective commencement ceremonies on June 20 at Lynbrook High School. Dressed to impress, the graduates entered the gymnasium with pride in their experiences and accomplishments during their middle school years.

South Middle School marked the special occasion with moving performances by the eighth-grade chorus, while North Middle School presented a video yearbook spotlighting the graduates. Student speakers James Malinka and Emma Ward from South and Emily Paladino from North addressed their peers and the audience during their ceremonies as they reflected on their middle school careers, thanked their teachers and set their sights on the future. South Principal Caryn Blum, on the cusp of her retirement, and North Principal Sean Fallon also addressed the graduates, expressing how proud they were of them and offering words of advice and encouragement.

Awards were presented to exceptional students during both ceremonies. Faculty members at North Middle School acknowledged star pupils, and a new South Middle School scholarship award, the "Spellbound Distinguished Artist Award," created by eighth-grader David Padilla from his original song "Spellbound," was presented for the first time. Padilla donated some of the proceeds from the song to the scholarship award. Before the conclusion of the ceremonies, the Board of Education presented the graduates with their diplomas, officially granting them the title of incoming high school freshmen.



Moving Up With Confidence

STUDENTS MAKE STRIDES TO A NEW BEGINNING

Conquering Kindergarten

Proudly dressed in an array of class colors, Kindergarten Center students took the stage to showcase just why their school is its very own "Small World," filled with unique individuals ready to take on first grade. Students performed a variety of songs, including a choral poem titled "Kindergarten," in front of loved ones, central administration, Board of Education members and faculty to commemorate the special occasion. After Principal Ellen Postman officially announced the little Lynbrook graduates as the Lynbrook High School Class of 2030, classes took a bow as family and friends cheered.



Moving On From Marion Street

The rain clouds disappeared and the sun shined down for the fifth-grade graduates at Marion Street School. Fifth-grade Student Council president AJ Berkowitz spoke about the future while Vice President Genevieve Dellacona reflected on each grade level and the experiences shared. Principal Theresa Macchia reminded the graduates of the power of kindness before presenting each of them with their certificates. "Make it your mission to throw kindness like confetti and go out and find greatness," she said.



Waving Goodbye to West End

Reflecting on their time at West End Elementary School, fifth-grade graduates enjoyed a slideshow presentation and celebrated through songs, such as an original West End piece titled "These Special Things," along with "Like an Eagle." Principal Dr. Cindy Lee presented the students with their diplomas and encouraged them to always do the right things. "You may be a child but never stop believing in your power to make our world a better place," she said. The graduates proudly danced their way out of the ceremony to "On Top of the World," ready to embrace middle school.



Waverly Park Pride

It was a bittersweet ceremony for Waverly Park School as retiring Principal Lucille McAssey said goodbye to not only a great group of students but her Waverly Park family. Each student read their "Last Will and Testament," sharing the special mark that they will leave on their school. Principal McAssey focused her last will and testament on kindness. "Always be kind," she said. "If you are kind when you go to the middle school and throughout your life, it will serve you well." The fifth-grade graduates shared an original creative poem, received their certificates and reflected on their time at Waverly with a slideshow of photographs as they sang "Forever Young."



Graduates Reflect on Their Favorite Moments AND WHAT THEY WILL MISS THE MOST

"My favorite memory was being able to learn in a really comprehensive environment where I could be with friends and people that I really enjoy spending time with. I enjoyed being able to receive an amazing education from Lynbrook in such a welcoming and open space."
— Koby Lazar, Lynbrook High School

"One memory that I'm going to miss from Marion Street is being Student Council president. I feel that because I took on so much more responsibility, I feel more prepared for middle school."
— A.J. Berkowitz, Marion Street School

"I'm going to miss the sports that I played at North Middle School. I was on the wrestling team and baseball team."
— Gianluca Lavignani, North Middle School

"I'm going to miss my Earth science teacher, Mrs. Novak. She always knew just what to say at the right moments. A favorite memory of mine is meeting my friend Noreane because she is new to the district and is amazing."
— Yarielis Pancho-Rivera, South Middle School

"My favorite memory at West End was the first day of school in fifth grade when I met my best friends Catriona and Ariana."
— Charisse Cueto, West End School

"My favorite part about kindergarten was gym, and I'm going to miss my teacher."
— Yonatan Newman, Kindergarten

"My favorite memory was being Field Day captain because we got to work together as a team, make up songs and choreograph a dance. I'm going to miss all of my teachers because they taught me so much and pushed me to try my best. I'll also miss all my friends, but I'll see them next year."
— Jordyn Jean, Waverly Park School

A Year to Remember

Reflecting on Achievements Throughout the 2017-2018 School Year

SEPTEMBER

- A record total of seven Lynbrook High School seniors earned All-State music honors from the New York State School Music Association.
- 81 students from the classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 earned the designation of Advanced Placement Scholar.

OCTOBER

- West End Elementary School science teacher Annmarie Roth was recognized as the recipient of the Anton Banko Award for Excellence in Teaching Elementary Science, courtesy of the Science Teachers Association of New York State.

NOVEMBER

- 12 students in Dr. Benedict Tieniber's Virtual Enterprise class competed in the 2017 Virtual Enterprises International Elevator Pitch Competition at the LIU Entrepreneurship and Leadership Conference, becoming finalists with their company, "Fuel It."
- 16 orchestra students from throughout the district were selected to perform at the Long Island String Festival Association's Nassau intermediate and secondary festivals.

DECEMBER

- For the second consecutive year, Lynbrook High School's student newspaper, Horizon, received a Gold Award for Best All-Around Publication in the 2017 Empire State Scholastic Press Association awards program. Horizon staff members and contributors also won a total of 29 individual honors, including two gold, seven silver, 10 bronze and 10 honorable mention awards.
- A record number of seniors entered the 2018 Regeneron Science Talent Search. The 24 science research students submitted their projects in the hopes of being among the top students in the nation who will be named one of the Top 300 Scholars.
- The girls volleyball team was crowned Team Conference champions and their coach Allison Glass was selected as Conference Coach of the Year.

JANUARY

- 103 students performed at the Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County Festivals. This represented a new high in the number of selected students for the school district.
- Freshman Ally Fitzgerald earned Most Outstanding Wrestler for winning the 99-pound crown at the South Side tournament, reeling off four consecutive wins.

FEBRUARY

- Due to its continued high academic performance, Lynbrook High School was recognized as a Reward School by the New York State Education Department.
- Seniors Kyle Bergin and Tim Marski qualified for the 2018 New York State Public High School Athletic Association boys swimming and diving championships based on their top times from individual swim meets.

MARCH

- For the fifth consecutive year, the district was awarded with the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending 2017 by the Association of School Business Officials International.

- Senior Ashley Cegelski was recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award by the Corporation for National and Community Service for her exemplary volunteer service.
- South Middle School seventh-grader Jaiden Moreno won first place, eighth-grader David Padilla placed second and seventh-grader Emilia Berkowitz earned third place in the Nassau Community College Honors Program Monologue competition.

APRIL

- Fourth-grader Miley Leu from Waverly Park Elementary School was recognized as a Grade 4 State Level winner in the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest.
- Waverly Park Elementary School received a Hess Toy Truck Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Kit grant to enhance its STEM curriculum, along with twelve 2017 Hess Dump Truck and Loader kits, and a corresponding STEM curriculum.

MAY

- For the sixth consecutive year, the district received the Best Communities for Music Education designation by the NAMM Foundation, due to its outstanding commitment to music education.
- For the third consecutive year, West End Elementary School was designated as a No Place for Hate School by the Anti-Defamation League for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Lynbrook High School was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the 2018 Best High Schools. The high school was ranked No. 809 nationally, up from last year's ranking of No. 877. The school was also ranked No. 80 within New York State and received a silver medal for performance.
- A total of 25 sports teams were designated as Scholar Athlete teams for the 2017-2018 school year by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

JUNE

- Seventh-grader Jaiden Moreno and eighth-grader James Malinka from Lynbrook South Middle School, along with sophomore Terence Deegan from Lynbrook High School were selected as winners in the Nassau Reading Council's Young Authors' Contest for their personal narrative submissions.
- Waverly Park Elementary School chorus students, along with kindergarteners from the Lynbrook Kindergarten Center, performed the national anthem at Citi Field before a New York Mets game.
- The Lynbrook High School Key Club received the prestigious Heroglobin Award from the New York Blood Center for collecting 234 pints of blood in the Blood Donor Program this school year.
- Fine Art Seniors collectively amassed over \$1.1 million in talent scholarships for the 2017-18 school year and have been accepted to some of the most prestigious art programs in the nation.
- Junior Kaylie Hausknecht was named a finalist in the Genes in Space contest for her DNA experiment proposal that could be done using lab equipment on the International Space Station. She will present her idea at the International Space Station Research and Development Conference in San Francisco in July to a panel of space scientists and judges, with the hope to send her experiment into space to be completed by astronauts.

DISTRICT VOTER INFORMATION SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICTS

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 shall be all of that portion of Lynbrook Union Free School District beginning at the center line of Sunrise Highway and continuing to the northernmost boundary of the district. Voters residing in School Election District No. 1 shall cast their ballots at NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL on Merrick Road.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2 shall be all of that portion of Lynbrook Union Free School District lying south of the center line of Sunrise Highway and including all of the area south to the center line of Scranton Avenue. Voters residing in School Election District No. 2 shall cast their ballots at LYNBROOK HIGH SCHOOL on Union Avenue.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 shall be all of that portion of Lynbrook Union Free School District at the center line of Scranton Avenue and extending south to the southerly boundaries of the District. Voters residing in School Election District No. 3 shall cast their ballots at SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL on Union Avenue.

VOTER REGISTRATION: Contact the District Clerk any school day between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM at 516-887-6558 for information on registering to vote.

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS AT SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS UNDER SECTION 1012 OF THE EDUCATION LAW:

- A person shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting for the election of school district officers, and upon all other matters which may be brought before such meetings, who is:
- A citizen of the United States.
 - 18 years of age.
 - A resident within the district for a period of 30 days preceding the meeting at which he or she offers to vote.
 - Personally registered for either a school or general election.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS: Petitions for Board of Education candidates are due 30 days prior to the election.

INFORMACIÓN PARA VOTANTES DEL DISTRITO DISTRITOS DE ELECCIÓN ESCOLAR

DISTRITO ELECTORAL ESCOLAR NO. 1 será toda esa porción del Distrito Escolar de Lynbrook (UFSD) comenzando en la línea central de Sunrise Highway y continuando hasta el límite más septentrional del distrito. Los votantes que residen en el Distrito Electoral Escolar N ° 1 emitirán su voto en la Escuela Intermedia Norte (NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL) en Merrick Road.

DISTRITO ELECTORAL ESCOLAR NO. 2 será toda la porción del Distrito Escolar de Lynbrook que se extiende al sur de la línea central de Sunrise Highway e incluye toda el área al sur hasta la línea central de Scranton Avenue. Los votantes que residen en el Distrito Electoral Escolar No. 2 emitirán su voto en la Escuela Secundaria de Lynbrook (LYNBROOK HIGH SCHOOL) en Union Avenue.

DISTRITO ELECTORAL ESCOLAR NO. 3 será toda la porción del Distrito Escolar de Lynbrook en la línea central de Scranton Avenue y hasta el límite sur del Distrito. Los votantes que residen en el Distrito Electoral Escolar No. 3 emitirán su voto en la Escuela Intermedia Sur (SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL) en Union Avenue.

REGISTRO DE VOTANTE: Comuníquese con el Secretario del Distrito cualquier día de clases entre las 8:00 AM y las 4:00 PM llamando al teléfono 516-887-6558 para obtener información sobre cómo inscribirse para votar.

CLASIFICACIÓN DE LOS VOTANTES EN LAS REUNIONES DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR BAJO LA SECCIÓN 1012 DE LA LEY DE EDUCACIÓN: Una persona tendrá derecho a votar en cualquier reunión de la escuela para la elección de los funcionarios del distrito escolar, y sobre todos los demás asuntos que puedan presentarse en dichas reuniones, para lo cual debe:

- Ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.
- Tener 18 años de edad.
- Ser residente del distrito escolar por un período de 30 días antes de la reunión en la que él o ella se ofrece para votar.
- Inscribirse en persona para una elección escolar o general.

ELECCIONES DE LA JUNTA DE EDUCACIÓN: Las peticiones para los aspirantes a candidatos para servir en la Junta de Educación deben presentarse 30 días antes de la elección.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION

William Belmont, President • Lesli Deninno, Vice President
Robert Paskoff, Secretary
Alicemarie Bresnihan, Heather Hanson, Ellen Marcus, David Yaker
Melissa Burak, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Lynbrook Public Schools
Lynbrook, NY 11563

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Communication Corner

Dates to Remember

August 29

8:30 AM KC Open House

August 30

9 AM NM/SM Gr. 6 Orientation
10 AM HS Gr. 9 Orientation

September 5

Schools Open - Students Return

Capital Project Update

Scheduled summer projects will include the replacement of the boiler and an electrical upgrade to service at Waverly Park School, as well as brick pointing at West End School. For safety and security, the installation of a districtwide emergency walkie-talkie system will be established and there will be a continuation of the ceiling and lighting project at Lynbrook High School. Additionally, there will be an installation of new doors at South Middle School, a computer lab replacement, and tile and floor replacements at Marion Street School. In all buildings, work on the gym floors and painting will occur as well.

#GIVEAHOOTFOR...



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

