



SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*We Are Sachem*

# Our Story

#WeAreSachem

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*Congratulations*  
GRADUATES



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## Sachem High School East Hosts Celebratory Commencements



The Sachem High School East Class of 2020 celebrated the conclusion of their senior year with a series of separate graduation ceremonies over the course of July 23-24.

Held on the football field, the ceremonies followed strict guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all in attendance. This included requiring masks when social distancing could not be maintained and seating individual families a

minimum of six feet apart.

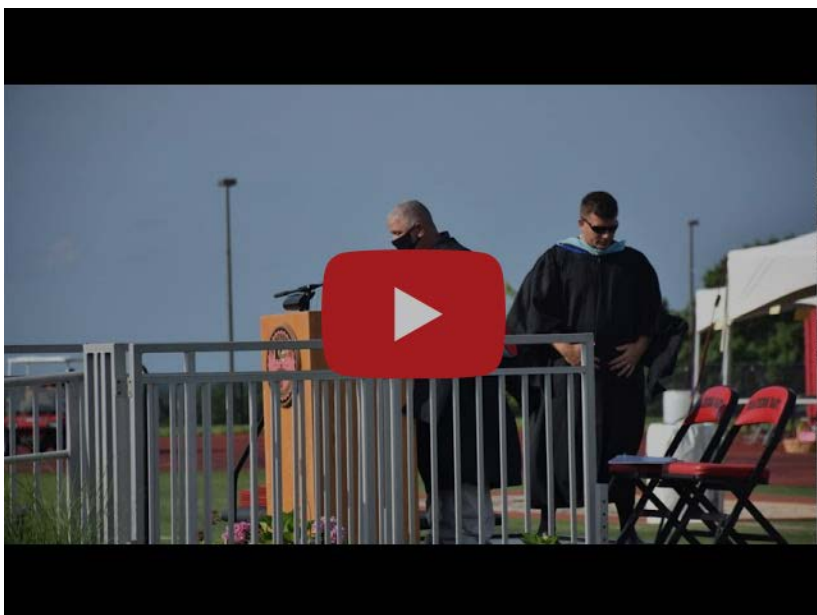
The ceremonies opened with a prerecorded version of “Pomp and Circumstance” echoing across the field before Principal Lou Antonetti took the podium. He began by recognizing the students who will be serving in the armed forces, and then addressed the graduates with an encouraging message about embracing adversity as they move through life.

“Be thankful for the adversity we face,” he said. “If you do not face adversity in life, you will never know what your true character is and what you are made of. There are a lot of moments in life — some perfect, some imperfect — but appreciate all of them, because we only get one life.”

The class’s top 25 students were then recognized before the leading member of that group, valedictorian Christian Berberich, delivered an address to his fellow graduates.

“School has been challenging in more ways than I can count,” Berberich said. “We have gotten through everything by relying on the people that matter most to us...that is why, if I could leave on any note, it would be this: Value the relationships you make in your life, for it is the people in your life who make it truly worth living.”

Concluding the ceremony, students received their diplomas by entering the stage in an alternating fashion, maintaining six feet of distance at all times. After accepting their diplomas, they had the opportunity to commemorate the experience with a photo before leaving the stage. The students then ceremoniously turned their tassels and exited the field as the newest alumni of Sachem High School East.



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### Sachem High School North Celebrates Class of 2020 Seniors



The Sachem High School North Class of 2020 was recently honored during a collection of graduation ceremonies held July 23-24 at Fred Fusaro Alumni Stadium. To ensure safety, strict guidelines were put in place, such as requiring masks when social distancing was not possible and seating individual families a minimum of six feet apart.

The ceremonies began in traditional fashion, with “Pomp and Circumstance” playing over the stadium speakers before Principal Patti Trombetta took the stage. She began by acknowledging those students who would be serving in the armed forces, which was aptly followed with a recorded rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” performed by the seniors-only symphonic choir. She then addressed the graduates-to-be with a congratulatory speech.

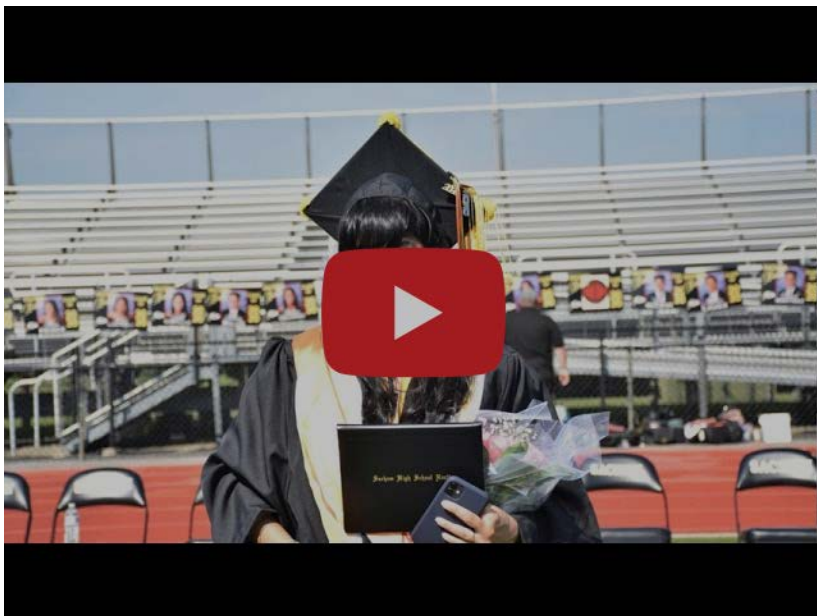
“This has certainly been a very difficult school year,” Trombetta said. “Life is filled with highs and lows, valleys and peaks that will test your resilience, that will push you to overcome challenges. The lessons you learn along the way to the top will only make you stronger and better.” Acknowledging the unique year they had come through, she added, “Never has a graduating class been called upon to step into the future with more purpose, vision, passion, energy and hope. I have all the faith in the world that you will not disappoint. All the things that you have dealt with up until this point make you who you are, and I know the best is yet to come.”

The top 25 students were then recognized, and Sachem North valedictorian Melissa Guercio delivered a sentimental speech to her fellow classmates. In her address, she reflected on her time as a student at the high school and the impact her teachers had on her.

“Don’t forget about everyone you will leave behind as you head off to college,” she advised. “Don’t forget about your family, friends and teachers, and keep in touch with the people who have made a difference in your life; you never know what can happen.”

Students then entered the stage to receive their diplomas, which were conferred by Sachem Board of Education President Alex Piccirillo, in an alternating fashion to maintain social distancing. They also had the opportunity to commemorate the milestone moment with a photo. Closing out the commencement exercises, they were led in the traditional turning of the tassels

before exiting the field, poised to enter the next chapter of their lives as Sachem High School North alumni.



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## Sachem High School East Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Christian Berberich and Joseph Berberich are Sachem High School East Class of 2020's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Christian and Joseph excelled and reached the top of their class through tireless persistence in academics.

Christian has achieved tremendous success both academically and athletically during his time at Sachem, where among his many accolades he was named an AP Scholar with Distinction and was on the Principal's Honor Roll for four years. He is enrolled in a number of Advanced Placement classes, including Calculus BC, English Literature and Composition, French, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics and United States History. Complementing his impressive academic résumé, he is the president of Math Honor Society,



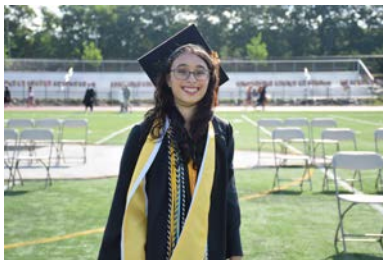
treasurer of Science Honor Society, historian of Rho Kappa and a contributing member of the English Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society and National Honor Society. He also served as the class president in ninth and 10th grades and is a member of the Diversity Club, History Bowl, Outdoors Club, Science Bowl and Teens as Teachers. In athletics, Christian competed in boys cross-country, in which he was the captain this year and earned First Team All-League and All-Academic Team honors. In addition, he competed as a member of the winter and spring track teams, in which he was a captain his junior and senior year. Christian plans to attend Stetson University following graduation to pursue a degree in biochemistry.

Salutatorian Joseph boasts numerous academic accomplishments, such as being named an AP Scholar with Distinction, being named to the Principal's Honor Roll for four years, perfect attendance for six years and earning a foreign language achievement award. He is enrolled in several Advanced Placement classes, including Calculus BC, English Literature and Composition, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics 1: Algebra Based, Spanish Language and Culture, Statistics and United States History. He serves as the president of the Science National Honor Society, is a member of the English Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, Mathematics Honor Society, National Honor Society and is the historian for the Rho Kappa Honor Society. He is also an essential member of the Diversity Club, History Bowl, Outdoors Club, Science Bowl, Student Class Government and Teens as Teachers. Completing his well-rounded résumé, Joseph competes on the boys cross-country team and is a captain of both the winter and spring track teams, in which he was named to the All-County Academic Team. Joseph plans to attend Colgate University following graduation and pursue a degree in biochemistry.

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## Sachem High School

### North Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Melissa Guerico and Miranda Garcia-Cassani have been named the Sachem High School North Class of 2020 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. The impressive student standouts have displayed relentless commitment to academic excellence throughout their high school experience.

Valedictorian Melissa Guerico boasts a diverse collection of academic and extracurricular accolades, including enrollment in rigorous Advanced Placement courses such as AB Calculus, Chemistry, English Literature and Composition, Physics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, and World History. In addition to her robust academic résumé, Melissa is the secretary of the Envirothon Club and an active member of the Interact Club, Intercultural Council and STEM Club. She belongs to the Foreign Language, History, Math and National honor societies and is the treasurer of

the Science Honor Society. Melissa plans to continue her education at St. Joseph's College in the fall, where she received a Presidential Scholarship and will be attending the Honors College. She plans to double major in chemistry and mathematics.

Salutatorian Miranda Garcia-Cassani has showcased a longstanding commitment to academic achievement through her continued enrollment in challenging Advanced Placement courses such as BC Calculus, Chemistry, Comparative Government and Politics, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Physics 1, Physics C, Spanish, Statistics, United States History and World History. Adding to her impressive academic accomplishments, Miranda is the president of the Math Honor Society, vice president of the History Honor Society and a member of the Foreign Language, History and National honor societies. Miranda has held the position of secretary for the Model United Nations Club and is the club's current Commissioner of Delegates. Additionally, she is the treasurer of the STEM Club and a member of the Intercultural Council and the Envirothon Club, which received a first-place finish. Miranda plans to attend Columbia University, where she will study political science.

These two incredible students received their diplomas with the Sachem High School North Class of 2020 at the commencement ceremony in July.

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## Board of Education

The Board of Education is composed of nine community members elected by district residents to serve overlapping three-year terms of office. The Board has the responsibility to ensure that all students receive the best education possible, as well as to express and represent the views of the community in matters affecting education.



### Upcoming Meetings

**August 12, 2020**

**Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Streaming Live on our YouTube Channel**

**Samoset MS- Board Room**

[Click Here to View All Agendas and Minutes](#)

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*Enjoy!*



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## Mission Statement

The Sachem Family (students, parents, employees and residents) works interdependently to develop leaders of great character who are highly competent, confident and caring. Most importantly we are motivating our students to become the best possible version of themselves.

**WE ARE SACHEM!**

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