



SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are Sachem

Our Story

#WeAreSachem

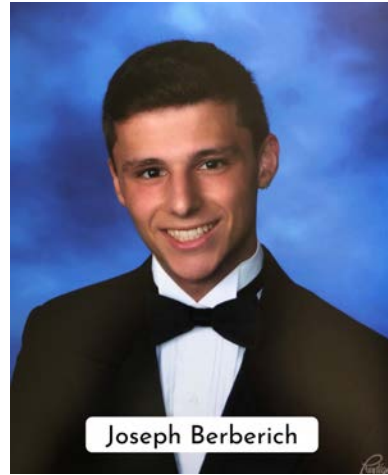
Celebrating the Sachem High School East Valedictorian and Salutatorian

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.



Celebrating the Sachem High School North Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Melissa Guercio 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 Guercio 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 are set to receive their diplomas with the Sachem High School North Class of 2020 at the commencement ceremony in July.



Elementary Moving-Up Ceremonies Held as a Celebration of Student Accomplishment

A collection of joyous moving-up parades recently took place in the Sachem Central School District, recognizing the transition of fifth grade students from elementary to middle school. The parades served to recognize excellence in education and allowed the students to reflect on their elementary school experience in celebratory fashion.

As part of the parades, students received special recognitions and awards they earned during the school year and received certificates commemorating their accomplishment.





VIDEO: A Look Back at the 2019-2020 School Year



Sachem Shines Through Distance Learning Initiatives



A first grade study of ducks in Donna Gianfortone's class at Chippewa Elementary School didn't slow down following the state-mandated school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to an Instagram account she started allowing her class to track the ducks' progress.

Sagamore Middle School seventh graders in Elizabeth Gennosa's class have been engaging in distance learning lessons at home, including poem read alongs, independent reading and practicing grammar on the Khan Academy website.





Merrimac Elementary School students in Jenna Motroni's art class recently shared a vibrant collection of artistic creations they made at home. The students' creativity shined as they shared artwork featuring a variety of mediums.

Third grade students across Grundy Avenue Elementary School recently participated in a research activity in which they studied an animal's habitat and then constructed a diorama replicating that specific animal's habitat.



Grundy Avenue Elementary School Welcomes New Principal

The Sachem Central School District is proud to announce the recent appointment of Thomas Lipani Jr. as the new principal of Grundy Avenue Elementary School, effective July 1, replacing Laura Amato, who will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Lipani currently serves as the assistant principal of Sawmill Intermediate School in the Commack School District, where he has held the position for the past year. During his time in Commack, he chaired the In-School Support Team with the goal of evaluating academic performance and social relationships to identify struggling students and provide additional student support. Additionally, Mr. Lipani led biweekly curriculum discussions, chaired committees to determine necessary accommodations for students with academic or medical needs and co-chaired the School Building Management Team, as well as organized a health and wellness day.

Prior to his time at Sawmill Intermediate School, Mr. Lipani was an elementary classroom teacher in the Sachem Central School District for 15 years, a principal's aide for three years and the assistant supervisor for the Sachem Extended School Year Program for two years.

"I consider myself both blessed and humbled to be given the responsibility of serving the Sachem family as principal of Grundy Avenue Elementary School,"

Mr. Lipani said. "As a Sachem graduate and a classroom teacher at Wenonah Elementary School for 15 years, I understand what a fantastic and hardworking community this is. I will do my best to continue the great traditions built at Grundy and work collaboratively with staff and families to provide the highest quality, student-centered education that is focused on the whole child."

Mr. Lipani holds a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and special education from Dowling College, a Master of Arts degree from Stony Brook University and an advanced certificate in educational leadership from LIU Post.



Sachem Names New Leave Replacement Elementary Principal

The Sachem Central School District is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Brenda Almendarez-DeBello as the new leave replacement principal of Tamarac Elementary School effective July 1. Dr. Almendarez-DeBello joins Tamarac after most recently serving as an assistant principal at Sachem High School East since 2017.

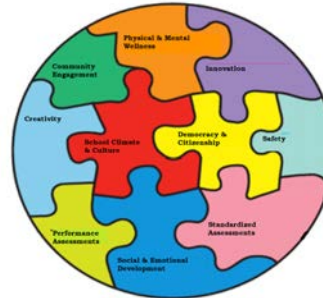
Prior to her time as an assistant principal at High School East, Dr. Almendarez-DeBello served as an administrative intern and a bilingual mathematics teacher in the Uniondale Union Free School District at the Lawrence Road Middle

School for five years. Within these roles, she aided in creating measures to facilitate testing procedures for administration, proctor schedules and student accommodations as well as developed and provided various professional development workshops for teachers. Prior to this, Dr. Almendarez-DeBello taught mathematics for eight years at Intermediate School 93 for the New York City Department of Education.

She received her Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in psychology from University at Albany, formerly the State University of New York at Albany, and her Master of Science in education from St. John's University, where she also completed an advanced certificate in school building leadership and received her Doctor of Education degree in educational administration and supervision in 2019.

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

July 22, 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](#)

Enjoy!



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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