

THE LIONS PRIDE

WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduates Celebrate a Journey of Growth

A sea of blue, gold and white filled the high school's stadium on a sunny Saturday morning, as the graduating Class of 2016 moved forward with their lives in a celebratory June 25 commencement ceremony.

Following the presentation of colors by the American Legion West Islip Post No. 1738, Student Senate Presidents Marisa Benedetto and Tara Zanni led a salute to the flag. Rachel Swenson sang the national anthem, and music was provided by the school's graduation ensemble, conducted by David Kaufman and William Willis.

"I appreciate you today, as when I first met you all four years ago, only

today, I appreciate you more," said Dr. Anthony Bridgeman, the principal, as he looked out at the rows of excited new graduates. Valedictorian James Khoury compared the challenges the graduates face with his favorite television cooking shows, and urged his fellow students to explore their originality and ingenuity, while salutatorian Hannah Kim reflected on the nature of time and legacy. Superintendent Bernadette Burns used her own recent college reunion as a source of reflection to advise the Class of 2016, and Board of Education President Steven Gellar concluded by reminding the seniors that the time had come for life-defining choices.



Graduation Speech Excerpts



PRINCIPAL DR. ANTHONY BRIDGEMAN:

“Go cultivate your lives, and grow them with the roots of what you planted when you first came here as freshmen. Grow in curiosity, strength and contribution. Grow in hope. Grow in tolerance. Grow in learning. Grow in giving. Continue to grow, my friends, and the ripples of your impact will continue to mark the fabric of our community.”

SUPERINTENDENT BERNADETTE BURNS:

“Have a vision, and keep your goals aligned with your vision. Take the summer to think about the kind of person you want to be, what kind of job you want, what kind of life you would like to lead. Then shape your goals – at least for the immediate future – so you are moving in the right direction...Whether you are playing, sleeping, working, lounging, watching television or hanging out with someone you love, give 100 percent of your attention to it. Put down the phone. And don't forget to laugh.”



BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT STEVEN GELLAR:

“Graduates, as you sit here today, high school is behind you, literally and figuratively, but the whole world is ahead of you. You alone will define who and what you are. As so many of us here today have had the opportunity to watch with pride and love as you've made the journey from infant to kindergartner to high school graduate, we have firsthand knowledge of your talent, determination and character...In the future, some of your loved ones might play a less active role in your everyday lives, but please know that your families – and that also includes your family of friends and your school family – will always be here for you, and will always love you.”



VALEDICTORIAN JAMES KHOURY:

“In any situation, once the guidelines are understood, I believe it's necessary to venture off from a strictly traditional safe approach. It's vital instead to take small leaps of faith. While our education in West Islip Public Schools has given us the tools and knowledge to problem-solve

and think collaboratively, we need to be willing to break away from our past, to let go a little bit, to wet our beaks in foreign waters, to navigate uncharted territory, to cross our fingers and be confident in our decision to trek forward into uncertainty. To jump right in and make that savory dish from the ingredients life unexpectedly throws our way.”



SALUTATORIAN HANNAH KIM:

“It is unbelievable how fast four years have gone by and how much we have all changed and evolved from freshman year. All we are given is this infinitesimal sliver in the time continuum to make a name for ourselves to create a legacy. Whether that legacy is born

from years upon years of research as in the case of Einstein, or fleeting moments like crossing the finish line at the Olympics, it all the same withstands the test of time. The legacy of the Class of 2016 is the courage and dedication we all possess and used in reaching this point in our lives.”

This year, 15 Advanced Placement courses were offered at the high school.

- Over 340 students accounted for 531 course enrollments.
- Almost 140 seniors challenged themselves with at least one AP course, for a total enrollment of 270 students.



A total of 165 seniors participated on the district's athletic teams. Multiple teams advanced to the county championships.

Six students are candidates for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

class of 2016



The West Islip Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Jazz A Ensemble earned the NYSSMA Gold with Distinction rating, while the Chorale earned NYSSMA Gold.

A senior art student was selected for the 20th annual Long Island's Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum gallery show.



There were 11 music performance courses (band, chorus and orchestra) offered at the high school this year.

- Ninety seniors participated in at least one music performance course.
- One All-National musician and eight All-State musicians were named.





Alexa Abbatiello
SUNY Fredonia

Christian J. Adam
Suffolk County
Community College

Shabib Afzal
St. John's University

Vincent Alagna
SUNY Albany

Emily Alessi
St. Joseph's College

Charles Allegretto
SUNY Fredonia

Selena Alvarado
University of Maryland,
College Park

Alessia Andujar
Employment

Matthew Anelli
Utica College

Jessica Ansbach
Kean University

Louis Antos
CUNY Queens College

Kaitlyn Antulov
CUNY John Jay College

Samantha Arnold
Employment

Shane Arnold
Temple University

Cameron Ashe-Kollar
SUNY Plattsburgh

Jaime Bachety
SUNY Cortland

Casey Balcom
Liberty University

Brittany Balletta
Johnson & Wales
University

Madison Barany
University of
Massachusetts Amherst

Katelyn Barbour
Ithaca College

Joseph Barouch
Undecided

Jennifer Basile
SUNY Albany

Emily Battaglini
SUNY Brockport

Erica Bavaro
SUNY Farmingdale

Thomas Beach
Adelphi University

Dylan Beasley
SUNY Binghamton

Emma Behrens
SUNY Albany

Katie Lynn Bendersky
LIU Post

Jessica Nova Bendetti
Southeastern University

Marisa Benedetto
Suffolk County
Community College

Darius Benton
SUNY Oswego

Emily Berardicelli
SUNY Potsdam –
Crane School of Music

Meghan Bevan
Molloy College

Alyson Billelo
Maryland Institute College of Art

Justin Bisson
Suffolk County
Community College

Brittany Blindenhofer
SUNY Oswego

Rachel Bollinger
University of Miami

Matthew Boniberger
SUNY Stony Brook

Justin Bosch
BOCES – Adult Education

Alyssa Bové
The College of Saint Rose

Brett Boyle
Herkimer County
Community College

Catherine Brudi
Mercy College

Vince Bruno
Pennsylvania State University

Cecilia Bulone
Suffolk County
Community College

Giulia Bulone
Sacred Heart University

Nicholas Buonauro
SUNY Farmingdale

Taylor Buonocore
SUNY Buffalo

Sean Burke
Sacred Heart University

David Calcara
Suffolk County
Community College

Daniel Cameron
SUNY Stony Brook

Anthony Caroselli
Suffolk County
Community College

Tonimarie Carter
SUNY Plattsburgh

Brianna Casey
SUNY Farmingdale

Andrew Cassidy
Temple University

Joseph Castine
Pennsylvania State University

John Cavaluzzi
Suffolk County
Community College

Alexa Cigliano
SUNY Oneonta

Angelo Cipriano
New York Institute of Technology

Ciara Clark
Suffolk County
Community College

Paige Clements
Iona College

Lauren Coll
Manhattan College

Laura Collins
Undecided

Tyler Comerford
Fordham University

Daniel Conner
Suffolk County
Community College

Rachel Cooper
Suffolk County
Community College

Mykaleah Coppola
Suffolk County
Community College

Vanessa Costantino
Syracuse University

Krista Costanza
Sacred Heart University

Mary Cramer
Suffolk County
Community College

Keri Lynn Cronin
SUNY Stony Brook

Christina Curley
Undecided

Andrianna D'Auria
Suffolk County
Community College

Ashley David
Albertus Magnus College

Melanie Davidson
St. Joseph's College

Gianna De Carlo
University of Bridgeport

Keith De Hos
Suffolk County
Community College

Emma Delaney
Molloy College

Maggie Delli-Pizzi
Adelphi University

Kristina DeMarco
SUNY Farmingdale

Sean Denara
SUNY Binghamton

Erin Denzler
Monmouth University

Mitchell DeSenso
Bradley University

Klarissa DeSimone
Suffolk County
Community College

Kayla Di Mino
Widener University

Matthew Di Stefano
SUNY Albany

Steven Di Stefano
Suffolk County
Community College

Emily Dieli
Drexel University

Michael Doerler
SUNY Oneonta

John Dooling
St. John's University

Salem Drago
Ringling College of Art
and Design

Samantha Drake
University of Rhode Island

Gareth Dwyer
SUNY Binghamton

Kelli Escalera
Suffolk County
Community College

Brendan Farrell
Roger Williams University

Nikita Favarolo
University of Delaware

Alexandra Fay
Fashion Institute of Technology

Alexandra Fazio
CUNY John Jay College

Peyton Fee
University of Alabama

Alfred Ferrara
Suffolk County
Community College

Joseph Ferraroni
Gallaudet University

Matthew Ferrugiari
Bryant University

Julia Fetter
SUNY Fredonia

Helen Filosa
Undecided

Daniel Fischer
Employment

Nicole Fisco
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Sheila Flaherty
SUNY Maritime College

Kelsey Flannery
Boston University

Ronald Forcino
Suffolk County
Community College

Stephen Forte
Adelphi University

Danielle Francoeur
SUNY Plattsburgh

Christopher Fries
SUNY Oswego

Amanda Gagan
Suffolk County
Community College

Nicholas Galetto
SUNY Cortland

Kristina Gallo
Suffolk County
Community College

George Gambuto
Employment

Nicolette Gardini
Quinnipiac University

Lindsey Gellar
Bucknell University

Rebecca Gemellaro
Suffolk County
Community College

Alyssa Gillespie
Adelphi University

Alyson Gilliam
Smith College

Nicole Gioconda
St. John's University

Lindsey Giunta
St. John's University

Dylan Glaser
Employment

Olivia Going
Florida Institute of Technology

Haley Gonyon
SUNY Buffalo

Jillian Gordon
SUNY Oneonta

Ryan Gray
Lincoln Technical Institute
– Connecticut

Krystal Greco
SUNY Farmingdale

Glenn Greeley
United States Armed Forces

Sloane Greeley
Santa Barbara City College

Robert Greene
Suffolk County
Community College

Athena Greschler
Pace University

Kaylee Groia
Coastal Carolina University

Hannah Gruenberg
University of Tampa

Julianna Gruenberg
University of Tampa

Domanic Gucciardo
Vocational

Katherine Gugler
Make-up Designory

Emma Haedrich
Molloy College

Patrice Hallahan
SUNY Buffalo

Valerie Hamer
Suffolk County
Community College

Victoria Hamilton
Suffolk County
Community College

Olivia Hampel
Suffolk County
Community College

Trevor Hansen
Five Towns College

Gwyneth Harrell
Hofstra University

Jason Harsch
SUNY Albany

Michael Harvell
Employment

Andrew Heller
United States Air Force

Daniel Hennessey
Five Towns College

Charles Hetterich
Northeastern University

Meghan Hickey
Molloy College

Timothy Hopkins
Suffolk County
Community College

Timothy Horan
Suffolk County
Community College

Quinn Howard
Suffolk County
Community College

Jack Hueber
Marist College

Erik Huff
Suffolk County
Community College

Lainey Hufford
Vocational

Catherine Hughes
University of Vermont

Amanda Iasparo
University of Hartford

Cole Ivy
St. Joseph's College

Brandon Jardon
United States Armed Forces

Brandon Johnson
Suffolk County
Community College

Victoria Johnson
Coastal Carolina University

Ashley Juliano
Sacred Heart University

Christopher Karpinsky
Suffolk County
Community College

Neslihan Kasap
SUNY Farmingdale

Katherine Keller
Bridgewater State University

Colton Kelly
Belmont Abbey College

Kyle Kelly
SUNY Stony Brook

Liam Kelly
SUNY Geneseo

Sydney Kelly
Valdosta State University

Alexis Keskin
Vocational

James Khoury
Georgetown University

Cameron Kilstein
Suffolk County
Community College

Hannah Kim
Syracuse University

Derek Kissane
Suffolk County
Community College

Kenneth Klecak
Vocational

Jessica D. Koch
Mount Saint Mary's College

Jessica J. Koch
SUNY Farmingdale

James Kory
Suffolk County
Community College

Kelsey Krupski
Stevenson University

Emma Kuhlwmil
St. Joseph's College

Dogukan Kut
Suffolk County
Community College

Alexandra Kyro
SUNY Farmingdale

Christie Lacolla
Suffolk County
Community College

Brooke Lafferty
Syracuse University

Thomas Laine
SUNY Farmingdale

Margaret Lang
Georgia State University

Stevie-Lee Langan
Suffolk County
Community College

Kayla Larosa
Emerson College

Clarise Larsen
Undecided





Sara Lashinsky
Ithaca College

Brandon Le Hen
University of Central Florida

Luke Legnosky
SUNY Stony Brook

Amanda Leibman
SUNY Albany

Christina Leonard
Hofstra University

Erin Lettieri
SUNY Farmingdale

Alexandra Li Causi
Suffolk County
Community College

Michael Librizzi
Nassau Community College

Cali Loeffler
University of Delaware

Michael Lombardi
Manhattan College

Alexandra Lopez
Suffolk County
Community College

Nolan Lotter
SUNY New Paltz

Gregory Lucci
SUNY Stony Brook

Patrick James Lydon
United States Coast Guard

Patrick Joseph Lydon
SUNY Buffalo

Andrew Lyons
Employment

Michael Magaraci
Nassau Community College

Kimberly Maginniss
University of Rhode Island

Stephen Magliaro
SUNY Binghamton

Michael Maglione
Suffolk County
Community College

Robert Mallimo
St. Joseph's College

Joseph Mancini
Suffolk County
Community College

Steven Mangieri
SUNY Oneonta

Justin Marcisak
Suffolk County
Community College

Rachel Marghella
University of New Haven

Michael Marinelli
SUNY Cortland

Christina Marino
Undecided

Devin Marino
Springfield College

Rebecca Marmo
Suffolk County
Community College

Vincent Marrone
Suffolk County
Community College

Michael Martiny
SUNY Stony Brook

Jude Marzec
Roger Williams University

Matthew Mastroianni
United States Navy

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Make-up Designory – California

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Suffolk County
Community College

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Mercy College

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Community College

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SUNY Farmingdale

Sara Mercurio
Ithaca College

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Science and Forestry

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Suffolk County
Community College

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University of Mississippi

Matthew Moran
Adelphi University

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Alexander Moy
SUNY Purchase

Zakary Muhammad
Suffolk County
Community College

Conner Muraglio
SUNY Stony Brook

Jack Murphy
Berklee College of Music

Kevin Nadraus
United States Army

Curtis Naja
SUNY Oswego

Joseph Napolitano
Suffolk County
Community College

Amanda Nasta
Marist College

Alexander Navas
Suffolk County
Community College

Brian Nichol森
Suffolk County
Community College

Joseph Nieves
United States Marines

Aidan Nowakowski
Marist College

Sean O'Gara
Arizona State University

Salvatore Olivieri
Suffolk County
Community College

Nicole Panzarella
Undecided

Justin Pape
Manhattan College

Stephen Pappas
University of Maryland

Randy Paquette
SUNY Stony Brook

Devin Parascandola
BOCES

Joseph Parisi
Suffolk County
Community College

Ashley Parmentier
St. Joseph's College

Kelly Parrett
SUNY Geneseo

Anthony Pascone
Suffolk County
Community College

Lawrence Pascone
Suffolk County
Community College

Daniel Penny
Merchant Marine Academy

Emma Pernal
Rowan-Cabarrus
Community College

Daniel Perrone
Mercy College

Lexie Peters
Suffolk County
Community College

Ronald Peterson
United States Navy

Anthony Petrone
Employment

Emily Piciullo
Jacksonville University

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Employment

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Limestone College

Jean Pozzini
Suffolk County
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Suffolk County
Community College

Alissa Prince
Suffolk County
Community College

Madison Prince
University of Tampa

Alexander Pulvidente
Employment

Christopher Raffa
Suffolk County
Community College

Anthony Raineri
Fordham University

Maria Randazzo
Fashion Institute of Technology

Joseph Raucii
St. Joseph's College

Hailee Reehil
Vocational

Christopher Reese
Suffolk County
Community College

Breonna Rhein
Employment

William Rich
Vocational

Hannah Riegel
SUNY Albany

D'Andra Rios
Suffolk County
Community College

Jonathan Risedorf
SUNY New Paltz

Joseph Rivera
New York University

Matthew Rocchio
St. John's University

Denis Rosenberg
St. Joseph's College

Daniel Rosenson
Stevens Institute of Technology

Chaike Rubin
LIU Post

Jillian Ruffo
St. Joseph's College

Samantha Rummo
SUNY Albany

Danielle Russo
University of Delaware

Kelly Ryan
SUNY Binghamton

Brandon Safronsey
Suffolk County
Community College

Mitchell Salatti
Suffolk County
Community College

Kimberly Sannito
Suffolk County
Community College

Frank Sansone
Hofstra University

Nolan Santo
SUNY New Paltz

Dominique Sarcona
Adelphi University

John Scano
Nassau Community College

Ryan Schaake
SUNY Binghamton

Melissa Schalk
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Community College

Christopher Scharf
Manhattan College

Kayla Schmadtke
Marywood University

Caroline Schneider
BOCES – Cosmetology

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Tyler Schoendorf
Suffolk County
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Alexander Schwartz
University of New Mexico

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Merrimack College

Alyssa Schweter
Fashion Institute of Technology

Taylor Scott
SUNY Plattsburgh

Daniel Segreto
Suffolk County
Community College

Jacob Semcken
Fashion Institute of Technology

Benjamin Serbi
Hofstra University

Raymond Sgambati
Coastal Carolina University

Michael Shadrick
Employment

Paige Sherlock
LIU Post

Arthur Singer
SUNY Farmingdale

Ryan Small
SUNY Purchase

Conor Smith
Pennsylvania State University

Chelsea Sorahan
Adelphi University

Taylor Soric
Syracuse University

Edward Spradley
Suffolk County
Community College

Kristin Sternkopf
University of Mount Olive

Christopher Stewart
United States Marine Corps

Austin Stiene
SUNY Oneonta

Sophia Stokkeland
Pratt Institute

Alyssa Stoll
SUNY Plattsburgh

Danielle Sugumele
SUNY Cortland

Connor Sullivan
Suffolk County
Community College

Rachel Swenson
University of Hartford

Taras Tabachnyuk
LIU Post

Peter Tantone
Vocational

Dean Timmons
Marymount Manhattan College

Christina Torres
The College of Saint Rose

Matthew Troiano
SUNY Binghamton

David Trupia
SUNY Stony Brook

Lauren Tucci
Mount Saint Mary's College

Ashley Tyrie
Suffolk County
Community College

Jillian Tyrie
Nassau Community College

Nicholas Valenti
Adelphi University

Sean Van Dyne
Suffolk County
Community College

Jonathan Vargas
Suffolk County
Community College

Tyler Varley
Suffolk County
Community College

Timothy Vaughan
Adelphi University

Brooke Verdillo
United States Army

Genarro Vilaridi
Hofstra University

Alicia Villafana
St. John's University

Ashley Walker
Five Towns College

Kyle Walsh
Undecided

Sean Walter
Vocational

Renee Walters
University of Rhode Island

Rachel Wandzilak
Roger Williams University

Alexis Wanzell
SUNY Oswego

Raymond Weber
SUNY Albany

Meaghan Weihs
SUNY Farmingdale

Rebecca Welborn
SUNY Plattsburgh

Michaela White
Molloy College

Taylor Whitney
SUNY Albany

Samantha Wiatrak
SUNY Binghamton

Daniel Wilkowski
Suffolk County
Community College

Trevor Wills
Quinnipiac University

Patryk Wlodkowski
SUNY Farmingdale

Rebecca Wolff
SUNY Oswego

James Wood
Employment

Patrick Wysokowski
Suffolk County
Community College

Caitlin Yilmaz
Rochester Institute of Technology

Vincent Zaccaria
Employment

Anna Zajac
St. John's University

Tara Zanni
Sacred Heart University

Kimberly Zappalla
SUNY Farmingdale

CLASS OF 2016

SENIOR Awards

For a complete list of senior awards and scholarships, please visit the following link on the district website or scan the QR code to the right:
www.wi.k12.ny.us/2016-senior-awards.pdf



West Islip School District
Freyer Administration Building
100 Sherman Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795

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*****ECRWSS**

Residential Customer

West Islip, New York 11795



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Congratulations to the following retirees for 2015-2016:

Teachers

Lisa Braat (33 years)

Kathleen Chinkel (32 years)

William Eidenback (20 years)

Theresa Holland (33 years)

Vivian Hollinger (27 years)

Kathleen Macchione (31 years)

Robert Pitagno (28 years)

John Simeone (31 years)

William Turri (32 years)

Clerical

Carol Consavage (34.73 years)

Maria Tinelli (13.53 years)

Custodial

Michael Hawkins (32 years)

Stephen Maciejewski (37 years)

William Martinez (22 years)

William Skinner (6.83 years)

Food Service Worker

Roberta Rall (20 years)

Teaching Assistants

Catherine LoPresti (18 years)

Lori Pastore (20 years)

Bus Driver

Mary Friedland (26 years)

Congratulations to All on Moving Up!

