



# Herricks Dateline

SUMMER 2019

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## HERRICKS HIGH SCHOOL GRADS *Take Memories and Lessons Into the Future*

Herricks High School's Class of 2019 concluded a major chapter in their lives during the 60th annual commencement ceremony, held on the evening of June 27. This was Principal Joan Keegan's first year leading the high school after many years as middle school principal.

The seniors, along with members of the administration, Board of Education and high school faculty, entered the school's field to the delight of hundreds of guests that filled the bleachers. The band performed "Pomp and Circumstance" and students led their fellow graduates and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by "The Star-Spangled Banner."



The seniors continued their time-honored tradition of welcoming guests with greetings in a variety of languages spoken all over the world, representative of the diversity within the Herricks community.

Board of Education Vice President Brian Hassan and trustee Henry Zanetti, both parents of graduating students, provided remarks, as did Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fino Celano and Herricks High School PTSA co-presidents Maria Bono and Margaret Bosco.

Salutatorian Sahith Vadada addressed his classmates, followed by comments from Student Government President Kaitlyn Louie and valedictorian Eish Maheshwari.

"As we leave high school, we will want to remember the values instilled in us, and the sacrifices our families made to put us in a position to succeed," Sahith said.

"Over the coming years, we may forget some science facts or calculus formulas we learned," Eish said. "But we won't forget the timeless moments we had with our friends."



Another graduation custom is the announcement of a guest speaker selected by students. This year's honoree was teacher Pascale Gabriel, who expressed her enthusiasm for the graduates.

The Graduation Choir Singers performed several musical numbers, which were followed by Ms. Keegan's presentation of the Class of 2019. As the highlight of the ceremony, diplomas were presented by Board of Education members and each graduate received applause and cheers from guests.

Before the evening concluded, members of the Class of 2019 took part in the "turning of the tassels," then tossed their caps onward and upward.

# VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN



## *Lead by Example*

Eish Maheshwari and Sahith Vadada led the Class of 2019 with pride, holding the respective titles of valedictorian and salutatorian. The two recent graduates have excelled inside and outside of the classrooms and have bright futures ahead of them.

Both students were National Honor Society members, National Merit Scholarship winners, National AP Scholars and President's Volunteer Service Award recipients during their high school careers. They are accomplished science research students with numerous awards and co-founded and served as co-presidents of the Quiz Bowl Club.

Eish has earned the highest possible achievement in the area of science research as a Regeneron Science Talent Search finalist.

He also co-authored an internationally published piece on sarcoma, volunteered in the laboratory at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, attended the

Columbia University Science Honors Program and is a first-place award winner in Science Olympiads. He was named a New York State Science and Engineering Fair first-place winner in translational medicine earlier this school year. Last year, he was named a 2018 Intel International Science and

Engineering Fair Grand Award fourth-place winner in translational medicine and received a special award from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia along with a scholarship.

A Math League team member, Eish qualified for the Nassau County All-Stars League, attained an honorable mention in Purple Con, qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam and attended the American Regions Mathematics League nationals. He tutored younger students in math independently, served as captain of the robotics team and won numerous regional awards. He has additionally participated in National History Day and received awards.

Eish is a tae kwon do black belt and teaches at White Tiger. He has also played junior varsity tennis.

Sahith received a third-place award in biomedical engineering at the New York State Science and Engineering

Fair. Last year, he and his two research partners earned the Siemens Competition regional finalist distinction, and he later represented the team at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium competition. He won the Best Poster Presentation award at the International Materials Research Society Conference, which pitted him against graduate students, and he also had work published in a science journal. For three summers, Sahith traveled to India and volunteered at rural health centers, helping doctors and nurses.

In addition to his dedication to academics, Sahith plays the viola and has performed in the Long Island String Festival Association concerts, earning All-County status. He was a Tri-M Music Honor Society member since the ninth grade and part of the Chamber Orchestra, which won first place at the American String Teachers Association's National Orchestra Festival in 2018. He played varsity and junior varsity tennis throughout his high school career and was also part of the school's Justice League organization.

Eish is heading to Stanford University in the fall, and Sahith will attend Columbia University. We wish them both much continued success.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

Our graduates are enrolled at colleges and universities all over the country. To view the full list of schools that our students are heading off to, please visit [www.herricks.org/page/13314](http://www.herricks.org/page/13314).



# MOVING UP

## *Without Limits*

Fifth and eighth graders stepped up to the next level during moving-up ceremonies that commemorated their growth and success.

The eighth graders were honored with a ceremony held at the Tilles Center, where they were addressed by Principal Brian McConaghy, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fino Celano, Board of Education trustee Henry Zanetti, Student Government President Amelia Rasheed and members of the PTA. Numerous awards were presented and Kaitlin Abraham read an essay. Musical ensembles performed “Seasons of Love” and “Quintet in G Minor, K.516.”

The elementary schools’ moving up events were held at the Herricks Community Center and also involved performances, awards and

reflections. Center Street’s program included presentations of “Song of the Open Road” and “For Good.” Denton Avenue students entertained guests with the songs “One Wish” and “A Million Dreams.” Searingtown’s graduates performed “Four White Horses,” “Go With a Song in Your Heart” and “Good Riddance (Time of My Life).”

In addition to providing students with inspiration and excitement for the road ahead, these events were also significant for the principals. Mr. McConaghy, Denton Avenue Principal Loren Borgese and Searingtown Principal Diana DiGiorgio all completed their inaugural year in the district, while Brennan Bierwiler celebrated his sixth moving-up ceremony as Center Street principal.



## Rewarding Extraordinary Effort

More than 100 awards or scholarships were provided to members of Herricks High School’s graduating class during a senior awards ceremony held in June.

Sponsored by local community and school organizations, the awards were bestowed upon students based on academic achievement, community service involvement, individual character, unique accomplishments or talents, leadership, dedication to a particular subject and other noteworthy qualities and triumphs. A number of local dignitaries took the time to visit the high school and formally present the distinctions.

The full list of awards is available on the district’s website, [www.herricks.org](http://www.herricks.org).

**Board of Education:**

**Juleigh Chin, President**

**Henry Zanetti, Vice President**

*Trustees:*

**Nancy Feinstein**

**Jim Gounaris**

**Brian Hassan**

**Dr. Fino M. Celano**

*Superintendent of Schools*

Visit [www.herricks.org](http://www.herricks.org) for more district news and information!

# CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Numerous capital improvement projects are planned for the summer months, including the second phase of the bond referendum.

Under the bond scope, new asphalt parking lots will be installed at Center Street and Searingtown Elementary Schools, and the Shelter Rock Academy. Needed electrical system upgrades, and science lab and courtyard renovations will commence at the high school as well.

Other work is being done under the 2019-20 school year's general budget. These include library renovation at Denton Avenue, playground resurfacing at all three elementary schools, select bathroom renovations at the high school and middle school, and hall locker replacements at both the middle school and high school. In addition, security enhancements will be made to main entrances in all schools.

The district looks forward to sharing more updates when schools reopen in September!

# POINTS OF PRIDE

The spring season led into summer with numerous achievements earned in Herricks. Some of the many accomplishments are noted below – please visit [www.herricks.org](http://www.herricks.org) or follow the Herricks Public Schools on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for regular updates!

- A middle school student earned a Certificate of Recognition (the highest honor that can be obtained) in the National Council of Teachers of English's Promising Young Writers Program.
- All three of Herricks High School's entrants in the National Council of Teachers of English's annual writing contest for 11th graders won Superior Writing Awards for their work.
- Herricks High School placed sixth in the nation in website design/research in the National History Day competition.
- Members of the Herricks Middle School Technology Club won awards in the MagLev Competition at the Cradle of Aviation.
- Thirteen Herricks High School students signed national letters of intent for collegiate athletics.
- Two string quintets from Herricks Middle School performed in the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Young Ensembles Concert.
- Many high school students won awards for their scores in the American Association of Teachers of French's National French Contest.
- At the NYSSMA Major Ensemble Festival, Herricks groups earned a total of nine Gold with Distinction awards, five Gold awards and a Silver award.
- A senior boys spring track team member was named Nassau County champion in shotput.
- Two Herricks High School students were named winners in the Long Island Language Arts Council's 2019 Kenneth Gambone Writing Contest.
- A group of Herricks High School sophomores was the only New York State contender at the international Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge.
- Three high school ensembles earned the highest possible rating of "Superior" at the Trills & Thrills Music Festival.
- A high school student won a trip to Italy and monetary awards for placing at the 99th percentile in the American Association of Teachers of Italian National Exam, while several others won gold, silver, and bronze medals.
- A class at Denton Avenue School won first place in the Year-Long Stock Market Game Competitive Session.
- Three Class of 2019 graduates were selected as winners of National Merit Scholarships.
- On U.S. News and World Report's 2019 list of Best High Schools, Herricks placed No. 6 on Long Island and No. 43 in New York State, and is among the top 2% of all high schools in the nation.