



SUMMER 2016

Congratulations,

HERRICKS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Herricks High School's 57th annual commencement ceremony honored the Class of 2016, their many past accomplishments and new beginnings ahead.

The seniors made their way onto the school's field as the band performed "Pomp and Circumstance." Students Stephen Chacko and Rachel Mathew led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem.

In continuation of a special tradition, a number of seniors shared greetings in a range of languages representative of the diversity and unity that come together in Herricks. The ceremony also featured speeches from Board of Education President Nancy Feinstein, Superintendent Dr. Fino Celano, Principal Dr. Samuel Thompson, and PTA Co-presidents Nanette Marchelos and Brenda Tannenbaum.

"You owe it to yourself to make your days count," Ms. Feinstein said. "With an idea, determination and the right

tools, you can do great things." Dr. Fino Celano reflected on the seniors' many highlights, offered advice to "stay confident, be brave and reach high," and shared a quote by Teddy Roosevelt: "Far and away, the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Salutatorian Ranzhuonan Chen addressed the Class of 2016, as did Ashwin Viswanathan on behalf of the Student Government. "It is clear to see that the teachers made more than just an academic impact on us," Chen said.

Valedictorian Matthew Cohen thanked family members and friends for their support. "It is here that I learned the value of working hard," he said of his experience in Herricks. "With an insatiable appetite for success, anything is possible."

Each year, a faculty member is selected to provide comments to the graduates. Seniors Sandhya Ganesan, Simone Khalifa, Daniel Levine and Fatima Mossolem introduced high school English teacher Stephanie Nelson as this year's speaker.

"Without you, Herricks wouldn't be the place it's been these past four years," Ms. Nelson told the seniors. As she reflected on memories, old and recent, involving the students, her speech was peppered with examples of literary characters and the life lessons they left.

The Senior Chamber Choir Singers performed two musical numbers, which were followed by Dr. Thompson's presentation of the Class of 2016. As the highlight of the ceremony, diplomas were presented by Board of Education members and the students turned their tassels to mark their new designation as graduates. Caps flew upward in celebration of new ventures awaiting.



Herricks

HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN COHEN AND CHEN

Rank at the Top

Matthew Cohen and Ranzhuonan Chen represented the Class of 2016 as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Both students have been strongly involved in academics as well as many other initiatives in and outside of school that make a difference in the world.

A National Honor Society member and AP Scholar with Honor, Matthew graduated with an Advanced Regents Diploma with Mastery in Math and Mastery in Science. During his high school career, he participated in DECA and took Top 10 wins at the state level. Matthew also competed in National History Day for a number of years and earned several prominent achievements, including a first-place award at the regional competition and two fourth-place awards at the state level.

Matthew's National History Day projects and research have received spotlight through publication in *The Concord*, presentation at New York University and incorporation into Herricks Middle School lessons.

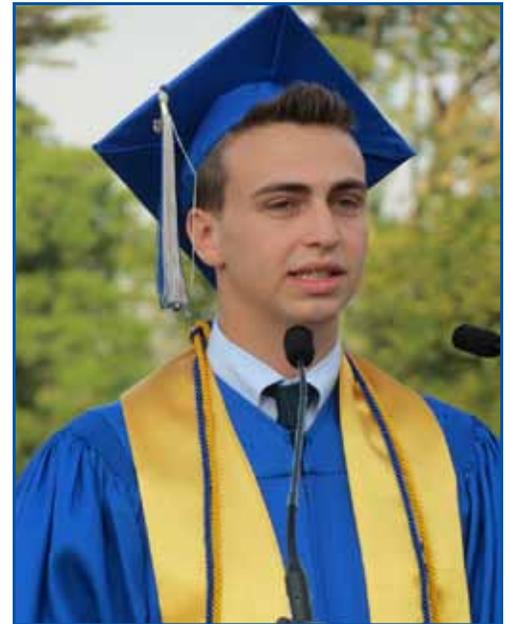
With a big heart and great concern

for animal rights, Matthew founded the high school's Animal Welfare Club, for which he served as co-president. He has volunteered at a myriad of animal sanctuaries, both locally and in Texas, and created an advocacy program for animal rights. He collaborated with faculty, administrators, students and community officials in order to raise awareness, provide outreach and advocate for the organization.

Ranzhuonan is an avid scholar and takes passion in every endeavor, from delivering meals to homebound elderly citizens in East Harlem to competitions on various degrees of scale. Extracurricular involvement has included holding leadership positions in clubs such as Mock Trial, Model United Nations, Student Action for the Environment, Gay-Straight Alliance and the school newspaper.

Ranzhuonan has interned in industry and academia alike, spending summers at places like the Grove School of Engineering, New York University, Goldman Sachs and Bloomberg LP.

An ultimate goal for Ranzhuonan



Valedictorian Matthew Cohen

is combining computer science and political activism to transform society to be more open-minded and aware of privilege, intersectionality and socioeconomic inequality.

Matthew will be heading to the University of Pennsylvania in the fall to pursue studies in economics, while Ranzhuonan plans to attend Yale and double major in computer science and political science.

More than 100 Awards Presented to Herricks HS Seniors

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, including North Hempstead Town Supervisor

Judi Bosworth, Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos, North Hempstead Town Clerk Wayne Wink, Legislators Richard Nicoletto and Ellen Birnbaum, and North Hempstead Town Councilman Peter Zuckerman.

The full list of awards is available on the district's website, www.herricks.org.

MOVING ONWARD AND UPWARD!

Fifth- and eighth-graders throughout the district celebrated their advancement to the next level of education with moving up ceremonies that commemorated their years of growth and learning. The students received diplomas in acknowledgment of their passage into middle and high school, respectively.

Eighth-grade graduates gathered at the Tilles Center, where Principal Joan Keegan, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Fino Celano and Board of Education President Nancy Feinstein were among those who addressed them. Ms. Keegan spoke of the middle school's core values of respect, responsibility and readiness, reminding students of the meaning behind those words. She thanked the student body for embracing the values over the past three years and encouraged them to incorporate these qualities into their thoughts, words and actions. Students presented to their classmates based on the theme "challenges," and the graduation choir performed "Two Study Oaks" and "Lean on Me."

The elementary schools' promotional events, held at their respective buildings, featured themes, performances and reflections from students, guest speakers and staff members.

Center Street's program focused on superheroes and included choral presentations of the songs "The Journey," "Unwritten" and "The Power

of One." Principal Brennan Bierwiler advised the graduates to "remain a kid at heart; stay joyful in your dealings with others and never cease to appreciate the beauty and wonder that is all around you." He also urged them to remember that they have support from their elementary school family, stating, "We believe in you!"

Denton Avenue portrayed a mindfulness theme, with a program cover illustration that represented "Crafters of a Better World." Students entertained guests with vocal performances of the songs "One Wish" and "Thank You."

"A wise person once said, 'The future doesn't lie ahead of you, instead it lies within you waiting to be discovered,'" said Principal Mary Louise Haley. "Be confident in your abilities and embrace new challenges as you discover the future that lies within you."

Searingtown highlighted Hollywood – particularly the powerful characters that taught valuable life lessons on the big screen. "Being good is always right," said Ms. Guercin. "However, what Hollywood teaches us most is to be greater than ourselves. We, in fact, are the heroes." Graduates continued Searingtown tradition in performing "Go with a Song in Your Heart," and also sang "Shake the Papaya Down" and an adapted version of "Can't Stop the Feeling."



Board of Education:

Nancy Feinstein, President
Christine Turner, Vice President

Trustees:
Juleigh Chin
Jim Gounaris
Brian Hassan

Dr. Fino M. Celano
Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Christine Finn
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Lisa Rutkoske, CPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business

www.herricks.org

Outstanding **POINTS OF PRIDE**

MAKING HISTORY

Twenty students from Herricks High School and eight from Herricks Middle School represented the best of New York State at the prestigious Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition. At the high school level, Vanessa Sun, Rachel Kim and Alan Chen were awarded Most Outstanding Entry on Equality in History and placed ninth in the nation for their website. Esme Chen, Melissa Lau, Felisha Ma and Ashley Wong were also finalists, placing 10th in the nation for their performance.



U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

High school student Sahil Abbi was named one of 689 semifinalists in the U.S. Presidential Scholars competition. He was one of 4,700 students identified for the program based on exceptional scholarly accomplishments.



REMARKABLE RANKING

On U.S. News and World Report's 2016 list of Best High Schools, Herricks ranked at No. 8 on Long Island and No. 262 in the United States and was also awarded a gold medal for excellence.

Herricks students starred in numerous success stories this past spring! Please visit the district's website, www.herricks.org, to view the full list of accomplishments in academics, athletics and the arts!

Senior Highlights

Of the 354 members of Herricks High School's Class of 2016, 96 percent received Regents Diplomas or higher. Sixty-six percent earned Advanced Regents Diplomas or Advanced Regents Designation with Mastery in specific subject areas.



- 3 Intel Science Talent Search semifinalists
- 7 National Merit finalists
- 2 of the 8 Siemens Competition semifinalists were seniors
- 1 U.S. Presidential Scholars semifinalist
- 4 of the 12 NYSSMA All-State musicians were seniors
- 1 All-National Concert Band performer
- 1 of the 7 NYSBDA's Honor Band Festival performers was a senior
- 4 of the 16 LI String Festival Association performers were seniors
- 1 Football Unsung Hero award winner