



Observer

SUMMER 2023



THE CLASS OF 2023 *Celebrates Next Chapter*

The Oyster Bay High School Class of 2023 celebrated their commencement ceremony inside the high school gymnasium on June 24. Family and friends gathered along with the Board of Education, administration and faculty for the special occasion as the seniors closed the book on their time in the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District.

The Class of 2023 entered the gymnasium to “Pomp and Circumstance,” performed by the Oyster Bay High School Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Senior Class President Aurora Aschettino led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Oyster Bay High School Chamber Singers, along with American Sign Language students, performed “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Oyster Bay High School’s Acting Principal Melissa Argaman opened the ceremony by sharing how meaningful the day was as it was her first graduation serving as acting principal. She encouraged

the Class of 2023 to reflect on their high school experiences, remember all the small moments and be ready to embrace new ones.

“New and exciting experiences are what make life memorable,” she said to the graduates. “Stepping out of your comfort zone is what will make you grow. It is my hope that you now feel ready for that next step because of the support that you had from your Oyster Bay High School family.”

Following her remarks, the Class of 2023 heard from salutatorian Zachary Lachman, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni, valedictorian Sophia Dean and Board of Education President Laurie Kowalsky. Zachary compared the graduating class to a family and reflected on their time in high school.

“Let us remember the lessons that we have learned within these walls,” he said. “These last four years have not only equipped us with

continued on page 2...



THE CLASS OF 2023 Celebrates Next Chapter

...continued from page 1

academic knowledge, but also taught us skills essential for life.”

Dr. Ianni offered the Class of 2023 encouragement for their next chapter of life.

“When you leave Oyster Bay High School, remember to experience the journey as much as the destination,” he said to the graduates. “Don’t miss any opportunities. So, remember – be patient, don’t rush it, always be attentive and never stop learning.”

Valedictorian Sophia Dean reflected on some of her school experiences and how she grew through the lessons she learned. In addition, she expressed her appreciation for her family and all the dedicated teachers, district administrators, Board of Education members and staff. She concluded her speech by recognizing her classmates before her.

“Genuinely, I will never be able to articulate the gratitude that I feel for the moments we shared, like every laugh and tear,” she said, “because there has been plenty of both, and just for my overall experience at Oyster Bay High School.”

Following Sophia’s remarks, Board President Laurie Kowalsky addressed the graduates. She took them back through their time in school, pinpointing specific historic events and technological advancements that they lived through. Ms. Kowalsky commended their resilience and reminded them that they “possess the power to carve out their own path.”

Acting Principal Argaman returned to the podium with Dr. Ianni to announce that four graduating seniors would be joining the military. Dr. Ianni presented an American flag to Anthony Flores (United States Navy), Jerry Mejia (United States Navy), Ian Patrice (United States Marines) and Bruno Ruiz Carrara (United States Army). Each were thanked in advance for their service to our country.

Continuing with the recognitions, Acting Principal Argaman presented the Beekman Medal to one graduating senior. This year’s recipient was Laura McKeivitt. The award is considered Oyster Bay High School’s highest honor and the honoree is selected annually by the school’s faculty members. After the medal presentation, National Honor Society President Jaiya Chetram recognized Oyster Bay High School science teacher Andrew Schlendorf as the National Honor Society’s Honorary Inductee. Jaiya praised Mr. Schlendorf for being an “incredibly talented and eccentric” educator.

Toward the conclusion of the ceremony, each graduate was proudly announced by Acting Principal Argaman as they came up to receive their diploma. Together, the Class of 2023 moved their tassels from right to left, symbolizing their transition from candidates to graduates. They then tossed their caps high in the air, marking a beautiful end to their time at Oyster Bay High School.



The Class of 2023 Are Off to Great Places

Adelphi University
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston University
Brown University
Clemson University
CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College
Elon University
Farmingdale State College
International Fashion Academy – Paris
Johnson & Wales University – Charlotte
Lasell University
Lees-McRae College
LIM College
LIU Post
Lynn University

Nassau Community College
New York University
North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Northeastern University
Quinnipiac University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Louis University
Springfield College
St. John’s University – New York
Stony Brook University
Suffolk County Community College
SUNY Buffalo State
SUNY College at Old Westbury
SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill
SUNY Cortland

SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Oneonta
The New School
University at Buffalo
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Nevada – Las Vegas
University of New Haven
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of South Florida
U.S. Army
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Navy
Wentworth Institute of Technology



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ROOSEVELT AND VERNON GRADUATES Celebrate Their Next Step

The end of the 2022-2023 school year not only marked the end of a significant chapter for our Oyster Bay High School seniors, but it also marked the end of an era for our second graders at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School and sixth graders from James H. Vernon School. Both Roosevelt and Vernon held moving-up ceremonies at the end of June to celebrate the rising third graders' move to Vernon and the rising seventh graders' move to the high school.

During the sixth grade ceremony on June 21 in the Oyster Bay High School auditorium, students heard from key speakers such as Student Council President Joseph Ferri, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni, Vernon Principal Dr. Valerie Vacchio and Oyster Bay High School Director of Guidance and Acting Principal Melissa Argaman. It was a bittersweet day for not only the graduates, but also for Dr. Vacchio who

will be retiring. Students received awards and their moving-up certificates before closing the ceremony to a performance of "Best Day of My Life" by the American Authors.

The following day, Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School held its second grade moving-up ceremony in the Oyster Bay High School auditorium. The students heard from Roosevelt Principal Tami McElwee, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ianni and Vernon Principal Dr. Vacchio. In addition, Ms. McElwee presented achievement awards to outstanding students and the second grade

teachers presented certificates to their classes. Before exiting the ceremony to "Pomp and Circumstance," the rising third graders performed "Always Sing Your Song" and Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School's song, "The School by the Bay."

Congratulations to all our 2023 graduates from Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School and James H. Vernon School!

