



Summer 2024

# EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District News

## Congratulations to the Class of 2024

On June 23, Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School celebrated its 33rd annual commencement ceremony at Hofstra University's David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Center. Dressed in blue caps and gowns, the senior class marched onto the floor as the symphonic band performed "Pomp and Circumstance," under the direction of Mr. Brian Carter.

The ceremony began with the national anthem, performed by the senior choir and interpreted by senior American Sign Language students. Principal Dr. Heather Dvorak then welcomed students, guests and dignitaries before inviting Board of Education trustee Mrs. Lauren Sackstein to address the attendees.

Trustee Sackstein addressed students and expressed hope in this generation of future leaders the world needs. "Be the leaders I know that you already are and can continue to be," she said. "Whether you gathered food for a family in need, raised funds for a POB family in crisis, collected shoes for those who cannot buy their own, or are sending supplies to war-torn areas and humanitarian efforts – small steps lead to big accomplishments. Small acts of kindness lead to bigger moments."

Salutatorian Matthew Kang spoke next and asked his class to sit through one last lesson, to help those around them. "Going forward, I hope that all of us do the best we can to demonstrate compassion and care for those around us," he said. "Famous American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, '...To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!' I know that many of you have helped those around you. Continue doing so. If not, think about how you can help someone in their life. That is a great idea of success."

Valedictorian Safal Kamath began his address thanking guests and family members and implored them to never focus too much on the past or future. "Oftentimes, we become too focused on what was and what will be," he said. "When you came to this building, as I'm giving this speech, and as we get our diplomas and graduate high school, time is ticking away. So, live in the present, because you never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."

The senior choir performed "A Parting Blessing" which expressed their feelings for their fellow graduates. Class President Samantha Graf then addressed the attendees.

"As we look to the future, all of our paths are unclear," she said. "This may be scary but I can promise all of you today that the hard work, kindness and friendship that got us through the past four years can and will get us through many more."

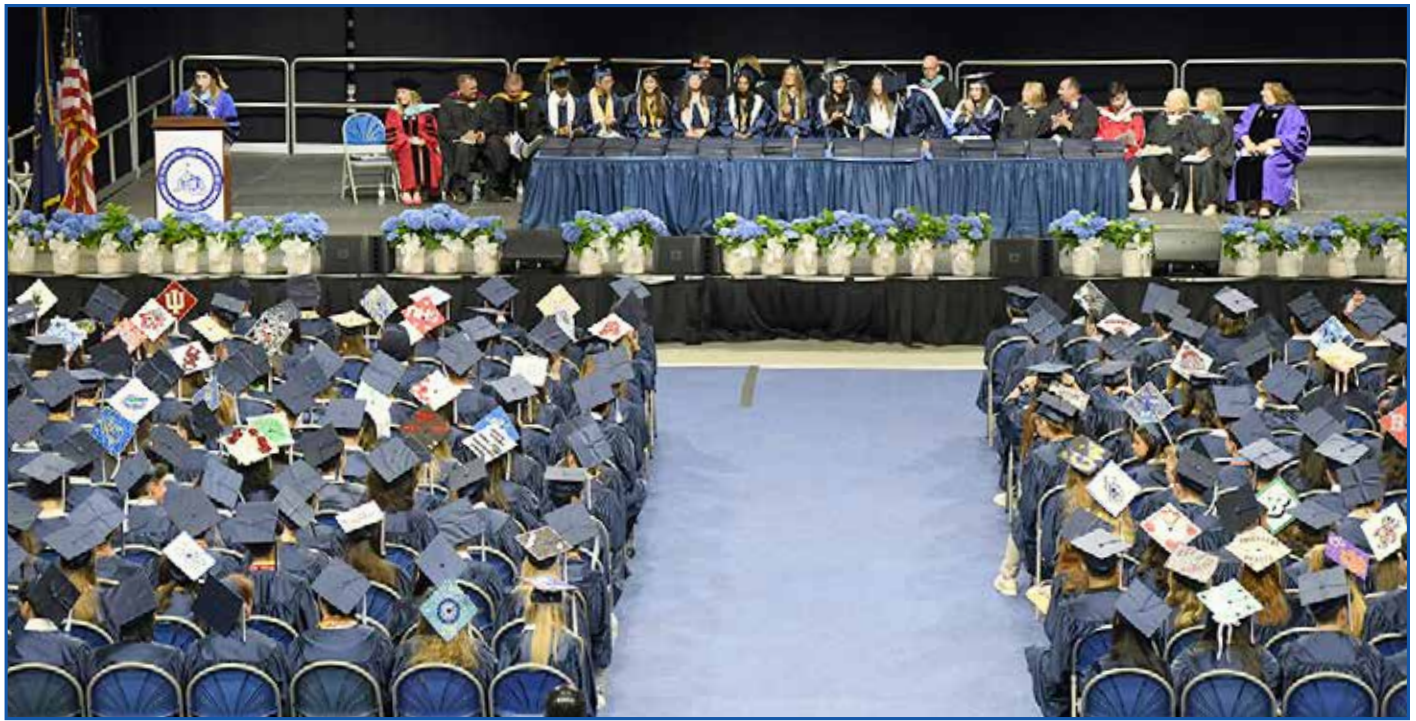
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary O'Meara was next to speak. "By focusing on who you want to become rather than what you want to become you will build a collection of days that will result in a life of integrity and a legacy that inspires others," she said. "Your journey is just beginning, go forth and make it extraordinary."

Finally, Dr. Dvorak offered her congratulations. "I would wish you luck, but you do not need it," she said. "Instead, Class of 2024, I hope for you a lifetime of endless possibilities from which to choose."

Students were called by name as the Board of Education presented them with their diplomas, and they were officially declared graduates of Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School.







## A Message From **Your Superintendent**

Dear Plainview-Old Bethpage Community Members,

On behalf of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District and the Board of Education, congratulations to the Class of 2024! This year, we achieved an exceptional 99.74% graduation rate, with 82% of graduates earning an Advanced Regents Diploma and all student athletes achieving the scholar-athlete distinction. The Class of 2024 received over \$10 million in scholarships and \$90,000 in community awards.

As the 2023-24 school year concludes, we celebrate our collective achievements and the outstanding work of our students and staff. Our students excelled in various areas, winning state championships, placing in the International Science and Engineering Fair and earning recognition at NYSSMA. Our scholar artists' works were featured in Newsday and in the Heckscher Museum of Art, as well as our own halls and offices. Additionally, our students excelled in debate and presentations across New York State.

Our schools continue to be designated as No Places for Hate and students have logged thousands of hours of community service. Together with the community, we filled 500 duffle bags with goods for Long Island teens in foster care and homeless shelters, and our younger students honored veterans. This work is possible due to the dedication of our faculty and our dynamic partnership with families and community members. The District's ongoing progress and achievements set a firm foundation for a successful 2024-25 school year. For now, rest, rejuvenate, and reconnect with friends, family and activities for which summer vacation provides time.

In mid-August, look for the new District calendar in your mail and email [askthesupt@pobschools.org](mailto:askthesupt@pobschools.org) if you do not receive one by August 21, 2024.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary O'Meara  
Superintendent of Schools



# At The Top Of Their Class

## VALEDICTORIAN: SAFAL KAMATH

Throughout his academic journey at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, Safal has consistently excelled in the most challenging courses, going above and beyond by enrolling in additional summer classes to further advance his studies. Having traversed the globe, Safal possesses a broadened perspective on international cultures, allowing him to appreciate the interconnectedness of world affairs. Safal is so much more than good grades; he is a humanitarian, he is an empathetic, caring and wonderful young man. He is genuine and authentic in all that he does.

Academically, Safal's dedication to excellence is evident in his pursuit of 15 Advanced Placement courses and the most challenging math class, Multivariable Calculus. Safal's cumulative efforts have earned him an impressive 103.26 grade point average. Beyond academics, Safal presides over the Chess Club, Coding Club and Mathletes and is vice president of the Spanish Honor Society. He has founded a tutoring service and a nonprofit organization to promote STEM awareness, demonstrating a commitment to giving back to his community. Safal graduated as an AP Scholar with Distinction and will continue his studies at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall, majoring in computer science.



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## SALUTATORIAN: MATTHEW KANG

Matthew is a deep and thoughtful person whose selfless dedication to the betterment of his community is both remarkable and inspiring. Matt has served as the student government class president since his sophomore year. As founder and president of the Math Honor Society at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, Matt developed a response to the growing demand for peer tutors, especially in math, and initiated a tutoring program, getting the program off the ground and pairing tutors with students in need. Not only does Matt have the attitude and desire to be successful, he is also incredibly talented, caring and sensitive to the needs of others.

Matt has earned a 103.08 cumulative average in high school while taking 17 Advanced Placement courses and earning a 36 on his ACT. Matt has been recognized as a National Merit Finalist and by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. He will be pursuing an economics degree in college at Princeton University in the fall.





# Community Scholarships and Awards

Anthony Monaco Memorial  
Sports Scholarship  
Madison Laucella

Baha'i Race Unity Award  
Melissa Wynne

Benjamin W. Sofe Memorial  
Luca Capri

Brian Harley Assa Memorial  
Scholarship  
Jake Bricker  
Benjamin Goodman

Brooke Zimmerman Memorial  
Scholarship  
Jaden Finkle

Concerned Citizens of the  
Plainview-Old Bethpage  
Community Inc. Award  
Sneha Raj

Congressional Recognition  
for Excellence in History and  
Civics Award (Thomas R.  
Suozzi)  
Aarav Singh

County Executive Blakeman's  
Community Service and  
Academic Excellence Award  
(Bruce A. Blakeman)  
Leo Stearn

Crestwood Country Day  
School  
Melanie Sebel  
Brandon Sheflin

Debbie C. Bernstein Kindness  
& Compassion Scholarship  
Kyra Dewan

Frisch Financial Scholarship  
for Excellence in Finance  
Jonathan Lugassy

Gottlieb-Weiner Family  
Scholarship  
Jack Hartman

Jeffrey M. Bernstein Anti-  
Bullying Scholarship  
Ella Katz

Jeffrey Miller Award  
Hannah Park

Jordan Abramowitz Memorial  
Scholarship  
Matthew Kang

Joseph Morello Memorial  
Scholarship  
Kyra Cheung

Joshua Golbert Memorial  
Award in Music  
John McNamee

Karen Smith Memorial Art  
Scholarship  
Diana Parrino

Kathleen McNally Dillon  
Scholarship  
Sunwoo Kang  
Lucas Landman

Kevin D. Berkowitz Memorial  
Scholarship  
Richard Wong

Leonard & Miriam Berkowitz  
Memorial Scholarship  
Ava John  
Matthew Kang

Linda Lippolt Ray of Sunshine  
Scholarship  
Jiyeon (Maggie) Lim

Long Island Blood Services  
Scholarship  
Morgan Hesekei

Lucian Veneziano Memorial  
Scholarship  
Eli Lev

Mark Koehler Memorial  
Scholarship  
Jesse Rubin

Maury D. Golbert Music Award  
Lindsay Hamburger

Michael Eichenbaum  
Memorial Lacrosse  
Scholarship  
Dani Weissman

Michael Secko Memorial  
Scholarship  
Jake Bricker  
Kyra Dewan

Music Association of  
Plainview-Old Bethpage  
Ensemble  
Claire Chai – Choir  
Chloe Lam – Orchestra  
John McNamee – Band  
Colin Schubert – Jazz

Nanette Strenger Memorial  
Learning Ally Scholarship  
Rebecca Gerson

National School Development  
Council Award for Academic  
Growth and Student  
Leadership in Learning  
(George L. Duffy)  
Matthew Kang  
Stella Toto

NY State Senator Jack M.  
Martins Rising Star Award  
(Senator Jack M. Martins)  
Megan Lee

Office of the Nassau County  
Comptroller: High School  
Math, Accounting and Finance  
Award (Elaine Phillips)  
Zachary Rosenberg

Office of the NYS Attorney  
General Triple "C" Award  
(Letitia James)  
Isabella LoFurno  
Ian Shinsky

Office of the State Comptroller  
Student Achievement Award  
(Thomas P. DiNapoli)  
Johanna Kim

Opa Grille Scholarship  
Ava John

P.A.L. (Nassau County Police  
Activity League)  
Carter Bloom  
Jake Bricker  
Matthew Bricker  
Ryan Chen



# Community Scholarships and Awards

Lauren DiPierri  
Juliana Ditria  
Charlie Getz  
Zachary Hammerman  
Jack Hartman  
Matthew Kang  
Eli Lev  
Craig Malinsky  
Max Marcus  
Ava Moskowitz  
Zachary Newmark  
Ryan Novak  
Daniella Robaina  
Brett Rosenbaum  
Jesse Rubin  
Cooper Schorr  
Melanie Sebel  
Tyler Sperry  
Samuel Warren  
Dani Weissman  
Brandon Witz  
Ryan Wolf

[Plainview P.A.L.'s Anthony Green Memorial Award](#)  
Charlie Getz

[Paul Rubin Memorial Scholarship](#)  
Melissa Wynne

[Plainview Hospital Medical Scholarship](#)  
Amelia Azzaretto

[Plainview Hospital Nursing Scholarship](#)  
Sophia Leone

[Plainview Little League Scholarship](#)  
Jaden Finkle  
Dani Weissman

[Plainview Powerball/Mega-Millions Facebook Page Scholarship](#)  
Dani Weissman  
Benjamin Goodman

[Plainview-Bethpage Lions Club](#)  
Lucas Landman

[Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship](#)  
Matthew Bricker  
Benjamin Goodman  
Hailey Horowitz  
Matthew Kang

Conner Kass  
Yoav Muscal  
Zachary Newmark  
Brandon Sheflin  
Lily Taylor  
Melissa Wynne

[Plainview-Old Bethpage Senior Citizen Club](#)  
Emma Casavina  
Jolie Pearlman  
Santhosh Senthilkumar

[Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club](#)  
Zachary Hammerman  
Mackenzie Keichline  
Katie Kronberg  
Noah Waldman

[POB Chamber of Commerce Award in Memory of Marcia Finkelstein](#)  
Maya Kunis

[POB Chamber of Commerce Scholarship](#)  
Lily Taylor

[POB Fantasy Football Scholarship](#)  
Benjamin Goodman  
Lily Taylor

[POBAOA Leadership Scholarship](#)  
Megan Lee  
Yoav Muscal  
Annika Raj

[Principal's Awards](#)  
Sonja Zupicich

[R.A.G.E – Residents Against Garbage Expansion Award](#)  
Lucas Landman  
Duodou (Christina) Pan

[Rae Saltzman Scholarship](#)  
Olivia Cole  
Mallory Einsohn

[Rechler Equity Partners Scholarship](#)  
Ryan Lee

[Rinaldi Scholarship Fund](#)  
Suzanne Ferrara



[Ruth Gaipman Memorial Award](#)  
Raelyn Leibowitz

[RVC Blue Speaks](#)  
Emma Toplan

[SCOPE Education Services Scholarship](#)  
Safal Kamath

[SEPTA Scholarship Award: Most Improved & Exceptional Effort Award](#)  
Ashley Barca  
Mark Cohen  
Shipra Patel

[SEPTA Scholarship Award: Rising Star Award](#)  
Isabella Bonaguro  
Hailey Horowitz  
Zachary Rosenberg

[SEPTA Scholarship Award: Volunteerism & Community Service Award](#)  
Lara Bongino  
Julia Zeidman

[Spencer Cares Scholarship](#)  
Kyra Dewan  
Samantha Feldman  
Benjamin Goodman  
Aanya Khandelwal  
Lucas Landman  
Noah Leibowitz

[Stacy's Warriors Scholarship](#)  
Morgan Hesekeel  
Dylan Levin  
Dani Weissman

[Stephanie Handschu Music Memorial Scholarship](#)  
Ava Samba

[Steve Pollicino Memorial Scholarship](#)  
Brooke Calley

[Swimmer Scholar Award](#)  
Danielle Chon

[The Oyster Bay Arts Council, TOBAC "Artistic Achievement Award"](#)  
Benjamin Selip

[The Susan Rusinek Memorial Scholarship](#)  
Lily Taylor  
Emma Casavina

[Tri-M Music Honor Society Scholarship](#)  
John McNamee  
Ilan Medwed  
Annika Raj  
Ava Samba

[Trio Hardware Scholarship](#)  
Dean Scola





# What's Next for the Class of 2024

Adelphi University  
University at Albany  
Alfred University  
American Musical & Dramatic Academy  
Appalachian State University  
University of Arizona  
Baruch College, CUNY  
Bentley University  
Binghamton University, SUNY  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
University of Bridgeport  
SUNY Brockport  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
Carleton College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Centenary University  
University of Central Florida  
Clemson University  
Cleveland State University  
SUNY Cobleskill  
University of Connecticut  
Cornell University  
SUNY Cortland  
The Culinary Institute of America  
University of Delaware  
SUNY Delhi  
Drexel University  
Employment  
Fairfield University

Farmingdale State College, SUNY  
Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY  
Five Towns College  
University of Florida  
Florida State University  
Florida Southern College  
Fordham University  
SUNY Geneseo  
University of Georgia  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
The George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
University of Hartford  
High Point University  
Hofstra University  
Hunter Business School  
Hunter College, CUNY  
Indiana University  
Ithaca College  
James Madison University  
College in Japan  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
Johns Hopkins University  
Long Island University – Post  
Marist College  
Maritime College, SUNY  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

Mechinat Galil Elyon – Israel  
University of Michigan  
Michigan State University  
Military – United States Marine Corps  
Molloy University  
Montana State University  
Nassau Community College  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of New Haven  
SUNY New Paltz  
New York Institute of Technology  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University  
The Ohio State University  
SUNY Old Westbury  
SUNY Oneonta  
SUNY Oswego  
Pace University – Westchester  
United States Peace Corps  
University of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pennsylvania State University – Harrisburg  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown  
SUNY Plattsburgh  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute  
Pratt Institute  
Princeton University  
SUNY Purchase

Purdue University  
Queens College, CUNY  
Quinnipiac University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint Anselm College  
Seton Hall University  
Skidmore College  
Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, CUNY  
University of South Carolina  
University of South Florida  
St. John's University  
St. Lawrence University  
College of Staten Island, CUNY  
Stony Brook University, SUNY  
Syracuse University  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas, Austin Trade School  
Tri-County Technical College  
Tulane University  
Vaughn College  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Wake Forest University  
West Virginia University  
Western Connecticut State University  
The College of William & Mary  
University of Wisconsin  
Yale University





# Moving Up in Plainview-Old Bethpage



Judy Jacobs Parkway  
Elementary School

Old Bethpage  
Elementary School



Pasadena  
Elementary School

Stratford Road  
Elementary School



Plainview-Old Bethpage  
Middle School

Howard B. Mattlin  
Middle School







## Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

Administrative Offices

Washington Avenue, Plainview, NY 11803

www.pobschools.org

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### Board of Education

Debbie Bernstein, President  
Seth Greenberg, Vice President  
Gary Bettan, Trustee  
Jared Goerke, Trustee  
Ginger Lieberman, Trustee  
Tara Rock, Trustee  
Lauren Sackstein, Trustee

Dr. Mary O'Meara, Superintendent of Schools

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

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Central School District

# Congratulations to Our Educators and Staff Who Received Tenure or Retired

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District is proud to announce the tenure of 31 dedicated educators and staff members. This significant achievement underscores their commitment to excellence in education.

Alec Abramowitz  
Jennifer Ayasse  
Mervete Azemi  
Michelle Barclay  
Rachel Barrer  
Andrea Bonomo  
Shannon Bradley  
Catherine Brennan

Nicole Carroll  
Kirk Cavanaugh  
Colleen Cho  
Dana Ciccotto  
Justine DeLuca  
Erin DiGiuseppe  
Ryan Dorfman  
Jennifer Falzone

Kimberly Farina  
Alex Goldberg  
Carina Hale  
Ai-Lun (Ellen) Huang  
Jamie Ida  
Alison Incarnato  
Nicole Knopp  
Beatriz Londono

Jacquelyn Moynihan  
Elizabeth Rooney  
Gabrielle Ross  
Ariel Rothbaum  
Sara Siliznol  
Victoria Trotta  
Erin Vandette

We would also like to congratulate our retirees for their years of commitment to the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District.

Ellyn Adges  
Angela Ansalone  
Joan Chryssos  
Deanna Consiglio  
\*Laura Doherty  
\*Donna Eckert  
Peter Formosa

Giuseppe Galante  
Karen Goldberg  
Tracey Gonzalez  
Nellie Hirshman  
Charlotte Kane  
Sheri Kinstler  
Donna Lamberti

Eileen Leavitt  
Ellen Lucas  
Lorraine Meola  
\*Maria Bohn McCumiskey  
\*Michele Price  
Linda Renna  
Judith Rilling

Aaron Schlissel  
Carolanne Smith  
Eleanor Stoler  
\*Michele Ventura

*\*Not pictured*

