

Syosset Pride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

STUDENTS KNOW WHY

More and more see the value in their learning and the role technology plays

With the implementation of technology throughout the district, it's easy to get caught up in the number of devices being administered. What can often be overlooked is the starting point, the "why?" Why do we need all of this technology? Is it really improving the way students learn?

Careful planning, including research and piloting of projects by the district's Technology Workgroup, has set the stage for a new, more dynamic era of instruction in Syosset schools. The time commitment of many, coupled with the financial investment made to put new technology in the hands of more students, is paying off.

"I'm tremendously impressed by the level of innovation and enthusiasm our teachers have shown incorporating technology into their lessons – not for its own sake – but to make the experience richer, more engaging, and ultimately more memorable for students," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Rogers.

During his opening address to the instructional staff that kicked off this summer's Superintendent's Learning Institute – three days of workshops designed for teachers to share new ways to use technology in the classroom and crosscut subject areas – Dr. Rogers talked about helping students realize their full potential in whatever future they find. Three years from the Technology Workgroup's initial planning, Syosset staff are

amplifying instruction through multidisciplinary activities that achieve this goal by putting technology to good use. Students are also noticing and coming to realize the importance of what they are doing.

Bringing History, Awareness to Life

Syosset High School English teacher Jaimee Badolato has seen her students grow to understand the importance of their studies. She works with her students on a Holocaust survivor project in which each student chooses a survivor and takes a multimedia approach to researching and creating digital profiles of their person.

"Students are taking full ownership of their profiles, and because this was such a traumatic experience for the survivors, [students] are taking it very seriously," said Badolato. The research has helped them take notice of other mass genocides, including Rohingya, and helped them share how this has affected them and why the survivors' stories are so important.

Students had been using Photo Story to create their projects, but with the help of Library Media Specialist Sarah Wasser, they are also using the online video editor WeVideo. This allows them to incorporate video into their profiles, improving transitions and bringing the survivors and their stories



HBT students study artifacts, crosscutting subject areas for a project on human migration theories.

more to life. Wasser said WeVideo also prevents copying and pasting, ensuring that the written words are the students' own. "It's a good example of how you are supposed to use technology – understanding information rather than just repeating it," said Wasser.

While students will continue to work in the library, the increased use of Chromebooks allows them to work from the classroom as well. The project also crosscuts the history of the Holocaust with writing and planning the story for digital print and illustration. Badolato is expanding the assignment from her English 10 Enriched classes to her honors classes this year. Other teachers will be introducing similar profile assignments to their classes. Students will present theses projects in class and feature them on Holocaust Remembrance Day in April.

"Students are becoming the historians," said Badolato. "They are the ones creating the narrative."

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Syosset Central School District

A Message from Your *Superintendent*

Dear Syosset Community,

The Syosset School District has been the recent recipient of a number of accolades in the past year and they've been a source of pride in our students and our staff. As much as they illustrate our success in facing the challenges and opportunities of the present, our focus has increasingly been on the future our students will inhabit – not just in a college environment, but as they enter the work world and raise families of their own.

I can't predict the future exactly (or else I'd call snow days in advance), but one thing is becoming increasingly clear: the knowledge and skills that serve our students so well today may look very different in the future. Similar to the industrial revolution that replaced manual labor with machines, today's technology innovations are poised to disrupt the goal of education – the attainment of knowledge.

Some headlines present this as a calamity – a 2016 White House report spoke of "Artificial Intelligence" wiping out "millions of jobs." But it's probably more accurate, and certainly more optimistic, to look at this shift as an opportunity. As Aaron Levie, the CEO of Box (an internet services company) states: "It's so easy to identify the businesses or the industries or the job functions that are going to be replaced. And it's so much harder to imagine the ... new industries ... and the new job functions that [will] emerge."

It seems likely then, that the kinds of skills that will remain in demand will be irreplaceably human – creativity, empathy, ingenuity, imagination and persistence. Not just a base of common knowledge, but the ability to use it in novel ways. Not just instructing computers, but giving them more significant problems to solve. Not

just absorbing an increasing flow of information, but discerning importance, relevance, and accuracy within that stream.

Ironically, technology is an essential tool to build these uniquely human skills, because it simultaneously builds more dependence and interdependence into our curriculum. Connecting students not just with their teachers, but with one another.

Syosset is a diverse community (wonderfully so). And that collaboration is every bit as essential as academics – because this community is both a microcosm of the diverse society our students will inhabit, and of a future workplace where teams will be defined more by skills than geography.

Navigating multi-faceted communities and workplaces will require a sophisticated set of social skills and cultural competencies. The intersection of disparate cultures can create well-meaning, but unfortunate misunderstandings, and the effort to become more inclusive can be distorted into new definitions of exclusion. We have an opportunity and an obligation to help our students shape their own understanding of how to navigate these complexities and how to value the strengths diversity brings more than the difficulties that it can present.

In my statement to the community after the August vandalism, coming so soon on the heels of Charlottesville, I noted that "our nation's broader commitment to tolerance is being tested." And it has been troubling to see, both nationally and closer to home, that anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic, and racist sentiments have proved closer to the surface than we might have hoped.

Recently, the District hosted a meeting of community leaders – clergy of many faiths; leaders of anti-bias organizations like Erase Racism, the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center (HMTTC), and the Jewish

Community Relations Council; parents, teachers, administrators and student leaders; Board members and representatives of law enforcement. A powerful consensus emerged that while the vandalism may have occurred on school grounds, the whole community was its victim. And however we might wish that it remain isolated, we cannot ignore its broader context. Bias is not inert and each organization and constituency has a role to play in defeating it.

To that end, I'm so encouraged that our students are leading by example. They've renewed their "Breaking Borders" program where they partner with peers in demographically different communities; they've attended forums and trainings (along with our faculty) at the HMTTC and at the high school; they formed a Unity Coalition; and they dedicated the proceeds of their annual walk-a-thon to the HMTTC. I recently attended the high school's production of "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" – a story of Jewish children sent to the Terezin concentration camp, who perished in the Holocaust. Opening Night included an interview with a Holocaust survivor afterward the performance.

Martin Luther King Jr. said that, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." What these students' actions demonstrate even more loudly than their words is that they will not be silent. I can't think of a better group to inherit the future.

Dr. Tom Rogers
Superintendent of Schools



A Message from Your *Board of Education*

Dear Syosset Community,

Much has taken place over the last several months to transform teaching and learning in our schools, and as our Superintendent Dr. Thomas Rogers so eloquently said it, "amplify" instruction.

Just prior to the opening of the new school year, teachers and instructional support staff members met over three days to share ideas and interesting uses for technology to keep students engaged and excited and to get the most from the resources provided to them. You can read about some of these creative projects and how they cross over different areas of the curriculum in this edition of Syosset Pride.

Along with the transformation of instruction comes the transformation of our facilities. In addition to the devices in our schools, our technology network has undergone a complete overhaul. A new state-of-the-art, high-density/high-bandwidth network has been built to meet our current needs and accommodate emerging technologies over the next 10 years. In doing this, we also repurposed the old network to serve the less taxing needs of wired surveillance systems and the guest Wi-Fi network.

In addition to enhancing our technology infrastructure, much of the Phase I work from the community-approved capital reserve initiative began over the summer and will continue throughout the school year as they are approved by the State Education Department. Planning for Phase II is underway and we thank all of the community members who participated in the three public forums held. Your input was invaluable as we finalize a plan to address the balance of these important building projects. Please stay tuned to the website (www.syossetschools.org), Facebook, upcoming editions of the Pride, Board of Education meetings and other notifications regarding Phase II plans.

The accomplishments of our schools and our students continue to astound us. Coming off a banner year in which

Syosset High School was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence comes more even more validation that Syosset is one of the best school districts in the country. Those of you who frequent our website may be aware of the community and education rating service Niche, which this summer rated every one of our elementary schools in the top 35 in New York State. The same service has also recognized both H.B. Thompson and South Woods as top 10 middle schools in the state, as well as citing the high school and district, overall, for excellence in the past. U.S. News and World Report and The Washington Post have also recognized our schools for excellence, among other outlets. While there is no one indicator that defines our success, we are proud to know that the hard work of our students, staff and parents is being noticed, along with the wonderful recognitions that come with this. You can also read about the marvelous accomplishments of our student-musicians and student-researchers in the pages to come.

Finally, for those of you who may not be aware of the events following the disturbing incident that occurred at the high school in August, we would like to reiterate how deeply disturbed we all were by the messages and symbols of intolerance, hate and anti-Semitism that were painted on our school building. They represent ideas that are antithetical to the ideals of this Board. As parents and residents of this wonderfully diverse community, we are ourselves pained and we empathize deeply with the hurt and fear fellow members of this community may be experiencing. At the publishing of this message, the investigation is ongoing, and we thank everyone for your understanding and patience. Moreover, we thank you for the support and the unifying spirit that our clergy, our schools and our residents, overall, have shown in denouncing these actions and coming together as a proud community.

As a Board, we realize that no matter how much



thought and hard work is put into teaching tolerance and character, there is still work to be done. The PRIDE character education program remains a focus in all of our schools, and there is an ongoing joint effort between Syosset High School and the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in Glen Cove, which is resulting in some very special programs.

For a summary of the events of every Board meeting, please refer to our monthly "Board Meeting Notes," also found under the Board of Education tab on our website. To contact us, you can refer to our email addresses online or in the district calendar. Online question forms are also available on the Board of Education section of the website by clicking on "Audience to the Public." As always, we encourage you to attend these meetings and look forward to seeing many of you there!

Warm Regards,
The Syosset School District Board of Education

Dr. Michael Cohen
Tracy Frankel
Carol C. Cheng
Chris Di Filippo
Andrew Feldman

Rob Gershon
Joshua Lafazan
Anna Levitan
Susan Parker

STUDENTS KNOW WHY

More and more see the value in their learning and the role technology plays

Middle School Migrating to 1:1, Literally

Middle school students are also using technology to deepen their understanding of and expertise in their research topics. This year, the 1:1 Chromebook initiative is facilitating the digital notebook over paper at Harry B. Thompson and South Woods middle schools.

Seventh-grade U.S. history students at HBT are crosscutting science, math, social studies and English for a mini-unit on human migration, looking at how and when people settled in the Americas. This includes analyzing archaeological evidence and scientific journals that support new theories. Students used applications such as Padlet, EdPuzzle and Nearpod to create single HyperDocs, allowing many to work together and contribute to a shared document. They also Skyped with noted scientific journalist Lizzie Wade, studied maps and video sources from the internet, conducted radiocarbon dating of artifacts, and wrote articles and questions to present and explain evidence on the subject. This included generating evaluative lines of questioning and arriving at theories on their own. They even incorporated math by calculating the age of the artifacts and other activities that combined multiple disciplines.

Many students in Heather Schulman's class expressed their satisfaction in getting involved in so many different aspects of researching, pulling together data and making their case for their respective opinions.

"This really involved everyone in the class, in every core class. I like everything we did, and the way we went about it was organized," said seventh-grader Joseph Angotti. "The Chromebooks helped to make it convenient and it was nice to see what everyone else was writing through Google Docs. It helps you create new questions and feed off one another."

At South Woods Middle School, Chromebooks and other available

technology will make a host of crosscutting activities easier this year. Among them are a hands-on Science 8 astronomy project that incorporates sundials to measure shadows. An art project involving seventh-grade English and social studies teachers is also being planned in which students analyze images, research the stories behind the images and recreate the images using their own imaginations. They will also write a story from the perspective of a person or even an object within that image.

South Woods technology teacher Timothy Governale is working with students and other teachers on creating projects through the use of 3-D printers. His students recently printed a cell phone stand and a mousetrap vehicle. He also helped a science teacher print a Rube Goldberg project for a lesson on the Mars Colony as well as a math teacher create geometric shapes for a lesson on calculating volume.

"While schools are making a push to use 3-D printers, not everyone knows how to operate them or even where to begin in incorporating it into the curriculum," Governale pointed out regarding the benefits and best practices of using 3-D printing in different subjects.

Youthful Words to Live By

Collaboration continues to be the central theme of crosscutting projects that use technology. Fifth-graders in Diana Serras' class at Village Elementary School collaborate digitally on a daily basis through their analysis of daily precepts.

Using Padlet, students critique, share their written thoughts and discuss precepts, which are principles intended as general rules or words to live by. Every day, Serras shares a new precept on the Smart Board and students "chime in" on their Chromebooks simultaneously. Like so many other projects, the process generates thoughts and ideas followed by lively conversation.

"This taught me how to write more deeply [by] thinking more deeply and analyzing figurative



Students in Diana Serras' class at Village are using Padlet to analyze, understand and write precepts.

languages," said fifth-grader Marcus Hoshino. "Presenting my work and talking about it with my classmates has also helped me build confidence."

The idea grew from Principal Jeffrey Kasper's sharing of inspirational precepts over the school's public-address system to promote the principles of the district's character-education philosophy PRIDE (patience, respect, integrity, dignity and empathy). Whether it's an inspirational quote, saying or excerpt, Serras said the activity touches on many important themes covered by literary works that apply to daily life. It's even inspired some to write their own precepts, with technology playing a significant role.

"The technology has definitely brought everything together and inspired a seamless and spontaneous

sharing of ideas," said Serras.

Built for the Future

To make these technology projects run seamlessly, the district recently invested \$3.5 million in its network infrastructure. The new state-of-the-art, high-density/high-bandwidth network is ultimately the key to enabling teachers to incorporate new and interesting practices and to capitalize on these new tech tools, allowing them to teach what's been familiar to them even better.

While the network was built in an expedient manner this past summer, it is designed to accommodate technology advancements for up to the next 10 years, regardless of how fast student and staff inventiveness and intuition evolve in Syosset.

"We believe that through education, we can ignite curiosity that fuels motivation, innovation, collaboration and problem-solving skills, using technology as a pivotal tool to maximize student contributions in an ever-changing world."

— Syosset CSD K-12 Technology Workgroup

AROUND THE SCHOOLS

HURRICANE RELIEF

This fall, every school in Syosset mobilized to raise funds and collect supplies to help communities that were devastated by hurricanes. Featured below are some highlights:



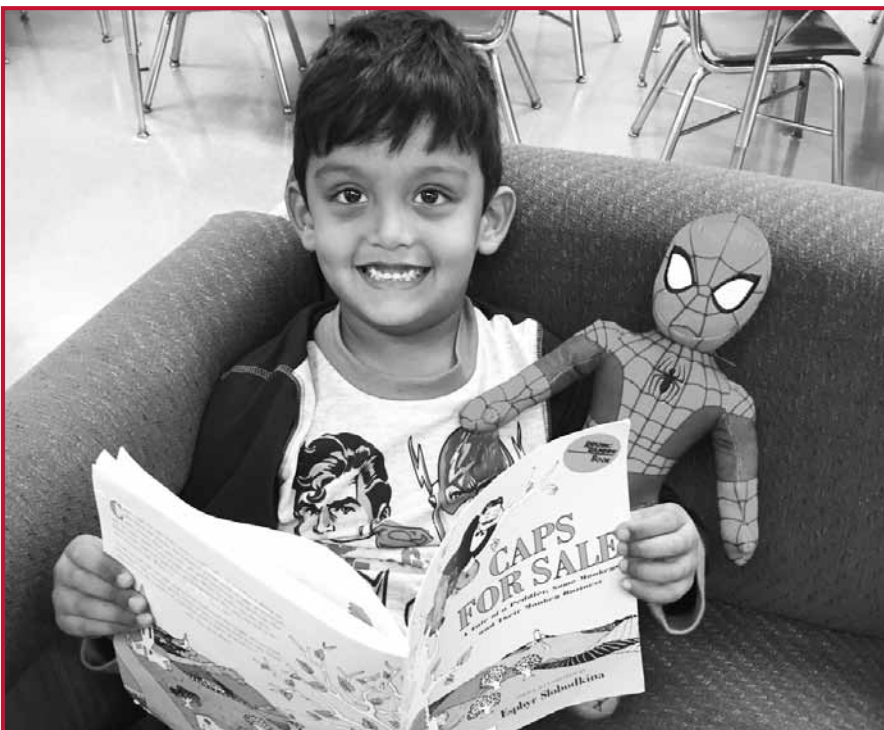
South Woods collected much-needed supplies.

Read for Relief

Baylis Elementary School organized a schoolwide read-a-thon to raise money for the American Red Cross hurricane relief efforts. Students dressed in their favorite pajamas, brought a stuffed animal from home and made themselves comfortable as they pledged to read for 30 minutes at the end of the school day, raising more than \$2,400.

Clubs Show They Care

A portion of the proceeds from this year's Syosset High School Student Government Carnival at Syosset High School were donated to hurricane relief efforts. This included proceeds collected from various student groups. Overall the event raised approximately \$21,000 to support high school student clubs and victims of the hurricanes. Interact, the Awareness Club and the SGA also held separate fundraising events of their own.



Baylis kids read to raise funds.

A Collective Effort

Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at South Woods Middle School were each given an assignment by the school's student council: Sixth-graders were asked to bring in baby supplies, while seventh- and eighth-graders collected first aid supplies and batteries, respectively.

Student Council Gets Cracking

Upon returning to school, Robbins Lane Elementary School student council representatives from the 2016-17 school year got right down to business. The group immediately began fundraising for the American Red Cross and raised over \$2,000 for their hurricane relief efforts.



Robbins Lane Student Council officers led the charge.

Taking One on the Chin

Harry B. Thompson Middle School held a fundraiser in which students voted for which teacher they would like to "pie." Phil Kaiser was the winning teacher and received a pie in the face in front of students in the cafeteria.



HBT teacher takes a pie for relief.



A.P. Willits students explore the pledge on their Chromebooks.

Pledging to Learn

At A.P. Willits Elementary School, first-graders taught kindergartners how to stand, where to look, and how to correctly and clearly recite the Pledge of Allegiance. They also touched on why children stand and recite the pledge each day. To culminate the lesson, students worked in partnerships on their Chromebooks illustrating what a person should look like as they say the pledge, labeled an important new vocabulary word, and recorded themselves saying the pledge.

Acceptance, Respect Through the Arts

In November, the Syosset High School Association for Creative Thespians presented a powerful production, “I Never Saw Another Butterfly,” based on the book of the same name comprised of drawings and poems created by children in the Terezin concentration camp during World War II. Additionally, student artists are collaborating on a Faces of Syosset mural to demonstrate the diversity and unity of the school community. Student leaders have also been visiting the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County as part of an ongoing educational partnership.



Walt Whitman kids enjoy learning outdoors.

Get Out and Play

Kindergartners at Walt Whitman Elementary School recently celebrated Outdoor Classroom Day, a global campaign to get children outdoors to play and learn at school and as part of their everyday lives. Whitman students enjoyed an outdoor scavenger hunt, held a picnic, read books and more, all outside. An estimated two million students around the world participated in the event.

Bully Schmully

Students, faculty and staff at Berry Hill Elementary School donned PRIDE (patience, respect, integrity, dignity and empathy) Warrior shirts during the school’s “Bully Schmully” assembly, sponsored through the PTA Cultural Arts Committee. Serving as the kickoff event for the school’s PRIDE program, the assembly offered students a variety of strategies designed to de-escalate difficult situations. The assembly began with a very special guest, Private First Class Jonah DiMaggio, a Syosset High School graduate, who led students in the Pledge of Allegiance and shared with students how the principles of PRIDE carried him through his graduation from Marine Corps Boot Camp.



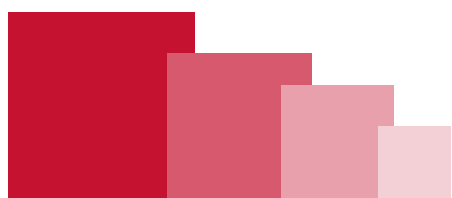
Author/illustrator Dan Gutman celebrates Pick a Reading Partner at South Grove.

Reading from the Gut

Children’s author Dan Gutman, who has scribed such favorites as “Miss Daisy Is Crazy!,” “Mr. Klutz Is Nuts!” and “Mr. Macky Is Wacky!” stopped by South Grove Elementary School for a day to join students in their celebration of Pick a Reading Partner. Gutman gave the children insight on the writing process, made some illustrations and answered several questions. He also read to kindergarten classes and autographed over 250 books!

Charitable with their Candy

Once again, Village Elementary School students donated their leftover, unopened Halloween candy to various charitable children’s organizations. This year’s Operation Sweet Tooth event resulted in the collection 10 barrels of candy for distribution to children unable to trick-or-treat due to life circumstance or illness.



STUDENTS IN THE SIEMENS SEMIFINALISTS



From left, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Rogers and Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard congratulate Rahul Parthasarathy and Jarrad Li, along with Syosset High School science research facilitator Veronica Ade and Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante.

Congratulations to Syosset High School seniors Jarrad Li and Rahul Parthasarathy for being named 2017 semifinalists in the Siemens Foundation Competition for Math, Science & Technology, the nation's premier science research contest for high school students. Additional congratulations to Rahul, who advanced to the regional finalist round, one of only 11 from Long Island to reach this level.

Jarrad conducted research on safe, alternative energy at Stony Brook University, teaming with

two other students from nearby high schools. They set out to eliminate carbon monoxide poisoning in proton exchange efficiency fuel cells, which drastically decreases the cell efficiency and durability of this otherwise burgeoning source of renewable energy. By synthesizing the optimal ratio of gold-silver alloy nanoparticles and coating the fuel cells with these nanoparticles, Jarrad and his team effectively catalyzed carbon monoxide oxidation and increased fuel cell power output for a more cost-efficient and commercially viable

source of alternative energy.

Rahul worked independently at Brookhaven National Laboratory to identify crystals formed from a compound of cadmium, zinc and tellurium that are most ideal for use as radiation detectors. One common problem affecting the widespread use of these detectors is that crystals are prone to defects when grown. By analyzing the properties of cadmium, zinc and tellurium that affect detector performance – including testing 54 crystals – Rahul was able to compare their strengths and weaknesses and characterize and identify those crystals most ideal for use in detectors, making detectors more affordable and accessible and opening up a wide range of applications, including in astrophysics, nuclear medicine and even national security.

“Rahul and Jarrad are both determined and dedicated young scientists,” said Syosset High School science research facilitator Veronica Ade, who oversees the school's participation in the Siemens competition. “They both followed their scientific passions to laboratories which could foster their talents and were able to use those experiences to enter the 2017 Siemens competition.”

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS, COMMENDED STUDENTS NAMED

Eight Syosset High School seniors have been named National Merit semifinalists.

Nishant Bhaumik, Melinda Blumenstock, Mathew Chvasta, Bradley Greenberg, Nikhil Jhaveri, Grace Kim, Simar Kohli and Wanlin Li are being honored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation from among approximately 16,000 high school students nationwide.

Semifinalists qualified by scoring among the highest in the state on the Preliminary

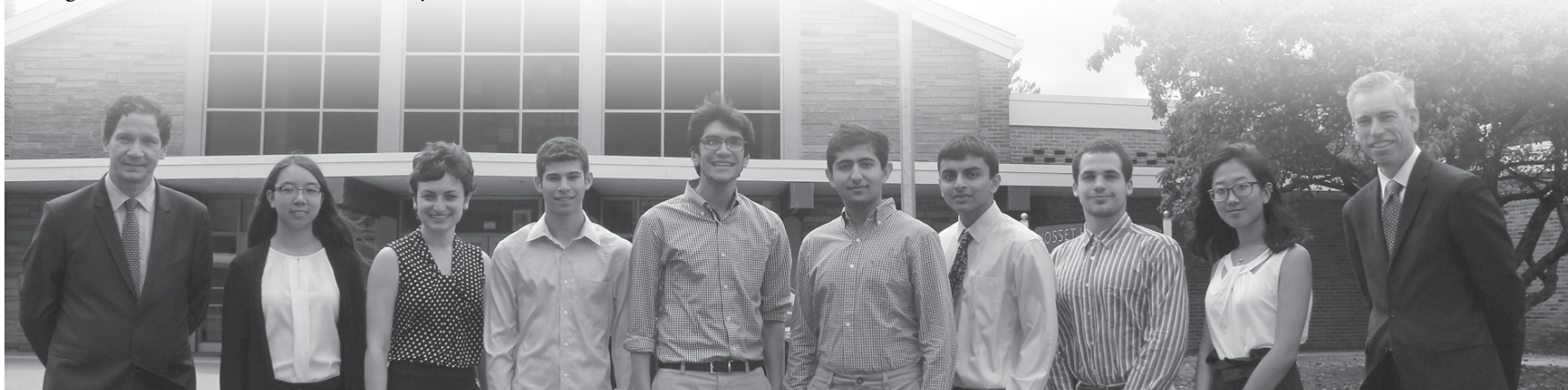
SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in 2016, including the top one percent nationally. As a result, they are in the running for approximately 7,500 National Merit scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

Finalists will be announced in February 2017, with the winners to be named in the spring.

Additionally, 44 Syosset seniors were named Commended Students in the competition. They represent the top five percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the

NMSC competition. They are among 34,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT based on a national selection index and will receive Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

“We are very proud of all of our National Merit students and their incredible academic achievements and wish them continued success in the future,” said Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante. Congratulations to all of the semifinalists and commended students.



From left, Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante congratulates National Merit Scholarship semifinalists Wanlin Li, Melinda Blumenstock, Bradley Greenberg, Nishant Bhaumik, Simar Kohli, Nikhil Jhaveri, Mathew Chvasta and Grace Kim, along with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Rogers.

SPOTLIGHT

ALL-NATIONAL

Congratulations to the Syosset High School student-musicians who were selected to participate in this year's NAFME All-National Honors Ensembles. Grace Mittleman and Eric Schess have been invited to perform with the All-National Honors Chorus, while Hannah Son was selected to play the flute in the All-National Honors Symphony Orchestra. The All-National Honors ensembles performed in Orlando, Florida Nov. 28-29.



NAFME All-National Ensemble participants Grace Mittleman, Eric Schess and Hannah Son are seen here, being congratulated by Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante, Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts, K-12 Michael Salzman and band teacher Larry Ballereau. Missing from the photo is choral teacher Kristin Howell.

All-State Musicians



This year's NYSSMA participants are seen here, being congratulated by Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts, K-12, Michael Salzman and Syosset Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante (pictured at far left, middle and front row, respectively) and orchestra teacher Stephanie Merten and band teacher Larry Ballereau. Missing from the photo is choral teacher Kristin Howell.

Congratulations to the Syosset High School student-musicians who have been selected to participate in this year's New York State School Music Association Winter Conference. This year, 34 students will participate in the All-State festival, either as active members of ensembles or as alternates, including some who were selected for multiple instruments.

Syosset High School regularly receives a high number of NYSSMA Winter Conference selections. This year's participants are Sami Ahn, Matthew Ardizzone, Stephanie Benedictus, Gabrielle Bieder, Sydney Chen, Josephine Chuang, Sean Han, Allison Hsu, Susanna Hur, Maxwell Izakson, Brandon Ji, Jihoon Jun, Paige Kahn, Joseph Kim, Anthony LaBarca, Thomas Lam, Hannah Lee, Justin Lee, Subin Lee, Annie Lin, Kalena Liu, Nicholas Massimo, Gabriela Mataras, Ashkan Moghaddassi, Aileen Park, Jake Quadrino, Harrison Rubin, Madison Schatz, Albert Shabaev, Brandon Sung, Callista Tse, Derek Warshauer, Emily Wong and Charles Zandieh.

Selected for Piano Showcase



Congratulations to Christopher Zandieh, an eighth-grader at South Woods Middle School who was selected to perform in the 12th Annual NYSSMA Piano Showcase held in conjunction with the winter conference Nov. 30-Dec. 3 at the Rochester Convention Center. Christopher was one of 12 winners selected from nearly 100 applicants after earning a perfect score of 100 on a Level VI solo at last spring's solo festivals. His application involved performing a solo piece from memory and submitting a video recording, which was evaluated by a committee over the summer.

Christopher has been playing piano since the age of four and attends a Saturday program at Julliard. He also plays alto sax on the school jazz band. He is congratulated here by Principal Michelle Burget and his band teacher Karen Buck.

A Happy, Healthy and Helpful Homecoming

School spirit, smart decisions, humanitarianism and victory highlight homecoming week

Syosset High School celebrated Homecoming/Spirit Week in grand fashion, as six days of school spirit, thoughtfulness and Syosset PRIDE – patience, respect, integrity, dignity and empathy – culminated with a fun-filled family carnival and a victory on the football field.

The three-day Student Government Carnival raised money and awareness for numerous student clubs, as well as hurricane relief.

Homecoming/Spirit Week kicked off with the annual student and staff walkathon at Syosset High School, which raised money for the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Long Island. This fall, the high school partnered with the center to reinforce student knowledge of the Holocaust and further unify the student body in its opposition to hate.

Syosset High School also held its annual health fair in the gymnasium.

Stations were set up to inform the entire student body and faculty about healthy eating, fitness and smart decision-making.

The school week ended with the annual pep rally to celebrate the fall athletic teams. The event served as an appetizer for Saturday's varsity football game vs. East Meadow, in which the hometown Braves triumphed by a score of 39-28.

The Syosset High School band, cheerleaders and kick line dancers entertained the audience and provided support for the home team. The Syosset PTSA ran the concession barn, with proceeds benefiting student programs districtwide.

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Syosset teams, the student organizations and their efforts to help others.

FACILITIES UPDATE

All Phase I facilities projects supported by the community-approved capital reserve fund are underway:

Architectural plans have been created to decommission underground storage tanks. They have been submitted to the State Education Department for approval.

Plans were also completed and submitted to the State Education Department, and some approvals have been received, for the following:

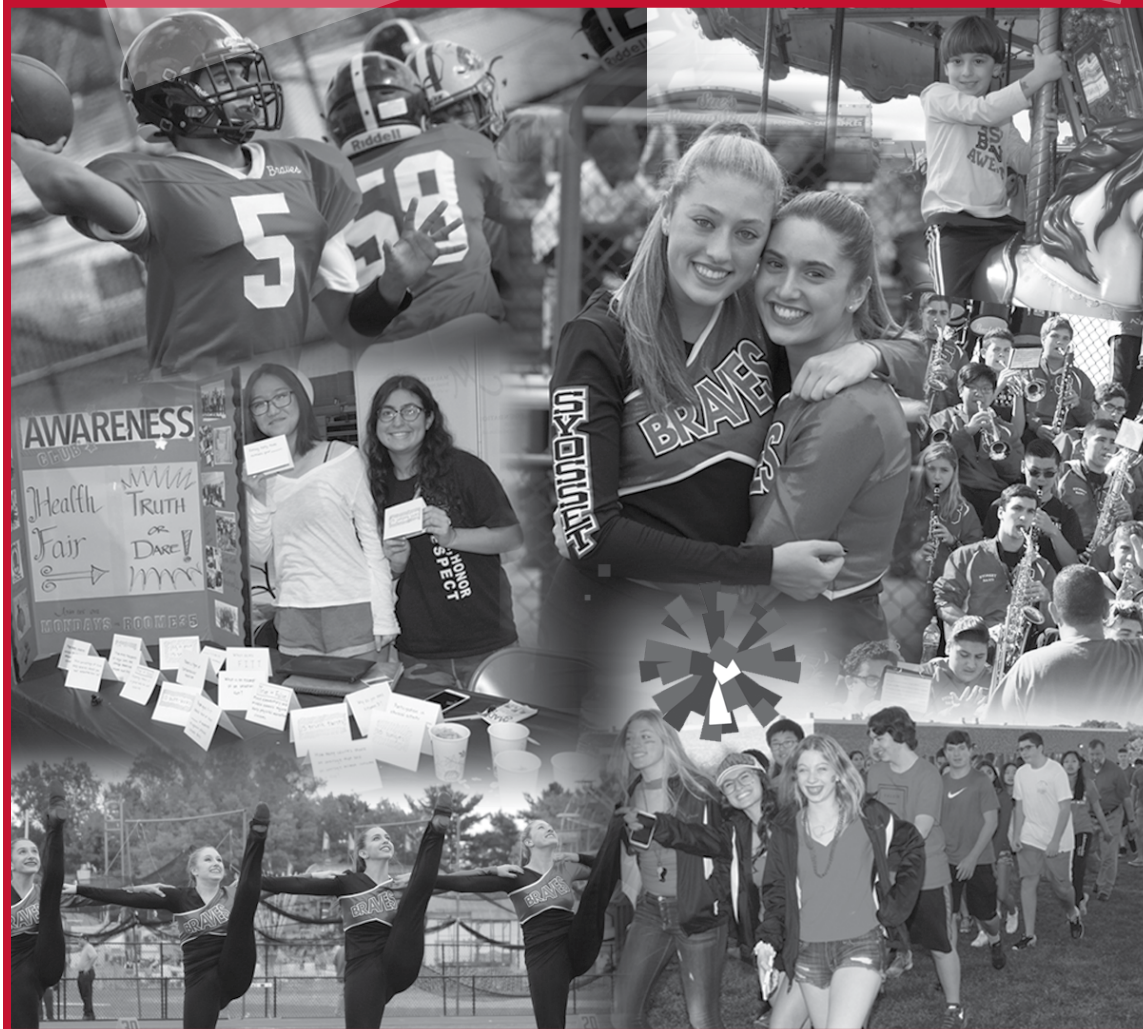
- Fire alarm systems at all schools.
- Security vestibules at all schools.
- Corridor wall glazing and interior doors at all schools.

The average State Education Department approval timeframe is estimated at approximately 30 weeks. Once approved, work will take place during evenings, weekends and holiday breaks. Additional facilities projects (not supported through the capital reserve) completed over the summer include roofing and flooring at Baylis and Berry Hill elementary schools, an emergency second entrance at Walt Whitman Elementary School and the installation of a boiler at Whitman. A new state-of-the-art, high-density/high-bandwidth districtwide technology network was also installed.

Phase II projects have been categorized as all of the remaining work identified in the district's building condition survey. Community forums were held in October and early November, and the district is in the process of finalizing a plan to address the following projects:

- Air conditioning solutions at all schools.
- Energy performance solutions at all schools.
- New weight room at Syosset High School.
- New traffic loop at Syosset High School.
- Renovation of the main athletic field and track at Syosset High School.
- Renovated science rooms at Syosset High School.

For additional information regarding Phase II, please refer to the district website at www.syossetschools.org and see the "Phase II Facilities, Planning and Information" area.



FALL 2017

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