The Sayville High School Class of 2016 formed a dazzling parade in their purple and gold gowns as the 224 graduates crossed the green lawn under a spectacularly blue sky. Unlike previous years when the annual ceremony on the football field was subject to scorching sun, high humidity, or threats of rain, June 25, 2016 offered the Sayville grads picture-perfect weather.

As the excited crowd of family and friends shouted and whistled greetings to welcome the class, Sayville Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner, High School Principal Ron Hoffer, Board of Education President John Verdone, and Vice President Thomas Cooley, along with district administrators and Board of Education members, led first the graduates, then the Teachers Who Made A Difference to their seats. Again this year, bringing up the rear were the Sayville Alumni (one returning Alumnus was from the Class of 1938) participating in the Annual Alumni Walk.

During their final hours as Sayville students, the graduates listened to heartfelt speeches by their Valedictorian Jared Bergen, Salutatorian Emily Sneddon, and Class President Paige Liskiewicz. They were moved by the vocal selection We've Only Just Begun sung by Class of 2016 award-winning vocalist Jillian Brudi. They experienced touching moments when remembering two who had passed—a dear friend and fellow student, as well as a beloved teacher. They applauded the four among them joining the military. They cheered, not just for classmates whose academic, artistic, and athletic accomplishments raised the bar of excellence, but for those fellow grads who have dealt with personal challenges of cancer or succeeded in overcoming learning challenges. Even canine companion, Antoinette, marching with her yellow cap, was a “member” of the graduating class.

After Principal Ronald Hoffer’s final words of appreciation, the graduates and crowd roared with excitement while purple and gold mortarboards sailed upward against a cobalt blue sky.
friends, Emily greeted her classmates:

**Superintendent of Sayville Schools**

**DR. WALTER SCHARTNER**

On behalf of the Sayville Board of Education, all teachers and staff, Superintendent of Sayville Schools Dr. Walter F. Schartner welcomed parents, siblings, grandparents, and other guests. “To the Sayville High School Class of 2016, thank you for establishing a new standard of achievement for other classes to emulate. You have added to the excellence that is the Sayville Public Schools.”

Sayville High School has been designated a REWARD SCHOOL, the highest designation for a school in New York State for five consecutive years. This is possible because of the high school community’s success. This success is directly related to the success and hard work of our students with the support of the teachers, administrators, and families from Kindergarten until now. I will not list all of your individual accomplishments or we would be here until dark. Mr. Hoffer will give more detail to specific accomplishments. I would like to spend a few minutes to highlight your next step in life.”

Enumerating the ten traits of successful leaders, which he cited from *The Investors’ Business Daily Newspaper*, Dr. Schartner compared it to advice found in *All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum as he put leadership qualities into perspective. [quote below]

There are things I learned:
Share everything. Share fair. Don’t hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your messes. Don’t take things that aren’t yours. Say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw, paint, sing, dance and play and work every day same! Take a nap every afternoon. And when you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

So when you get out in the world and see the expectations, problems, challenges and temptations, discouragement and opportunities, and you forget your teachers’ and/or administrators’ lectures, just try to remember Kindergarten. The rest will take care of itself.

To the Class of 2016, as you leave this ceremony this morning, on the path to your personal future, you have become a part of a great tradition, which is Sayville High School Alumni. Buildings and people change—but that tradition of excellence will remain our goal for as long as the Sayville High School is the center of pride for this community. Remember all that have played a part in your achievement—parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators and this entire community. Remember that you have the power to do great and different things. You have the power to change the course of history through goodness, kindness, and intelligent decision-making. Remember kindergarten—hold hands and stick together! HAVE OPTIMISM!

We are proud of each and every one of you, and we share your happiness this morning. Good luck and may God bless you in all that you do!

---

**Class of 2016 Salutatorian**

**EMILY SNEEDON**

“HEADING HOME”

After welcoming everyone, including Dr. Schartner, members of the Board of Education, Mr. Hoffer, faculty, family, and friends, Emily greeted her classmates:

...And most importantly, congratulations to the Class of 2016. We finally made it!

For many of us, Sayville is where we have grown up. We have spent either all or most of our lives hanging out at the beach, going to the movies, or enjoying *Ralphie* on a hot summer’s day. We all walked along Main Street, holding our parents’ hands as we crossed the street, begging them to stop and get us candy from *The Chocolatier*. As we got older, we transitioned into the freedom of going into town by ourselves. After all, “town” was the place to be in middle school. When I see current middle schoolers walking to *Carvel*, I am reminded that was once us. Now, as seniors and almost graduates, we whiz down Main Street in our cars, on the way to half apps. Although we may not now spend as much time enjoying all that town has to offer, it will forever have incredible meaning in our lives.

Simply put, Sayville is our home.

But, what is a home really? We all know that the dictionary definition is “the place (such as a house or apartment) where a person resides.” In reality, a home is so much more. It is a place where a person feels comfortable, happy, and accepted. We all found home in different locations, in our bedroom, at the beach, on the sports field, maybe even the one we are currently on, or in a classroom where we took permanent residence, and many others. Fortunately, much of Sayville feels like home to me, as I’m sure it does to most of you.

There are so many things that we have learned throughout our time in Sayville, learning how to make friends in Kindergarten, how to open a locker in middle school, how to write a research paper in high school. Although there are many lessons we have learned during our time here, one truly stands out. This may seem cliché, but the most important thing in life is not a thing, but rather the people we choose to surround ourselves with. When I was looking for inspiration for this speech I came across a quote that really touched me: “There will always be a reason why you meet people. Either you need them to change your life or you’re the one that will change theirs.”

Standing in front of all of you now, I realize that this could not be more true. Take a second to look around…. Did you see a person who has changed you? Did you see a person that you believe you have changed? I am so thankful to all the people who have changed my life over the past four years. I have been so blessed to have great friends, and for those of you who asked, here is your shoutout; a supportive family, thanks mom and dad; and fantastic teachers, all of whom have touched my life. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention someone who has changed so many of our lives: Mrs. Killeen. Although she is no longer with us, we will carry her amazing personality, bright smile, and neverending kindness with us as we leave home. To paraphrase E.E. Cummings, a well-known poet, we will always carry her heart in our hearts.

So as we depart Sayville High School as graduates, leaving this field for possibly the final time, we should keep in mind that although we are leaving a place we have called home, we can make any place we go feel like home. All we have to do is surround ourselves with people who make us feel happy, comfortable, and accepted. We need to search for our new beach, new sports field, or new classroom.

I believe that the words of Dr. Seuss fit our situation well, “Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.”

Thank you and congratulations to the Class of 2016!
Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Hoffer. And thank you Dr. Schartner, the Sayville Board of Education, our devoted teachers and staff, proud parents, and supportive friends.

Class of 2016, I can think of nothing more humbling than having this chance to speak with you today—a day spent with loved ones celebrating what I hope is one of your proudest achievements thus far.

I must admit the task of composing these words was rather daunting; what advice could I—an eighteen-year-old boy with remarkably similar life experiences as you—possibly have to offer to initiate this new stage of our lives? The following is my brief attempt at answering that question, as I am sure we are all eager to get along with the day's festivities.

I recently learned this staggering statistic: if the lifespan of our planet was compressed into a twenty-four hour clock, with the formation of the Earth occurring at 12:00 in the morning, modern humans would only arrive a mere three seconds before the stroke of the next midnight.

Three seconds.

In that time, our curiosity for exploring the unknown has brought us from the blackest pits of the deep ocean to the cosmic lights of an expanding universe. Our desire for communication has birthed language, music, art. Our ceaseless drive for innovation has steered the ship and powered the iPhone. Yet in that same time, our exploration bred conquest; our communication, misunderstanding; and our innovation, neglect.

In the year 2016, our country will waste an estimated 70 billion pounds of food while millions die across the globe from malnutrition. Within the next decade, as we alter the environment to house an exponentially growing population, species of animals whose arrival on the clock predates our own will vanish.

I could go on—detailing the slew of man-made issues confronting contemporary society which we, the future generation, can no longer ignore. I could next plead with you all to be the leaders of tomorrow and solve all the world's problems and make everything beautiful again! But I am not that idealistic.

What I do ask is that from today onwards we reconnect with the world and all its people. Rekindle our understanding of our surroundings and rediscover our empathy for those whose identities and lifestyles are different from our own.

To close, I would like to quote a line from David Mitchell's Cloud Atlas, which I have always held near to my heart:

"My life amounts to no more than one drop in a limitless ocean. Yet what is any ocean, but a multitude of drops?"

Class of 2016, while we are all separating from one another shortly, let us work together to not become disconnected from our surroundings. Let us use our drops of life to create that limitless ocean, to make waves that will change our ways. Let us combine all our seconds on the clock to ensure that when midnight strikes it is not the end, but rather just the beginning of another, brighter day. Thank you.
...I again found myself having difficulty coming up with what to say, and—CHUCK SCHUMER DIDN’T LET ME BORROW HIS SPEECH. As I was preparing for today, I reflected back...I once sat in your shoes many, many years ago, I really didn’t pay much attention to the adult speakers, but as I sat, my thoughts wandered. I imagined what type of world I was about to enter, and I can’t tell you how many times I heard “When I was your age...” So I am going to read something to you, from when I was your age: [Mr. Verdone quoted the lyrics from John Lennon’s IMAGINE.]

Some touching words. Really, they still have the same meaning today as they did when they were first written. So right now, each of you take a moment, IMAGINE what you can make of the world each of you is about to enter. IMAGINE! Put your hearts and souls into everything you do; there will be times when you will face success as well as failures. Never stop trying and never stop imagining a world that each of you can change. A world we now entrust to each of you. Shortly each of you will walk up to this podium and receive this plaque, this cornerstone. The start of the foundation of your life. Build on it and be the best you can be. But before I close, as a parent of a child who served our country with honor and distinction, I would like to stand and applaud the four students about to enter the military. Thank you for your dedication to country, freedom and family. God bless each of you.

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, congratulations to each and every one of you. Live, Love and Laugh and never stop IMAGINING! Have a fantastic summer and future..

Thanking Mr. Verdone for the opportunity to speak, Mr. deVenau admitted “My grandson, Chris Ferremi, is graduating and I have a special interest in this class, coaching them with Chris’ mom, Jen, in baseball over the years. I just wanted to say thank you for the great years. These graduates are awesome!”

Reminding them that they are the future and that this day begins their new challenges requiring important decisions, Mr. deVenau assured them that after thirteen years of assistance from parents and teachers, “you are prepared.” Praising the class for their service and accomplishments, Mr. deVenau reminded them that no matter what they do, they are “still part of the Sayville family.” He especially commended those who have decided to serve in the military—“They stand for freedom.” He asked not only those four in the class going into the military to stand for applause, but included all those in the audience who have served in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and USMC.

“When I was in high school”

We were scholars. We studied, we put in the time. From rounds of AP exams, to daily classroom discussions, to academic competitions and Senior Portfolios, we have proven that we are worthy of these weird hats. We have earned our place in the next phase in our lives.

“When I was in high school” we were creative. We were artists, musicians, actors and writers. We produced and starred in plays, our work was featured in art shows and literary magazines.

The question before us now is how to carry that creativity into our adult lives.

“When I was in high school” we were athletes. We were a team, we worked hard, we won titles. We stood by each other’s side in times of victory and defeat, and vowed that the next season would always be better than the last.

When I was in high school we were humanitarians. We stood up for causes, we donated our time and energy and we raised money. One important effort, the Every Child’s Dream Holiday Dinner, required thousands of hours of work performed by hundreds of students, and we did it. We knew that we made a difference and at our graduation we took a moment to remember our friend and classmate Mark Ambrosini.

So when you are sitting at the head of your own holiday table, tell the funny stories. Tell your kids about the time we took over the teachers’ parking lot. But tell the important stories too. Because those stories truly reflect who we are: our values, our goals and the place we are about to take in the world. Remember that.
• The graduates met and/or exceeded the academic standards: 94% of the students in the Class of 2016 will go on to further education; 97% will have earned a Regents Diploma this year.

• Corinne Caminske, Sean Caraher, Mark Martucci and Brian Williams were recognized for their anticipated U.S. military service.

• Our Visual Arts seniors had a tremendous year: Cory Levy and Paige Lisiewicz participated and won in competitions and/or scholarships.

• In our Music Program, three NYSSMA All-State musicians—Alex Jones, Joseph Panzarino, and Savannah Votino, and three All-National musicians—Jillian Brudi, Nicholas Burkel, and (Videographer) Sean McNally were recognized locally, throughout the county, state, and nation. Congratulations to all of our award-winning performing groups and musicians.

• In our Theatre Arts Program, the Class of 2016 played an instrumental role over the last four years. Eight seniors have been inducted into the Sayville Players Honour Troupe and ten seniors have won national drama awards.

• I would like to seize this opportunity to wish three members of our high school staff and faculty well as they enter retirement. They are: Andy Giammalvo, Vivianne Petratos and Barbara Nintzel. Thank you for your combined 60 years of service.

• In the arena of Interscholastic Athletics, 21 of 29 varsity teams were Scholar-Athlete Teams. We had a tremendous year in that we have won individual and/or team championships as evidenced by:

• SEVEN League/Division Championships: Girls Swimming/Diving, Boys Swimming/Diving, Football, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Baseball, and Softball

• THREE Suffolk County Champions: Football, Girls Swimming/Diving, and Girls Golf

• ONE Long Island Champion: Football

We have twenty Division 1, 2, or 3 student-athletes from the Class of 2016 who have earned athletic commitments from a college or university.

• High School Service Organizations have, once again, served our community by giving back to our community and other local, national, and worldwide communities. Congratulations to all of our service organizations for your commitment in addressing the needs of others throughout our local and global communities!
Moving-Up

Cherry Avenue Principal Dr. Lisa Ihne welcomed everyone to the 2016 Cherry Avenue Moving-Up ceremony which marked the “end of a chapter and the beginning of a new one” and which celebrated past accolades and anticipated future accomplishments. “It has been a privilege to know the students and serve as their principal,” Dr. Ihne said. “They are a well-mannered, hardworking, and compassionate group of students, well prepared for the next phase in their education. I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one...and as much as we would like to keep them longer, it is time for them to move on to the Middle School.”

Thanking all the parents for their trust and for being part of their children’s education, Dr. Ihne recognized those parents who were moving up as well. “Congratulations to those parents as you move on; it has been a pleasure having you as a part of our Cherry Avenue family.”

After announcing, “we are proud of you. You will be missed,” Dr. Ihne introduced Middle School Principal Mr. Thomas Murray, who assured the incoming Sixth-graders they will enjoy the Middle School Experience. This was followed by the presentation of the special awards, Moving-Up Certificates (see below), and the Annual Fifth-grade Class Gift, a ‘Buddy Bench’—to promote friendships—presented by Mr. Thomas Murray, who assured the incoming Sixth-graders they will enjoy the Middle School Experience.

Before the ceremony closed, the entertainment included a delightful slideshow prepared by the parents, followed by two musical numbers Walk With Me and Five Years Old (a paraphrased and retitled version of Seven Years by Lukas Graham) written and directed by Kristi Woerner, Cherry Avenue Music teacher.

Sunrise Drive Moving-Up ceremony at Sunrise Drive began as it has for many years, with the students singing Sunrise You Are the One, composed and directed by Mrs. Baron. This time, however, after fourteen years as Sunrise Drive Principal, the retiring Rose Castello welcomed the students and guests for one last time. Mrs. Castello recalled, “they were ‘bright-eyed kindergarteners… [who] soon learned that Sunrise Drive was a safe, and often exciting, place to learn and grow. They have made many friends, grown physically and emotionally, and learned what they need to know to move on to Middle School.”

After Middle School Principal Tom Murray assured the students they would quickly adapt to the new building and changing classes, recognition was given to the Fifth-graders who achieved excellence in academics and physical fitness (see lists below on page 7). In prefacing additional student recognition, Mrs. Castello remarked, “Anyone who knows me, knows I love baseball. I was a young child when Jackie Robinson played for the NY Dodgers, his impact on not only the sport but the nation was tremendous. He was an amazing example of good character. He once said, ‘A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.’ Good character has long been a hallmark of students at Sunrise Drive,” Mrs. Castello followed by extolling the good works accomplished by Sunrise Drive including: collecting food for Thanksgiving and LI Cares, creating anti-bullying posters for our hallways, mailing packages to our soldiers, visiting the Arbor Assisted Living facility and planting flowers in the courtyard, raising over $2,000 to help build two water wells in Liberia to provide clean drinking water for school children, as well as donating funds to a variety of charitable organizations.

These students, your children, have made a difference! A difference here at Sunrise Drive, in Sayville, and to people they may never meet…. Our goal this year at Sunrise was to spread kindness one child at a time. As Aesop once said, ‘No kindness no matter how small is ever wasted.’ We are very proud of our students who have demonstrated such kindnesses and we know...Continues on page 7.

List of Fifth-grade 2015-2016 Presidential Academic, Physical Fitness, and other Award Winners

Cherry Avenue

ACADEMIC GOLD AWARDS
Brendan Cameron
Jordan Carpentieri
Sean Connolly
Robert Desjardins
Shannon Feather
Benjamin Flaumenhaft
Aviva Gustafson
Emma Haas
Amanda Kleinman
Calla Kolar
Riley Lapine
Alex Leppin
Ava C. Niggemeier
Abigail Noack
Gavin Noone
Michael Pitre

SILVER AWARDS
Madison Anderson
Joseph Byrne
Evan Carman
Erica Dookram
Isabel Egan
Jason Frontino
Lauren Gosse
Kyle Hanna
Ollie Henke
Ryan Hillery
Taylor Hoss
Dominick Lettieri
Emily Langhan
Julia Lynch
Jacqueline McDonnell
Braden McNamara
Christopher Mulligan
Griffin Perez
Nicholas Rampulla
Ollie Redden
Erl Reilly
Griffin Riggins
Charlie Strittmatter

FITNESS AWARD GOLD
Owen Burke 3rd yr
Joseph Byrne
Jordan Carpentieri
3rd yr
Sasha Gagnon
Avi Gustafson
Taylor Hass
Calla Kolar
Julia Lynch
Kyle Panasuk

Ollie Redden
George Vadyak
George Wessels 2nd yr

SILVER
Madison Anderson
Brendan Cameron
Kyle Carrao
Daniel Connerruto
Asher DeVerna
Erica Dookram
Isabel Egan
Shannon Feather
Sam Fiore
Jason Frontino
April Gidden
Lauren Goss
Kylie Hanna
Ollie Henke
Ryan Hillary
Mia Kassman
Amanda Kleinman
Emily Langhan
Riley Lapine
Ava Leach
Dominick Lettieri
Jacqueline McDonnell
Braden McNamara
Michael Milo
Lauren Minasian
Christopher Mulligan
Ava Niggemeier
Abigail Noak
Abbey O’Connell
Marina Patitolla
Michale Pitre
Nicholas Rampulla
Erl Reilly
Griffin Riggins
Green Risner
Benjamin Sands
Robert Sinacori
Kendal Squicciarini
Colin Stagg
Charlize Strittmatter
Jackson Tomforde
Juliet Tunney
Robert Walker

Pitre, Gavin Noone, Asher DeVerna, Jordan Carpentieri

(top) CA New York State Comptroller • Michael Kemper Awards • Ava Gustafson, Sean Connolly (below right) Suffolk Zone Award • Kyle Panasuk, Olivia Henke (far left) CA County Legislature Presiding Officer • Amanda Kleinman (above middle: l-r) CA Triple “C” • Griffen Perez, Riley Lapine (above right) Executive Public Service Award • Benjamin Flaumenhaft

Riccomini Scholarship Award • Kylie Corrao

(above left)
(above middle: l-r)
(above right)

Brendan McNamara
Michael Milo
Lauren Minasian
Christopher Mulligan
Ava Niggemeier
Abigail Noak
Abbey O’Connell
Marina Patitolla
Michale Pitre
Nicholas Rampulla
Erl Reilly
Griffin Riggins
Green Risner
Benjamin Sands
Robert Sinacori
Kendal Squicciarini
Colin Stagg
Charlize Strittmatter
Jackson Tomforde
Juliet Tunney
Robert Walker

(right) Cameron

Contina on page 7.
Sunrise Drive Moving-Up  Continues from page 6.

they will continue to make a difference in the lives of others.”

As the ceremony continued, specific awards from local politicians were given. This was followed by the classroom teachers calling their students by name, one at a time, so each could stand and be recognized. For musical entertainment, the students sang Hello, paraphrased for the occasion and Try Everything, directed by Music Teacher Amy Baron.

In closing, Mrs. Castello first thanked the parents for their support and then addressed her students, citing Michael Jordan, Hank Aaron, and the Beatles as examples of people who reached their goals, and urged the fifth-graders to “Never, Never, Never Give Up.” After acknowledging the team of teachers and staff for their significant contributions in providing an education of excellence at Sunrise Drive, Mrs. Castello wished her students well with, “Have a wonderful summer!”

Lincoln Avenue

After greeting families, friends, administrators, and guests for the 2016 Moving-Up ceremony at Lincoln Avenue, Principal Dr. Michele LeBlanc addressed the students, who had shared “approximately 1,099 days” of school at Lincoln, remarking on a particular memory she had of this class six years ago.

“Girls and boys, I clearly recall your spectacular performance as kindergarteners, entitled What I Learned in Kindergarten. My personal favorite number you sang that day was entitled, I’m Curious. Curiosity is defined as ‘eager to learn or know something.’ The lyrics of the song you sang six years ago still ring true…I want to understand every word I’ve heard, and know the names of every bug and bird…Every day I am even more and more and more curious than the day before.’

Encouraging the students to remain curious because it leads to discovery and innovation, Dr. LeBlanc recounted: “As history shows us, people, out of curiosity, have crafted new inventions and stumbled upon discoveries by accident. During the last six years at Lincoln Avenue, you have made continuous discoveries. These discoveries cannot occur without a prepared mind. Girls and boys, you have prepared your mind for the challenges ahead. Your curiosity combined with your prepared mind is what it takes!”

Dr. LeBlanc concluded with another quote by an ingenious man, Walt Disney, who stated: “We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we are curious and it is curiosity that keeps leading us down new paths.”

Her parting words urged the students to “remember your kindergarten song. Keep it close, and continue to be ‘more and more curious than the day before.’ Best wishes to you as you take this next step in your lives.”

The celebration continued with Middle School Principal Tom Murray offering assurances about Middle School, Dr. LeBlanc acknowledging the “graduating” Lincoln parents for their six years of support, and thanking the PTA, SEPTA, and Site-Based Team volunteers for their countless hours of service. Students representing each Fifth-grade class (Michela Scoleri, Liam Higgins, Erin Marshall, Vincent Bonfant) read their insightful essays about their years at Lincoln. Music teacher Christine Cirillo directed members of the Fifth-grade Chorus, who sang Child of Tomorrow, and the concluding number We’re Moving Up which was sung by the entire class.
MIDDLE SCHOOL Class of 2016 MOVES UP

As the Seventh-grade Orchestra played the march, the Middle School Class of 2016 filed into the auditorium. Once all two hundred thirty members of the eight-grade class had assembled, the program opened with the National Anthem, powerfully sung a cappella by a very talented Nicolete Furno (left) whose performance raised thunderous cheers and applause from the audience.

Principal Thomas Murray welcomed everyone to the celebration that recognized “the accomplishments of your children. They have exhibited outstanding academic discipline and personal integrity.”

Along with enumerating the class statistics (see below), he praised them for their outstanding attributes. “As Eighth graders, you have more opportunities at your fingertips . . . Technology has evolved at a rate that I could have never imagined. When I was in middle school, a typewriter was considered new technology.” He reminded the students of the responsibility and consequences of this new technology, stating, “It is how you use this technology that counts. Will you use this technology to spread kindness and raise people up or will you use this technology to insult people and bring them down. It is how you treat people that will have the greatest impact on the world. You have the power of the technology and you have the power to change people’s lives for good. I have the utmost confidence based on what I’ve seen and heard over the last three years that you will choose to raise people up. You will choose to make people’s lives brighter.”

Quoting Ronald Reagan: “Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation.” Mr. Murray explained, “You will have opportunities beyond anything we’ve ever known. Sacrifices have been made by the generations before you to give you these opportunities. Remember those that have and those that continue to sacrifice so that you may have a world of endless opportunities.”

In closing, Mr. Murray thanked the students for three wonderful years. “Your foundation for success has been built by your hard work and the support of your parents and teachers.” Directing the students to stand and face their parents, Mr. Murray congratulated “the Moving-up Class of 2016 and the future graduating Class of 2020!”

STATISTICS In this new era of academic rigor, the Moving-Up Class of 2016 has risen to the challenges and have excelled. Out of 230 students:

- 87 students took the Algebra Regents; 50% with a mastery rate—100% passed.
- 94 students took the Living Environment Regents; 87% with a mastery rate—100% passed.
- 220 (96% of the class) students have met the requirements for a high school foreign language credit.
- 65 students have taken and passed the High School Studio in Art Class, which is 28% of the class.
- 96% of the Class is leaving with 1 High School Credit.
- 41% of the Class is leaving with 2 High School Credits.
- 38% of the Class is leaving with 3 High School Credits.

ATHLETICALLY

- Our teams have competed hard and have enjoyed success. There have been many undefeated seasons as well as Section XI Sportsmanship Award winners.

THE ARTS

- Our Music Program has competed around the country. NYSSMA students performed solos receiving top honors. One student was selected to represent Sayville in the Long Island String Festival. Eleven students were selected to be part of the SCMEA All-County band/chorus/orchestra groups. Thirteen students achieved an A-plus rating, the highest rating, for their NYSSMA solo. Three musicians received SMBA grants. One student received a LISFA scholarship. The music department participated in a practice-athon, raising over $700 for the Harry Chapin Food Pantry.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- For the past three years, we have had over 200 Presidential Community Service Winners serving 20,000 hours of community service.
- You raised money to beat cancer, support our soldiers, feed and clothe the needy, and collect toys, making Christmas a little brighter.

You have an impressive resume of accomplishments. Wherever you have traveled as a class you have always have made people feel welcomed and loved. You have shown compassion, courage, shared your joy, and have exhibited integrity. This will be your legacy at SMS.

PTA AWARDS

- Girls Sportmanship: Bailey Lillis
- Boys Sportmanship: Kevin Gross
- School Leadership: Marissa Dionisio
- School/Community Service: Angela Earvolino
- Academic Improvement: Mary Vermilyea & Alexa Vargas

PHYSICAL ED. (GIRLS)

- Catherine Doyle
- Isabella Harris, Nicholas Ryan
- Mary Vermilyea & Alexa Vargas

PHYSICAL ED. (BOYS)

- Lilia Bartolotta
- Shaun Gibbons
- Eric Antos
- Marie Egan
- Mary Vermilyea & Alexa Vargas

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

- Mary Egan
- Mary Vermilyea & Alexa Vargas

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

- Algebra: Samir Patel
- Art: Tyler Karpowicz
- Band: Spacey Herring
- Chorus: Shaun Gibbons
- Computers: Tyler Karpowicz
- Consumer/Family Science: C.J. Burghardt
- English: Lilia Bartolotta
- French: Catherine Doyle
- Life Science: Tara Donohue
- Mathematics: 8 Taylor Maddy
- Orchestra: Caitlin Reilly
- Physical Ed. (Boys): Brock Murtha
- Physical Ed. (Girls): Mary Vermilyea
- Social Studies: Steven Doverspike
- Spanish: Angela Earvolino
- Technology: Harry Berg

Cameron Riccomini Scholarship: Bailey Lillis
- Erin Halliday-Duffy Sunflower Scholarship: Eric Antos, Lilia Bartolotta, Shaun Gibbons, Isabella Harris, Nicholas Ryan
- NYS Attorney Triple C Award: Caitlin Reilly & Pablo Abad-Herrera
- SC Executive Award: Lilia Bartolotta
- NYS Comptroller’s Achievement Award: Mary Vermilyea & Alexa Vargas

Linda A. Mittiga
Sayville School District Newsletter & District Website Editor

For photos of Moving-up, go to Tidings online.

Click on the Moving-up link for middle school.