Moody’s Upgrades Sayville UFSD to Aa1

Your Board of Education and Administrative team are always looking for ways to reduce costs while simultaneously enhancing educational opportunities for our students. We are happy to report that due to the District’s sound fiscal management and solid fiscal position, Moody’s Investors Service has upgraded our bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1 in their most recent report. This is the highest bond rating possible and will serve to reduce the District’s future borrowing/debt service costs.

Moody’s summarized some of the reasons for Sayville’s top rating:

- “The Aa1 rating reflects the stable tax base with below-average wealth levels, well-managed financial position with satisfactory reserves, and elevated debt burden with above-average payout.” Sayville achieved this upgrade as a result of the district’s “long history of strong management reflective in the healthy reserves and liquidity over the last five years.”

As an example of Sayville’s strong fiscal management, Moody’s cited the strategically timed refinancing of the 2008 and 2010 Bonds that coincided with Sayville’s Debt Service reduction in the 2016-2017 school year. This prudent approach yielded the District a significant $2 million savings over the remaining life of the bonds.

- “Moody’s Investors Service has assigned an Aa1 rating to the Sayville Union Free School District’s (NY) $13.5 million School District Refunding (Serial) Bonds, 2016. Concurrently Moody’s has upgrades to Aa1 from Aa2 rating on $26.8 million of parity general obligation debt, including the current offering.”

Other factors the investors service considered was Sayville’s stable tax base as maintained by the District’s use of Fund Balance reserves. The Moody’s report states:

- “The district has consistently maintained strong reserve levels over the last five years, and ended fiscal 2015 with a surplus increasing General Fund balance to 30.2% of revenue; notably the fifth surplus over a six year period. Officials had anticipated drawing on reserves, however, given conservative budgeting of revenues and expenditures fully replenished the appropriation and added to fund balance. Operations are supported primarily from stable property taxes (68.7%) and state aid (28%) revenues that are sensitive to cutbacks. The primary expenditures are instruction and support services representing 52.7% and 36% of fiscal 2015 expenditures, respectively.”

Although reductions in State Aid began in 2009, Saville has weathered through these turbulent economic times to emerge as stable as ever. Over the past few years, the Proposed Budgets have been well under the Tax Levy Cap and have reduced spending while at the same time maintained, restored, and enhanced programs that benefit our students. Last May, with additional State Aid for the upcoming academic year, the voter-approved 2016-2017 School District Budget saw a decrease of -0.80 % to the Homestead tax rate, the second lowest in Suffolk County. Upholding its commitment to Sayville residents, Sayville School District’s Administrators and the Board of Education will continue to work diligently to present a fiscally responsible spending plan that manages cost and keep taxes low.

Receiving this Aa1 rating is validation of the long-range planning by Sayville District Business Office Assistant Superintendent John J. Belmonte who has spearheaded fiscal operations since 1999. In addition, the Aa1 rating acknowledges the involvement of all Sayville District Administrators, faculty and staff, along with the Board of Education members and Sayville residents who have continually given their support to cost-saving measures throughout these challenging times. Moody’s credits the District’s forward-looking fiscal planning for achieving the highest rating and projects that “Sayville UFSD’s strong financial position will remain healthy given sound fiscal management with conservative budget practices.”

Effect of Aa1 Rating:
- Aa1 is a Strong Investment Grade rating, which is the highest bond rating possible.
- Moody’s Investors Service, a leading credit rating agency, has upgraded Sayville UFSD’s bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1.
- This upgrade reduces the District’s borrowing costs and makes it easier to access capital markets for future projects.
- Sayville UFSD joins the ranks of the top 1% of school districts nationwide with an Aa1 rating.

Kindergarten Registration:
- Please call 244-6505 if you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten and you have not yet received the Kindergarten Registration Packet.

Moody’s Investors Service
- Assigned an Aa1 rating to the Sayville Union Free School District’s (NY) $13.5 million School District Refunding (Serial) Bonds, 2016.
- upgraded to Aa1 from Aa2 rating on $26.8 million of parity general obligation debt, including the current offering.

Moody’s Summary:
- The Aa1 rating reflects the stable tax base with below-average wealth levels, well-managed financial position with satisfactory reserves, and elevated debt burden with average payout.
- The Aa1 rating is the highest bond rating possible.
- Moody’s Investors Service has upgraded SAYVILLE UFSD’s bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1.
- This upgrade reduces the District’s borrowing costs and makes it easier to access capital markets for future projects.
- Sayville UFSD joins the ranks of the top 1% of school districts nationwide with an Aa1 rating.

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Investors Service:
- Moody’s Investors Service has assigned an Aa1 rating to the Sayville Union Free School District’s (NY) $13.5 million School District Refunding (Serial) Bonds, 2016. Concurrently Moody’s has upgraded to Aa1 from Aa2 rating on $26.8 million of parity general obligation debt, including the current offering.

Moody’s Report:
- The Aa1 rating reflects the stable tax base with below-average wealth levels, well-managed financial position with satisfactory reserves, and elevated debt burden with average payout.
- The Aa1 rating is the highest bond rating possible.
- Moody’s Investors Service has upgraded SAYVILLE UFSD’s bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1.
- This upgrade reduces the District’s borrowing costs and makes it easier to access capital markets for future projects.
- Sayville UFSD joins the ranks of the top 1% of school districts nationwide with an Aa1 rating.

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Students Recognized for Their Amazing Contributions in Scientific Research:

- Fifth-graders Samantha Hmelovsky and Adam Burgardt had their research accepted into the Map Gallery at the WSRI International GIS User Conference in San Diego, California.

S.T.E.M. Tech students High School students include: (l-r) Andrew Deutsch, Nicholas Cameron, Matthew Tomko, Nita George, Alexander Urmaza (not present Emily Manning, Julia Kaczmarek).

AP Scholars with Distinction • received scores of 3.5 or higher on five or more AP exams:


AP Scholars with Honors • received an average score of 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: (l-r) Robert Strain, Michael Steck, Sean Barry, Dylan Nicholson, Calista Tomasetti (not present Aidan Brophy, Isabella Lombardo, Griffin Mills, Anthony Pascarella, Gianna Scoleri).

AP Scholars with Distinction • received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams:


S.T.E.M. Barcoding (l-r) Sohum Sheth, Mackenzie Damon, Amy Tomko, Nita George, Alexander Urmaza (not present Emily Manning, Julia Kaczmarek).
MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY GOLD SERVICE AWARDS FOR 2015-2016

Presented by MS Principal Thomas Murray with BOE Vice President Thomas Cooley.


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Whether you attended The Odd Couple that featured Florence and Olive, performed by the two women’s casts or The Odd Couple with Felix and Oscar (or saw all three casts), you were not disappointed with the hilarious portrayals of these beloved Neil Simon characters presented from different gender perspectives.

Each cast delivered a fresh energy to the fast-paced dialogue. Dynamic chemistry sustained the comic timing and made you forget the performers were high school students. Despite the gender differences, the plots shared in common the universal truths about challenging friendships among a circle of friends, each with sharply different and sometimes polarizing personalities.

Congratulations to all three casts for demonstrating maturity, ability, and comedy in every one of their believable performances. WOMEN-Wednesday Cast: Gabby Medeck; Christina La Froscia; Emma Vall; Dea Ahlgrim; Kaitlyn Maher; Chris Quartuccio; Alex Maksimiak. Women-Friday Cast: Gabby Medeck; Meghan Fawcett; Zoe Rivera; Emily Llewellyn; Angelina Kellar; Alex Pittari; Shaun Gibbons. MEN-Thursday & Saturday Cast: James Velazquez; Otto Cooley; Reese Pena; Jamie Baio; Dylan Finder; Gina Mizzi; Samantha LoGrippo.

Kudos also to the Players who performed in the nightly preludes entitled “Simon Says” Isabella Artz, Elizabeth Campbell, Angela Earvolino, and Angelina Salemi.

Sayville’s 2016 Homecoming Parade was an invasion of “Great Empires” advancing through Main Street. To accommodate this theme, each class float represented a specific historical or pop-culture empire and was accompanied by supporting class members who demonstrated lively spirit. The Freshman Class depicted “the glory that was Rome;” the Sophomores basked in the sun that “never set on the British Empire;” the Juniors went out of this world to “a galaxy far, far away” with The Galactic Empire of Star Wars fame; and the Seniors stayed classic with the Golden Age of Greece. The highly impressive structures, particularly the Temple of Athens and the Royal Navy vessel of the British Empire constructed in brightly colored tissue paper, raised cheers of approval along the parade route.

In preparation for this year’s Homecoming, the committee had again recommended that each class sponsor a worthy charity with their themes. The Freshmen sponsored St. Jude Children’s Hospital, the Sophomores focused on the Long Island Maritime Museum, the Juniors took Little Flower Children and Family Services under their wing, while the Senior class brought awareness to the Travis Manion Foundation. And throughout the Homecoming game, each class launched its fundraising campaigns. The Empires battled for their charities by encouraging spectators to make donations. Kathy Van Dorn, Homecoming organizer and student government advisor remarked, “It’s awesome to listen to the students’ heartfelt excitement for their adopted charity.”

Homecoming judges from the Rotary Club ranked the Seniors First in the spirit competition, the Sophomores a close Second, the Juniors Third, and the Freshmen Fourth. The Homecoming game itself began with the remarkable singing of the National Anthem by Emily Llewellyn and continued with a spectacular win by the Golden Flashes, 58-14, against Kings Park.

A goodly company of nine thespians (see photo above) performed vignettes of Shakespeare’s famous soliloquies and scenes in a “Recital” that placed the Bard’s popular works within the context of his life. The dedicated troupe enriched their performances with energy and enthusiasm while recreating famous moments from Hamlet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Othello, King Lear, Henry IV, The Taming of the Shrew, the Tempest, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night and Macbeth. Kudos to K. Maher, K. Zambrano, P. Zambrano, E. Osterloh, A. Maher, G. Mizzi, R. Cotes, A. Micelli, K. Kohn for lending excellent voice to such a body of characters devised by the greatest playwright of all time.
The Sayville Middle School musical *Bye Bye Birdie* couldn’t have been more energizing. With superb singing, smooth dancing, comedic portrayals of clashing cultures between grownups and “kids,” and a team of screaming teens chasing celebrity/heartthrob Conrad Birdie, there was hardly a dull moment on stage.

The story opens with the upsetting news that rock-and-roll idol Conrad Birdie has been drafted. The star’s struggling songwriter Albert Peterson is in a panic. Birdie was his last chance for fame and fortune. Now with his star vehicle going into the army, Albert will have to close his company. However, with the quick thinking of his resourceful assistant and long-suffering girlfriend, Rose Alvarez, who devises a media event, Birdie’s send-off becomes a sensation to remember.

Along with the leads, the ensemble cast showcased enormous singing and dancing talents in such entertaining musical numbers as: *An English Teacher, The Telephone Hour, Put on a Happy Face, How Lovely To Be a Woman, A Healthy Normal American Boy, One Boy, Honestly Sincere, Hymn for a Sunday Evening: Ed Sullivan, One Last Kiss, Spanish Rose, Rosie, What Did I Ever See in Him, A Lot of Living to Do,* and *Kids.* It was hard to pick a favorite.

Congratulations to the cast and crew as well as Director/Choreographer Kim DuFrenoy, Musical Director Fred Diekmann, Producer Ari Kramer, Sound Joseph Albanese, Lighting Steve Hailey, Set Construction Ken Van Essendelft and the behind-the-scenes Middle School production, sound, and lighting crews, the amazing and versatile orchestra and the High School volunteers for their time and talents that made Birdie’s farewell lots of fun.
At the Fall 2016 Breakfast of Champions, recognition was given to eighteen High School students nominated by Sayville teachers and staff for consistently demonstrating exemplary character with positive conduct.

Assistant Principal Jillian Makris who organized and hosted the morning ceremony opened with an introduction about the quality of character that sets these students apart. “These are the students who help make up the moral fabric of our school....not for a grade on the report card, but it’s just to be good human beings.”

Turning her attention to the family members present, Mrs. Makris thanked them and voiced the consensus of the faculty and staff, adding that the familiar faces and family names among this year’s recipients were proof that “strong families make good communities.” It was also what distinguished this year’s group of honorees. She noted that older siblings and cousins had been previous nominees, “...today we actually have two sisters that were nominated—that was the first time that ever happened…. When you have a strong family unit, that perpetuates a tradition of compassion and kindness. And it’s passed on from generation to generation.”

As part of the ceremony, District faculty and staff members called upon each recipient one-by-one and shared their appreciation with personalized messages, at which time each student shook hands with Principal Ron Hoffer and received a Breakfast of Champions certificate and plaque with his or her portrait on a Wheaties Box™ background.

After, everyone enjoyed a continental breakfast donated by Lovin’Oven. Special thanks were given to the technology department (Mr. Vogel and Mr. Cross) for making the plaques, and Mr. Ari Kramer and his chamber students who provided the musical ambiance. Congratulations to the following: Kelsey Alber, Mary Cascio, Steven Devery Jr., Shaun Gibbons, Julia Intermesoli, Providence Kempf, Kathryn Kolar, Alexa Laskowitz, Claudia Lynch, Olivia Lynch, Megan McElroy, Brenna Marshall, Steven Montalto, Emily Osterloh, Serena Russo, Gianna Scoleri, Emma Vall, and Alexa Villez.

Sayville’s Regeneron STS Semifinalist
Caitlin Gormley

Sayville High School Senior Caitlin Gormley was named Semifinalist Scholar in The Regeneron Science Talent Search (formerly Intel), the nation’s most prestigious pre-college science competition. Her research contribution made a “Geospatial analysis of hydraulic fracturing activities related to human health outcomes and seismic activity.”

During the summer between her freshman and sophomore years, Caitlin had enrolled in an introductory GIS* course, offered under the auspices of the Accelerated College Education Program through Stony Brook University, but taught at Sayville High School by research teacher Maria Brown. Using ARGIS, a GIS software produced by ESRI, Inc. (ArcMap Version 10.3) to conduct her research at the high school, Caitlin worked on multiple geospatial projects for two and a half years with the help of her Honors Earth Science teacher Janet Kaczmarek and Maria Brown.

Caitlin’s study geospatially assessed whether proximity to hydraulic fracturing activities was associated with increased incidence rates of some cancers and other health outcomes in selected regions of the USA. Highly controversial for the period 2008-2012, hydraulic fracturing (aka hydrofracking) removes trace amounts of natural gases from underground wells in sedimentary bedrock using water and chemicals.

As part of the research, Caitlin assessed the potential for impacts on human health outcomes in geographic locations where hydraulic fracturing activities occurred (PA, OH, WV).

Caitlin’s results suggest that all health outcomes showed increased incidences in areas where hydraulic fracturing is occurring. The mean annual wind-trend over the disease hot-spot regions suggest that wind may be a factor in moving particles that evaporate into the air. Seismic data were also analyzed to determine how the increase in hydraulic fracturing activities have impacted the occurrence and depth of the earthquake epicenter. Emerging trends in seismic activity suggest that increased hydraulic fracturing activity has led to increased incidence and depth of earthquake epicenters.

Last year, Caitlin received 1st Place at the ESRI Map Gallery High School Competition held at the International GIS User Conference in San Diego, California and also was invited last June as the only high school student to present her research findings at URISA’s (Urban & Regional Information Systems Association) Health Symposium held in Washington DC, where her findings were well-received.
It’s Elementary!

At the districtwide Seventh Annual S.T.E.M. Symposium held at the Lincoln Avenue School, elementary students in grades 2 through 5 spent quality time with their parents exploring science. Students and families who signed up for the annual evening activity were allowed to pick three workshops from the offerings. Some students and parents learned how to write code, were challenged by a Break-Out Adventure or observed the night sky. Others designed wind-powered cars or cargo-bearing paper airplanes, created items for 3-D printing or were impressed by The Wacky Science and The Sweetbriar Nature Center presentations.

“The program runs on the energy of the teacher and high school student volunteers,” said S.T.E.M. organizer Lincoln Avenue Principal Michele LeBlanc. “We have an amazing staff!”

Indeed, the tremendous success of this annual elementary S.T.E.M. Symposium is often measured by the amount of excitement and interest the assorted labs and workshops generate among the students, parents, and volunteer teachers. Yet, it can also be a gauge for the level of student preparedness in the Spring Science Fair competitions. If this year’s symposium is any indicator, the Science Fair projects are bound to be exhilarating!

Sayville Fifth-Grader Masters Word Challenges

Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the WordMasters Challenge™, Sayville Lincoln Avenue Fifth-grader James Kretz was one in only sixty-seven Fifth-graders nationwide to have earned a perfect score of 20 on the challenge.

“The WordMasters Challenge™ is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically.” Source: WordMasters Challenge™ Press Release.

At Lincoln Avenue, WordMasters Challenge™ Coach and Fifth-grade teacher Mr. John Bombara was thrilled by James’ accomplishment. “I knew James did well, but I didn’t realize how big of an achievement this was until I read the stats!” Congratulations, James!

Congratulations to Jack Coan & Kelly Mara
Sayville’s 2016 Suffolk Zone Award Recipients

Jack Coan
GPA: 102.2
PE GPA: 100
Class Rank: 18th

Athletics
5 years Varsity Football
3 Years Varsity Lacrosse

Clubs & Activities:
Athletes Helping Others
Every Child’s Dream
Sayville Youth Football & Lacrosse Camp

Honors
All-Division, All-County Lacrosse
Division III Football MVP 2014, 2015, 2016
All-State, All-Metro Player of the Year 2015
Boomer Award Winner 2014, 2015
LI Career Passing Record TD (128), Passing Yards (9,787), Single Season Passing Yards (3,431)
All-American CBS Sports & Esmark 2015
College: Wisconsin Major: Undecided

Kelly Mara
GPA: 97.00
PE GPA: 100
Class Rank: 69th

Athletics
Varsity Soccer
Varsity Lacrosse

Clubs & Activities:
Athletes Helping Others
Leadership Club
Matthew’s Giving Tree Foundation

Honors
Captain Soccer & Lacrosse
All County Soccer & Lacrosse
Top 50 Players to Watch in 2016
ISA Soccer
Yellow Jackets Lacrosse
College: University of Massachusetts
Major: Undecided

The award is given annually by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance to one male and one female student athlete from each school district in Suffolk County. The students were selected for this award based on the following areas of exceptional achievement: physical performance, scholastic ability, and leadership, as well as community service.

Sayville Athletic Fall Season (continued)

VARSITY BOYS VOLLEYBALL
• Playoff Qualifier
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
• Overall Record 7-9

Michael Steck Academic All-County, All-League
All-Tournament

Daniel Peruni All-Division, All-League, All-Tournament

Vincent Mullen All-Division

Dylan Nicholson All-League

Sean Barry All-County Academic

Daniel Johnson All-County Academic

VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
• 2nd Place in League VI
• Playoff Qualifier
• Overall Record 16-5

Caroline Rupp All-Classification, All-League
Tournament

Caroline Ross All-League

Madison Mergel All-League

Megan Havranek All-League

Melanie O’Hoppe All-League

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

This Request Must Be Filed For Each School Year By April 1st

Requests for transportation to private and parochial schools and childcare locations (i.e., LEAP, SCOPE, New Life, In-Home) must be filed by April 1st and forwarded to: Sayville Public Schools, Transportation Office, 99 Greeley Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782.

Forms can be found on the Sayville Public School website www.sayvilleschools.org under “Transportation”. Transportation is provided to in-district and out-of-district schools to a maximum of 15 miles. State statutes and a referendum of Sayville voters have set this limitation.
SAYVILLE ATHLETIC PROGRAM’S AMAZIN’ FALL SEASON
For a SEVENTH consecutive year, all our varsity teams participated in postseason play.

*New Scholar Athlete Qualifications: 75% of entire team must have a 90 GPA or above to qualify as a team;
62% of our 236 Varsity Fall Athletes received an individual Scholar-Athlete Award.

VARSIY FOOTBALL
• Suffolk County Division III Champions
• Suffolk County Division III Finalist
• Overall Record 10-1

JACK COAN New York State
Gatorade Player of the Year,
Suffolk Zone Award Winner, 1st
Team All-State, 1st Team All-Long
Island, All-County, Division III
MVP, Beemer Award Winner, LI
Championship Offensive MVP,
Barney Pazdurek (Team MVP),
Hansen Award Winner

JASON INTERMESOLI All-County,
National Football Foundation
Scholar-Athlete, Golden II Award

ROB HOSS • Division III Coach of the Year

VARSIY GIRLS SWIMMING/DIVING
• League III Champions • 3rd Place in Suffolk County
• Overall Record 7-0 • NYS Scholar-Athlete Team*

Megan Donnelly All-State 200m Medley Relay, All-County
Megan Caraner All-State 200m Medley Relay, All-County
Leighann Gensch All-County 400m Freestyle Relay
Megan Romano All-County Diving
Kathryn Kolar All-League
Calista Tomasetti All-League Diving
Melina Piervencentii All-League Diving

VARSIY GIRLS SOCCER
• 3rd Place in League V • Overall Record 8-3-3
• Playoff Qualifier

Kelly Marra All-State, All-County, Suffolk Zone Award Winner
Erin Peyton All-Conference
Chloe Argenziano All-Conference
Sarah Laterza All-Conference

VARSIY FIELD HOCKEY
• 5th Division III • Overall Record 10-6
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team* • Playoff Qualifier

Emily Arzt All-County
Kate Donahue All-Division
Kate Neuschwender All-Tournament,
Amelia Flaumenhaft All-County

VARSIY GIRLS TENNIS
• 2nd Place in League III • Overall Record 11-4
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

Hannah Niggemeier All-County
Sarah Bank All-County
Taylor Kobel All-League
Mary Madigan All-League

VARSIY GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY
• Overall Record 0-3

Phillip Gunther NYS State Qualifier, 2nd in Suffolk County,
All-County, Academic All-County, All-Division
Luke Hession Academic All-County

VARSIY BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY
• Overall Record 0-3

Hannah Niggemeier All-County
Sarah Bank All-County
Taylor Kobel All-League

Remember to visit
Sayville Public Schools
and LIKE US

on FACEBOOK!

Dr. Walter F. Schartner,
Superintendent of Schools
99 Greetley Avenue
Sayville, New York 11782

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