

Special 2020-2021 Year End Issue

A Year for the History Books
By Hannah Blaskiewicz

As we conclude an interesting year (to say the least), many of us are wondering whether virtual learning is here to stay. Sayville High School has come a long way from the *pandemic days of 2020, when we were washing groceries with wipes, experienced a toilet paper shortage, and had no idea how school would continue. Nowadays, we’re almost all back in school learning and an abundance of Sayville High School students have received their first vaccination dose. This along with the vaccinations across the country, are a sign that the country is turning a tide in the pandemic.* Most of the 2021 graduating class are recipients of emails detailing vaccine guidelines for university next year. Numerous colleges have determined that in order to live on campus, students need to be double vaccinated against Covid-19. About a third of the students surveyed agreed, to some extent, that colleges should require vaccinations against Covid-19, however almost a third remained neutral on their stance. With the approval of vaccinations for children 12 and older, as well as newfound research finding that Pfzier and Moderna are effective against variants, hope is assuring students that the transition to in person school will be permanent. Along with the many transitions between online and in-person learning, one of the many changes this year has been the alteration to the normal bell schedule. Approximately, 94.6% of the students surveyed preferred the new thirty-six minute schedule (see image 1). Students expressed that the thrifty-six minute schedule is beneficial for their study habits, and shortens the length of tests that they are required to take, helping with test stamina and fatigue. Students cited that their mental health has been positively affected by the shortened periods and more than half of respondents agreed that in school learning is beneficial for their mental health.

Although contact tracing is a crucial part in the efforts to keep our community safe, students have started to tense every time a teacher's phone rings, fearing that they will be discreetly pulled out of class and told to leave school. Especially with play-offs and potential county championships for the football, cross country, golf, baseball and softball, student athletes are seriously contemplating whether they should secure their chance at finishing their senior season and stay home. About 28.8% of Sayville athletes reported that they were considering going virtual to avoid contact tracing. Sayville High School was lucky enough to experience two snow days this year, something that Sayville seniors have not had the pleasure of experiencing in almost half a decade. However, with the introduction of virtual learning and (dreaded) Google Meets, students are questioning whether they will ever experience another snow day. High school students will agree that there was nothing better than getting the call from Dr.Schartner, and now Dr.Stimmel, to inform students that they have the next day off. Stu-

dents don't take these days for granted either, they're the best kind of mental health day students could have. Filled with sleep, some shoveling, then rewarding hot chocolate, the best school days could be snow days. In a survey released to Sayville High school students, 73% strongly agreed that snow days should still occur even after the implementation of virtual learning (see image 2). Fear is building in the district after New York City schools permanently scrapped snow days. Sayville students, especially seniors, insist that snow days are a vital part of childhood and every child should experience a snow day in their lifetime.

As virtual learning has become present in many school districts, more than 50% of students surveyed believe that in-person learning is better for their mental health. Additionally, more than 70% of students surveyed disagreed that virtual learning was a better way of learning than in person. Students cite increased concentration, hands-on learning, and less distractions for their preference of learning in a classroom setting.

It was interesting however, that more than half of students surveyed indicated that they prefer typing to writing. This could be partially due to the availability of chromebooks, the assignment of essays on google classroom and the typing speed that most students have accumulated from habitual assignments online. However, 86.5% of students surveyed said that they prefer reading paper books as opposed to virtual books. Additionally, when asked about their favorite book from high school, most of the freshmen surveyed indicated that *Of Mice and Men* was their favorite, while the underclassmen chose *A Separate Peace*, and the upperclassmen picked *The Other Wes Moore*, *Hamlet*, *Catcher in the Rye*, and *SlaughterHouse Five*, as their favorites.

During the 2020-2021 school year, students, teachers, and the administration have adapted to changes that were made to benefit our health as well as start to transition to normalcy and persevered in the face of new challenges.

Finally, as the school year starts to come to a close, seniors are excited to start getting back to standard aspects of senior year, especially with sports, prom and graduation. With the new guidelines from the CDC regarding masks, testing and vaccinations, as well as the decrease in transmission rate, students are holding out for the hope of a bit of normalcy in the future.

Author’s Note: It’s been a pleasure to write for the newspaper. This is my last article for *The Current*. Thank you to Mr.Shaw for inviting me to write for the newspaper these past years and thank you to our editor, Maggie, for always taking time to give me feedback on what I write. Especially a huge thank you to everyone who’s enjoyed my articles, thanks for reading.



Student Government and Class Officer Presidents for 21-22

Student Government: President Nicole Reina	
	Vice President Ava Ericksen
Class of ‘22:	President Shayla Smith,
	Vice President Katie Zito
Class of ‘23:	President Ben Flaumenhaft,
	Vice Presidents Amanda Kleinman
	Karishma Patel
Class of ‘24:	President Ethan Entenberg
	Vice President Brendan Meyers

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Student
Spotlight

Ryan Van
Boxel

All –Eastern Trumpet

All families have traditions. Some gather for feasts of their favorite foods; some have annual rituals that are marked on the calendar months in advance. For the family of Ryan Van Boxel, it’s all about music. Ryan, a member of the Class of 2021 is a two-time All-State musician, and was, this year, named to the All Eastern Symphonic Orchestra for his skills playing the trumpet. Ryan’s parents, Sayville music teacher Mrs. VanBoxel, and his father, a music educator in Manhasset, along with his sister, Kate, a clarinet player round out what, we imagine, is a very musical household.

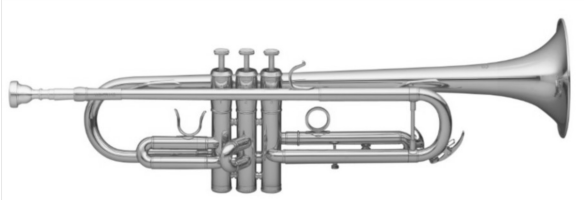


Ryan says that this year’s All Eastern Festival, even though it was virtual, was a great experience. Participants came from all over the Eastern United States and the European Union. The symphonic orchestra played The March from *Symphonic Metamorphosis*, by Paul Hindemith, a very complex piece of music. Though he enjoys other genres of music, including jazz, Ryan says he enjoys the challenge of playing the trumpet in a symphonic orchestra because his part is usually very exposed.

In addition to his parents, Ryan’s musical career has been guided by his teacher, Michael Sarling, and Maestro Phil Preddice, Director of The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, where VanBoxel plays as well. When asked about his musical influences, Ryan identifies Wynton Marsalis, Chet Baker and Russian trumpeter Sergei Nakariakov.

When asked about his favorite music to listen to, Ryan mentioned a few bands that, surprisingly, do not feature trumpets. He enjoys 1970’s and 80’s rock bands Live, Aerosmith and Tom Petty.

After spending his summer working at Snapper Inn and playing his trumpet for some private events, Ryan will be headed to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he will study Geography, with a minor in musical performance.



GOOD LUCK ON FINALS, & DON’T FORGET TO USE THE EXTRA “ACADEMY” HOURS BEING OFFERED BY EACH DEPARTMENT!



Musiks Tiking
Timebomb

By Nick Altkin



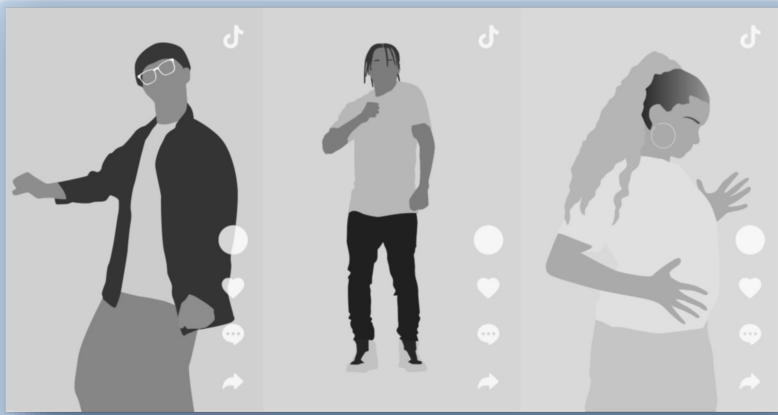
Envision your atmosphere circa de April 2020. Swamped in your dim-lit room, sheets rustled to the side, stacks of cups on your nightstand and waking up to your laptop on low battery with Netflix asking “Are you still watching?” Yes, we are still watching Netflix. Stop asking us. As great as you are, there can only be one ruler of media from the Covid inconvenience, and it’s TikTok. That’s right! The app skyrocketed to the top of the charts from sixteen year old girl “influencers” doing uninspired dance moves, cultivating a mass audience of adolescents in its early origins. Over the last eighteen months though, the app has grown to be a Goliath of a platform; Most men now use it constantly (you were looked down on for being a guy and having the app a couple years back) and its used for tier lists, news articles, sports news, comedy skits, support for the black and LGBTQ+ community, relationship drama and sex flexes. It truly is the current peak of entertainment.

The cool thing about each sixty second snack of a video is that there is music (or in tiktok slang, a “Sound”) attached to the entertainment provided. Underground artists in diverse niches were suddenly sprung into the mainstream, as well as older cult classics that were considered by unaware teens as “Diamonds in the rough.” Artists would create lyrics in their music to cater to dance moves in tiktok videos, because the musician makes a gross amount of money from getting discovered on tiktok.

Take the “Cha-Cha Slide” influenced “Toosie Slide” by hip-hop’s poster boy Drake for example. The lyrics for the hook are blatant instructions on how to do a trendy dance.

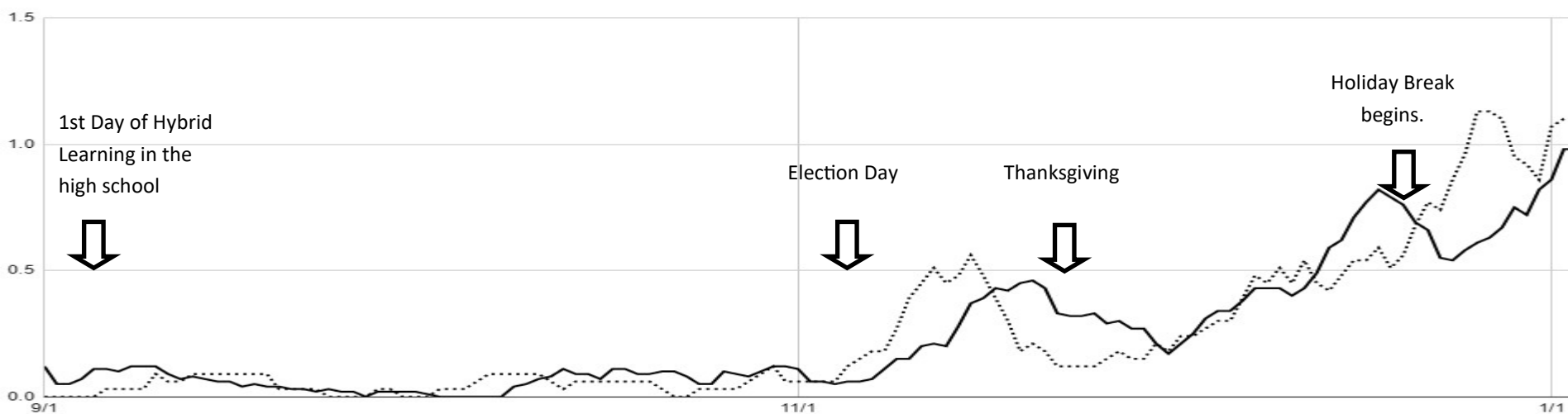
There have been many complaints about the direction of popular music and the industry, and how it’s sacrificing deep and enriched instrumentation and literary lyricism for washed out one common denominator subject topics and commercial grade beats. This isn’t true, though. The digital age for music is bittersweet, but overall a positive change. There has always been bad music; it’s not like all of a sudden the early 2010s hit and all music just became worthless. You just have to do a good job at sifting and setting the good and the bad apart. There are so many outlets where music plays, from transportation, restaurants, television, and family members. Tiktok has given young artists of all backgrounds a sprawling canvas to leave their mark on. Lofi Bedroom Pop songs like death bed (that sentence opener sounds like a brochure to quarantine) feature mellow beats, melodramatic bars and dreamy background vocals that numb the brain with current day nostalgia. Industry giant and hopeless romantic teen Olivia Rodrigo debuted with her surreal ballad “Driver’s License,” a track that tugged at teens heart strings, forcing them to sing their soul out with their friends during a late night car ride. Without Tiktok, Rodrigo wouldn’t have a monumental count of 50 million monthly listeners (13th in the world) and a promising career ahead of her, especially with her already well received debut studio album “SOUR.”

In its own unique way, TikTok represents “The American Dream”. More so than any other social media app, the chance for the everyday person with a special quality is able to show it off to hundreds of millions of people, even from the comfort of their pigsty of a bedroom. Although that statement can be made about other social media platforms, we have never before seen this magnitude of long lasting influence. There is no reason to tune to 106.1BLI anymore. Just go to your “for you” page: the endless pool of pre-quels for the greatest hits of the 2020’s.



7 Day Average Daily Increase in Covid Cases per 1000 people.

Sayville West Sayville



Sayville population in 2019: 15, 910

West Sayville population in 2019: 5,010

Salutatorian

Tyler Schaefer



When Tyler Schaefer was in 9th grade he saw his class rank: 9. He knew that with some hard work and dedication, he could get closer to the top of his class. During junior year, just before the school stopped reporting class rank that number had improved to 4. He knew he was close, but when Mr. Hoffer made the official announcement, he was surprised. His final class average settled him as second in his class.

When asked the key to his success, Tyler said that early on he learned to accept some of the sacrifices he would need to make, most notably: sleep. He learned that he did not like the feeling he got when he earned a grade he didn't like, and did what he needed to do to avoid that feeling.

Tyler credits his classmates with really pushing him to excel, notably the community of students that spent two years together in 9th and 10th grade AP World History. One other class he identified as a highlight of his high school career was DDP, with Mr. Vogel.

To many in Sayville, Tyler is as well known for his running as he is for his academic achievement. As a member of the Cross-County, Winter and Spring Track teams, Tyler is a frequent sight running around Sayville. His next running goal is to break 4:30 in the mile, so that he can join his college team. When Tyler is in top shape, he averages between 55 and 60 miles of running per week.

In addition to studying and running, Tyler also works as a bus boy, runner and food expediter at Dublin Deck, in Patchogue.

Tyler saw quarantine as a huge opportunity for a reset. He went from sleeping 4 hours per night, to 10-12 hours. The change in his mood and ability to make a keep a plan was immediate.

When asked about the people who supported him the most along his path to the speaker's podium at Commencement, Tyler credits his parents and his 4th grade teacher, Ms. Moran.

The Current asked a few of Tyler's classmates how they felt about his being named Salutatorian. "He absolutely deserves it," they said. "Nobody works harder than Tyler Schaefer."

In the fall, Tyler will be headed for Boston, to study Computer Science at Northeastern University.



Valedictorian

Christina Guiffre

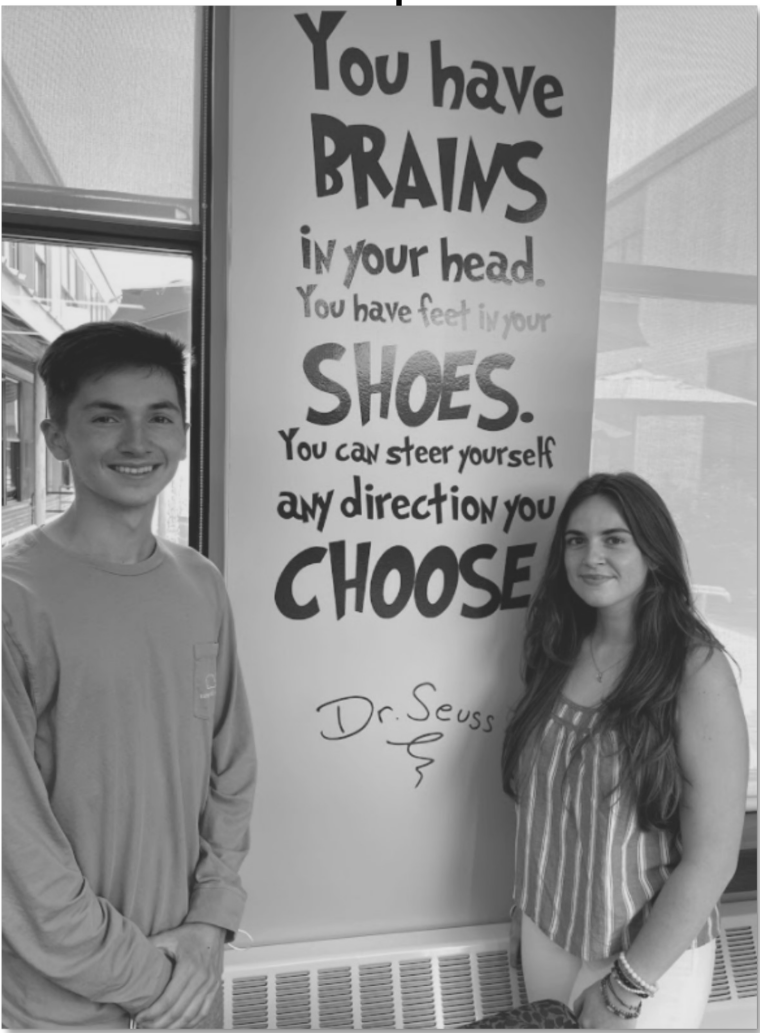
Christina Guiffre remembers clearly the first time she head the word "valedictorian." She was in 8th grade, in Mrs. Lutz's biology class. While she doesn't remember the context, Christina remembers Mrs. Lutz saying, "Christina, you are going to be the valedictorian." She said at that time she didn't even know what the word meant. She developed an understanding of the definition over the past 4 years, but never heard it associated with her name until the announcement came in early February.

Christina says the key to her academic success has beenin her ability to find a balance between working and relaxing, and recognizing that when she is stressed out she needs to take a break, but that taking a break often causes her stress. Christina says that her favorite period of the day is orchestra, and that despite that fact that she considers herself more of a math and science person, she has really come to love her high school English classes.

Quarantine time, Guiffre says, afforded her the opportunity to reflect and develop some self discipline. She is, however concerned about the mental health impacts of the pandemic on her classmates and herself.

In her free time, Christina enjoys drawing and crocheting, and she hopes to return to work at Claws Seafood market this summer. When asked about her biggest influences, three people immediately came to Christina's mind: her Dad, Mrs. Batterberry and Mrs. Sohl. "Mrs. Batterberry taught me to love learning, and Mrs. Sohl helped me to be a better person."

In the fall, Christina will be attending SUNY Stony Brook to study nursing. Her ultimate goal is to become a Nurse Anesthetist. When looking at colleges, Christina said that her top criteria were that it be close to home and have an excellent reputation for the health sciences.



Both Tyler Schaefer (left) and Christina Guiffre (right) noted that a critical factor in their choice of college was that they not graduate with a pile of debt. You can come hear both speak at Commencement.

Student Body President Matt Zender



Matt Zender's journey through high school has been anything but normal. To the pandemic and quarantine we all experienced, add a cancer diagnosis in June of 2019 that sidelined him for most of the 12-20 school year. Despite the challenges, Matt's optimism and "glass-half-full" attitude won him the position of Student Government President for the 2020-21 school year.

Matt began this year with the goal of working within the restrictions and guidelines to complete as many of the traditional student government roles as possible. From fundraising for some of our favorite charities, like the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, to providing a true holiday treat for our Every Child's Dream project. This year, rather than the traditional ECD party, over 300 special holiday boxes filled with presents and holiday cheer were delivered to children in local shelters and social ser-

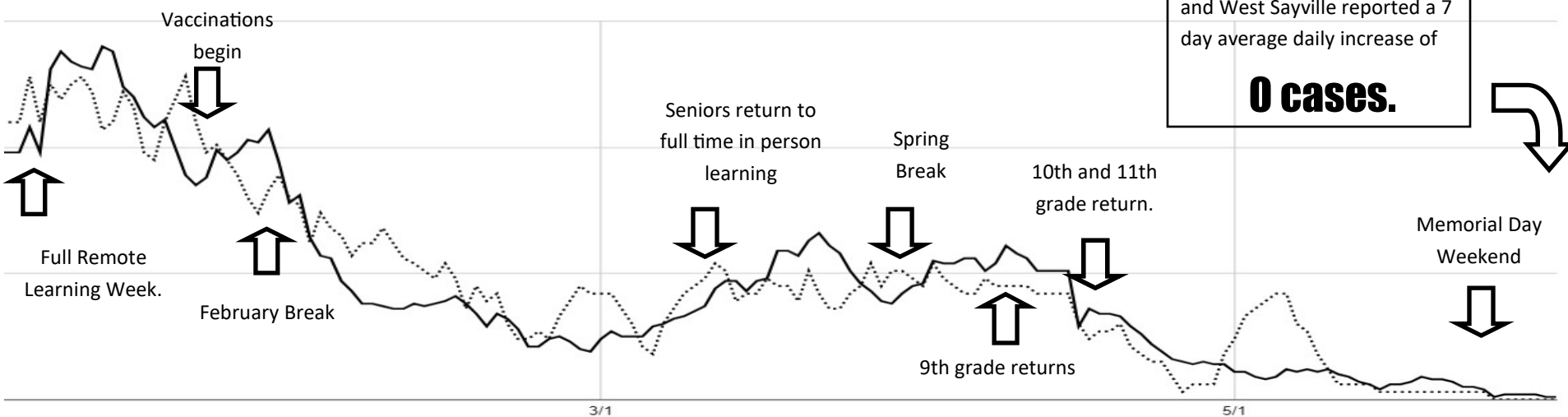
vice agencies. Zender reports that he received excellent feedback from the event.

Zender said that this year he really learned the importance of being able to react to rapidly changing conditions and situations. "At the beginning of the year, people thought they were lucky if they got quarantined. That changed pretty fast."

Zender is proud of everything that Student Government has been able to achieve during this challenging year. He's proud that we were able to get back to school, enjoy some school sports and regain a bit of normalcy.

Matt will be continuing his education at SUNY Stony Brook where he will study nursing, alongside many of the very nurses who took care of him during his recovery. He is grateful for the support of the teachers, the administrators the school board and the school staff who have been so supportive of his journey.

The Current began keeping track of Covid cases, based on Newsday reporting, in September, and comparing them to major school and community events. The local Sayville and West Sayville case number closely matched those of Suffolk County, which largely mirrored those of New York State.



Class of 2021 Survey Results

Our Favorite Books:



Our favorite math class...

13%: Pre-Calculus

33% Algebra II and Trig

36% Geometry

To do list:

- ⇒ Break 4:30 in the mile
- ⇒ go skydiving
- ⇒ Camp with my friends
- ⇒ Drive to Montauk
- ⇒ Get a summer job
- ⇒ Catch a tuna on a fly rod
- ⇒ Get my license
- ⇒ To read a book for enjoyment
- ⇒ Get a 5 on my AP Art Portfolio
- ⇒ Learn some basic programming
- ⇒ Pet a panda bear.

Favorite TV shows of the past 4 years.



75.4% OF THE CLASS OF 2021 CONTINUED LANGUAGE STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOL. 50% CONTINUED THROUGH SENIOR YEAR.

76% STUDIED SPANISH

22% STUDIED FRENCH

2% STUDIED BOTH.

76.9% of respondents reported working during high school. The average number of hours worked per week is 12.8.

Unprecedented times.

You're muted!

Social Distancing

Pull up your mask

Cohort

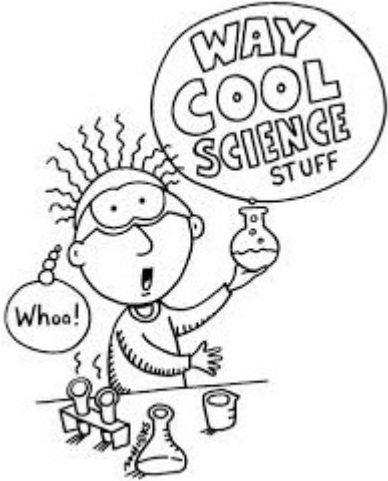
Phrases from the past year we NEVER want to hear AGAIN.

Quarantine

Flatten the curve.

54.5% of respondents played at least one varsity sport while in high school.

5 Most Memorable Science Facts



- Mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell.
- We know more about space than we do about the ocean.
- The NY state fossil is Eurypteris Remipes.
- You can't get a cold from being cold.
- Over 400 gallons of water are required to produce a pound of beef.

And the odds of our being alive are so low that it's a miracle every time we take a breath.

- THE ZIMMERMAN TELEGRAM WAS DE-CIPHERED IN WEST SAYVILLE.
- FROM THE DAY WE WERE BORN TO THE PRESENT DAY, WE HAVE NEVER HAD A DAY OF PEACE IN AMERICA.
- HISTORY IS WRITTEN BY THE VICTOR.
- THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS A GENIUS!
- THE PERIOD OF ENLIGHTENMENT CAN BE LEGITIMATELY CREDITED TO THE GLOBALIZATION OF COFFEE AND THE CREATION OF COFFEE HOUSES.

What we'll remember from Social Studies ...



READY TO BE THE CLASS OF 2021

Of the Survey respondents:

77% will be going away to college.

18% will stay home and commute to college.

3% will be going into a career or technical program.

2% are entering the workforce.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF COLLEGE APPLICATIONS SENT OUT BY SENIORS

6.4

85.5% OF SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED BY THEIR 1ST CHOICE COLLEGE

What seniors think was the most important piece of their application.

1. Transcript
2. Application Essay
3. Extra-Curriculars
4. SAT/ACT
5. Teacher Recommendations

What factors were most important to the Class of '21 when looking at a college?

1. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND MAJORS
2. STUDENT LIFE
3. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
4. LOCATION

College Essays that Worked

Transracial adoption sounded interesting enough when I chose it as a topic for an English research project last year. Little did I know that I would learn more about myself over one month than I have learned over the past 17 years. I have regularly found myself standing in front of the bathroom mirror. Staring at the reflection, I ask myself - “Who am I and why do I look like this?”

I was adopted from China when I was 18 months old by a Chinese mother and an Irish father which makes me a transracial adoptee. After learning about transracial adoption for my school research assignment, I discovered how fortunate I am because one of my parents and I share the same race. Countless adoptees have families of a different race than them, where they don’t share the same ethnic culture. I can’t imagine a life without my mother asking about my day, in Mandarin, while she’s cooking me delicious Chinese food for dinner.

As I got deeper into my project, I realized that I could relate to this. I learned more about what it means to be an adoptee of one culture living in a different one. My research confirmed my questions about my identity, and I suddenly stopped feeling like I was alone.

I paused for a moment. I thought to myself, “how do transracial adoptees lack a self-identity? Haven’t they seen themselves in the mirror?”

My research confirmed my questions about my identity, and I suddenly stopped feeling like I was alone.

I instantly recall the questions that I have asked myself over and over - “Why is my nose flat?” “Why are my eyes small?” “Why is my hair so dark that it looks black?”

“Why do I look like this and why haven’t I changed to look more like my family?” - After thinking about these questions from a research perspective, I realized that these thoughts have always lingered in my head, but I

have never even told my parents or anyone about them. Well, until now.

These questions belong to me and have been replayed in my head numerous times, but I never understood their importance before. After learning about other adoptees who question their appearance in their community, I finally began to understand why I have consciously but quietly done the same. Given that transracial adoptees tend to live in communities that are far different than their native community, it makes sense to feel out of place. This means that there’s a reason as to why I used to question myself. But with my new understanding of myself and those around me, I now know that I am truly unique.

The features that I used to question constantly are features that I can not change. I can’t change the way my eyes were made; I can’t change the way my hair looks. I can’t change the fact that my nose is flat, nor can I change the fact that I am me, an ethnically Chinese person. As I was reading about what transracial adoptees had to say about their identity, I was comforted that I have shared these same feelings for a long time.

Who would have thought that in an 11th grade English project, I would have learned about myself and my place in my community. Other people have the same feelings that I have, and that’s okay. With this knowledge, I am now able to accept my differences compared to others in my adoptive community.

Ever since I realized that my uniqueness is okay, I have shaped the way that I view myself in the world. From walking timidly in the hallway to go unnoticed, to walking tall and confidently in school and in public, my self-image has dramatically increased. Who would have thought that an English project would change the way that I viewed myself in this world?

Mary Madigan, Hofstra University

As a so-called distractible and over-emotional preschooler, enamored with the tale of Hansel and Gretel, I told my teacher I’d put her into an oven. It was no more than part of a story; I didn’t understand how my attempt at playing pretend was upsetting. Later, Valentine’s Day was celebrated in a simple way, by bringing in an object that was in a color related to the holiday for show and tell. Taking a different route from red, I walked into that classroom with a pink Vtech “Magic Wand Laptop.” A classmate told me I was doing the task wrong, and no one really seemed to say otherwise. Stressed and overwhelmed from being shut down for thinking outside of the box, I was sent home that day. Years later, I was described as having an over-active imagination for daring still to enjoy playing pretend at the age of eight. Despite it making little sense to me, I still understood.

It wasn’t impossible for me to eventually realize what had happened. It was merely a matter of perspective, and I needed to be more familiar with theirs. I could understand the ways they were feeling, I was more than capable of that, but I wasn’t so sure about the logical parts, at least not back then. I know now it was never out of malice, only out of concern for how some traits were being displayed. A few negative examples will never override the positive ones, as that apparent distractibility was the bad end of creativity, the same as the over-emotional mannerisms are to empathy. But the negative responses to these certainly made expressing them tough. I suppressed them - or at least, I thought I did - for some time, but eventually, I couldn’t, even if I had not realized. Whether it was an evening of building on Minecraft with friends and making stories for our characters that led into a long night of talking with one of those same friends until the wee hours of the morning to try and help with a problem, or when I didn’t have the option to purchase something for someone, I could still make them something instead. Those traits weren’t going to budge. I’ve realized that now one or both are involved at least a few times daily, and that’s okay. I knowingly express my empathetic and creative sides regularly, and it’s working well.

Now, helping a friend with their problems doesn’t cause my emotions to go into overdrive. Empathy brings a deeper understanding, feeling what the other feels, and I’ve learned methods to keep composed while helping. I’ve learned to step back and reassess the situation, and I know that when nothing else has worked, it’s okay to take a break as a last resort. I’ve gone from hardly being able to scribble out something recognizable to tangible images, branching out into other mediums, and improving my writing skills. Feeling more confident about your traits can really help them flourish, and while I’m not perfect, I’m on the right path. Creativity and empathy aren’t just some words; they’re a part of me, ingrained into my personality, and they aren’t going away. We’re simply on better terms.

Patricia Madden, SUNY Stony Brook

I TOLD MY TEACHER I’D PUT HER INTO AN OVEN.

At the Controls

3000 feet up, in a 40-year-old plane, with a 12-year-old at the controls. Somehow, that 12-year-old happened to be me. Just four years before was the first flight on a plane I can remember well. My family was taking a trip to Florida, and I had the chance to peek into the cockpit of the 737 we were flying in. The buttons and lights alongside the breathtaking views at every angle captivated my 8-year-old brain. It wasn’t long after I got home from this trip that I decided to save up and buy my first flight simulator; it was simple at best, but it was exactly what I needed to pursue my curiosity.

Over the next few years, I wanted to learn more. I continued to save my money and was able to move up, from simulator to simulator, each becoming more realistic and advanced. I learned everything I possibly could about my new favorite thing; I was hooked.

For my 12th birthday, somehow my parents agreed to give me the opportunity to fly a real plane - an introductory lesson at a local flight school. Despite having to sit on two phone books just to see over the dashboard of the Cessna, my instructor was surprisingly confident in my ability. The lesson was only about an hour long, but he let me have the controls for the majority of the flight. Even on some of the most technical parts of the flight, the instructor just called out commands, but I was the one with my hands on the controls.

The realization that I was controlling this tin-can of a plane by myself was one of the most exciting, yet terrifying, experiences. Looking down at my neighborhood, circling the Fire Island Lighthouse, and cruising down the shores of Long Island quite literally gave me a new perspective on everything I knew. I realized that, in a way, I created this experience for myself; I would never have had this experience if I didn’t try learning so much about flying on my own.

I was shocked when I heard that the instructor was going to let me land the plane. He frequently talked to air traffic control and gave me specific instructions; I kept my hands on the controls the whole way down, and I managed to land the plane with no problem.

What I realized that day still resonates with me. Since then, I’ve explored many more interests. My love of technology led me to learn how to build computers by watching countless instructional videos and collaborating with experts; now I help others build theirs. For ten years I have learned how to sail and grew into a competitive racer. I worked my way up to become a U.S. Sailing Level One Certified Instructor. For the past two years, I have taught in-classroom and on-water lessons for both children and adults. I am eager to earn the position of head instructor at the sailing school in the future.

The realization that I was controlling this tin-can of a plane by myself was one of the most exciting, yet terrifying, experiences.

I have explored surfing, snowboarding, robotics, CAD design, and one of my newer passions - photography. Now, I am eager to explore new experiences in college; I am even curious about the possibility of combining my love of physics with

my love of filmmaking.

While aviation is not necessarily the career I am looking to pursue, it will always be an interest of mine. It is clear that I discovered something about myself that day: when I am interested in something, I like to jump headfirst and learn all I can. There are so many interesting and unique experiences out there, and I am excited to continue exploring.

Connor McGrath, Hunter College

Why Piracy is the Only Valid Backup Plan for College



I don’t think I’d be alone when I say that everyone is in need of a good adventure. This could mean the adventure of going through life, like going to college, finding a wife, settling down, and living a happy life, or even just a fun day like getting lost in the woods while skiing and finding your way back. From a nostalgic point of view, these are great adventures. The types of things that you will tell your children about years from now, and watch as their eyes roll back into their heads and they fall into a deep slumber, failing to stay awake throughout the lame tale you just dragged on for almost 15 minutes. Look, as unfortunate as it is, our lives just

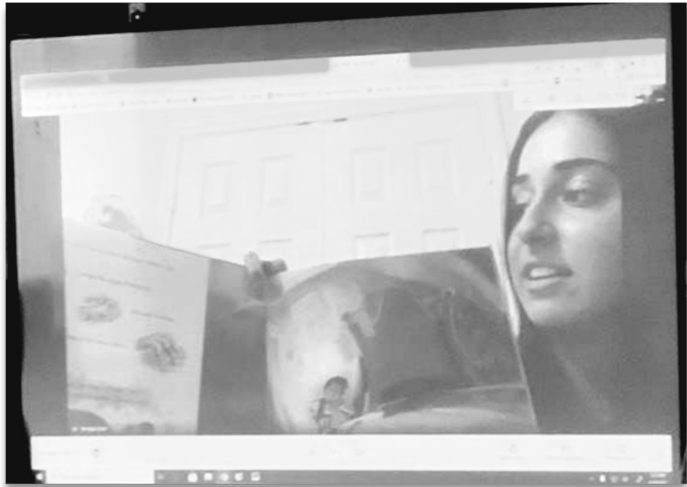
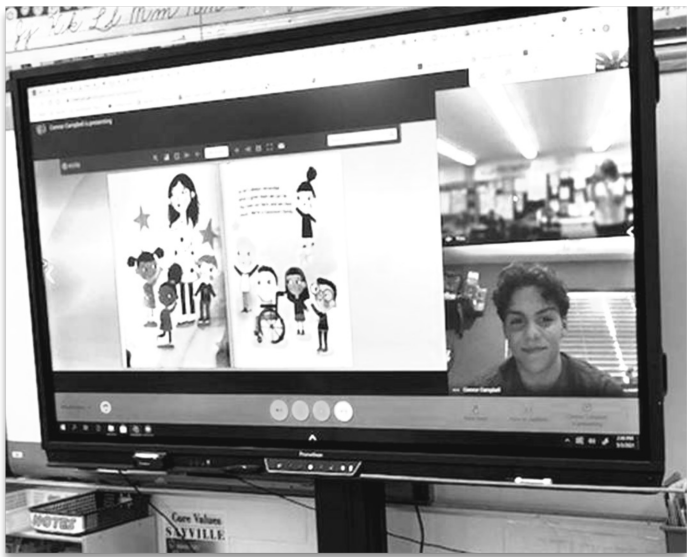
don’t have the same energy behind them as they did in past times. We’re missing the training, the exploring, the battles and the death-defying feats that made the world not safe, but cool. Imagine how captivated your child would be if instead of recounting to them the story of that one time you got pickpocketed while walking home from carvel, you told them the story of the days you spent touring the country in a black 1968 Ford Mustang with your group of four friends. The days you spent dodging the cops and gaining infamy across the entire world via witness of the epic face-offs you had, while clashing swords with your arch nemesis and long lost brother, as you risked life and limb to put a halt to his evil schemes and save America from his tyranny.

Now, if you had to choose one of these adventures, which one would you rather take part in? The sword fighting, the roaming, the epic battles, and the convoluted schemes, or a two day ski-trip? The choice may seem hard, but I know for sure which one I would choose, and I have a feeling that plenty of America’s citizens would agree with me. Now, you’re probably thinking: “Well, that’s great and all, but I don’t know how to swordfight, I don’t know how to evade the cops, I don’t own a 1968 Ford Mustang, and my brother isn’t a supervillain. And besides! Even if he was, we’d never cross swords, he’d probably just shoot me once and it would be over”, and of course, you’d be absolutely right! The disappointing truth of modern society is that we are missing any sort of motivation to go on a good adventure in the first place! You don’t have anybody you need to avenge, the biggest threat to humanity is climate change, and you’d probably make more money by just resigning yourself to an office chair for the rest of your life. However, that’s boring. When you get down to it, for the adventurous kind like me, unless you come up with something incredible and get rich, your only two options in life are to find a job and make a decent living, or rot away in your parent’s basement waiting for an adventure that’s never going to come. The world is missing something critical, it’s missing something that will provide that motivation, it’s missing something that hasn’t been done since the days of old. The world... is missing piracy.

“Woah woah woah, where in the world did you get piracy from? One second you’re talking about great adventures and the next, piracy? What are you trying to do, hijack freighters and smuggle illegal drugs? The world already has that! It doesn’t need any more!” Cool your jets for a moment here, I’m not talking about the type of pirates that pull up on freighters off the coast of somalia. God no. I’m talking pirates of the Caribbean, blackbeard-style take-no-prisoners kinds of pirates. The kind that raid the coast and have epic naval battles on the open seas. I want the kind of pirates that hoist the Jolly Roger at the top of their mast and strike fear in all of those that pass by. But what does the reintroduction of pirates have to do with anything at all? I’ll tell you: it creates the perfect setting for the adventure of a lifetime. By leaving the land safe for those who desire to lead normal lives, and making the seas a world of danger for those who are more adventurous, people will have the perfect choice for what they want to do in life. Put simply, every good adventure needs a villain, and the introduction of widespread piracy fills that role. The last question is: who would actually want to become a pirate? I’ll tell you who: me! I’m willing to take the bullet here, and become someone’s antagonist to give them the adventure of a lifetime. I’m sure plenty of others would too. The bad guys still have their fair share of riches, after all. So why not?

Aidan Montalbine, Drew University





Senior Class Leaders as Readers Program

Seniors who graduated from Sunrise Drive Elementary School in 2014 had the opportunity to “visit” with their teachers and current Sunrise Drive students as part of the Leaders as Readers program organized by Sunrise Drive teacher Mrs. Dieterle, who will be retiring in June. Seniors worked with teachers to choose an age-appropriate book and then spend time with each class on a Google Meet..

Senior, Connor Campbell, who read *Our Class is a Family* to Ms. Sukoff’s 3rd grade class said, “ the best thing about it was to show kids that it’s OK to be yourself and break the mold, and that reading can be used as a way to express yourself, no matter what’s viewed as cool.” Corrine Entenberg spent some time with her 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Baron, and her class. She read one of the Elephant and Piggy books and said she “really enjoyed going back to the class. It felt very nostalgic. I hope the kids felt that reading and learning is an enjoyable experience and that the journey through school goes by quickly and to enjoy it.” Principal Dr. Foy, Mrs. Dieterle and the Sunrise Drive staff are very grateful to the seniors who volunteered their time:

Kathryn Brady	Courtney Giattino	
Kevin Bunk	Andrew Gressler	
Connor Campbell	Katie Menze	Diana Raden
Emma Clark	Brendan Meserve	Michaela Re
Tom Crowe	Emilia Pasquale	Dominic Russo
Victoria Earvolino	Nate Perez	Samantha Young
Corrine Entenberg	Alex Petruzelli	Morgan Zane



Drowsy Chaperone, Anything But: A Review of Dylan Schneider’s Description of *The Drowsy Chaperone*

By Will Kretz

In a year with things so drastically different, the school musical was bound to break tradition too. This year’s production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* was put on live for a limited audience and also recorded for later broadcast. Unfortunately, I was not invited to a live showing (it’s a very hot ticket) nor is the recorded version available to the public at time of writing. Putting on *The Drowsy Chaperone* amidst all the COVID restrictions was a monument to perseverance that deserved to be reviewed, and I wouldn’t let not seeing it stop me. To get the most accurate review possible without being able to actually see the show, I asked cast member Dylan Schneider to describe it to me from memory (with the occasional Wikipedia reference). I wrote this review as if I were actually there, but I cannot make it more clear that I have never seen this show. There will be spoilers, but not enough that you shouldn’t see the show. Enjoy.

On opening night I sat in my seat with bated breath as the lights went down. God I missed the theater. The curtains rose on an apartment decorated with showbiz memorabilia and it felt like I was actually there. This was not the first time the stage crew’s masterful set design would make me ask myself, “Where does reality end and the show begin?”

In this apartment there was a man in a chair. His name? Man in Chair. And let me tell you, the only thing this guy liked more than sitting was musicals. On a record player, he put on a cast recording of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. I was afraid for a brief moment that the whole show would just be watching someone listen to the cast recording of the musical we were supposed to see (I can only assume to avoid buying the rights), but luckily actors rushed onto the stage. Was this a show within a show? Musical-ception? The whole musical was imagined by the Man in Chair, based on what he heard on the cast recording. I was expecting an easy night at the theater, not a change in worldview!

Through the opening number we’re introduced to the plot. Robert and Janet are getting married, but Janet, a performer, is torn between life on the stage and domestic bliss. The eponymous Drowsy Chaperone, a heavy drinking chauffeur, is also introduced. I have very few qualms with the show, but is there anything more problematic than a drowsy chaperone? Shouldn’t a driver have their wits about them at all times? I would never say Sayville Schools promoted drunk driving but a disclaimer would’ve been nice.

It would be impossible for me to write about every song, but “Cold Feet” in particular was a standout. The tap number, despite its frigid subject matter, nearly burned the stage down. For a song about marital uncertainty, I was certain that I was in love. I’ve always been fascinated by tap dancing, but I don’t venture to understand it. To understand tap dance is to know its secrets, secrets no mortal man can handle. So all I did was sit agape, in awe of those magical chausures as they tapped my troubles away.

At the climax of the show an airplane appeared to carry the cast to a honeymoon in Brazil. When this life-sized aircraft was dragged out on stage I nearly screamed. A plane had crashed onto the stage! But then I realized this was the second time the masterful set work of the stage crew had fooled me. This was not a real airplane, but rather part of the play. I breathed a sigh of relief and let the show sweep me back off of my feet.

Throughout *Drowsy*, you could see the immense amount of work put into the show. Fantastic choreography, set design, costumes, acting, all in spite of COVID restrictions. I normally have reservations about praising theater kids (that’s where they get their power from), but god dammit those kids deserve it. And the stage crew. And the pit. And even me, I did a great job on this article. As I said, this musical was a monument to perseverance, and if nothing else showed that not even a deadly airborne virus could keep theater kids out of the theater.

At the end of the show it’s revealed that the Man in Chair has never actually seen *The Drowsy Chaperone* live, having only listened to the cast recording. As I stood up teary-eyed for the eight minute standing ovation I was confused. How could anyone love a play they’ve never seen? But when the auditorium disappeared around me and I was no longer rapt by Dylan Schneider’s synopsis, I realized I was living proof of this possibility. I have never actually seen *The Drowsy Chaperone*, nor heard its music, but it is still my favorite musical of all time, based solely on Dylan’s description. This is the power of theater, a mere synopsis brought me to tears, so imagine what the real thing can do.



The Current is a publication of Sayville High School.

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Faculty Adviser: Mr. Shaw

The Current welcomes letters to the editor and article submissions.

HELP WANTED !

Join ***The Current***

Meet us Wednesdays,

10th period in the Little Theatre

Advice and Wisdom From Some Familiar Faces!



To say that you are graduating under strange circumstances is an understatement, but for many of you who came out of my fourth grade class, strange seems like the appropriate word now and it did back then.

I'm sure by now you have realized that the only math you need in this world is what I taught you in 4th grade, multiplication facts and adding and subtracting money. You can stop worrying that someone on the street will ask you what a parabola is, or what f(x) is, because no one cares! Just keep those facts straight and always add your money correctly. Important life lessons. Some other life lessons for you as you leave high school and begin a new chapter in your life. Seriously, brush your teeth twice a day. It will matter later on. Also take care of your skin, because Botox is expensive. Trust me I know. And watch the news every once in a while, because there is a whole world happening out there, and it isn't always on Tik Tock or Buzzfeed. Also, some of you are expecting your diploma but I checked and you still owe me a book report so when I get it, you can have your degree!

Finally, I do wish you all the best as you leave for new adventures. And if you find yourself in need of some advice, or just for conversation, come home. I'll be here waiting.

Love and Happiness to you all, *Mrs. Moran*

Confessions from a Kindergarten Teacher

Dear Lovebugs,

Good morning. Today is one of the last days of your senior year of high school and I need to come clean with some things that I have been keeping secret for the past 12 years.

One. I never had Santa's number. I never talked to him directly and although it may have seemed like I called him right then and there, it was just the dial tone on the other end of the phone. Santa doesn't give his number out, duh.

Two. If I sprayed you with "invisible spray" before we left the classroom to walk in the hallway, you were never really invisible. I just made a pact with the other teachers in the school to pretend like you were really invisible. It worked didn't it? Feel free to use it on your own children when needed. The formula for the spray is to mix 1 part, "shhh" with 2 parts, "you better be quiet or else".

Three. Favorites, every teacher has them, and every teacher says that they don't ever have favorites. Let me be clear, you are all are our

favorite, but there are just some kids who are our real favorites. For me, it was Patrick S., because, one, he made me a better teacher, and two, because he gave me some of his Scooby snacks. I would pretend I was a dog and woof, and he'd give me one. Everyday... for 10 months. I love those snacks and whenever I see them I think if you Patrick. Also, thank you Mrs. S. for supplying Patrick with these snacks.

The Greatest Confession. When I, Mrs. Enea, say that I will never forget you, it's because I will **never** forget you. Ten, twenty, thirty years from now when you are reading this newspaper and thinking of me, I guarantee that if given the chance to see you, I will remember you, because here's the greatest secret of all, you are **my** greatest accomplishments. Now that you know the secrets, you can graduate. Congrats.



All my love and blue skies,

Mrs. Enea

Dear 2021 Seniors,

You are a unique class to me because I may have had you as a KINDERGARTEN student, AND/OR a THIRD GRADE student at Cherry Avenue School!

What may have been unique for you in either grade was that I was the goofy teacher who had a love for BEARS! How could anyone NOT love bears? I guess it was my hope that if you knew something about me, you would feel comfortable in my class to be yourselves and grow both academically and as a person. And that you did! But what you may not know, is you helped me grow as well. You helped me realize that it is okay to have high expectations, as long as we could strike a balance between learning, having fun, and making memories together. Throughout the year, at the end of the week, I would say, "Have a BEAR-Y good weekend. So, I leave you with one final BEAR-Y SPECIAL FAREWELL and some words of ADVICE:

- B- Be a person who stands up for what you believe in.
- E- Enjoy people you love and who love you.
- A- Always THINK before you do.
- R- Realize that you make a difference when you work together with others.

Congratulations!
XOXO
Mrs. Donnelly



You made it through a pandemic and you came out on top! I'm so proud of you! Never forget the "Gift of Nothing" is the most important gift you can give someone! Go make a difference, seniors! The world is counting on you!

Love, *Ms. Philp*



Some Loving Advice from the 1st Grade Castle

- Always have fun in life... like our green eggs and ham!
- Love yourself and your loved ones... like we cared for our chicks!
- Hold your head up high like a first grade King or Queen and remember you are one smart cookie.
- You will always shine ... just like hwn you were on stage for our poetry reading.
- Some things change, some things stay the same and YOU will always be special to me!

Love, **Mrs. Baron**



To my 5th buds who are soon to be 2021 graduates!

I have such fond memories of when you were all together creating a unique, caring, and hilarious class years back. There were re-enactments, laughing 'til it hurts-moments, lightsabers, guitars, heads-7-up-stinky-ninja (heads-up-7-up w/ out shoes...man oh man it could get stinky in there...Nick (Gibbons), open the windows!, many life and character lessons for both myself and our crew, plan-do-review, pride in accomplishments and failures, perseverance, many m&m's, The Clubhouse (*see photo), movie time during indoor recesses, bonding with class novels (*Shiloh*, *Sign of the Beaver*, *The BFG*-whizzpoppers baby!, *The Island of the Blue Dolphin*, *Number the Stars* (so many tears, so much anger), pleasant 'Good Morning, Mr. Dragotta' and 'Have a Great Night', each, and every, day (Antosh Chorowski never failed to miss a day to do this)...a good way to start/end any day, OUR millions of mistakes that WE learned from, building relief-maps from cake and candy on Halloween then demolishing them followed by stomach-aches...mission accomplished, scary story creation...The Box (which had Sarah Hauk screaming for dear life), our 2014 New Year's Party, time capsules not to be opened 'til June 2021...get ready for that, it's coming up!, 'Ya Look Good-Ya Feel Good-Ya Play Good', the 5th grade talent show, fishing trip, yearbook, graduation. I can't list it all., I wish I could, and although it all went by in a flash the memories still remain, and hopefully what I mentioned will activate some of the other memories I failed to mention, or kick up some others that happened within and outside our classroom between classmates and staff that belong solely to you. Cherish them, share them, write them down before they fade away, and move forward as the young adults you've become, working towards THE GREATER GOOD...continuously improving the world from one day to the next, investing who YOU ARE and what you can do for coming generations, paying it forward. It's not hard to believe that the students I worked with seven years ago who were wielding lightsabers on desks pretending to be Moctezuma II (Connor McGrath) and his Aztec warriors (Marcus Minutelo/Joe Golio, along with his Apple Product obsessions) battling Spanish Conquistadors ending in sadness and strife, to classmates coming in psyched that their Elf On a Shelf arrived or that their Elf threw all of the toothbrushes in the toilet along with Dad's razor, will be entering into 'the real world'...It needs people like you: kind, imaginative, upbeat, and eager. The future and the world is looking brighter already knowing you're heading into it as adults.

Best, **MR. DRAGOTTA**

Sayville Sports

by Kevin Bunk

From the start of this school year, whether or not sports would be played was a big question. Up until January 23rd the only news regarding sports was negative. However, on that uplifting day a plan was laid out for Long Island High School sports to begin. A plan with three condensed seasons was scheduled, starting with the Winter season, followed by the Fall season, and ending with the Spring sports season. Here at Sayville the teams did not disappoint. From undefeated seasons, to deep playoff runs, many players earning prestigious honors for their play, and multiple undefeated starts for Spring sports teams, Sayville teams across all sports have been titans among their respective leagues. The following list is a compilation of Newsday Honors for Sayville athletes.

Spring Sports

- Baseball:** Jack Quinlan, JR.
- Softball:** Sarah Blaskiewicz, SO.
Mallory Kinahan, SR.
- Girls Golf:** Samantha Young, SR.
- Girls Lax:** Brooke Hoss, SR.
Erin Schaefer, SR.
Meghan McLaughlin, SR.
Jordan Messina, JR.

Boys Tennis: Currently undefeated to start the season.

Boys Lax: Finished their season at 5-7.

Boys Track: Undefeated 5-0 season. League champions.

Girls Track: Undefeated to start the season.

Fall Sports

Football: Undefeated, Suffolk Champions, Rutgers Trophy.
Jack Cheshire, SR. - Hansen Award, Boomer Award.
Max Llewellyn, SR. - Burnett, Zellner Awards.
1st Team All Long Island: Nathan Casaburi, CJ Messina, Ty Kolar, Jack Cheshire, Max Llewellyn.
Coach of the Year- Reade Sands

Girls Swimming: Kathryn Brady, SR.

Girls Soccer: Alexis Hellman, SR.
Devin Lillis, JR.

Boys Soccer: Eric Famularo, SR.

Girls Tennis: League champions.
ALL STATE PLAYERS: Sasha Gagnon, Jenna Guerra.
Entire Starting Lineup received All County.

Boys Volleyball: 2-12

Cheerleading: Mentioned in Newsday as one of the top teams on Long Island.

Boys Golf: ALL COUNTY, William Neuschwender.

Girls Volleyball: Made it to the county semi final

Field Hockey: All State: Reggie Hillery. Nancy Cole Award Recipient.
All counties: Miranda Britton JR, Adreanna Martin SR.
Made the playoffs for the first time in 6 years. Went 9-5

Girls Cross country: County Champs

Boys Cross Country: County champs

Winter Sports

Boys Basketball: Max Llewellyn, SR.

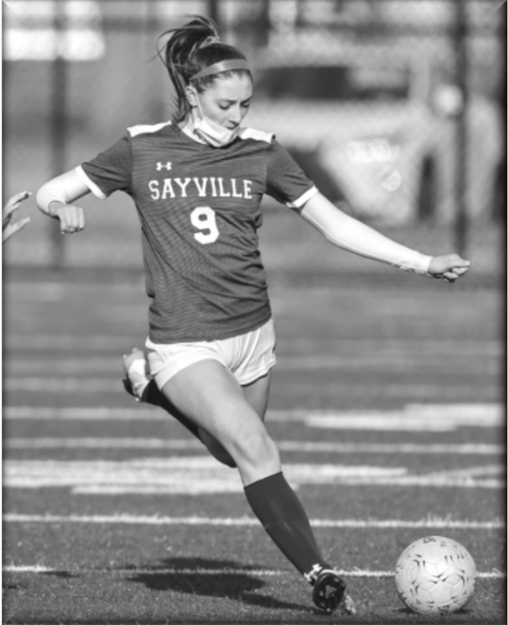
Boys Fencing: Finished second in the county.

Girls Fencing: Finished 4th in the county

Wrestling: All County: Ryan LaMar, SR. Mack Murtha, JR. Yirdaw Rivera, JR. Aiden White, SR. Luca DeStefano, SR. Kenny Lopresti, SO.

Girls Basketball: Went to the semifinal.

Boys Swimming: Had a very strong season posting a winning record.



Varsity Athletes in action. Top: Colin Caraher, 2nd row: Dominique Rinaldi, Dean Gen- nosa, 3rd Row: Lexi Hellman, Bottom: Tom Crowe, Reggie Hillary, Cole Hansen

Graduation Week Schedule

- Graduation Practice: Thursday, June 24, 9:00 am, Auditorium
- Pre-Prom: Thursday June 24, 5:00—6:30 pm
Sayville Middle School
- Senior Prom: Thursday, June 24, 7:00—11:00 pm
Bourne Mansion, Oakdale
- Commencement: Friday, June 25, 6:00 pm
Football Field

