



Our Schools

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT | SUMMER 2018 | FARMINGDALESCHOOLS.ORG

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2018 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN!

VALEDICTORIAN BRITNEY H. PHAM



Britney H. Pham is the valedictorian of the Farmingdale High School Class of 2018 with an established GPA of 105.904. She is the Treasurer of the National Honor Society and the Student Council and has been inducted into both the National Honor Society and Italian Honor Society.

She has earned the position of Captain of the Science Bowl. Britney pursued her diverse interests in a number of extracurricular activities, notably studying particle physics at Columbia's Science Honors Program and competing at Long Island Science Congress with her work on *Physarum polycephalum* where she was awarded Honors. Britney tutors fellow students, plays soccer, and has volunteered for political campaigns. She will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall.

SALUTATORIAN BECKY PETROU O'ROURKE



Becky Petrou O'Rourke is the salutatorian of the Farmingdale High School Class of 2018 with an established GPA of 105.542. She is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and a Merit Award Winner for the research she conducted in soil microbiology. Becky is on the Executive Board

of the Smile Club and is the Treasurer of the Art Honor Society. She's also a member of both the American Sign Language Honor Society and the National Honor Society and actively participates in the Environmental Club by maintaining the outdoor classroom and promoting in-school environmental practices. Becky competed in the Science Olympiad, Envirothon, and Mathletes competitions. She also dances ballet and has been a volunteer Teacher's Assistant at her religious school for five years.

To the Farmingdale Community: Thank You!

When the Farmingdale community went to the polls on May 15 and voted to pass our proposed 2018-2019 school district budget, the community sent us a clear message that you care deeply about public education and the futures of our young people. A yes vote from the community was a decisive show of trust, and we pledge to honor that trust and commitment by continuing to provide your children with a superlative public education. It is an honor to serve your children and the community that we love, and we thank you for your support.

Congratulations, Class of 2018!



Farmingdale High School Senior Aidan Piraino Wins National Merit Scholarship

Farmingdale High School senior Aidan Piraino has been recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Recipient for the 2017-2018 school year. He graduated this June with an Advanced Designation with Honors diploma and earned the Mastery Endorsement in both math and science. This fall, Aidan will be attending Northeastern University in Boston to major in computer science.

“This is an extraordinary honor for any student and speaks highly of Aidan’s academic aptitude and achievement,” said Farmingdale High School Principal Dr. Samuel Thompson. “This type of recognition is usually the result of many positive factors—ability, determination, parental influence, and the school environment. I am certain that based on Aidan’s abilities, skills, and accomplishments, he will continue to be successful at Northeastern University.”

This year’s National Merit Scholarship Program began in October 2016 with over 1.6 million juniors taking the Preliminary National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test—of which 16,000 semifinalists had the opportunity to continue in the competition. From that group, some 15,000 students met the very high academic standards to advance to the finalist level of the competition. 7,500 students earned the title of “Merit Scholar” and received a \$2,500 scholarship.

Moving Into the Future

At the end of every school year, all schools in Farmingdale hold special Moving-up Ceremonies or graduation (FHS). At these ceremonies, the Board of Education Scholarship & Citizenship Award—which recognizes a student who exhibits character, citizenship, discipline and leadership—and the Dr. Gary E. Karp Award—which recognizes a student who follows the legacy of Dr. Karp by demonstrating commitment to the school and community—are awarded.

Congratulations to all of Farmingdale's award-winning students!

Albany Avenue Elementary School

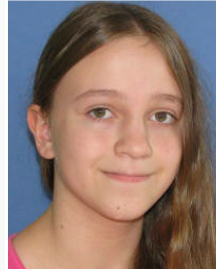


Kelsey Amiruddin
Board of Education Award



Alison Molite
Gary E. Karp Award

Woodward Parkway Elementary School



Jacklyn Toscano
Board of Education Award



James Norris
Gary E. Karp Award

Northside Elementary School



Giana Guidice
Board of Education Award

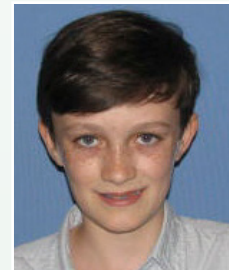


Kaylin Cleere
Gary E. Karp Award

Weldon E. Howitt Middle School



Isabelle Damo
Board of Education Award



Andrew Hilton
Gary E. Karp Award

Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School



Alessandra Gavarrete
Board of Education Award



Aidan Michael Hamilton
Gary E. Karp Award

Farmingdale High School



Britney Pham
Board of Education Award



George Frontino
Gary E. Karp Award



COLLEGE MATRICULATION FARMING

- Adelphi University
- Auburn University
- Averett University
- Berkeley College
- Binghamton University
- Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
- Boston University
- Bryant University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Columbia College Chicago
- Cornell University
- Delhi College of Arts & Commerce
- Drexel University
- East Carolina University
- East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emmanuel College
- Farmingdale State College
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Florida Atlantic University
- Fordham University
- Gannon University
- Hampton University
- Haverford College
- Hofstra University
- Hunter College
- Iona College
- Ithaca College
- James Madison University
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Long Island University Post
- Marist College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Misericordia University
- Molloy College
- Nassau Community College
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Onondaga Community College
- Pace University
- Pratt Institute
- Purchase College State University of New York
- Queens College
- Quinnipiac University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



SENECA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2018

- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Sacred Heart University
- Siena College
- Southeastern Louisiana University
- St. John's University
- State University of New York at Albany
- State University of New York at New Paltz
- Stony Brook University
- Suffolk County Community College
- SUNY Buffalo State
- SUNY College at Cortland
- SUNY College at Geneseo
- SUNY College at Old Westbury
- SUNY College at Oneonta
- SUNY College at Potsdam
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- SUNY Delhi
- SUNY Fredonia
- SUNY Maritime College
- SUNY Morrisville State College
- SUNY Oswego
- SUNY Plattsburgh
- SUNY Polytechnic Institute
- Syracuse University
- The College of Saint Rose
- The George Washington University
- The New School
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Scranton
- Thomas Jefferson University
- United States Air Force Academy
- University at Buffalo
- University of Chester
- University of Delaware
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of New Haven
- University of South Carolina
- University of South Florida Tampa
- Utica College
- Virginia Military Institute
- Wilkes University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

What's Happening in Our Schools

First Graders at Albany Avenue Elementary School Get into Character

Character Day was held at **Albany Avenue Elementary School** this past May, with first graders picking out their favorite characters from beloved books and bringing them to life in the classroom.

Now an annual event, Character Day's purpose is to illustrate the reading strides that students achieve during the school year. Creatively dressed in costumes representing their characters—before an audience of family members—children read aloud a few short paragraphs about why they chose their particular book and character. Among the favorite characters this year were Clifford the Big Red Dog, Dinosaurs Before Dark, and Nibbles the Book Monster.



A Fun Lesson Combines Technology and Nature at Northside Elementary School

Kindergarten students in Linda Garcia-Romano's class at **Northside Elementary School** studied the life cycle of butterflies and their metamorphoses from caterpillars. The young students put their classroom iPads to use, accessing a variety of apps to showcase their learning. They used digital technology tools such as Flipgrid, Chatterpix and a green screen technology called Do Ink to create butterfly scenes and short video presentations. It was an innovative collaboration of research, writing, communication, and 21st-century digital literacy skills. The children especially enjoyed the culmination of the lesson, which allowed them to release the butterflies on the school playground.

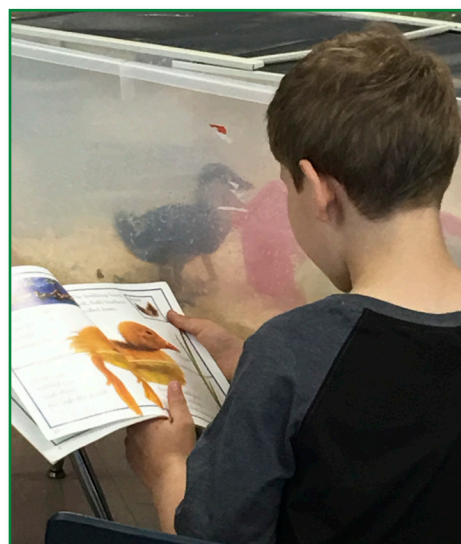
Daler Ducks Hatch at Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School

Third graders at **Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School** welcomed four Daler Ducks into the world this spring! The students named the ducklings Beast, Lucky, Crackers and Fluffy.

The idea to nurture fertilized duck eggs in the classroom—to complement the third grade embryonic development curriculum—was hatched by teachers Angela Gross, Kathleen Sokolowski, Phyliss Falco, Elizabeth DellaRocca, and Kathy McDonald. The eggs—from Makinajian Poultry Farm and County Store in Huntington—arrived at Saltzman in April to complete their 28-day cycle. Students were shown how to candle the eggs so they could see blood vessels developing inside the shell.

"This was the first time we ever did this, so we were all nervous mothers," said Ms. Gross. "We were here all hours making sure the humidity was up and we played the sound of peeping on our phones to motivate the chicks to hatch."

Every classroom in the school had a live feed on their smartboards and parents were able to watch from home. "The first duckling broke out of its shell during school hours and you could hear a roar throughout the building when it hatched," said Ms. Gross with a big grin. The children were visibly upset when it came time to return the young ducks to the farm. "We did a final duck walk with the 3rd and 5th grades," recounted Ms. Gross. "The ducks imprinted on me, so I was able to lead them down the path into the kiddie pool that we used as a duck bath. Everyone was cheering."



Woodward Parkway Elementary School Students Stretch Their Imaginations

In a recent creative project, **Woodward Parkway Elementary School** students designed buildings from scratch using classroom materials. The children explored advanced concepts—including gravity, symmetry, design and weight—while drawing and building models of their dream homes. They started by sketching their ideas with crayons then worked to realize their designs in 3D using a variety of materials and shapes.

The students worked collaboratively, embodying the district's commitment to helping students find creative outlets through the arts and sciences, and merge their creativity with engineering and technical skills.



Howitt Middle School Hosts District Art Show



Farmingdale School District's 2018 District Art Show was held in May at **Howitt Middle School**. Open to the public, it featured artwork from all six schools in a variety of mediums, including oil, sculpture, mixed media, drawing, watercolor, fashion and photography. The purpose of the show is to recognize and honor students with talent in the arts.

Opening night—held on May 8th this year—has become such a popular event that it's now split into two sessions. Each school receives a finite amount of space to display the art, with each piece carefully and considerately chosen by art teachers. It's a wonderful opportunity for parents to see the evolution of their children's artistry from the elementary to the high school level.

Director of Fine Arts Rose Marvel said, "As students learn new skills and concepts, they begin to think more freely and creatively when applying them. Once they are able to articulate the reasoning behind their process, you can tell that they really own their work."

Farmingdale High School's Technology Honor Society Builds Training Props for Firefighters

The National Technology Honor Society students at **Farmingdale High School** needed a project, and Farmingdale technology teacher Kyle Matura's hometown firehouse needed training props—so Mr. Matura came up with an idea that would be a win-win for everyone.

With lumber supplied by the Miller Place Fire Department, Mr. Matura had his students design, plan, and construct props—called mask confidence training units—that will enable trainers to simulate conditions that firefighters often face in the field, such as going into a room with no floor or breaching a wall should a fire trap them inside. One of the more elaborate props they designed is a mock staircase that will be used to teach firefighters how to escape a room should the stairs give way beneath them.

"It is extremely uncommon for a fire department to have a set of training units like these, so when I proposed the idea I was thrilled that the students stepped up to the challenge with great enthusiasm," said Mr. Matura.

Miller Place Fire Department Chief Matt Bruemmer was exceedingly grateful for the students' hard work. "It's a great thing for them and a great thing for us," said Chief Bruemmer. "We spend a lot of time training and this is awesome." Mr. Matura added, "The Miller Place Fire Department will use these to train and improve on critical skills needed for firefighter survival. We hope neighboring departments will see the value of these training units and reach out to our Farmingdale technology students, who will be more than willing to apply their skills to construct additional sets."





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Giving Back: Two Eagle Scout Projects Bring Beautiful Additions to Farmingdale

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts must complete an ambitious service project that gives back to the community in a meaningful way. This spring, Farmingdale was lucky to have two prospective Eagle Scouts choose to use their service project to give back to the district, and it's safe to say that Farmingdale is better thanks to their commitment and selflessness.

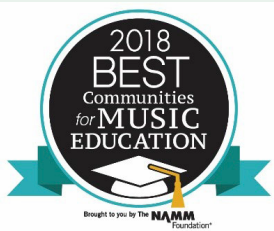


FHS senior Michael Dortz built a much-needed food pantry at Howitt Middle School. This pantry will help gather and redistribute food to families in need all across the district.



Woodward Parkway Elementary School unveiled a beautiful sensory garden in May thanks to FHS student George Frontino. To celebrate the grand opening, George invited students from Christine Breuer's class to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Farmingdale's Music Education Receives National Recognition



For the fifth year in a row, the Farmingdale School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) for its outstanding commitment to music education. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in their efforts to provide music access and education to all students. "This is a well-deserved designation for our music teachers," said Rose Marvel, Director of Fine Arts. "Their hard work, time, energy, and dedication put forth each and every day on behalf of our students is extraordinary."

Farmingdale Athletics Excel—On and Off the Field

Time and time again, Daler athletes have proven that they are pros at balancing the demands of the classroom and the athletic fields. Spring 2018 was certainly no different, as once again all Farmingdale High School varsity teams have achieved Scholar Athlete Team status from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). The NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Program recognizes varsity teams that have a total Grade Point Average (GPA) of 90.00 or above for 75 percent of the team's roster. The highest achieving team from this past spring was the Girls' Lacrosse team, which has a collective team GPA of 97.04. Well done, Dalers!

