



# Our Schools

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT | SUMMER 2021 | FARMINGDALESCHOOLS.ORG

## *Congratulations to the Class of 2021* **VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN**



### VALEDICTORIAN CHRISTIAN CASTLE

In addition to maintaining a rigorous academic schedule, Christian Castle, the Farmingdale High School Class of 2021 valedictorian, excelled in his extracurricular pursuits. An AP Scholar, Christian was a National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Key Club, Business Honor Society, and DECA member. Additionally, Christian played on Farmingdale's JV and varsity baseball teams and participated as a PAL flag football player, basketball player and referee. Christian's cumulative GPA totaled an impressive 102.83.



### SALUTATORIAN ANTONIO CASTANO

Antonio Castano, the Farmingdale High School Class of 2021 salutatorian, also enrolled in rigorous courses and excelled in his extracurricular activities. An AP scholar, Antonio was a member of the Farmingdale High School symphony orchestra as a viola player and the pit orchestra for theater productions. He was a member of the Italian Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, JV and varsity football teams, and the varsity track and field team. He was also a tutor. Antonio was recently named a National Merit PSAT/NMSQT Commended Student and is a PSAT 10 National Hispanic Scholar. Antonio's cumulative GPA was 102.57.

## **FARMINGDALE THANKS THE COMMUNITY FOR ADOPTING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET**

From all of us on the Farmingdale Board of Education and in the District Administration, we'd like to thank the voters of Farmingdale for approving our 2021-2022 proposed school budget. Through challenging times, the community did not waver in its support for public education and its commitment to the future of Farmingdale. We greatly appreciate your support, and we will continue to work every day to ensure that the students of Farmingdale have access to the best education possible.



# FARMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Farmingdale High School's Class of 2021 marked the culmination of their years of academic studies, extracurricular activities, programs and athletic achievements with a graduation ceremony on June 22 at Hofstra University. A procession of students in their white and green robes entered to "Pomp and Circumstance" amid cheering from family and friends. Congratulations and best wishes to all the graduates!





# MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

At the end of each school year, all schools in the Farmingdale School District hold special graduation or moving-up ceremonies. At these events, 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



**Chiara Sordilli**  
Board of Education Award



**Emma Kropp**  
Gary E. Karp Award



**Jasmine Koppel**  
Board of Education Award



**Jeremy Katakofsky**  
Gary E. Karp Award

## NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**Liam Cleere**  
Board of Education Award



**Cassandra Hill**  
Gary E. Karp Award



**Anthony Siegfried**  
Board of Education Award



**Penelope Sanchez**  
Gary E. Karp Award

## WELDON E. HOWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL



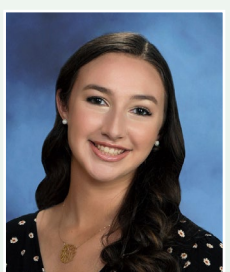
**Jacklyn Toscano**  
Board of Education Award



**Angelo Ardito**  
Gary E. Karp Award



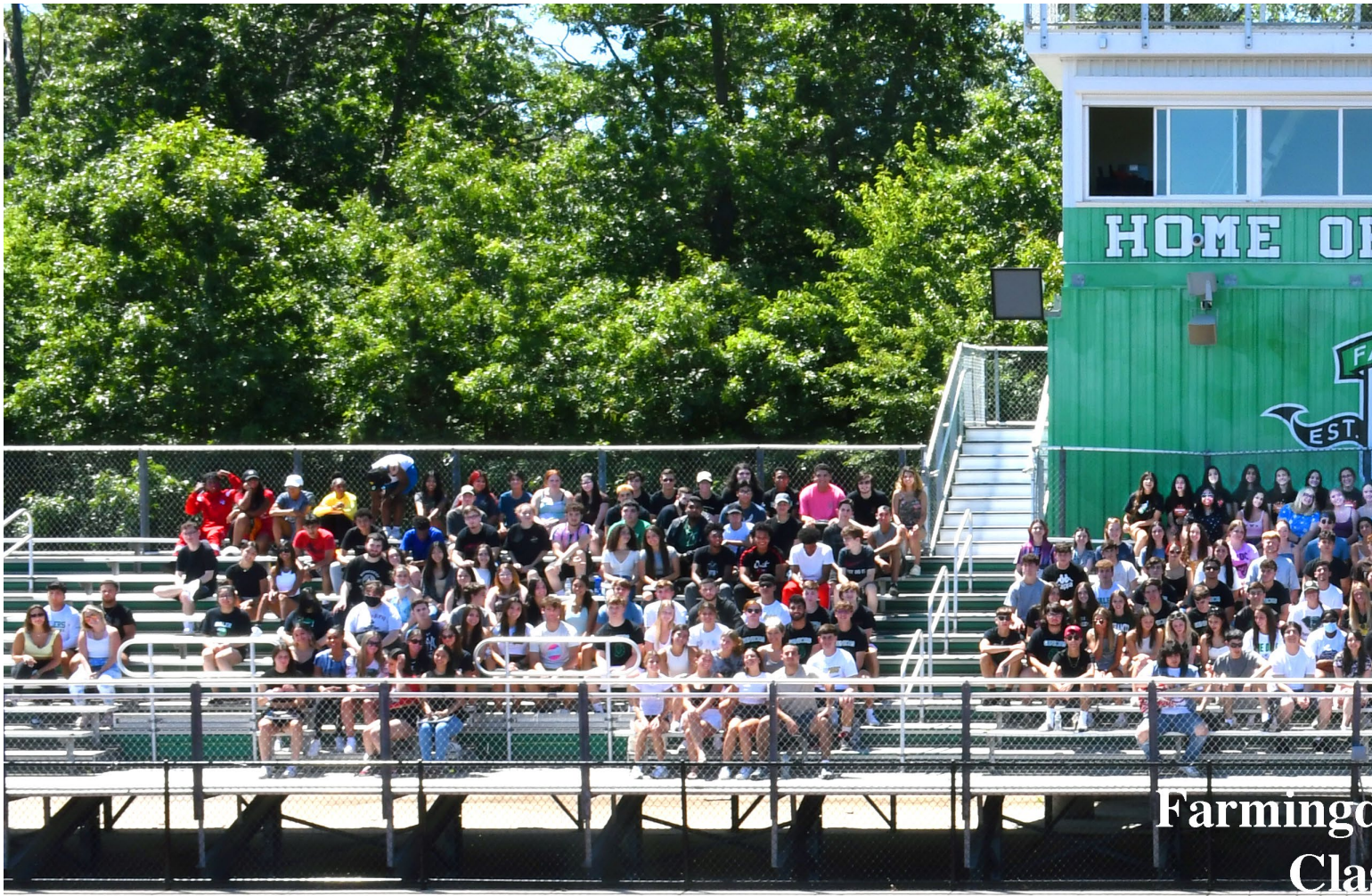
**Olivia Espinosa**  
Board of Education Award



**Rachel Goldberg**  
Gary E. Karp Award

## FARMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL





# FARMINGDALE HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE

- Adelphi University
- Air Force Pilot
- American International College
- American University
- Auburn University
- Bentley University
- Berklee College of Music
- Binghamton University
- Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
- Boston College
- Brigham Young University-Idaho
- Campbell University
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Staten Island CUNY
- Cornell University
- CUNY Bernard M Baruch College
- CUNY Hunter College
- CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- CUNY Macaulay Honors College
- CUNY Queens College
- Eastern Michigan University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach
- Farmingdale State College
- Fashion Institute of Technology SUNY
- Five Towns College
- Florida Polytechnic University
- Florida State University
- Fordham University
- Hampton University
- High Point University
- Hillsborough Community College
- Hofstra University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Main Campus
- Indiana University-Bloomington
- Jagiellonian University
- Johnson & Wales University-Providence
- Lehigh University
- Long Island University
- Manhattan College
- Mercy College
- Miami Dade College
- Michigan State University
- Misericordia University
- Molloy College
- Montclair State University
- Montreat College
- Nassau Community College
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York University
- North Carolina A & T State University
- Northeastern University
- Ohio State University-Main Campus
- Pace University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Pratt Institute
- Providence College
- Quinnipiac University
- Rider University
- Roberts Wesleyan College





Male High School  
Class of 2021

## THE MATRICULATION FOR CLASS OF 2021

- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Roger Williams University
- Sacred Heart University
- Seton Hall University
- Siena College
- Springfield College
- St. John's University
- St. Joseph's College
- St. Thomas Aquinas College
- State University of New York at New Paltz
- Stony Brook University
- Suffolk County Community College
- SUNY at Albany
- SUNY at Purchase College
- SUNY College at Brockport
- SUNY College at Geneseo
- SUNY College at Old Westbury
- SUNY College at Oswego
- SUNY College at Plattsburgh
- SUNY College at Potsdam
- SUNY College of Technology at Alfred
- SUNY College of Technology at Delhi
- SUNY Cortland
- SUNY Maritime College
- SUNY Oneonta
- Syracuse University
- Texas A & M University
- The New England Conservatory of Music
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Tampa
- The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- Towson University
- United States Military Academy
- University at Buffalo
- University of California-Los Angeles
- University of California-San Diego
- University of Chicago
- University of Connecticut
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of Hartford
- University of Maine
- University of Maryland
- University of Miami
- University of Missouri
- University of New Haven
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Rhode Island
- University of South Carolina
- University of Vermont
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Utica College
- Villanova University
- West Virginia University
- Western Connecticut State University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

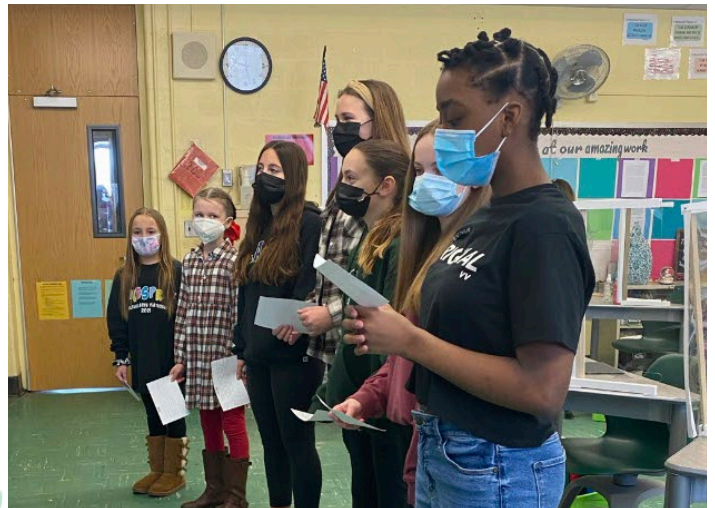
## Albany Avenue Elementary School Hosts Career Week

One of Albany Avenue's fifth-grade teachers, Jillian Gemma, came up with the idea of hosting a Career Week for the entire school. She developed lesson plans and activities for every grade level each day. The highlight of the week was watching the collection of video interviews of alumni, former Daler students (including our own Superintendent Paul Defendini), speaking about their journeys that began with Farmingdale schools and brought them to the careers they have pursued and love today. Students were exposed to many careers and their imaginations were sparked by future possibilities. It was an incredible week for all!



## Northside Elementary School Keeps Tradition Alive

This past spring, Northside completed its five-part digital assembly series featuring the Keys to Success. All year, the Shared Decision Making Committee worked to create experiences around our five-character words—Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Honesty, and Kindness—that brought everyone together in a safe way. The entire student body, faculty, and staff participated in a Google Meet to get each “key to life” via read-alouds, skits, Kahoot! games, Blookets, and other fun activities. We are proud to have kept the tradition of the Keys to Success very much alive and well during this school year!



## Saltzman East Memorial Celebrates Our Heroes

We had a great turnout at the Saltzman East Memorial's first annual Heroes Parade on Friday, May 28. Students and staff members celebrated the hard work of our Saltzman East Memorial school nurses, the East Farmingdale Fire Department, and the Suffolk County first precinct police officers. Thank you to our heroes!

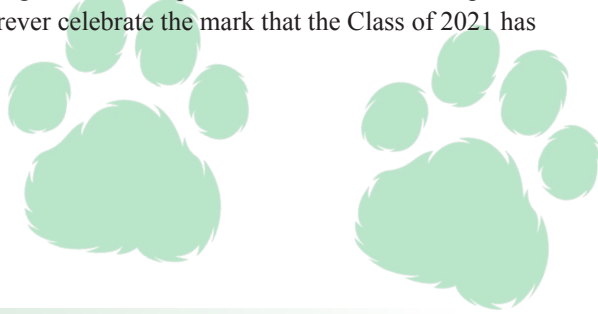




# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

## Woodward Parkway School Students Leave Their Legacy

As fifth-grade students at Woodward Parkway prepared to move up to Howitt Middle School, they were encouraged to consider their legacy. With the direction and support of their art teachers, students decided on a tile project which would serve as their senior class gift! Inspired by artist Wassily Kandinsky, whose work involved colored and concentric circles, each child designed a tile unique to them, which became part of a display that will forever celebrate the mark that the Class of 2021 has left on our school!



## Holocaust Survivor Virtually Visited Weldon E. Howitt Middle School Students

On May 3rd, Holocaust survivor and author Marion Blumenthal Lazan virtually visited two of Ms. Sarah DiRe's eighth-grade classes. Marion shared with the students a detailed account of her time as a 10-year-old girl surviving Bergen Belsen, a Nazi concentration camp. She spoke of the hardships and trauma she faced and the survival techniques that helped her endure that time. Marion shared stories about games she would play with herself to keep her hope for a better life alive. One game, which was the inspiration for her memoir *Four Perfect Pebbles*, detailed Marion's daily search for four similarly shaped pebbles that symbolized the four members of her family surviving the Holocaust. She spoke of perseverance, grit, and the ability to overcome challenges, but also of kindness and embracing differences. Students were fascinated by Marion's story and were inspired by her messages. The recording of the presentation was shared with all eighth-grade classes as a culminating lesson in their World War II units.



## Courage, Commitment and Character: Farmingdale High School Seniors Recognized

Farmingdale High School seniors Christian Lembo and Talia Miller were named this year's winners of the Triple C Award. Sponsored by State Attorney General Letitia James, the Triple C Award recognizes the outstanding courage, character, and commitment of New York students. Whether succeeding in academic pursuits, participating in community service, displaying leadership skills, or overcoming personal obstacles, these students provide us with hope for a brighter future. This award was established to honor student leaders and their impeccable work. The certificates were presented by the Dean of Students for the Class of 2021, Frank Hebron, as well as Farmingdale High School Principal Dr. Samuel Thompson. There is no limit to what our students will achieve next!







**Farmingdale School District**  
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PAID  
Farmingdale Union  
Free School District

## CAR-RT SORT RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DISTRICT'S FIFTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS!

Not only do we celebrate the graduating seniors of the district, but we shine the spotlight on our talented fifth and eighth graders, too! Before they move on to attend middle school and high school respectively, these students participate in moving-up ceremonies to mark their accomplishments. Spring is a time for renewal, so it's only appropriate that these young students move up to higher levels of their academic careers during this time.

Each school's ceremony was well attended by family members, faculty and district administrators who supported the students as they marked the conclusion of one chapter and looked forward to their next educational journey. We wish our graduating fifth and eighth graders a joyful summer and look forward to their first days in Howitt Middle School and Farmingdale High School in September.

