

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

### AP SCHOLARS

One hundred fifty-one current and former students from Hicksville High School earned the designation of Advanced Placement Scholars for excelling on their 2020 AP exams. Congratulations to the following students on achieving this honor:

#### National AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more exams. Christopher M. Chan, Sejal Gupta, Viveka Jain, Katarina A Kobetitsch, Alaha A. Nasari, Navpreet Singh, Dhanush Sivasankaran and Rishika S. Thayavally.

#### AP Scholars with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Ariya Bakhteri, Laura Buibas, Jillian S. Carroll, Christopher M. Chan, Brandon J. Chavez, Benjamin Choi, Sarah Choi, Gunter W. Chow, Roxy R. Dias, Quynh C. Dinh, Sarah M. Gabriel, Jessica George, Anaya A. Ger, Lydia H. Green, Sejal Gupta, Cailin J. Hoang, Hunter R. Hsiu, Zaeem Hussain, Jack G. Immanuel, Viveka Jain, Jacqueline A. Jergensen, Maria John, Noel J. John, Keshveen Kaur, Katarina A. Kobetitsch, Serena Lam, Tyler J. LaVorgna, Rachel A. Lee, Somya Mehta, Teresa Moritz, Alaha A. Nasari, Jesse A. Natarajan, Daren Ni, Aric Peng, Melody R. Plavsky, Joseph R. Quan, Arena Rahman, Rachel M. Samuel, Kevin A. Sandoval, Angelina R. Sangiovanni, Navpreet Singh, Prabhpreet Singh, Amshitha Sivarajah, Dhanush Sivasankaran, Rishika S. Thayavally,

Felicite Tien, Irene X. Tsesmetzis, Aaditya Vaghela, Ralph J. Velasquez, Brinda Vutukuri and Natalie N. Yuge.

#### AP Scholars with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Rani Basnet, Aniruddh K. Chittabathini, Sean C. Davis, Stephanie Gabriel, Alejandro Gonzalez, Aryan Jain, Laura A. Jon, Gurmehar Kaur, David Kim, Clariss Mancebo, George Nakashyan, Alina Z. Naqvi, Sadia Nur, George D. Palermo, Padmanabh Pareek, Katherine A. Passick, Hervi R. Patel, Arianna A. Psareas, Muhammad Rao, Gagan Sapkota, Donna S. Shair, Arspreet Singh, Sophia C. Stines, Ariana M. Taboada, Eric Y. Wang and Jordan M. Wulff.

#### AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Alex Abraham, Faaris Ali, Messarah Altaee, Adith R. Anugu, Jaclyn M. Baitz, Jessica K. Bamrah, Vived R. Bhavsar, Gianna C. Cali, Luis G. Carrillo Rubio, Bassam Faisal, Graziella Flynn, Dylan N. Gaznabbi, Lena L. Girdhar, Joseph Glaudino, Axel P. Gomez, Steven K. Goubran, Sierra L. Hall, Teresa M. Hammer, Rafee B. Haque, Tanzia Hassan, Ricky Hsiao, Saadiyah Ishfaq, Priya Iyer, Xiang Jin, Daniel T. Joyce, Isil Karagoz, Mariha C. Karim, Harmandeep Kaur, Punit Kaur, Tannvi Kaushik, Prakriti Khanal, Jaskaran S. Kohli, Muneer Lalji, Teresa Lam, Bryan Martinez Hernan, Kayla A. Mathew, Noel S. Mathew, Sydney J. Mathis, Kayla M.

McLarty, Om R. Mehta, Alisina Menhaji, Saddaf Menhaji, Rawan M. Mohamed, Laura Munn, Nishtha Nagre, Maeryam Nasari, Aleena Nazish, Alina M. Nodrat, Dua Omer, Archi Patel, Nadia Y. Pelaez, Geraldine Pichardo, Akanksha Prabhakaran, Melissa N. Quijada, George B. Sekavec, Purnima Sengupta, Alisha B. Shah, Murtaza A. Shah, Vasanth Shakelli, Ishita Sharma, Ekam Singh, Esha K. Singh, Sarandeep Singh, Lindsey M. Smith, Aniket Sonika, Sabrina Spina, Danish Syed, Jetlin P. Thomas, Kymoerah Tomlinson, Zahra N. Umer, Vansh Wadhawan, Ashley N. Wulff, Sam Zhen and Sean Zhen.

#### AP Capstone Diploma

Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP exams of their choosing.

Aniruddh Chittabathini, Benjamin Choi, Anaya A. Ger, Tanzia Hassan, Cailin J. Hoang, Maria John, Katarina A. Kobetitsch, Serena Lam, Jesse A. Natarajan, Daren Ni, George D. Palermo, Joseph R. Quan, Arena Rahman, Kevin A. Sandoval, Navpreet Singh, Amshitha Sivarajah, Felicite Tien and Irene X. Tsesmetzis.

#### AP Seminar and Research Certificate

Granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP exams.

Jessica K. Bamrah, Sarah M. Gabriel, Stephanie Gabriel, Alejandro Gonzalez, Teresa M. Hammer, Priya Iyer, Nishtha Nagre, Nadia Y. Pelaez, Melody R. Plavsky, Muhammad Rao, Alisha B. Shah, Sophia C. Stines, Zahra N. Umer and Vansh Wadhawan.

## Top of the Class of 2021

The high school announced the Top 10 academic students in the Class of 2021. The Top 10 is determined by the highest student GPAs going into senior year.

Congratulations to the following students who have excelled throughout their time in the Hicksville School District:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Navpreet Singh  | 6. Serena Lam     |
| 2. Cailin Hoang    | 7. Benjamin Choi  |
| 3. Felicite Tien   | 8. Ariya Bakhteri |
| 4. Arena Rahman    | 9. Anaya Ger      |
| 5. Jesse Natarajan | 10. Tanzia Hassan |



# EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

High School art teacher Craig Mateyunas, photographed below alongside Principal Raymond Williams and Supervisor of Fine Arts Chad Wyman, was named the 2020 Art Educator of the Year for Region 9 by the New York State Art Teachers Association. At every opportunity, Mr. Mateyunas delivers student art to the community. Each year, he takes his students to the local McDonald's to decorate the windows with winter scenes and also displays student art at IKEA. Mr. Mateyunas always motivates his students to help the community. He spearheads the Empty Bowls fundraiser, an event that showcases hand-decorated bowls made by students while raising money for local food pantries. Congratulations, Mr. Mateyunas, and thank you for all that you do!



Despite a challenging 2020, our students and staff have shown resilience. Many of them have especially excelled in the fine and performing arts. Their creativity and expression have shined through, earning them recognition, honors and awards from some of the top organizations on Long Island and in New York. We wish our students continued success throughout 2021.

The Hickville Color Guard participated in the New York State Field Band Conference Individual and Ensemble Competition. They designed their own performance, which won them first place!



Samantha Mason (left) placed fourth in the Individual Advanced Flute Performances during the New York State Field Band Conference, and Nisarg Shah (R) placed fourth in the Individual Advanced Saxophone Performances.



Senior Kelly Ryan is one of 20 students from Nassau and Suffolk counties to be named a Scholar-Artist by the Long Island Arts Alliance. Kelly was nominated for having an unweighted GPA of 90 or above and representing a high level of artist excellence. She is photographed here with one of her works of art.



The New York State Field Band Conference also featured a Virtual Ensemble, which was a collaboration of students from more than 40 schools in the state, including Hickville students Samantha Mason and Brandon Baade. They performed Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind."



Five high school students were selected to have their work displayed in the Nassau County High School Student Juried Exhibit and Competition hosted by The Art Guild. Pictured here are two of the selected pieces, Stephanie Lopez's "Prismatic Bubble" and Aleena Abraham's "Luminance."

## PUBLIC LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

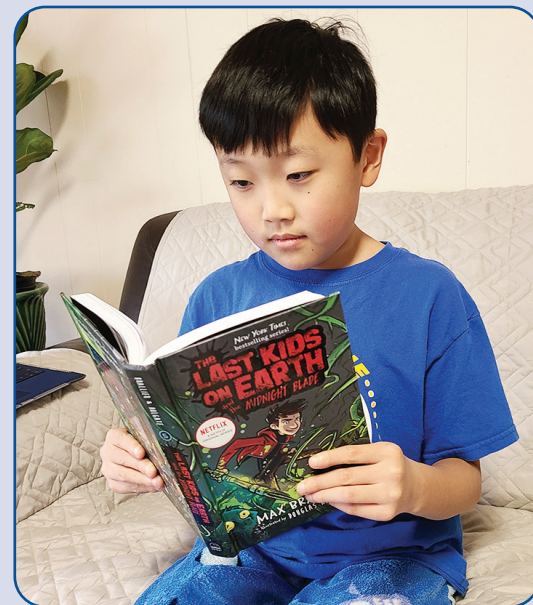
During challenging times, communities often come together to support each other. The Hickville School District has always strived for school-to-community partnerships, and they are proving to be even more important during this pandemic. Most recently, the district has expanded its community collaborations to work with the Hickville Public Library. The goal of this new partnership is to enhance access to library resources for Hickville's younger learners.

Unfortunately, due to social distancing and pandemic-related restrictions, our students have not yet been able to reap the benefits of the newly renovated elementary school libraries. As such, our kindergarten through fifth grade students have had restricted access to the number of books available at school, since they are only able to pick from a smaller classroom library.

"We want to encourage students to read for their own leisure, their independent reading and to become familiar with literature," said Interim Supervisor of English, Reading and Library Jack Lenson. "There's some joy in obtaining a book that you like."

The logistics of a mobile library visiting each classroom became too difficult, so Mr. Lenson reached out to the Hickville Public Library for help. That's how the school-to-community library partnership came to life.

The program rolled out in January initially to fifth grade students, then to kindergarten through fourth graders. The district worked with the library to



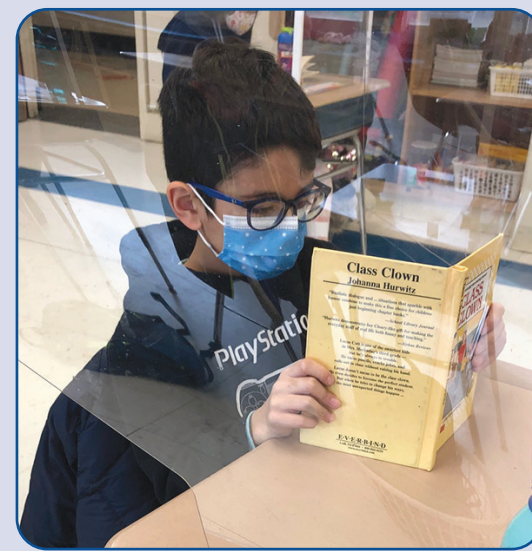
give both in-person and remote learners electronic library cards, linked to their school ID numbers. Using district-provided Chromebooks and iPads, elementary students are given priority access to a number of age-appropriate resources including:

- Electronic books for classroom and leisure purposes.
- Research databases.
- Materials provided by teachers to further curriculum goals.

While the partnership is with the Hickville Public Library, it also connects students to the whole Nassau County library system. If books are unavailable in Hickville, students can check them out from other libraries in the area electronically or by converting their electronic card into a physical one. It's a way to strengthen resources for younger students during an unusual year, while also strengthening the community as a whole.

"A school system should not operate in a silo and neither should the public library," Mr. Lenson said. "We're here to be part of the community and whenever we have mutual interests, mutual benefits, there should be outreach and partners supporting each other."

While the pandemic has changed a lot about our daily lives, some things have remained a constant. The Hickville Public Library is still lending books and a hand to the community, and the Hickville School District is keeping the focus on what's best for students while fostering their love for reading.



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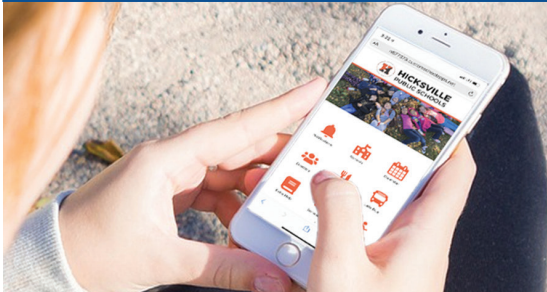
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**HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
IS NOW MOBILE**



The district has launched a new mobile app, available on the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app features push notifications, directory and contact information, calendars, lunch menus and information on late buses, extra help and more – all at your fingertips.

# ALUMNI *Spotlight*

## CINDY CHENG

### *Hicksville High School Class of 2019*

My name is Cindy Cheng, and I am a very proud Hicksville High School graduate from the Class of 2019. I am a sophomore at Princeton University, majoring in chemistry and minoring in global health and neuroscience. Over the past summer, I had the amazing opportunity to do research with the Greek Association of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, a nonprofit organization that offers care to patients with dementia as well as promotes research about the early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. This internship was a great experience and reinforced my passion for health care and neuroscience.

Aside from taking classes and doing research, I am also involved in several clubs at Princeton. For example, I am a community and technical team member of Engineers Without

Borders, a club dedicated to the implementation and maintenance of water filtration systems in rural communities in Peru. I am also the operations coordinator of Camp Kesem Princeton, an organization that supports children whose parents were affected by cancer, and an advising fellow for Matriculate, where I provide guidance to low-income students in the college application process.

Attending Hicksville High School definitely made an impact on my current career interests and has shaped me to become the student I am today. My favorite classes, such as psychology and chemistry, fueled my passion for



neuroscience and STEM in general. The guidance from teachers and faculty as well as support from peers in high school played a major role in my commitment to academics, enthusiasm for learning and appreciation for my past, present and future experiences.