

BETHPAGE

Newsletter SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2023!

The possibility of rain could not stop Bethpage High School's Class of 2023 from celebrating their commencement on June 23. The ceremony went on without a hitch at the Bethpage Athletic Complex where proud building and central administrators, Board members, faculty, family and friends gathered for the momentous occasion.

Dressed in their blue caps and gowns, the graduates arrived onto the football field to "Pomp and Circumstance," performed by the Bethpage High School band. Senior Graziella Conte kicked off the ceremony by performing the national anthem.

The Class of 2023 heard from Student Council President Marnes Richemond, salutatorian Caio DaSilva and valedictorian Stephanie Pilnacek. Each thanked their support systems and shared meaningful messages with their peers.

"No matter how far we go, whether it's just the next town over or taking advantage of working or studying abroad, we are and forever will be Bethpage," Marnes said. "We have left a lasting impression on this school that future generations will follow."

In his salutatorian address, Caio spoke about his accountability mirror which

features Post-it notes of his goals and how they would change each year. He encouraged his fellow graduates to reflect on their own goals.

"If there is one piece of advice that I can impart to you today, it is to write down your goals, speak them into existence and truly believe that you can accomplish them with hard work and dedication," he said. "And know that the Class of 2023 is behind you, supporting you every step of the way because that's just what we do."

During her valedictory address, Stephanie spoke about how our struggles in life help us to reach success and how one person can make a difference.

"No matter where this crossroads takes us, always know that we have a strong foundation built from our friends, family and teachers here at Bethpage," she said. "So, as we cross the bridge into the next phase of our life, when we are struggling or doubting ourselves, that's when we need to reframe our focus and focus on the things we are grateful for."

Superintendent of Schools Dave Schneider and Bethpage High School Principal Nicholas Jantz also addressed the graduates. They praised them on their

achievements, wished them well on their future endeavors and offered words of advice.

"My great hope is that each of you discovers your purpose, reaches your potential and maximizes your voice and that one day you too will be back here to share your own stories of success," Mr. Schneider said. "So, as you join the ranks of a very special group of people known as Golden Eagle alumni, be bold, be courageous, be your best and wherever you go, go with all your heart."

Bethpage High School Assistant Principal Kevin Healy and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Caroline Lavelle were both recognized for their upcoming retirements. Principal Jantz thanked them for their years of hard work and service.

During the presentation of diplomas, each senior was proudly announced on stage to the cheers of family and friends. Principal Jantz congratulated each graduate before they returned to their seat. The ceremony concluded with the Class of 2023 throwing their caps up high, signifying the end of their high school careers.

Congratulations TO THE CLASS OF 2023!



Taha Abdurrehman Abid
 Nicolette R. Ackerman
 Andrew Joseph Adelman
 Mirka J. Agustin
 Raymond Ahmadi
 Amber J. Appleton
 Gianna Augugliaro
 Josue A. Banegas
 Camryn Brooke Barone
 Mia Nicole Battaglia
 Mia Gabriella Bello
 Cindy Stephanie Benitez
 Jessica Nicole Benitez
 Emma S. Berlowitz
 Emily Grace Betwinek
 Zachary Bryce Blades
 Michael Bolarte
 Mackenzie Eileen Bracken
 Aidan J. Brady
 Kyle C. Brindisi
 Angelina M. Brown
 Christopher John Buran
 Riley Paige Burns
 Gianna Rose Buto
 Richard M. Calamia
 Michael J. Canfield
 Erik Stephen Caputo
 Sean D. Castro
 Anson Chen
 Hana Cho
 Cecilia Nicole Ciaccio
 Omer Cihan
 Angelo Henry Clausner
 Kathryn Grace Clyne
 Brianna Marie Colace
 Joseph Patrick Colacino
 Randy Colon

Christian Considine
 Graziella Cara Conte
 Jack C. Crescenzo, Jr.
 Shengran Cui
 Delaney Cusack
 Genevieve I. D'Amico
 Joseph E. D'Arrigo
 Lily Loretta D'Avanzo
 Caio F. DaSilva
 Nicholas J. Dion
 Patrick Henry Dircks
 Jessica Ann Donnelly
 Kate May Downey
 Richard Thomas Dracker
 Konstantine Nicholas Drosos
 Ryan E. Dupré
 Nicole Elizabeth Dux
 Nicholas Ali El Chami
 Giavanna M. Elardo
 Christian Steven Espinal
 George Nikolaos Evangelou
 Anthony James Faggiano
 Benjamin James Faggiano
 Christopher James Faggiano
 Anthony J. Falabella
 John N. Fazio
 Olivia I. Flaherty
 Joseph M. Florio
 Hannah Rose Forschner
 Kayla M. Francavilla
 Alannah Marie-Charleze Frazier
 Frank Luciano Gaglione
 Daniel R. Gaito
 Dominick Joseph Galeotafiore
 Brooke Ashley Galletti
 Yamileth Garcia

Ashley Cecelia Garnar
 Lucas R. Gene
 Kyle J. Gensinger
 Sophia Bella Gianfrancesco
 Brittany Allison Goldberg
 Maddox J. Grippaldi
 Frank M. Guertin, IV
 Kashaff Hafeez
 Victoria N. Hapsis
 Richard F. Hartwig
 Emily Klare Herbert
 Melissa Tatiana Hernandez
 Isaiah Herrera
 Bryan Christopher Hirtzel
 Manuel Jimenez
 Georgia M. Karaisarides
 Nicholas A. Karaisarides
 Rashna Rajeshwori Kasaju
 Samantha Rose Kauhaus
 Alyssa Michelle Khan
 Andrew A. Kilmatis
 Kaitlyn Marie Klein
 Abby Nicole Kneller
 Annabel Zoe Koinis
 Theofania Kranias
 Daniel L. Kucica
 Joanna M. LaRusso
 Thomas Joseph Latona
 Matthew J. Lenis
 Victoria Rose Leogrande
 Nikolaos P. Likourentzos
 Amanda Lin
 Ryan Lin
 Sara Michelle Linsner
 Jack M. LiPetri
 Adriana Marie Lisa
 Carlos Daniel Lizardo

Gianna Marie Lombardo
 John P. Looney
 Joseph Michael Mack
 Mitchell Mahomar
 Michael C. Maietta
 Callie Maino
 Eybi Y. Maldonado Velasquez
 Olivia R. Mansfield
 George John Mavroukas
 Caio K. Maziero
 Frank Joseph McCann
 James A. McGlynn, Jr.
 Kylie Madison McIntyre
 Brendan Michael McMorrow
 William Brooklyn McMullen
 Aaron M. Meniel
 Leo J. Miller
 Carly Mineo
 Joseph Miranda
 Ashley Dayana Molina
 Nicole C. Mora
 Brianna Nicole Morice
 Svetlana Mughnetyan
 Julia Nicole Nartowicz
 Robert James Nawrath
 Mary Kate Elizabeth Nawrocki
 Steven C. Neamonitis
 Aidan Noble
 Christopher J. Nuzzi
 Erin Elizabeth O'Boyle
 Tyler O'Brien
 Shannon Margaret O'Keefe
 Jeffrey S. Palma Espinoza
 Logan Michael Palmer
 Christina Anne Palmeri
 Athanasia Panagos
 Michal Paruch

Sophia Emily Passaro
 Preet Jay Patel
 Cassandra L. Peters
 Victoria K. Pfeffer
 Benjamin Pilgrim
 Stephanie Mara Pilnacek
 Roshanth Pirapakaran
 Umesh Krishna Ponugupati
 Mia Noel Preshlock
 Matthew J. Raman
 Giuliana Razzano
 Julia Erin Redman
 Raymond J. Renneisen
 Marnes Julian Richemond
 Lauren Elizabeth Robertino
 Gavin Evie Rocks
 Genaro I. Romo-Crisostomo
 Aidan Matthew Russo
 Gabriel John Rywack
 Kailyn Hope Salony
 Tyler Saraceno
 Anthony J. Schappert
 Emily Nicole Schwartz
 Sean Jason Seely
 Matthew Vincent Seleznow
 Megan Paige Selwin
 Joseph Daniel Shanahan
 Ajay Shekar
 Sarah Shokoor
 Stephen James Sikoryak
 Francesca Fatima Silva
 Jeremiah P. Simon
 Hargun Singh
 Sukhman Singh
 Sean Smith
 Constantine Spanos
 Kirra Spanos

Efstathios Spathis
 Olivia Eve Steele
 Garrett J. Sullivan
 Yumna A. Syed
 Juliana M. Szynal
 Juliana M. Talenti
 John Anthony-George Tangel
 Matthew Joseph Tarabokija
 Anthony James Tarnowski
 Gabriel Tessono
 Michael Joseph Tierno
 Madison Grace Traversa
 Julia E. Tsouros
 Evridiki Tzortzatos
 Deborah A. Unter
 Sasha Vakhnenko
 Michael H. Vahamonde
 Paul Anthony Valenti
 Juan C. Valle Campos
 Elena Lucia Vazquez
 Joseph Thomas Verdi
 Nicole Martine Viola
 Sharon Wang Liu
 Brianna Rose Wendling
 Russell Joseph Wetzler
 Hunter Thomas Wile
 Heuga Yip
 Sulayman Zayd Zaraei
 Selina Zheng

Ready for their

Next Step

CBS GRADE 5



CCS GRADE 5



KLS GRADE 5



JFK MS GRADE 8



Class of 2023



SENIOR EARNS FIRST PLACE IN ITALIAN SINGING COMPETITION

Graziella Conte, a senior at Bethpage High School, was recently recognized as a first-place winner in the singing portion of the Secondary School Poetry and Arts Contest: Gara di Poesia e Gara di Canto. The contest is run annually by the Long Island chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Italian. This year, students were invited to submit prerecorded poem and song recitations. Graziella submitted a video of her performing “Caruso” by Lucio Dalla, in honor of her nonna (grandmother).

As a result of her first-place win, Conte was invited to the AATI-LI Annual Luncheon and Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 6 where she was officially honored. Congratulations, Graziella!



Senior Graziella Conte earned first place in the singing portion of the Secondary School Poetry and Arts Contest: Gara di Poesia e Gara di Canto.

Science Research Student Earns Top Spot in Middle School Science Fair

Eighth grader Partap Sidhu from John F. Kennedy Middle School took home first place in the Physical Science category of the South Asian American Women’s Alliance Middle School Science Fair. Partap showcased his project, an animatronic hand, which impressed fairgoers.

He began preparing for the science competition in December 2022 with the guidance of his science research teacher Steve Carroll and technology teacher Dan Zabell. Partap worked diligently on his project on the weekends and went to four libraries to 3D print his animatronic hand which moves with an animatronic hand controller that Partap wears. Congratulations, Partap!



John F. Kennedy Middle School student Partap Sidhu received first place in the Physical Science category of the South Asian American Women’s Alliance Middle School Science Fair.



Bethpage High School Sweethearts Rank at the Top of Their Class

Seniors Caio DaSilva and Stephanie Pilnacek are not only at the top of their class; they are also a power couple. Stephanie was named valedictorian and Caio was named salutatorian of Bethpage High School. The two have been best friends and have been dating for a little more than nine months.

Stephanie has an impressive, weighted grade point average of 109.04 and aside from academics, is a talented student-athlete. She is the varsity softball captain, was honored as the 2022 MVP and was named one of the top 100 softball players by Newsday this year. Stephanie is also the varsity tennis captain and works at Prospect Sports.

Caio has a weighted grade point average of 108.91 and has a strong passion for karate. He is a USA Karate team member, was named the Pan-American Champion in the World Karate Federation Continental Championship and was the National Karate Champion in 2022. Caio is also an exceptional student. He took home a silver medal at the Long Island Math Fair this year and was selected to attend the Institute of Creative Problem Solving at SUNY Old Westbury during his freshmen and sophomore year. Caio is also a member of Bethpage High School’s math team and marine fitness club.

Both seniors have worked extremely hard, supporting each other along the way, and will be attending Northeastern University in the fall. Stephanie will be majoring in mechanical engineering, while Caio will be studying computer engineering/computer science.

Congratulations, Stephanie and Caio! We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors!

CAREERS IN EDUCATION AND BEYOND AT BETHPAGE HIGH SCHOOL

High school is all about growing both academically and socially, while also discovering your passions. This is why Bethpage High School's coursework is designed to help students navigate that age-old question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Our Bethpage students have the unique chance to explore what career path they would like to take after graduation through special classes and experiences.

Three years ago, the high school started offering a new half-year course, Careers in Education, for students interested in becoming a teacher or administrator. The class is run by English teacher Maria Whalen and gives high schoolers the opportunity to enhance their public-speaking skills and leadership abilities, while developing lesson plans and walking in the shoes of a classroom teacher. This year, the class featured 20 juniors and seniors who met every day and engaged in hands-on experiences. They participated in an array of activities, lessons and projects in class and took trips to experience teaching different grade levels. This included engaging in lessons with students at the high school, observing classroom lessons at John F. Kennedy Middle School and student teaching at the elementary schools.

Senior Marnes Richemond, who was enrolled in Careers in Education last year, said that the course helped him determine what he wanted to do in the future.



Juniors and seniors enrolled in Bethpage High School's Careers in Education course explore a possible future in the education field with teacher Maria Whalen (left).

"I couldn't see myself in a cubicle," he said, "but I knew I wanted to work with people."

Through Careers in Education, Marnes found a passion for working with students. He spent last summer further developing what he learned in the classroom by working for the Bethpage Schools' ESY (Extended School Year) program.

Both former and current students have raved about the welcoming environment, the strong connection to their peers and the

exceptional guidance that they have received from Ms. Whalen.

"I love the people in this class," said senior Konstantine Drosos. "It's not a Careers in Ed class, it's a Careers in Ed family."

Aside from Careers in Education, Bethpage High School has a strong partnership with BOCES. With a wide variety of trade and technical programs available, students can enroll in vocational education courses such as automotive technology, cosmetology, electrical technology, medical assisting and police science/criminal justice. Those enrolled in vocational programs attend Bethpage High School for a half-day for their academic subjects and then spend the other half at one of the BOCES centers. Offering this coursework outside of the high school prepares Bethpage students for the real world of work or continued postsecondary occupational education.

In addition to specific coursework, Bethpage High School students can better pinpoint their interests through the school's Career Expo. The expo was held this spring during the school day and allowed students to speak with a wide range of different professionals. Through events such as the Career Expo and coursework tailored to specific careers, our students are prepared to leave the high school with a clear focus on where the future can take them.



Careers in Education students participated in a stations activity with students in the high school ACE program during P.S. I Love You Day.

Bethpage: The Hub of Robotics 7

The Bethpage Robotics Program has grown tremendously over the years. Secondary school teams, Bethpage High School's Regal Eagles and John F. Kennedy Middle School's RoboEagles, have had a successful 2022-2023 school year, and our elementary teams have hit the ground running as this marked the first school year of an elementary robotics program in the district.

Throughout the months, Bethpage robotics members showcased their hard work and skills with schools both locally and worldwide, making Bethpage a true leader in the robotics arena. In December, the district partnered with FIRST Long Island to host the FIRST Lego League Challenge Practice Tournament at Central Boulevard Elementary School. Forty-two teams from across Long Island participated in the event, practicing with their robots before their competition qualifiers in the new year. John F. Kennedy Middle School's RoboEagles, under the direction of Stella Gatanas, was among the participants. Bethpage High School's Regal Eagles, led by coaches Leon LaSpina and Dr. Eric Kay, was involved as well, as the members sold breakfast, lunch, snacks, beverages and holiday ornaments and raised more than \$1,000 to support their upcoming building and competition season.

March was a busy month as our robotics teams continued competing and hosting events on school grounds. The Regal Eagles hosted the fifth annual Regal Eagle Rampage at Bethpage High School on March 5. The event featured 20 FIRST Robotics Competition teams from throughout the region. Attendees fine-tuned their robots and practiced in a noncompetitive environment before their respective regional events. In addition, the district's FIRST Lego League Robotics teams from John F. Kennedy Middle School and Central Boulevard, Charles Campagne and

Kramer Lane elementary schools were stationed at exhibit tables to share their build projects from the season.

The Regal Eagles continued to showcase their leadership as they hosted the FIRST Technology Challenge Long Island Championships at Bethpage High School on March 12. Twenty-four FIRST Technology Challenge teams from across the region were in attendance for the robotics competition. While the district does not have a FIRST Technology Challenge team, the Regal Eagles were hands-on at the event, selling breakfast, lunch, beverages and snacks to support their build and competition season. In addition, the Regal Eagles gave tours of their lab and showcased their robot.

The Regal Eagles closed out the month on a high note as the team participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition Long Island Regionals No. 1 and No. 2 from March 20-25. Throughout the week, the team students persevered through many challenges with their robot and proudly received the Engineering Inspiration Award and the Gracious Professionalism Award. By earning the Engineering Inspiration Award, the Regal Eagles was invited to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championships from April 19-22 in Houston, with NASA covering

the team's registration cost. This marked the seventh consecutive year that the Regal Eagles earned a spot in the world championships.

"The successful run demonstrated by the Regal Eagles earning the right to go to FIRST Robotics Competition World Championships for the seventh consecutive year is truly remarkable," Director of Technology Andrew Choi said. "This group continues to inspire me as I watch them creatively engineer, problem solve, use critical thinking, collaborate with other teams and hone their logic, all while doing this with class and professionalism. They are exceptional role models for STEM and robotics in their school community and beyond."

The team continued to share their love of STEM and robotics this past spring as they were invited to News 12 on May 1 for its grand opening of the television station's new studio. The team joined other community organizations in the marketplace area where they provided robot demonstrations and helped spread awareness about robotics and STEM.

Congratulations to the Regal Eagles and all our robotics teams on your hard work this school year. You make the Bethpage community proud, and we cannot wait to watch your continued success in the years to come.



The Regal Eagles, Bethpage High School's robotics team, traveled to Houston to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championships.

BETHPAGE SCHOOLS

Bethpage Union Free School District
Bethpage, NY 11714

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Bond Projects Underway This Summer



Bethpage High School's library will be renovated over the summer.

This summer, we are excited to continue completing more of our capital improvement bond projects. On the list is the full renovation of the Central Boulevard and Bethpage High School libraries, the construction of an athletic barn at the high school and new STEM labs at John F. Kennedy Middle School. The renovated high school library will include a new innovative classroom, and the new high school athletic barn will support physical education classes and athletic teams such as baseball, cheer and kickline. The new middle school STEM labs will provide a fresh space to support students in their academic research and artistic endeavors. These changes and additions will benefit our Bethpage students, and we look forward to seeing them utilize the new spaces once they are complete.



The library at Central Boulevard Elementary School will be renovated.



The new STEM labs at John F. Kennedy Middle School will encourage collaboration, creativity and innovation among students.