

Depew Union Free School District

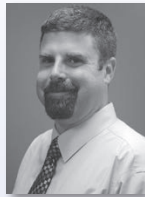
District Newsletter

Fall Newsletter 2013



Welcoming a DHS Assistant Principal

Depew High School welcomes a new assistant principal, James Lupini. He brings a teaching and administration background and is excited to join this school-community to share in the pride and tradition of the Wildcats.



Prior to coming to Depew, he taught science for eight years in the Buffalo Public School district and then served for five years as an administrator at Erie – 2 – Chautauqua – Cattaraugus BOCES. He looks forward to working with the residents, teachers, staff, family members and, most importantly, the kids at Depew High School.

"I wholeheartedly believe in the old adage that it takes a village to raise a child. The collaborative relationship of the student, family, school and community is paramount to educational success," he said. "We all play an integral role for each child and it is that constant system of support that ensures students can reach their utmost potential and graduate high school ready and prepared for success in their post-secondary lives."

Mr. Lupini has an open-door policy and welcomes and encourages your input. He looks forward to meeting all of you and having a great year at Depew High School. He can be contacted at 716-686-5090 or jlupini@depew.wnyric.org.

Alumni Inducted into Wall of Fame

The Depew Union Free School District, in partnership with the Depew Wildcats Alumni Association, inducted 16 distinguished graduates into the Alumni Wall of Fame on Oct. 17. They are recognized for their professional and academic success and for positively representing the Depew school-community. This group represents elected officials, business owners, historians, musicians, police officers, judges, biologists, former Board of Education members, accountants, dentists, engineers, community service members, educators, veterans, coaches, professional athletes and chiropractors.

A glass etched plaque with the names of the honorees is displayed in the high school cafeteria.

The 2013 Alumni Wall of Fame inductees:

Honored in the Decade category were Richard Wojciechowski (Class of 1945), Joseph DiPizio (Class of 1960) and Thomas J. Keane, J.D. (Class of 1983).

Honored in the Athletics category were James F. Rusin, Ed. D. (Class of 1966), Michael W. DiRienzo (Class of 1981), Carlo DiRienzo (Class of 1984), and Ellie Chan (Hanover) (Class of 1993).

Honored in the Scholar category were Emil T. Wozniak (Class of 1972) and Rita V. Capaccio, D.C. (Class of 1989).

Honored in the Community Service category were Hon. Gordon N. Willis (Class of 1954), Donald E. Kwak (Class of 1959), William M. Maryniewski (Class of 1969), Sarah Lazazzero-Piecuch 1987).

Honored in the Arts category was Robert Edward Wilczak (Class of 1973).



Cayuga Wins Third Prize in Big Lots Contest

Cayuga Heights Elementary won third prize in the Big Lots 'Lots2Give' program which awards a monetary prize to schools that received the most online votes during summer.

Cayuga Heights won \$10,714.84 and will purchase instructional reading and math materials for all students. The school had submitted a short video featuring the students pictured (front, l to r) Renee Martin, Carly Irzycki, Ryan Vargo and (back, l to r) Jillian Sujka, Mikey Nikonowicz, Aiden Kendall, Marcus Hartman, and Tyler Pagano. They also submitted a brief essay describing why their school is in need of financial support. The community was asked to vote for the school online and schools receiving the most votes won. Cayuga appreciates everyone who voted online to help their school win.



Depew Union Free School District

Capital Updates Gleam

Many of the 2011 Capital Project upgrades were completed for the start of school in September. At the high school, upgrades were made to art, science, music and technology rooms. Art students will see new cabinetry, counters, sinks, floors and lighting in the three art rooms. Science rooms on the first and second floors sport new cabinets, floors, lighting and tables. The music suite was completely redesigned to provide a common area for band and choral groups to practice together. New music storage cabinets were installed to hold musical instruments. New practice rooms include one soundproof room and other traditional rooms. The high school pool was re-grouted, ceiling painted and new lights installed. The nurse's office also received improvements.

At the middle school, the cafeteria will look brighter due to more efficient lighting being installed. The district's copy center will be moved from Terrace to the middle school. The middle school technology room wood floor was refinished.

At Cayuga Heights, the new gymnasium will be ready in January 2014. It will feature a new gym area and two classrooms. Outside the gym, a new concession stand faces the football field and will offer indoor restrooms for sports patrons. On the side of Cayuga, a new Parent Drop-Off Loop was constructed for morning and afternoon pickup and drop-offs. The Cayuga playground has new wood chips. The front parking lot was resurfaced and includes 30 designated Parent-Only spots.

At the bus garage, a new parking lot was created so buses will not have to be triple parked in a lot. The new area has block heaters so the bus batteries can be plugged in during cold weather for quick starts in the morning.

These upgrades were part of the \$15.9 million capital improvement project approved by voters on May 17, 2011.



Message from the Superintendent

Depew Schools Navigating Assessments, Student Data

As we begin another successful school year, assessments become a fundamental part of students' lives. New York State's increased focus on assessments and data, in order to help students become college and career ready, has prompted school districts to offer additional information and insight about tests and test data.

The state Education Department and federal Department of Education have increased focus on the use of data derived from tests in an effort to improve student achievement. NYSED mandates that every school district administer a variety of tests throughout the year. You are no doubt aware of the third- through eighth-grade exams administered in the spring and high school Regents exams in June. Depew is fortunate, as our students perform quite well on most assessments, and 90 percent are now graduating.

With testing comes scoring and data collection. In addition to assessing individual student achievement locally, test data is collected and provided to NYSED. It is disaggregated and analyzed for a range of uses. To assist test data analysis, NYSED often contracts with companies to coordinate database systems, provide a single tool to track student progress and identify optimal learning resources. One such company is inBloom, a nonprofit organization retained by NYSED to consolidate school and student data and information. The organization has been vetted by NYSED, funded with initial philanthropic support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. It is managed by a board of directors including education and technology experts.

When Depew Schools administers exams, we diligently maintain student privacy and security of data. We fully comply with school policy and the law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This federal law protects student and family privacy and applies to all school districts, NYSED and third parties who are under contract with school districts and/or NYSED. As a NYSED-contracted provider, inBloom has a detailed privacy commitment and security policy. It complies with FERPA, and in addition, NYSED has provided assurances that data provided to inBloom will not be sold to a third party. The data collection process does not accept student Social Security numbers and is not part of a national database.

As the superintendent of Depew schools, I share this information and background with you so you are fully informed about this aspect of state assessments and how it is implemented in the Depew Schools. We also want to assure you that student data is shared consistently with the law and in a manner that continues to protect student privacy. Again, in this age of student assessments, we want to assure you the district takes all measures necessary to safeguard student records.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey, Superintendent

Capital Updates Progress



Depew Union Free School District

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

Depew Informs, Inspires and Invites You *DIY Program Builds Partnerships with Parents*

Our district is committed to helping our parents become familiar with the Common Core Learning Standards and the math and English language arts shifts. Our Comprehensive District Planning Team has planned a series of activities at all three of our buildings throughout this school year to engage parents to learn more about Common Core and online academic resources that can be used at home.

Key focus of these activities will be:

- Services and opportunities we can offer to assist parents in supporting student learning at home.
- Celebrating the quality work of our students and providing explanations about the standards, curriculum, assessments and other academic requirements.

Our overarching goal is to create a DIY network of parents and students, helping to develop the tools needed, so every child in our district is successful.

Mark these dates and join us!

On **Nov. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at Cayuga Heights**, elementary parents can learn about Academic Intervention Services (AIS), Common Core standards and online resources that can be used at home. This will take place in the elementary cafeteria and library.

On **Nov. 23 from 9-11 a.m.**, high school parents are invited to a free pick-me-up pancake breakfast. Information will be presented by the school counselors about careers and college. This will take place in the high school cafeteria.

On **March 20 from 6-8 p.m.**, all district parents are invited to a Celebration of Literacy where students from all grade levels will read/share various literacy projects. This will take place in the high school auditorium and cafeteria. Refreshments will be served and a bookfair will be available.

Please mark your calendars and join us at these fun and informative sessions. We look forward to being partners in your child(ren)'s education.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Frey, Assistant Superintendent



Register for STAR Property Tax Exemption

If you receive the basic STAR property tax exemption, then you **MUST** register with the NYS Tax Department to continue receiving the exemption. Watch your mail for important information from the NYS Tax Department.

It's fast and easy to register. Go to www.tax.ny.gov or call (518) 457-2036. Please direct ALL questions to the NYS Tax Department.

The deadline to register is Dec. 31, 2013. Do not risk losing your Basic STAR exemption by failing to register.

Senior Citizens - Enhanced STAR

Seniors receiving the enhanced STAR exemption **DO NOT** need to register with the NYS Tax Department, but must continue applying annually with their local assessor or sign up for the Tax Department's Income Verification Program.

Capital Updates Progress



Cayuga Heights Elementary



Bringing Chinese Culture to Students

In September an assembly featuring Chinese dance and musical performances was held for Cayuga Heights Elementary students.

Ice Cream for CHE Readers

In September the Cayuga Heights Elementary reading department recognized 175 students for participating in the



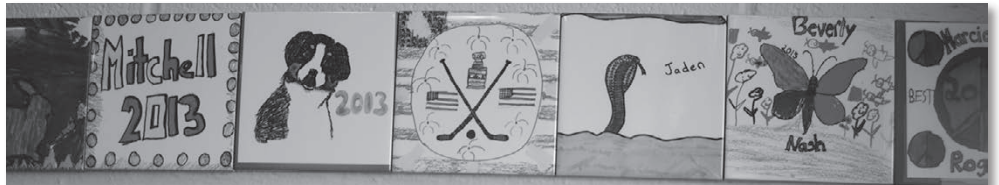
Summer Reading Awards Incentive program. Each student who participated received a certificate and was invited to a make your own sundae party. The students had a blast! The reading incentive program was very successful and plans are being made to continue the program next year.



Building Memories at Cayuga Heights Tile by Tile

As soon as visitors enter the foyer at Cayuga Heights Elementary School, they will notice beautiful tiles on the walls from the floor to the ceiling. These special tiles also line the ceiling around the building. These are the fourth- and fifth-grade memory tiles created by students during art class. This has been an on-going project for the past 10 years. The memory tiles began as a fourth-grade project so that each student could leave a memory in the school. When fifth-grade returned to the building, they began creating memory tiles.

This art project is created each January using the Square 1 Art Tile wall project and guidelines. Each fifth-grader begins by brainstorming to come up with ideas. They create six preliminary sketches of their best ideas. The best idea is finally drawn, painted or collaged onto an 8 x 8 square piece of paper. The original artwork is shipped to Georgia where it is printed onto a tile. In May, the tiles are hung on the walls of the school using liquid nail glue. These beautiful tiles are a permanent display meant to be enjoyed for years to come. It's always nice to see former students come back and look for their tile in the hallway. Next time you visit Cayuga Heights be sure to keep an eye out for the colorful memory tiles throughout the building.



Cayuga Heights Elementary

A Conversation with a DHS School Counselor:

Giving Back and Learning New Skills with Volunteering

Why is it important for a student to volunteer?

Many organizations rely on and actively recruit volunteers to accomplish their missions which typically assist those who have the most need.

- Volunteering helps students learn about various work tasks and jobs. This experience helps as they are thinking about career choices and post-secondary plans.
- Volunteering is one of the requirements to get accepted into National Honor Society.
- It boosts a resume. For the student with no previous work experience, volunteer work can help get that first job. Listing your tasks, duties and the skills you acquired while volunteering can look quite similar to work experience, the only exception is that you were not paid.
- Many scholarships – which is free money for college - are based on community service or volunteer work.
- Your supervisor can write you a letter of recommendation for you for college, a job or even a scholarship!
- Adults know the importance of networking. You just never know if you may meet someone who knows someone that could help you out down the road, with a job or career/college advice.

At what grade should they start volunteering?

Volunteer organizations like the Cheektowaga YES program (Youth Engaged in Service), and the Lancaster Youth Bureau's Volunteer program, require a minimum age of 14 to volunteer. Middle schoolers may want to volunteer in order to meet one of the requirements of the Junior National Honor Society. Girl/Boy Scouts volunteer even younger than that. Some students will already enter high school with some volunteer experience, but it really counts when you volunteer during your high school years, especially grades 9, 10 and 11. These are the critical years!

How can a student use their volunteer experience when they apply for a first job?

Getting your first job is not easy if you don't have previous work experience. So those students filling out job applications for the first time should never leave previous experience blank if they have volunteered in the community, for a neighbor, for a teacher, for their church, or through a YES program. You can list your volunteer tasks and duties just like you would from a previous job. There is no difference except that you did not get paid. This will help your application look fuller and will help you get that first job. During a job interview, you can use your volunteer experience to help you with specific questions as to how you would handle certain work situations or showcase skills you have utilized.

How do colleges view a student who has never volunteered?

That depends on what else the student has going for him/her. In talking with college admissions reps over the years, the DHS Guidance office has learned that the top three criteria they look at are: overall GPA, type of courses taken, and standardized college admissions tests like the SATs/ACTs. Additionally, they are looking to select students who are well-rounded and who have been involved in their school activities and their community. They are also evaluating students based on letters of recommendation. Volunteer work on a college application could be beneficial to a student, especially if he/she doesn't have a lot of the other criteria. It could be the deciding factor between an acceptance letter and a rejection letter. It could be your ticket in to your college of choice!

continued on page 12

Cool Ride to School

Good behavior in school and exhibiting good character with classmates earned two



fifth-graders a special ride to school on a fire truck in October. Jessica Kapinos and Logan Schwartz were picked up at their homes by the South Line fire department and driven to Cayuga Heights Elementary. Logan was accompanied by his brother, Bryce, a first-grader.



Digital Messages

A new digital sign on Como Park Boulevard displays activities taking place at Cayuga Heights Elementary School. The sign was installed for the start of the school year. Cayuga PTO fundraising events held over the last few years and teacher dress down days paid for the sign.



Depew Middle School

Seventh-Grade Activities

On Friday, Nov. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m., seventh-graders will raise money for their class and provide parents with a chance to get some holiday shopping done.

For two hours, students will watch and entertain children with holiday videos, coloring, crafts, open gym and other fun activities. Children should be between the ages of 3-10 years old for this event. An adult will supervise all children. The cost is \$5 per child or \$10 for a family.

The seventh-grade class is sponsoring a Night at Lasertron on Nov. 27 from 5 – 7 p.m. for all middle school students. The event is the day before Thanksgiving and it's a day off from school! The cost is \$17. You must provide your own transportation to and from Lasertron.

Solving Scientific Problems Together at DMS

Sixth-graders on the team of Mrs. Hoeflich and Mrs. Ziobro started the school year discovering that science was a way to learn more about the world around them. One benefit of newly gained scientific knowledge was that it can be useful in engineering. Using the scientific method, student groups designed an experiment and tested a hypothesis in order to find out the best way to build a tower using only the materials of spaghetti and marshmallows. Several "blueprints" were attempted, but in the end it was the team of Jersey Phillips, Zachary Plew and Madelynn Zilka who earned first place with a freestanding tower of 24 inches! Planning, observing, communicating, revising and teamwork were all essential for this challenge. All groups exhibited creativity and patience.

Middle School 'Survival' Lesson



In September, Depew Middle School sixth-graders took part in a "Middle School Survival" lesson taught by Belinda Westfield through the Counseling Center. The goal of this program was to help students understand the role of the school counselor, assist in the transition from the elementary school to the middle school setting, and reach out to children and their parents about alcohol and drug prevention in collaboration with ECCPASA

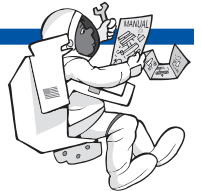
(Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse).

All sixth-graders received a "Student Survival Kit" which included a variety of information for students and their parents. Mrs. Westfield was especially excited because a handbook entitled "Middle School Declassified" was included in the survival kit. This handbook was created by a small leadership group at Depew last spring (currently seventh-graders) called "The Extreme Leaders." These kits, and the handbooks, have been given out to approximately 2,500 students in the Western New York area! Way to go Extreme Leaders!

Student and parent surveys were completed and results show the kits were a hit! A survey contest was held to encourage students to hand in their student and parent surveys. Pictured is Dylan Rosier, the winner of this contest!

A special thank you to the Losson Road Wegmans and Target stores for their support of and donations to this program.

Bringing 'Space' Into the Classroom



Experiencing a real astronaut simulator was the best part of last summer's Space Academy in Huntsville, AL for six Depew Middle School students.

Students Nicholas Sugg, Aaron Schaefer, Max Mages, Breonna Smith, Shanon O'Rawe and Megan Slocum were sponsored for the trip by the Northrop Grumman Foundation which paid their tuition and travel expenses.

Their technology teacher, Aaron Nolan, was awarded an educator's scholarship from Northrop Grumman and attended the Space Academy for Educators.

"There were M.A.T's (multi-axis trainers) that spun the kids around. We did shuttle missions where the kids and I got to play the role of real astronauts and mission control specialists. The kids and I got to fly the space shuttle, take part in exchanging a crew from a lunar base and perform a space walk to build a structure for the International Space Station," said Mr. Nolan.

The intense summer camp experience included sessions that pulled math, science and technology concepts into the students' activities with rockets, astronomy, robotics and aeronautics.

Mr. Nolan attended workshops and activities that included NASA content and correlated to the National Science Education Standards. Through his participation, he has access to a special website where he can adapt many of the workshop activities into classroom lessons for students.

"In my classes I plan to use as much as I can in my air and aerospace units. I had to design a lunar rover that would have to land on Mars and travel the furthest distance; that would be a fun activity for the kids to do," he said.

"We had to design a thermal shield that simulates the tile on the bottom of the space orbiter, this was then applied to heat from a blow torch and we had to have an egg placed behind it that wouldn't be damaged or cooked. One of the things that I enjoyed the most was meeting an astronaut. It was cool to meet someone who has actually experienced space travel. In his presentation he said, 'If we are ever going to go to Mars, it will be the students in your classroom that will take us there.' That has motivated me to become a better teacher for all of my students," said Mr. Nolan.

Depew Middle School

Support Depew Middle School When You Shop at Tops or Target

When you make purchases at Tops Markets, you can support Depew Middle School. If you enrolled in the "TOPS in Education Program" last year, it is important to know that parents must re-enroll for the 2013-2014 school year. You can begin that process right now. Simply go to www.topsmarkets.com/education and follow the enrollment steps.

If you shop at Target, you can sign up on-line at www.target.com/redcard to participate in the "Take Charge of Education Program." Click on the "Take Charge of Education" icon and register. Choose Depew Middle School and the school receives 1% of Target purchases made using a Target credit card.

STEM Lecture at UB Sparks Possibilities

What better way to launch a new year of possibilities at Depew Middle School and Depew High School than with an inspiring field trip to an excellent institution of higher learning right in our own WNY backyard? Seventeen middle and high students and their parent and teacher chaperones were invited by the University of Buffalo to attend a special evening lecture as part of the 27th Annual Distinguished Speaker series on Sept. 25.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teachers, Ms. Cobb, Mr. Uhrich, Mr. Caban, Mrs. Gracz, and Mr. Pawlikowski joined forces, volunteering their time, encouraging students' participation, and assisting them in arranging carpooling with several generous

parents who found time and room in their vehicles to share with these budding young scientists.

All lovers of physical science and passionate about its impact on our future, the students were thrilled to be in the presence of Michio Kaku, a world-renowned theoretical physicist, futurist, and bestselling author. Dr. Kaku, the UB graduate student choice speaker and popularizer of science, often appears on television and radio as both an informative and entertaining guest. He also hosts numerous documentaries about science in our world, including his own BBC series on Time.

Dr. Michio Kaku's presentation lifted any veil of doubt from our students' preconceptions of the relevance of science in their daily and future lives. His talk, liberally sprinkled with humorous anecdotes and observations of human nature, opened wide the windows of curiosity in their minds to the probabilities of discovery in their own pursuit of knowledge in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering at the higher university levels. For some, the spark was ignited; for others, the flame was fanned to burn brighter!



Pictured l to r (front row): Elizabeth Maroshick, Nick Sugg, Samantha Maroshick and Jake Bleasdale. (back row): Mr. Uhrich, Danny Marshall, Emily Law, Mr. Pawlikowski, Josh Sugg, Adam Bauer and Ms. Cobb.



Two Ways for Parents to be Involved at DMS

Parents interested in taking an active role in helping Depew Middle move forward can volunteer to be on either the Shared Decision Making Team (SDMT) or the DMS Parent Advisory Committee. These two groups will play an active role in looking at things like school practices and procedures, dress code, and parent communication over the course of the year.

The main purpose of both groups is to enhance home-school communication.

SDMT meetings are held on a monthly basis. The team is comprised of parents and teachers and will be determining needs and goals for the year. The meetings will involve working on those goals and reporting progress.

The Parent Advisory Committee is new to DMS this year. The function of this committee is to perform a self evaluation of the school and help create a plan of action to improve DMS.

For more information or to sign up, contact Mrs. Nowakowski at 696-5051.



DHS Top 10 Students of 2012-13



Valedictorian

#1 Jessica Addesa

100.345% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Jessica, daughter of Anthony and Christina Addesa, is studying biomedical engineering at the University at Buffalo where she received the Presidential Scholarship. She plans on becoming a biomedical engineer, perhaps in the prosthetics field.

Favorite Class: AP Physics helped me understand real life situations.

Cherished Teacher: Mr. Uhrich had a willingness to listen and great sense of humor to make every class strenuous, enjoyable and educational.

Words of Advice: "Just take the test!" This refers to not looking at trends in multiple choice questions and just focusing on each question as individual. This advice helped me to get 4's and 5's on all five AP exams that I took.

Most Memorable Experience: Winning the trebuchet contest in EDD; giving the Valedictorian speech; playing floor hockey; and playing Capture the Flag on the playground in AP English.

Advice: Live long and prosper.

Salutarian

#2 Maeghan E. Glynn

99.949% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Maeghan, daughter of Mark and Tricia Glynn, is enrolled in the pre-pharmacy program at the University at Buffalo where she received the Provost Scholarship. She hopes to get a pharmacy internship soon and after graduating she would like to work as a pharmacist.

Favorite Class: College chemistry helped me discover my love for

chemistry and challenged me.

Cherished Teacher: Mr. Parrinello was extremely helpful and dedicated to helping me understand the information, while teaching me to be an independent student. He encouraged me to pursue pharmacy despite its challenging nature, while always reminding me to ask questions.

Most Memorable Experience: Attending football games and participating in soccer brought me happiness and relief from the stresses of academics.

Advice: The hard work is absolutely worth it. Continue to focus on academics your senior year and your scholarships and college acceptance letters will reflect your efforts.

#3 Monica E. Zeisz

98.915% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Monica, daughter of Kent and Doreen Zeisz of Depew, is majoring in exercise science at the University at Buffalo with career plans as a physical therapist.

Favorite Class: Calculus because she enjoys problem solving and taking the derivative or integral of expressions.

Cherished Teacher: Mrs. Seymour challenged me as a student, yet made learning a fun, positive experience. She helped me to appreciate the Spanish language and culture. Mrs. Seymour taught me to truly value my education.

Most Memorable Experience: Participating in the musicals. I enjoyed playing my trumpet in the pit orchestra alongside my friends and watching the music department come together, like a family, in order to create a spectacular show!

Advice: I know it is cliché, but enjoy your senior year of high school! The time goes very fast. In the words of Ferris Bueller, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

#4 Ryan Mietus

98.638% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Ryan, son of Larry and Kathy Mietus of Depew, is studying business administration at SUNY College at Brockport where he received the Dean's Scholarship. His career plan is to become a CEO of a company and become a business consultant.

Favorite Class: Engineering Design & Development (EDD) because he was able to tie together all of the Project Lead the Way courses, design and build interesting products and gain a

better understanding of the post-engineering process.

Cherished Teacher: Mrs. Seymour always made learning new and difficult material extremely fun. She made us work hard, set goals, and never give up because hard work pays off.

Most Memorable Experience: Spirit Week 2013 because it really brought the school together as a whole as we rallied together to support the football team. I was also named Homecoming King..

Advice: Work hard, keep focused, put your heart into what you do, and stay humble. You can be a successful individual, but won't get anywhere without a good support group and connections.

#5 Victoria E. Williams

98.638% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Victoria, daughter of Edward and Nancy Williams of Cheektowaga, is enrolled in the Honors College at the University at Buffalo where she received the Provost Scholarship. She is undecided with her major, but is hoping to work for Pixar or DreamWorks as an Animator.

Favorite Class: Concert choir because almost everyone in the music department was really close and what better way to start the day than singing with your best friends.

Cherished Teacher: Mrs. Hatfield because she was super fun; kept us on track; and was just all around awesome. Her advice was saying that we could succeed at anything we decided to put effort into.

DHS Top 10 Students of 2012-13



Most Memorable Experience: Student directing with my best friends.

Advice: Apply for all the scholarships. College is expensive! Mostly, take the time to really be close with your friends and make your last year memorable for the right reasons.

#6 Nicole M. Champagne

97.704% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Nicole, daughter of Douglas and Cheryl Champagne of Depew, is enrolled in the veterinary technology program at Medaille College where she received the Trustee's Scholarship. She plans on

becoming a licensed Vet Tech and working at a clinic.

Favorite Class: Anatomy & Physiology. Mr. Grzybek was a great teacher. It was interesting and I loved learning about the body.

Cherished Teacher: Mrs. Seymour has the best attitude about life and she truly loves her job. Her personality and sense of humor made me look forward to being in her class and learning. I hope that I will love my job as much as she does. Her best advice, "prior proper planning prevents poor performance in the future."

Advice: Enjoy every activity of your senior year and have fun because it will be over before you know it.

#7 Matthew Orzechowski

97.051% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Matthew, son of Mark and Christine Orzechowski of Depew, is enrolled in the computer science/applied math program at the University of California at Berkeley, where he

received the Chancellor's Scholarship. He hopes to become a computer programmer or possibly a lawyer.

Favorite Class: College chemistry because of the teacher, the interesting material and the challenge the class placed on him.

Cherished Teacher: Mr. Parrinello is extremely intelligent, interesting, and was able to make the most boring and difficult of ideas interesting and simple.

Thank You: Mr. Parrinello, Mr. Caban, Mr. Uhrich, and Mr. Endres for all helping me become the student I am today, and helping me become a better man.

Advice: Do not procrastinate. You have a lot of work to do, and no one will hold your hand. Also, enjoy it. It will be the most enjoyable, most memorable, and the fastest year of your life.

#8 Kaylin N. Carter

96.659% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Kaylin, daughter of Eric and Paula Carter of Depew, is enrolled in the radiologic technology program at Trocaire College. She hopes to have a positive college experience and a successful career in this field and advance to a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.

Favorite Class: Production Systems Woodworking because it was hands-on and allowed her to be creative.

Cherished Teacher: Mrs. Seymour always made class fun and she was always there for her students.

Most Memorable Experience: Being a part of the Varsity Softball team for 4 years.

Thank You: Mr. Cintron for always helping me to get the correct schedule and for all the advice he gave me.

Advice: Life is a journey, not a destination, so enjoy it and work toward your dreams.

#9 Brian A. Rybak

96.622% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Brian, son of Gary and Lynn Rybak of Cheektowaga, is attending SUNY Geneseo. He is undecided as to his career plans, but hopes to either jump right into his profession after graduating or attend graduate school.

Favorite Class: Physics. After two years of being with mostly the same classmates, we worked extremely well together.

Cherished Teacher: Mrs. Foels has a passion for what she does and she inspired me to work for what I love and what I believe in.

Most Memorable Experience: Beating Lancaster in football my senior year and our crowd storming the field!

Advice: Get involved in everything you can. Be outgoing and stand out. You'll look back and have no regrets. Seize every opportunity because many of them are once in a lifetime.

#10 Lauren E. Yaskow

96.587% (4 Year Weighted GPA)



Lauren, daughter of Greg and Joy Yaskow of Depew, is enrolled in the physician assistant program at Daemen College where she received the Presidential

Scholarship. After graduation in five years, she hopes to be working as a PA.

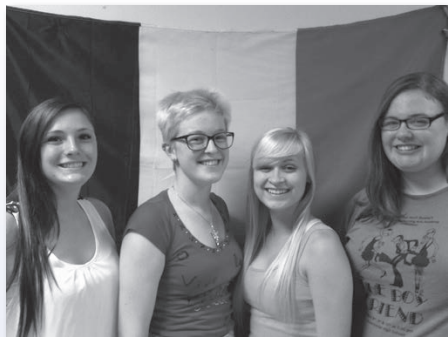
Favorite Class: Anatomy & Physiology because the class gave her insight into the field she wanted to study.

Cherished Teacher: Mr. Kolbert is an outgoing teacher that made the learning environment fun. He encouraged her to pursue her dreams to enter the medical field.

Most Memorable Experience: Being a part of the Varsity Softball team for four years.

Advice: Have fun your senior year, but don't slack. Put yourself in a good position to start college the following year. Have a great senior year! Enjoy it, because it goes by too fast!

*Wishing Our Top 10
Success in College*



DHS French Club Officers Elected

The DHS French Club met in September to enjoy French ice cream treats (poire belle hélène and pêche melba) and discuss events for the year. The club is planning several cultural celebrations, attending a Sabres game and a performance of Beauty and the Beast at Shea's. Pictured (left to right) are this year's officers, Morgan Grosch, vice president; Emily Law, president; Elizabeth Sieracki, treasurer; and Emily Bassett, secretary.

Irish Classical Theater Field Trip

In October, DHS French Club members enjoyed a field trip to the Irish Classical Theater in downtown Buffalo to see School for Husbands. Everyone enjoyed seeing this production of Molière's 17th century farce as a culmination of our study of Molière's works.



Frawley Wins Buffalo Music Hall of Fame Essay Contest, \$750 Award

An essay written about her musical experiences has earned Katelynn Frawley, a Depew High School sophomore who plays nine instruments, a \$750 scholarship from the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame.

Katelynn learned about the Denton, Cottier & Daniels Buffalo Music Hall of Fame essay contest from her music teacher George Kroetsch. Her essay described her musical experiences and what her future plans were. She is considering a career as a general music teacher, band director or professional musician.

She attended the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame induction gala in October. She would like to use the award money to purchase a clarinet.

She plays an impressive list of instruments: piano, clarinet, alto clarinet, French horn, flute, trumpet, bassoon, oboe, and guitar. She is taking a music foundations class this year and is in the concert band, pep band, marching band, jazz ensemble and the concert choir.



From Page to Stage

Depew High School English honors students attended a matinee performance of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest at the Lancaster Opera House on Oct. 17. Students enjoyed seeing the novel come to life and wrote how their understanding of the novel's themes changed from "page to stage."



Dream Trip Comes True for Social Studies Teacher

As a child, Sarah Foels, a social studies teacher at Depew High School, dreamed of traveling to China. She has always been fascinated with its culture, history and language. For years, she has wanted to personally experience China in order to help strengthen her students' understanding of China's past and present.

In the spring of 2013, her dreams came true. After applying for a Fulbright-Hays Group Project grant, she was selected to participate in Towson University's "Destination China: Understanding Chinese Culture in Three Contexts." During three weeks in July, she journeyed, along with 12 other teachers, throughout southern China to study its history, culture, educational systems, religion, language and economy. The group had an intensive itinerary that included lectures from local experts in different fields of study, as well as discussions with school administrators, teachers, students, businessmen and government officials. They spent time visiting historical and modern sites in Shanghai, Changsha, Shaoshan, Fenghuang City, Guilin, Guangzhou and Macau.

She is looking forward to sharing her perspective on China with her students by developing new curricula for her global studies and economics classes. Pictures show Mrs. Foels meeting with a student from No. 1 High School attached to East China Normal University and visiting Orange Islet in Changsha, near Mao's birthplace.



Junior Earns Coveted Internship



Lily Dietz, a junior at Depew High School, has earned a coveted internship at Northrup Gruman. The program is a two-year commitment that will build on her interest in technology, math and science.

She had to submit an essay that included four topics; favorite subject (math), a significant



event (her grandfather's death), future plans (design engineering) and three things that motivate her. She also had to go through an interview process with company officials.

After high school, she is considering attending either Indiana Tech or Trine University in Indiana. Her future job prospects could include working for the military or for Disney world; she wants to bring smiles to people's faces.

She works at Northrup Gruman once a week, during the day, and is teamed with seven other local high school students. The students will develop ideas for projects and present them to company officials who will choose two projects.

She was encouraged to apply for the internship by Aaron Nolan, a technology teacher. Through her participation in the internship program, she is eligible for college scholarships.

DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5201 S. Transit Road
Depew, New York 14043

Board of Education

Dave Sheff, President
Barbara Staebell, Vice President
Nancy Fumerelle, Trustee
Michael Fusani, Trustee
Patrick Law, Trustee
John Spencer, Trustee
Justin P. Young, Trustee

Jeffrey R. Rabey
Superintendent of Schools

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 34
Depew, New York

www.depewschools.org

A Conversation with a DHS School Counselor:

Giving Back and Learning New Skills with Volunteering

Continued from page 5

What can parents do to help?

Encourage your child to volunteer starting in ninth grade! We are fortunate to have both the Cheektowaga YES program and the Lancaster Youth Bureau's Teen Volunteer program in our community. There are many organizations locally that are looking for volunteers. Help your child find a place he/she will enjoy volunteering at. Maybe your child enjoys nature and the environment. Look into volunteer opportunities at Reinstein Woods. If your child enjoys being with his/her grandma and grandpa, maybe contact the Lancaster Senior Citizens Center or a local nursing facility. Parents and students can utilize the volunteer page on the high school website to find an appropriate match.

Without using any names, can you share a time when you saw a student have more opportunities open to them because of their volunteer work?

Certainly! We have seen many students get scholarships because of their volunteer work. As stated before, many scholarships are based on community service. We have known some students, who because of their volunteer work, have had a better idea of what major to select in college. One young lady volunteered in a nursing home and realized she had an interest in working in the medical field. She was able to see the nurses, aides and therapists working with the residents and realized that was her passion! Another young lady has been doing

volunteer work in a retirement home. She enjoys interacting with seniors and assists in their community room with social activities. She recently applied for a job as a server at a retirement facility and because of her volunteer work with senior citizens, was able to get the job. The benefits are endless both for the volunteer and for the people who are getting the help they need.

