

The STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pride and Perseverance

MARK DEER PARK'S 60TH COMMENCEMENT



For the Class of 2023, Deer Park High School's 60th commencement on June 22 proved as unconventional as the seniors' high school experience. Inclement weather forced the ceremony indoors in the high school auditorium, but it did not dampen the spirits of the gathered soon-to-be graduates or their immensely proud families. While the location was different, much was familiar in the joyous ceremony, from the bagpipes of the Roisin Dubh Pipe Band kicking it off, to the traditional handing out of diplomas, turning tassels and tossing caps.

"Today is a day of reflection and gratitude as we say goodbye to these familiar hallways and embrace the next chapter of our lives," said Senior Class President Kayley Eising, who was first up to speak.

On a day in which the seniors were poised between past and future, salutatorian Sara Naqvi reflected on the latter.

"There's a subtle strength that elements of our past hold, whether they be experiences or the people we've met," Naqvi said. "These memories and artifacts of the past will take us far in unexpected ways."

Valedictorian Sophia Zoraksh offered a suggestion to her classmates intertwined with a powerful story of her family's experience as immigrants.

"As we stand at this crossroad, I would like to offer you some encouraging advice," Zoraksh said. "Find something that motivates you to keep learning, keep growing, keep pushing you through life to become the person that you envision yourself to be. For me, it was my family."

The day's guest speaker was returning Deer Park Class of 2013 valedictorian Tyler Doogan, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Buffalo and a master's degree in aerospace engineering at Texas A&M University. Doogan implored the graduates to keep evolving and continuing their educational journey.

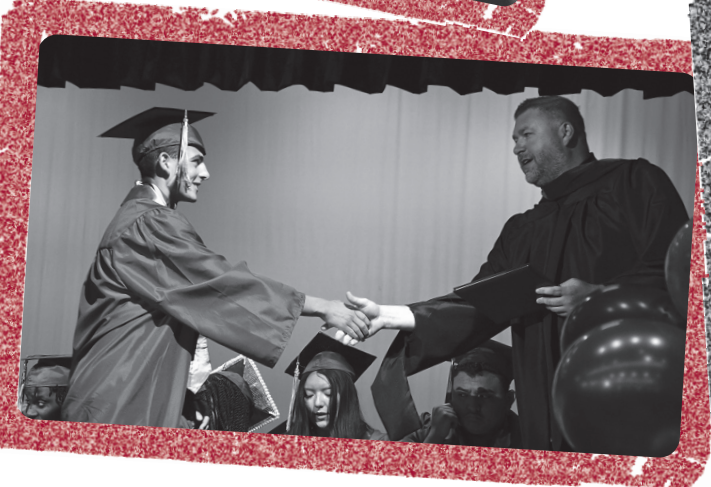
Superintendent James Cummings discussed the many challenges faced by the graduates, and affirmed the renewed importance of health and happiness.

Principal Charles Cobb encouraged the grads to celebrate the culmination of their hard work and dedication.

"As you move forward into the next phase of your lives, I want to remind you of the importance of resilience, adaptability and perseverance," Cobb said. "These are the qualities that will help you navigate the unpredictable journey that is life."



CLASS OF 2023!





Valedictorian
Sophia Zorakhsh



MEET DEER PARK'S
2023
*Valedictorian and
Salutatorian*



Salutatorian
Sara Naqvi

The high school's Class of 2023 valedictorian and salutatorian are Sophia Zorakhsh and Sarah Naqvi, respectively.

Zorakhsh, who earned a weighted GPA of 108.94, is an AP Scholar with Distinction; Spanish Honor Society and Muslim Student Association president; member of the National Honor Society and Math and Science Honor Society; and a DECA Suffolk County Regional Competition and Long Island Science and Engineering Fair award winner. She will attend Stony Brook University, majoring in biology.

Naqvi, who earned a weighted GPA of 108.54, is an AP Scholar with Distinction; New York State Seal of Biliteracy recipient; National English Honor Society president; Science Honor Society vice president; member of the National Honor Society, Math and Science Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society and International Culture Club; and All-State flute player, All-County jazz saxophone player and member of the school's jazz band. She will attend Berklee College of Music, majoring in music production/music therapy.

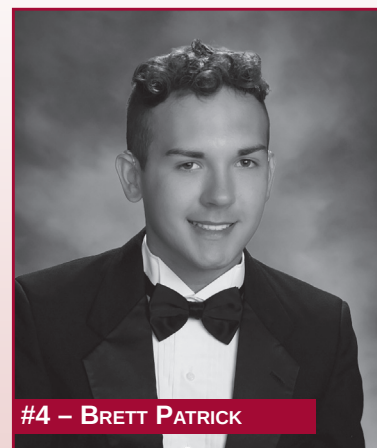
Rounding out the top 10 students are Steven Mendell (ranked third), Brett Patrick (fourth), Jimmy Jiang (fifth), Ryder Min (sixth), Tiffany Bala (seventh), Gabriella Ortiz (eighth), Kayley Eising (ninth) and Ryan Klivansky (tenth).

Principal Charles Cobb congratulated the graduates on the culmination of 13 years of hard work, dedication and constant pursuit of perfection in their academic pursuits. He noted that being named a top 10 student doesn't just start at the end of their high school career, but instead, starts with the foundation laid and fostered by teachers, parents and guardians.

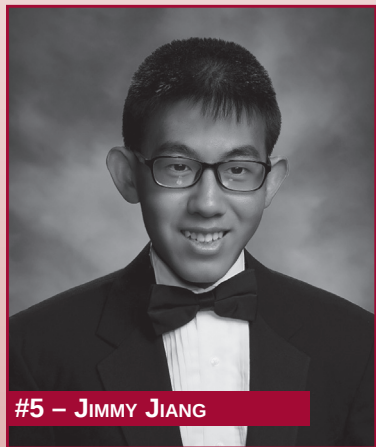
"I encourage and implore all of you to not stop here," Cobb said. "Continue to do what you are doing with passion and vigor."



#3 – STEVEN MENDELL



#4 – BRETT PATRICK



#5 – JIMMY JIANG



#6 – RYDER MIN



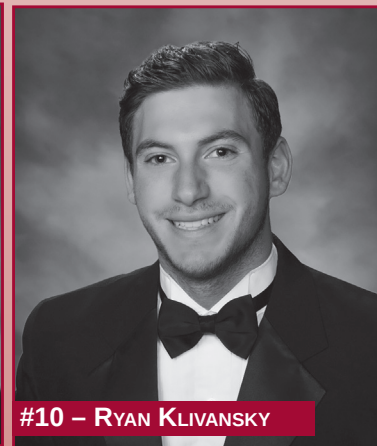
#7 – TIFFANY BALA



#8 – GABRIELLA ORTIZ



#9 – KAYLEY EISING



#10 – RYAN KLIVANSKY

*****ECRWSS*****
Postal Customer

May Moore
Primary School

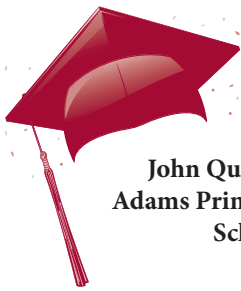


MOVING UP



Class of 2023 Presented With Senior Awards

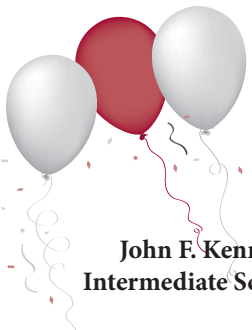
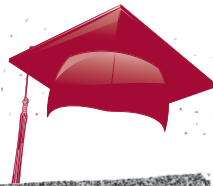
Deer Park High School recognized outstanding seniors of the Class of 2023 at the school's annual senior awards on June 1, presenting the students with department awards, schoolwide awards and scholarships. Steven Mendell led the Pledge of Allegiance, Dimitra Pavlatpos performed the national anthem and Principal Charles Cobb provided words of support and congratulations for the seniors and their families. Music for the event, held in the school's auditorium, was provided by the school's superb jazz ensemble, directed by Louis Nicolosi.



John Quincy
Adams Primary
School



Robert Frost
Middle School



John F. Kennedy
Intermediate School

