

The STANDARD

SUMMER 2024

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Class of 2024

Celebrates Their Dreams and Bright Futures



Preceded by the Roisin Dubh Pipe Band, the graduating seniors of Deer Park High School's Class of 2024 walked on to Al Centamore Athletic Field on a lovely June 27 evening, ready to celebrate one of life's biggest milestones. To kick off the school's 61st commencement, Xavier Edmond sang a stunning rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" before a string of memorable speeches riveted the students, staff and families in attendance.

Senior Class President Katia Papailler talked about her senior quote, "Consistency is the prerequisite to excellence."

"This line means that you have to be true to who you are throughout your life to truly achieve your definition of excellence," Papailler said. "Excellence is what you want it to be. Never let anyone darken your light, as it should be limitless."

Salutatorian Calvin Nguyen touched the hearts of all in attendance with a speech that focused on his older sister and role model Christine, who died in 2021.

"Christine, I hope you're proud of me and that you're

in heaven right now looking down at all of us smiling," Nguyen recalled. "I'm here standing on this very podium, just like I promised. Life is unfortunately unpredictable, so cherish the present, cherish those who you surround yourself with and cherish the great times like today. Be the epicenter of activism for your microcosm and you will make a lasting contribution to our macrocosm."

"As we look beyond today, we are finally able to forge ahead into adulthood and begin a new phase of our lives," valedictorian Jordan Trojan said. "Whether you go to college, start a business or a trade, or join the armed forces, it matters not what you do, but that you wish to do it. The world will rest on our shoulders and it is up to us to make a better future. Our education here at Deer Park prepared us to spread our wings and take flight. Today is that day, and to the Class of 2024, let us fly."

The day's guest speaker was Deer Park Class of 2014 valedictorian and Harvard University graduate Kyle Devine, who advised the graduates to not dwell on their mistakes.

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Class of 2024



Celebrates Their Dreams and Bright Futures



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“To Kyle’s point, understand that there’s no such thing as failures in life, there are successes and there are lessons, and I hope you learn from those lessons,” Superintendent James Cummings told the grads.”

“As your principal, I have watched you grow and evolve into the remarkable young adults that you are today,” Principal Charles Cobb said. “I have witnessed your accomplishments, your struggles and your triumphs. I have seen you develop your talents, explore your passions and

discover your true potential, and I’m proud to say that you have exceeded all expectations. You are now part of a proud legacy of Deer Park High School, and we hope that you will continue to represent us with honor and distinction.”

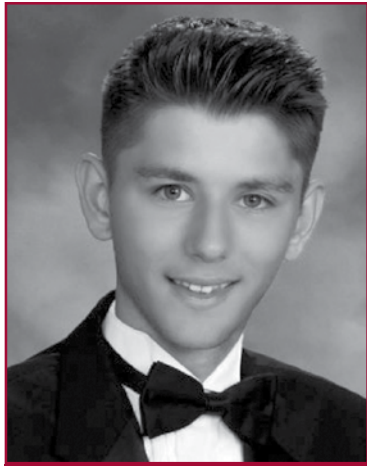
One by one, each graduate walked to the podium, where their diplomas were awarded by members of the Board of Education. They then performed the tradition turning of their tassels and hurled their caps into the June sky, ready to fly as Falcons alumni.

Awards, Accolades and More

Deer Park High School celebrated its seniors at the school’s annual Senior Departmental Awards on May 23 and presented scholarships at the Senior Awards on June 6, both held at the auditorium in front of a proud audience of friends and family.



MEET DEER PARK'S 2024 *Valedictorian & Salutatorian*



Valedictorian
Jordan Trojan



#3 Eadie Liu



#5 Stephanie Sheeler



#7 Fatima Nawaz

The high school's Class of 2024 valedictorian and salutatorian are Jordan Trojan and Calvin Nguyen, respectively.

Trojan, a National Merit Commended Scholar and AP Scholar with Distinction, serves as vice president of the Math Honor Society and treasurer of the Italian Honor Society and National English Honor Society, and is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. He was named a Long Island Scholar of Mathematics and earned a perfect score on the AP Computer Science Principles exam. An accomplished Scholar-Athlete, he has competed on Deer Park's varsity cross-country, spring track and winter tracks as well as the junior varsity soccer team. Trojan will attend Stony Brook University, majoring in mechanical engineering and computer.

Nguyen, an AP Scholar with Distinction, serves as president of the Science Honor Society and vice president of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, and is a member of the Math Honor Society and National English Honor Society. He is also a 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholar; New York State Seal of Biliteracy recipient for Spanish; National Spanish Examination silver medalist in 2021 and 2022; co-captain of the school's Science Olympiad team; a member of the Academic Team, Math Team, DECA club and DECA Honor Society; coding leader of the STEM Club; DECA State Career Conference qualifier in 2023 and 2024 and DECA Suffolk County Competition human resource management second-place winner; Deer Park representative at the 2024 Long Island BOCES Student Regional Forum; a 2021 Breakfast for Champions world language winner; and a member of the 2023 homecoming court. In athletics, after two years on the junior varsity boys soccer team, he earned a spot on the boys varsity soccer team in his junior and senior years, earning Academic All-County honors for the 2023-2024 season. Nguyen will attend Rochester Institute of Technology, studying through RIT's combined bachelor/accelerated master's program and majoring in software engineering and artificial intelligence.

Rounding out the top 10 ranked students are Eadie Liu (third), Kathy Lin (fourth), Stephanie Sheeler (fifth), Evan Attrino (sixth), Fatima Nawaz (seventh), Alexis Lazarte (eighth), Shirley Bhuiyan (ninth) and Kaliya Hull (10th).

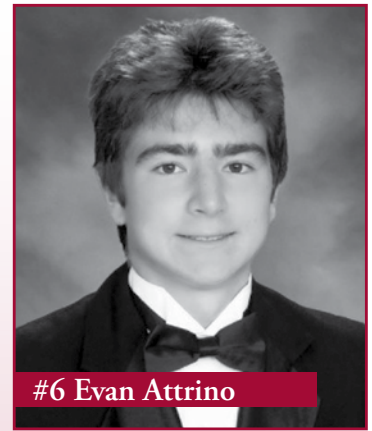
Principal Charles Cobb congratulated these exceptional 10 graduates, saying, "Each of you is demonstrated not only intellectual proudness, but also remarkable dedication and resilience in your pursuit of excellence. Your hard work and commitment have set a high bar at Deer Park High School, inspiring your peers and the entire school community."



Salutatorian
Calvin Nguyen



#4 Kathy Lin



#6 Evan Attrino



#8 Alexis Lazarte



#9 Shirley Bhuiyan



#10 Kaliyah Hull

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Five Falcons Seniors Sign for College Athletics

Five outstanding Deer Park High School senior athletes committed to continuing their sports careers in college this fall during a June recognition ceremony hosted by Athletic Director Dominick Fontana in the school's chorus room.

Karen Garcia will play soccer at Queens College, majoring in biochemistry; Vincent LaCascia will play baseball at Bridgeport University, majoring in physical therapy; Hayden Lovinsky will play football at SUNY Cortland, majoring in criminology; Tyler Romero will join the swimming and diving team at Adelphi University, majoring in physics; and Brian Ugalde will play baseball at SUNY Cortland, majoring in physical education.



May Moore Primary School



Moving Up



John Quincy Adams Primary School



Robert Frost Middle School



John F. Kennedy Intermediate School

