

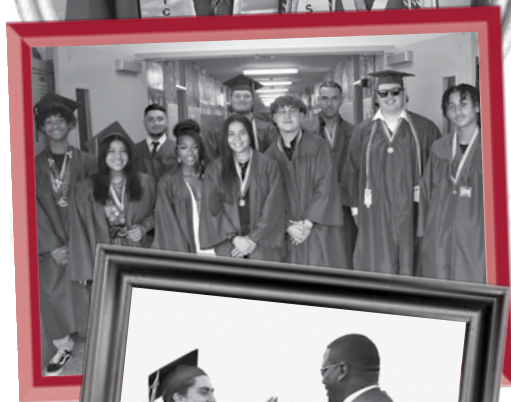
The STANDARD

SUMMER 2022

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEER PARK GRADUATES ARE

Falcons Forever



Deer Park High School graduates were encouraged to draw upon the lessons learned and the friendships made as a source of inspiration for the future at the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2022 on June 23.

In their crowning moment as Falcons, the 303 graduates walked onto the field in their maroon caps and gowns to cheers and applause from their proud families. After remarks from senior class advisers Sara DiCandia and Marissa Caruso, who reminded them to never forget where they came from, senior members of the chorus sang the alma mater.

Senior class President Yoki Lin recalled how much they have achieved since their first day of high school on Sept. 5, 2018. There were also some unexpected moments.

“We’ve come across every challenge that life can throw at us and these hardships have only made us stronger,” she said.

Salutatorian Saima Hoque centered her speech around the quote, “Do I dare disturb the universe?” She encouraged her fellow graduates to indeed disturb the universe in their pursuit of their goals and dreams.

Valedictorian Nicholas Stamatakis spoke about the “mini role models” throughout his time in high school – teachers and friends who have imparted some kind of knowledge on him. He told everyone, as they move

on from high school, to find people who have traits they want to emulate.

For the seniors, the path to graduation felt like a long journey but for their parents, the time flew by, noted Superintendent James Cummings. They’re both right, he said. To give a little perspective, he noted some changes that have taken place in the lifetime of the graduates. They were born around the time Michael Jordan retired from basketball and people could still rent movies from Blockbuster. The iPhone came out when they were 4 and popular social media site TikTok debuted when they were in middle school.

Mr. Cummings said that that graduating class features students who have been educated in Deer Park their entire lives, as well as those who have moved here later on from other towns, states and countries.

“For one brief moment in time, all of your journeys have taken you to the same place,” he said, encouraging them to continue their personal journeys by following their own passions and interests.

Principal Charles Cobb recognized five students who will be joining different branches of the military after graduation. He praised the entire class for the style, grace and unrelenting passion they have shown in enduring many challenges over the past few years.



Class of 2022



Valedictorian
Nicholas Stamatakis



Salutatorian
Saima Hoque



MEET DEER PARK'S 2022 *Valedictorian and Salutatorian*

The high school's Class of 2022 valedictorian and salutatorian are Nicholas Stamatakis and Saima Hoque, respectively.

Stamatakis, who earned a weighted GPA of 110.42, is a 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student. He is a member of the National Honor Society, president of the National Science Honor Society, Science Olympiad president and circuit lab medalist, DECA co-president and medalist and New York DECA Honor Society member, and varsity swim team captain and 400-meter freestyle relay regional winner. Stamatakis will attend the University of Florida, majoring in computer science.

Hoque, who earned a weighted GPA of 110.21, is president of the National Math Honor Society and National French Honor Society, tutoring chair of the National Honor Society, Science Olympiad treasurer, DECA co-president and medalist and New York DECA Honor Society member, Red Cross president and Greater New York Region field ambassador, SADD Club treasurer, Student Council president and Class Council vice president. Hoque will attend Harvard University, majoring in molecular and cellular biology.

Rounding out the top 10 students are Rumeysa Camlica (ranked third), Giovanna Giffone (fourth), Andrew Dolinsky (fifth), Kylie Kuhn (sixth), Megan Bush (seventh), Nicholas Glancy (eighth), Shadat Alam (ninth) and Pritheva Zakaria (10th).

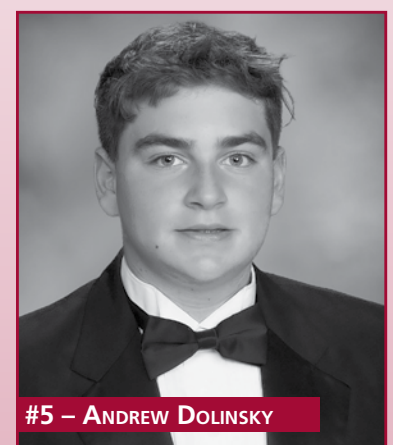
"The accomplishments of these students - not only here at the high school but for what they're going to do after they leave - will no doubt leave an indelible mark on our society and as members of this community," Principal Charles Cobb said. "Their hard work has definitely been noticed by myself and the staff here, and they all should be commended for that."



#3 - RUMEYSA CAMLICA



#4 - GIOVANNA GIFFONE



#5 - ANDREW DOLINSKY



#6 - KYLIE KUHN



#7 - MEGAN BUSH



#8 - NICHOLAS GLANCY



#9 - SHADAT ALAM



#10 - PRITHEVA ZAKARIA

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

May Moore
Primary School



MOVING UP



High Schoolers Take a Walk at Their Old Primary Schools

Continuing a beloved senior walk tradition begun in 2018, Deer Park High School students from the Class of 2022 visited their respective primary schools on June 21, speaking to second graders from John Quincy Adams Primary School and May Moore Primary School and reconnecting with their old teachers.



John Quincy
Adams Primary
School



Robert Frost
Middle School



John F. Kennedy Intermediate School

