



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Valedictorian: Emma Rosenthal

School Attending: Cornell University

**Awards:**

- College Board AP Scholar with Distinction
- National Hispanic Recognition Program
- National Honor Society Member
- Performed in the Long Island String Festival & Suffolk County Music Educators' Association Concerts
- World Languages Honor Society



**Extracurricular Activities & Community Service:**

- Robotics Team
- Newspaper Club
- Chamber Orchestra
- Girl Scouts of Suffolk County Ambassador

## Salutatorian: Melissa Raynoha

School Attending: Muhlenberg College

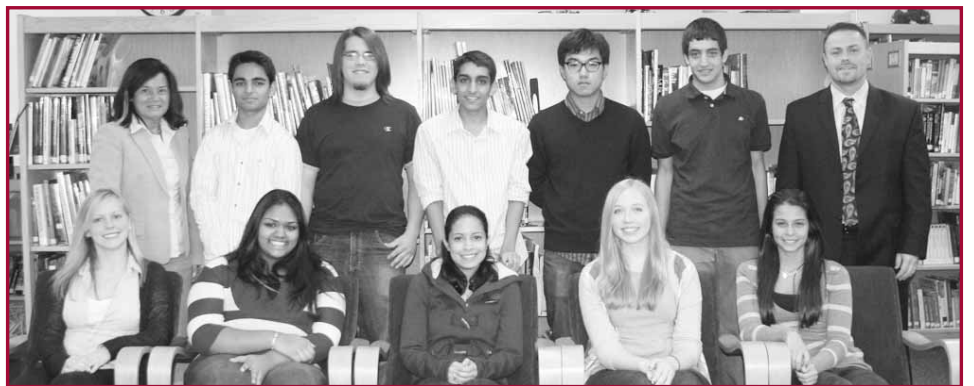
**Awards:**

- Gold Honor Roll – 4 Quarters
- New York State Scholar Athlete
- College Board AP Scholar with Distinction
- Spanish Honor Society Member
- Babylon Citizens Council on the Arts Teen Theatre Award



**Extracurricular Activities & Community Service:**

- Theatre Stage Crew and Manager
- Girls Varsity Swimming Team
- ESL Teacher at Ascension Lutheran Church
- Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon



Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen and High School Principal James Cummings congratulated (standing, l-r) Ahmel Arshad (#9), Erik Zimmerman (#3), Mohammad Omair Ahmed (#7), Yong Woo Kim (#5), Michael Soldano (#8), (seated, l-r) Dana Norman (#4), Shanta Ramsaran (#10), Emma Rosenthal (Valedictorian), Melissa Raynoha (Salutatorian) and Brittany Guttadauria (#6) on their class rankings.

## Class of 2011 Top Ten

**Emma Rosenthal**  
**Valedictorian**

**Melissa Raynoha**  
**Salutatorian**

Erik Zimmerman - Third  
Dana Norman - Fourth  
Yong Woo Kim - Fifth  
Brittany Guttadauria - Sixth

Mohammad Ahmed - Seventh  
Michael Soldano - Eighth  
Ahmel Arshad - Ninth  
Shanta Ramsaran - Tenth

## Academic Futures

**The Class of 2011 will be continuing their academic careers at colleges and universities across the United States. Listed below are a few of the institutions Deer Park students will attend in the fall:**

New York University  
Mercy College  
NY Institute of Technology  
Fordham University  
Penn State University  
Salisbury University  
Stony Brook University  
University of Tampa  
Temple University  
Wake Forest University

Pace University  
University of Delaware  
Virginia State University  
University of Albany  
St. John's University  
Hofstra University  
NYS Maritime College  
University of Texas  
SUNY Binghamton  
Fashion Institute of Technology

*The Deer Park School District fosters an environment of collaborative learning where knowledge is exchanged from person to person and generation to generation. Below are words of wisdom, advice based on personal experiences from members of the educational community who hope that their insight will help advancing students as they transition into the next phase of their academic careers.*

*The Class of 2011 Top Ten selected teachers and administrators who have had an impact and influence on them throughout their time at the high school. Their advice for the graduating class is as follows.*

**Teresa Greco Tarello**

I am a firm believer that one should take what he likes and leave the rest, but these are the simple truths we discover along our respective paths - do what you love, trust your gut and be inventive!

**Susan Bollag**

Starting college is about "what's next?" Worry less about who you were up until now and open your mind to who you want to become.

**James Henry**

Leave high school with confidence and live the life you have imagined. Don't hesitate to try new things, meet new people, and fulfill your dreams.

**Jeanne Regan**

Embrace your experiences along the way and realize that your attitude and determination are contributing factors to your future success.

**Derek Mainhart**

Ours is a world that is getting smaller and ever

more connected; technologically easier to navigate, but morally more complicated. In such an environment, it is essential to make informed decisions that promote not only your own well-being, but that also take into account the consequences of those decisions on the lives you are connected to.

**Sheryl Deacon**

Written goals have a way of transforming wishes into wants; cants into cans; dreams into plans; and plans into reality. Goals are the road map to the life that you want...keep them clearly visible at all times so that you can stay on course and ultimately arrive at your planned destination.

**Ted Smirlis**

Keep an open mind, always be flexible, and have your priorities straight: health, family and job. Take risks. Don't worry about failure. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't try.

**Francis Amendola**

Don't settle for things the way they are. Advances in science happen because what is, is challenged. As my students, I have challenged you not to accept things just because I have said them. Continue to challenge yourselves and those around you.

*The Top Ten students represent the academic elite of the district. Their dedication and commitment to their studies as well as a variety of extracurricular activities have helped them excel in all areas of life. Here are their words of advice for underclassmen.*

**Emma Rosenthal**

When you face challenges, remember that everything will be okay, and that everyone goes through the same struggles in high school. Ask for advice from faculty members, family or friends when you need it because they are always willing to help you.

**Melissa Raynoha**

Choose classes or join activities you might not normally consider - you're likely to discover passions or strengths you never realized you had before. Take your work seriously - when you put in the appropriate amount of time and effort, you will be more proud of your work and the feedback you receive from teachers. Appreciate your teachers - they are trying to make you stronger thinkers and more intellectual, as well as socially aware individuals.

**Mohammed Ahmed**

Study hard, but also relax a little. You only go through

childhood once, so enjoy it. Just remember to always finish your work. You're going to enjoy the next four years of your life!

**Dana Norman**

The first thing you should figure out about yourself, and it may take some trial and error, is how much you can balance when it comes to taking honors or AP classes alongside extracurricular activities. Know what you can handle, and if there is a subject you have a talent in, pursue it by challenging yourself.

**Mike Soldano**

While you should have a good time during your high school career, always remember: make sure you do the best you can in class, try to set the foundation for the best future possible, and most importantly, be yourself, not allowing others to change you.

**Yong Woo Kim**

Take ownership of your four years here!

**Shanta Ramsaran**

"What's the point of these classes anyway?" is a question that many students ask. For some students it's about the challenge and understanding of what is being taught, rather than just memorizing for a test. In AP classes, the

skills that are taught are used to prepare each and every one of us for what is going to be expected of us in college.

**Erik Zimmerman**

Studying is important for getting good grades, and no matter how much you hate it, it needs to be done. Make friends with your teachers and guidance counselors, you need their letters of recommendation for college and scholarships.

**Brittany Guttadauria**

Never let anyone tell you that you can't; always try to be the absolute best you can be; never let anyone pressure you into something that you aren't comfortable doing; and always do the right thing for yourself.

**Ahmel Arshad**

Don't be afraid to get involved in all the activities that the high school has to offer right from the start. Try to discover what you like early on, whether it be sports, music, theater or anything that interests you.

*Graduating eighth-grade students have survived the tumultuous middle school years and have sage advice for incoming sixth-grade students.*

**Maria Skoljarev**

A great thing about Robert Frost is its library. You can use the library during your lunch period to do research, read, type papers and complete computer assignments. You can do homework there, too.

**Dean Guerra**

Most important, is to just be nice to one another. When you show respect to your fellow students, they will

show you the same respect. I mean come on, who likes a bully in school?

**Nicole Patino**

In art you make projects, in home and careers you cook and sew, in business communications you learn how to use the computer, and in health you learn about the body and how to stay safe.

**Emily Fowler**

Robert Frost offers a wide variety of after-school activities for all interests, including sports, music, writing and the arts.

**Tyler Staton**

Your agenda book is very important. That is where you write out your homework. It is also your passport to the library, nurse and to the bathroom.

**Frankie Powers**

Each student gets a guidance counselor who is there to help you. Nobody expects you to transfer to middle school on your own, which is why you will want a lot of people to help you.

**Jessica Orelus**

To survive middle school, don't procrastinate! Don't put off that project, assignment or report until the last minute. If you do, chances are most likely when you're done, you won't be very proud of your work.

**Sabrina Grunseich**

A big difference between JFK and Robert Frost is you get much more freedom. Don't be fooled - with this freedom comes responsibility. In Robert Frost, you're in control of your own success.

*Fifth-grade students have successfully transitioned from primary to intermediate school and below share some tips for incoming students to enhance their experiences at JFK.*

**Emily Siegel**

- Be ready for anything.
- Know your times tables!
- If you are being bullied, TELL SOMEONE! JFK doesn't tolerate bullying.
- Always ask the teacher for help.
- If you get lost at first, don't worry! The teachers will show you where to go and show you around the school.

**Nick Franklin**

- JFK stands for Just For Kids, so get ready for the best three years of your life!
- Cafeteria B is more quiet, peaceful and smaller than Cafeteria A.
- Make sure you always greet the principals with a wink and a smile.
- All of the teachers are AWESOME here!

**Kaylee Houlahan**

- The teachers are so nice and will teach you many new things.
- Don't be nervous about getting a lot of homework, I promise it's not that bad.
- You are going to love the after-school clubs you get to join, such as Track, Art and Literature.

*John Quincy Adams and May Moore students have learned a lot at the elementary level and have special messages for the district's youngest scholars.*

**Ernest Cairo**

When your teacher is reading a book, don't talk to your friends. Leave your special toys at home because you might lose them in school. JQA is a lot of fun because you will have special days here. We have field day, family fun night and class trips. If you want to make friends, you should ask, "Do you want to be my friend?" If you are friendly and nice, you will have a lot of friends in Kindergarten.

**Angelina Litterello**

All of the teachers at JQA are nice, so don't be scared of your new school. Don't be mean. Always listen to the teacher and don't talk back to them. Be careful when you run around on the playground. Don't be a bully, and keep your hands to yourself.

**Erin Egan**

At May Moore, you will have a Smartboard in your classroom. It is like a computer screen without a mouse that you can write on, and you will do lots of fun activities with the Smartboard. During reading time you will have a reading partner and will read lots of great books together. At writing time you get to write stories about your life.

**Gianna Giffone**

There is a lot of fun stuff to do at May Moore and everybody is nice. In your classroom you will see lots of books, cubbies, chairs and tables. You get to do science, choice time, reading, writing, lunch, recess and my favorite - math. In math you will learn to add and subtract. It is really easy and fun to do.

# FALCONS FLY FROM THE NEST



The district recently celebrated its 48th commencement exercise with graduating seniors, distinguished guests, alumni and community members. Members of the American Celtic Pipe Band performed the musical processional, which led the Class of 2011, who were dressed in maroon and silver caps and gowns, into the high school gymnasium where the graduation ceremony took place.

Senior Class President Vincent McAnuff kicked off the program with a speech that highlighted the great spirit that drives Deer Park. He described the team effort that makes the Class of 2011 so successful and thanked the district for their help in guiding them to this point in their lives.

Valedictorian Emma Rosenthal defined graduation as a beginning, not an end. She explained that this is a time for students to build a path and purpose for themselves and determine what they want to get out of life. She reminded students that throughout their lives, they all deserve to be happy and successful. Salutatorian Melissa Raynoha highlighted the lessons learned throughout their school career and the social skills and values they have built as they grew up and matured in the district.

As a tradition in the Deer Park School District, the guest commencement speaker is also a former valedictorian. This year's speaker was Class of 2001 Valedictorian Shirley Wu. She spoke about her life experiences after leaving Deer Park and the importance of believing in oneself, which can be the most powerful form of inspiration.

Principal James Cummings shared the impressive achievements and stats of the class and encouraged students to create their own futures while being good to themselves and others. Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen shared a story of motivation and assured students that they possess the tools needed to be successful at the college level and in their careers.

The ceremony concluded with the awarding of diplomas, which was led by Board of Education members who presented students with their diplomas as their names were read aloud.



# HONORING ADVANCEMENT



Throughout the month of June, the district celebrated the academic milestones of its students. At Robert Frost Middle School and John F. Kennedy Intermediate School, students in the eighth and fifth grades, respectively, graduated from their schools and prepared to move on to the next level.

Robert Frost Middle School's ceremony honored eighth-grade student Karl Zaharia, who is battling Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Principal Eliana Levey welcomed district teachers, administrators and Board of Education and community members to the event and spoke about the successes of the class. Student Council President Nicolette Poggioli's address to her class, she described the memories she and her peers have shared throughout their time at Frost, while looking toward their future at the high school.

Student awards recognized outstanding academic, artistic and athletic achievements and were presented by the Board of Education. The Board also presented awards that represented and were sponsored by community members, alumni and past teachers and administrators. To conclude the ceremony, all advancing eighth-grade students were brought on stage to receive their certificates from Board of Education members, Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen and middle school administrators.

John F. Kennedy Intermediate fifth-grade students came together to reflect on their time together and look forward to Robert Frost. Student Council President Kaylee Houlahan described her excitement in moving to the middle school and exploring the academic, athletic and extracurricular activities available to students. In addition to the student awards and accolades, musical performances from the flute choir and the entire fifth-grade class showcased the students' many talents. Representing their classes, fifth-grade teachers announced their students, and students were presented with their certificates.



## Youngest Move Up

Students from the district's two elementary schools, John Quincy Adams (JQA) and May Moore, along with the Abraham Lincoln Center, recently celebrated their academic milestones with primary moving-up ceremonies and end-of-the-year celebrations. Teachers, administrators and members of the Board of Education and district community came together to recognize the Class of 2011 second-grade and pre-kindergarten graduates.

Following opening remarks from JQA Principal Jennifer Rodriguez, and in honor of the ceremony's theme, "Up, Up and Away to JFK," the second graders pleased the audience with their performance of songs such as "Memories" and "Ready to Go." Similar to JQA, the May Moore students, who wore maroon "May Moore - The Place to Be" t-shirts, entertained the crowd by singing a variety of musical selections, including "Busy as a Bee," and enjoyed a plethora of bubbles that filled the air thanks to a bubble-making machine.

Each of the ceremonies concluded with a presentation of students, along with the children receiving a variety of different awards. Teachers

then spoke about some of their favorite memories from the year. Lastly, John F. Kennedy Intermediate School Principal Susan Bonner welcomed students to their new school and encouraged them to not only become active in the classroom, but to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities as well.

Abraham Lincoln's pre-kindergarten "Faces of the Future" celebration also included class performances for the crowd. Following the processional of youngsters and an introductory welcome from Principal Dr. Christine Chriscione, the students danced and sang for the audience. The students' performance of songs such as "If You Want to Make a Friend" and "I Am Special" illustrated certain educational and social lessons that they had learned throughout the year.

In preparing to advance a grade level, these students have each received the opportunity to become familiar with the schools they will be attending next year. They have also been introduced to the administrators and teachers who will help them through their future academic endeavors.



# Students in the Business of Media Arts

As part of their business curriculum, high school students work collaboratively with MSG Varsity, a television network dedicated to high school sports, academics and activities throughout the tri-state area. Students utilize advanced audio and visual equipment to record, edit and produce content that highlights the district and its students.

In recognition of their valuable contributions, Deer Park was the only school on Long Island to be awarded a \$1,000 grant for their coverage over the course of the year. MSG Varsity, along with The New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NY NATAS), announced the honor at the MSG Varsity V Awards, which celebrates high school student achievement in video production.



Deer Park High School Principal James Cummings and teacher Jill Perry-Eising led the school's MSG Varsity program, which was awarded a grant for its exceptional media work.

This successful group of business students was led by teacher Jill Perry-Eising, who was also recognized by MSG Varsity for creating one of Long Island's largest programs. In addition, she was selected as the keynote speaker at MSG Varsity's Video Creation Conference. At the conference, Mrs. Perry-Eising presented to high school media teachers and advisors on how to create an MSG Varsity program within their school districts. She used the district's model to discuss how the program was incorporated into the Business Education Department in Deer Park.

## GIRLS LAX GIVES BACK

Deer Park's Girls Varsity Lacrosse team hosted an alumni game to benefit three Deer Park families. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Zaharia, LoGrande and Melendez families, each of whom has students within the district who are dealing with severe medical issues.

Deer Park lacrosse alumni returned to Falcon Field to face off for a competition of skills. Varsity lacrosse members sold t-shirts and wristbands, as well as light snacks and refreshments for fans.

Champions on and off the field, the girls' team, led by Coach Saccone, entered this season defending the League title they had claimed last year. The successful team is comprised of hardworking, talented, caring and dedicated student-athletes whose goal is to make an impact in their sport and within their community. Their mission is to assist these families in need however they can and to support the students of the Deer Park School District.



A true team effort, the Girls Varsity Lacrosse program organized an athletic fundraiser for Deer Park families.



The Girls Varsity Lacrosse team sold inspirational bracelets to support families who have ill children.

## A Picture of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

May Moore Elementary second-grade student Taylor Korsiak won the New York State Senate Earth Day Poster Competition. Students were challenged to illustrate this year's theme, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," by depicting how we can help the environment. Taylor's colorful creation featured people with shovels in hand planting trees and flowers with a sign that read "Don't Litter." Birds and insects are depicted in the background around a green recycling symbol.

Senator Owen Johnson visited May Moore to present Taylor with an award certificate and to thank students for their participation in the artistic program. During his time at the school, Senator Johnson and students discussed the importance of preserving nature and taking care of the resources we have.



Senator Owen Johnson presented May Moore Elementary student Taylor Korsiak with an award certificate and framed artwork of her winning "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" poster. (l-r) Taylor's second-grade teacher Mrs. Noblett, mother Mrs. Korsiak and grandmother all attended the ceremony and congratulated Taylor on her accomplishment.

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## TEACHER Spotlight

The district has launched its Senior Internship Program under the leadership of teacher Christopher Kauter. The unique program provides students with the opportunity to explore careers of interest while earning course credit.

Internship coordinator Mr. Kauter described his goals for the developing program, stating, "My hope is to transform the senior experience into one that encourages students to build and hone the skill sets needed for their desired career choice. The program aims to challenge students with a rigorous academic and on-site education and prepare them for future success beyond high school."

Students are placed within a variety of organizations that are willing to educate interns about their field or area of expertise, while mentoring students through hands-on training.

In order to further enhance the internship, core curricular areas including English Language Arts and government have been infused into the program so that students can learn about resume building and become knowledgeable on current economic issues. This proactive approach gives students a head start in post-high school life and a platform to gain confidence within the workforce.



The Girls Track team was one of five spring sports to achieve New York State Scholar Athlete status.

## Spring Sports

The district was represented by five varsity spring sports squads who were designated New York State Scholar Athlete Teams. Varsity Softball, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Golf, Boys Track and Girls Track teams achieved this honor by achieving and maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 90 or better throughout the entire season.

The spring teams made strong playoff runs, including Varsity Softball, who were Suffolk County Class "AA" Finalists, and Varsity Baseball, who were Class "AA" Playoff Qualifiers, while Boys Track athlete Andrew Bylicki was an All-State Qualifier.

Individual athletes also made a mark this season. Varsity Softball player Alyson Dzierzynski made the All-State, All-Long Island and All-County teams and was named the League 5 Player of the Year and Small School Player of the Year Runner Up.

Varsity Lacrosse athletes Nicole Kline and Jim Doherty were both given the Unsung Hero Award, while Varsity Baseball player Joseph Muenkel was named Pitcher of the Year and teammate Thomas Kastelan was the League's Most Valuable Player.

## Learning from the Masters

Professional musicians from the Metro Chamber Orchestra visited Deer Park to conduct master classes with student-musicians. Metro Chamber Orchestra members first performed an electrifying concert for students before breaking into smaller groups for instruction.

The professionals focused on technique and showmanship as they worked with students who play wind and percussive instruments in various district ensembles. Throughout the classes, students practiced concert pieces and received individual critiques. In addition, students were able to speak with the musicians and inquire about specific topics of interest, including genres of music and musical equipment.



A percussionist from the Metro Chamber Orchestra instructed Deer Park student-musicians on how to execute drum rolls and the diverse tools used during various performances.



School news  
and photos  
compiled by  
Marissa  
Sanseverino.

### Board of Education

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