

The STANDARD

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Seniors Display Sense of Pride at **2016 Commencement**


GRADUATES

Proudly capping off their years of hard work and dedication in the district, the seniors of the Class of 2016 celebrated their graduation on June 24.

One by one, students' names were announced as they received their diplomas and congratulations from Board of Education members, curriculum associates, Superintendent Eva J. Demyen and Principal James Cummings, who is leaving the high school to become the district's assistant superintendent for pupil personnel services.

The ceremony began with the processional by members of the American Celtic Pipe Band, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Student Council President Papri Basu, and the national anthem, performed by Alec Winters. Music was provided by the Deer Park High School Symphonic Band and the Ninth Grade Band under the direction of Jerry Cannarozzo.

Imploring his fellow graduates to "relish the moment," salutatorian Peter Demopoulos, the senior class president, said, "You spent the last four years of your life resetting the clock. We have reached the pinnacle of our education, yet this is only the beginning."

After senior vocalists performed the high school's alma mater, valedictorian Kathryn Block addressed the Class of 2016.



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from page 1.*



“So many of you have real-life experiences, and that’s what really matters,” Block said. “Life is not about the destination...it’s about the journey.”

The guest commencement speaker was Cindy True, the valedictorian of the Class of 2006. She stressed that the graduates should take chances, saying, “My only life regrets came from the chances I did not take.”

“Each of you rose to the occasion over the last four years,” Cummings said during his principal’s address. “I couldn’t be prouder of what you’ve accomplished. My challenge to you is to make a difference in

the world. Ultimately, you’ll be judged by the friends you kept and the way you treated people. Always remember that.”

The graduates moved their tassels and tossed their caps in the air as the high school phase of their educational adventure was completed.

Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Frank Caliguri, retiring after 16 years in the district, shared some words at what was his final graduation in Deer Park.

“As I sat down to write, there were so many things going through my head,” Caliguri said. “When you think about it, we’re all going through the same thing...all entering a new phase in our lives. Never forget where you came from. Always have a sense of pride because you’re from Deer Park.”

“I couldn’t be prouder of what you’ve accomplished. My challenge to you is to make a difference in the world.”

-Principal James Cummings





#1 Kathryn Block



#2 Peter Demopoulos

Meet the Class of 2016 *Valedictorian and Salutatorian*

The valedictorian and salutatorian for the high school's Class of 2016 were Kathryn Block and Peter Demopoulos, respectively.

Block, an AP Scholar with Distinction, was a member of the school's National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, Varsity Leaders Club, HEAT Club, Chess Club and Math Team. She had been a member of the varsity girls

swim team since she was a freshman, and was team captain during her senior year, wherein she organizes team events and lineups. She has been involved in Girls Scouts since kindergarten, through which she contributes to numerous charitable endeavors, and is working on her Gold Award.

Demopoulos served as president of the Class of 2016, National Honor Society and PEN Society, as well as editor

in chief of the school newspaper and captain of the Academic Team. An AP Scholar with Honor, he was a member of Deer Park's World Language Honor Society, Student Council and Newspaper Club. As a member of DECA, he was elected treasurer and earned fifth place in the state tournament. He was first chair bassist in the jazz ensemble, played on the junior varsity gold team and volunteers with the local Knights of Columbus.



#3 Alexandra Jacullo



#4 Theresa Grimaldi



#5 Lauren Lazarte



#6 Tajriana Haque



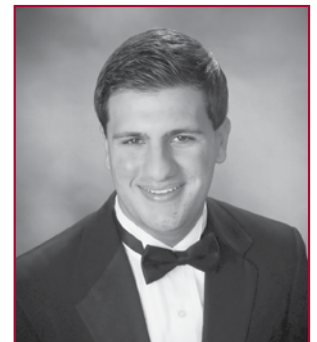
#7 Michael Strenta



#8 Kevin Chang



#9 John Santare



#10 Nicholas DiModica

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Dedicated Seniors Earn Over \$75K in Scholarships

The dedicated and hardworking leaders of the Class of 2016 earned more than \$75,000 in scholarships at the school's annual Senior Awards, held in the auditorium on June 9. The awards, bestowed by teachers, administrators, local politicians and community members, served to honor a diverse array of student achievements, both in school and throughout the community.

After a sterling performance by the high school's jazz ensemble, Student Council President Papri Basu led the Pledge of Allegiance. Destiny Parsons, an outstanding vocalist in the school's theater program, then sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Three new student scholarships were debuted this year – the Suffolk County Police Department 1st Precinct Brotherhood Memorial Award, the Mid-Island Club Award and the Bill Borman Memorial Scholarship Award – and the alumni groups of the Classes of 1983, 1984 and 1995 again sponsored scholarships in a show of support for their alma mater.

"These students have made Deer Park High School a better place through their dedication to their academics, athletics, activities and community service," said Associate Principal Jeanne Kozlowsky.

