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CLASS OF
2021



Center, General Douglas MacArthur High School Principal Joseph Sheehan is pictured with salutatorian Matthew Fioretti and valedictorian Emily Zhang.



MacArthur High School senior Gracelyn Brown received her diploma from Principal Joseph Sheehan.



Members of the Class of 2021 are all smiles prior to the start of the graduation ceremony at Hofstra University.



From left, Division Avenue High School Class of 2021 Salutatorian Colin Muessig, Student Council President Jasmeet Sahota and Valedictorian Nikhil Keer all gave words of wisdom during the commencement exercises.

THE
ADVENTURE
BEGINS

PROUDGRAD

CONGRATS!

LEVITTOWN PRESENTS THE CLASS OF 2021

With high spirits and having overcome a year of adversity, Division Avenue High School and General Douglas MacArthur High School graduates took their seats at Hofstra University's James M. Shuart Stadium on June 19 to celebrate the close of their high school years and to look forward to the future.

Family and friends filled the complex sidelines as central and building administrators, Board members, keynote speakers and invited guests took their seats on stage as the ceremonies began.

Division Avenue Principal John Coscia told the students that the day represented "a redemption for time lost and a renewal of our freedoms." He also congratulated the Class of 2021 for their optimism during a time of adversity. "During a time that set people up for desperation and pessimism, you relentlessly and doggedly chose hope... the persistent pursuit of hope,

and a return to the life you love so deeply never wavered." MacArthur High School Principal Joseph Sheehan described this year's graduation as a "day full of promise." He told the students that they should reach for challenges and that each of them controls their own destiny. Most importantly, he said to always ask the question, "What does my work say about me and my character?"

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tonie McDonald encouraged the graduates to continue to "support the causes that fuel their passion." She also recognized the students from each school who will enter the military and thanked them for their commitment and service. Each of the students received a flag from one of their schools classrooms so they "can take a piece of the schools" with them.

During his valedictory address, Division Avenue

High School valedictorian Nikhil Keer called the Class of 2021 "extraordinary" and "amazing" and said, "no mask is strong enough to stop us from breathing fire." He told his classmates that "achievement is about so much more than a diploma. It's about hard work, efforts and goals, and new opportunities we have because of all we've done."

MacArthur High School valedictorian Emily Zhang described human beings as being in "constant flux." She said, "I believe that everyone has a unique role to play in life. However, these aren't fixed positions or concrete guidelines we must follow. So, as you move forward, don't shy away from the unknown."

The Class of 2021 also heard from their respective salutatorians and class presidents, who each reflected on their experiences and projected life lessons onto their fellow peers.

Board of Education President Peggy Marengi then congratulated the graduates on their resiliency as she officially presented the Class of 2021. Each of the graduates then walked across the stage to receive their diploma to the cheers of peers and family. Prior to the recessional off of the field, each of the schools' senior choir members accentuated the significance of the occasion by singing "The Irish Blessing" and "Never Grow Up."



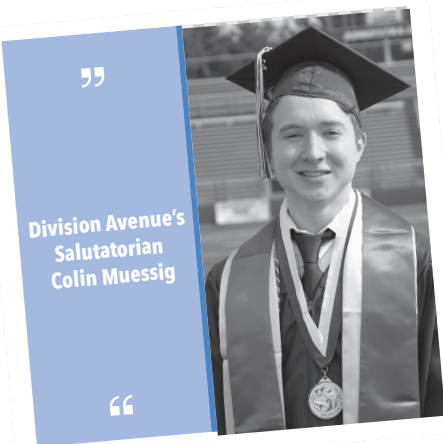
“
A moment to remember for DAHS graduates.
”

NIKHIL KEER: VALEDICTORIAN

With an impressive grade point average of 104.73, Nikhil has received many academic accolades throughout his high school career at Division Avenue. Among his achievements, he was named an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, an AP Capstone Diploma recipient, a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student and a 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholar Program nominee. Nikhil served as the president of the school's DECA club, the president and team captain of the Science Olympiad club and a valuable member of the Mathletes club. He was also a peer leader and a Levittown DoSomething club member where he participated in social change and civic action campaigns. He will attend Stony Brook University where he will major in physics.



Division Avenue's Valedictorian Nikhil Keer



Division Avenue's Salutatorian Colin Muessig

COLIN MUESSIG: SALUTATORIAN

Colin is a strong student with a grade point average of 103.62 and an Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors for his excellent scores on at least four AP exams. As a freshman, Colin had his artwork selected in the Art Supervisors Association's All-County Exhibit. Colin was involved in many extracurricular activities at Division Avenue including Science Olympiad and Mathletes club, where he enjoyed participating in local and regional competitions. In addition, Colin was involved in the Mu Alpha Theta Math, National and Rho Kappa Social Studies honor societies. He plans on attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall where he will study computer engineering.

EMILY ZHANG: VALEDICTORIAN

Emily is a talented musician who has been recognized with All-County and New York All-State honors from the Nassau Music Educators Association and the New York State School Music Association, respectively. She holds a 104.07 grade point average and was recognized as a semifinalist in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. In addition, Emily was involved in many organizations such as the school's Environmental club, Mathletes club, National Honor Society, pit orchestra, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Quiz Bowl team and the varsity badminton team. She also honed her leadership skills as the president of MacArthur's Science Olympiad club. After graduation, Emily will attend Johns Hopkins University where she will study biomedical engineering.



MacArthur High School's Valedictorian Emily Zhang



MacArthur High School's Salutatorian Matthew Fioretti

MATTHEW FIORETTI: SALUTATORIAN

Matthew is a hardworking student with a grade point average of 103.87. This year, he was selected as a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student for his exceptional score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Aside from his strong academic skills, Matthew was a peer leader and an active participant in the school's Key Club, Mathletes club and Quiz Bowl team. He also served as a valuable member of the school's Business, Math and National honor societies and was a gifted baseball player on the varsity team for MacArthur. Matthew plans to attend Boston College where he will major in finance.



Following the graduation ceremony, the newly anointed Division Avenue alumni proudly showed off their diplomas.



Members of the Class of 2021 are ready to begin their next adventure.



Division Avenue High School Class of 2021 President Natalie Chua was presented her diploma by Principal John Coscia as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tonie McDonald and Board of Education President Peggy Marengi look on.

CONGRATS!



MacArthur High School graduate Christopher Vartoukian is one of a handful of students who will report for military duty and who received a classroom flag.

Class Stats

- Candidates for graduation: 608
- Diplomas granted: 570
- Graduation rate: 94%
- Total Advanced Regents Diplomas: 73%
- Attending four-year colleges: 70%
- Attending two-year colleges: 16%
- Attending trade/tech schools: 1%
- Military service and workforce: 13%
- Seal of Biliteracy recipients: 81

PROUDGRAD



Under the direction of Alison Sellars, senior members of the concert choir performed during the Division Avenue graduation ceremony.



Students were smiling from ear to ear during MacArthur High School's graduation.



Under the baton of Lisa Levenberg, the senior concert choir members sang the national anthem during the General Douglas MacArthur High School commencement exercises.

Top colleges for the Class of 2021:

- Binghamton University
- Boston College
- Cornell University
- Drexel University
- Fairfield University
- Hofstra University
- Johns Hopkins University
- LIU Post
- Loyola Marymount University
- Molloy College
- Princeton University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- St. John's University
- Stony Brook University
- Swarthmore College
- University at Buffalo
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of South Florida