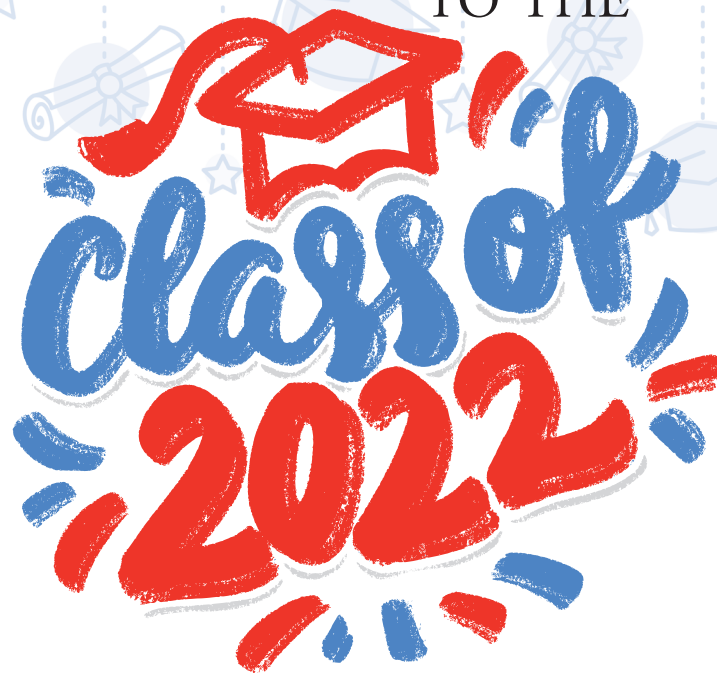




# Levittown LEADER

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE



It was the start of a new chapter for General Douglas MacArthur and Division Avenue high school graduates as they gathered at Hofstra University's David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex on June 18 to mark the conclusion to their high school journeys.

The excitement in the complex was palpable as family and friends packed the bleachers. Central and building administrators, Board members, keynote speakers and invited guests took their seats on the stage as the ceremonies kicked off.

After MacArthur High School senior choir members performed "I'll Always Remember You," Principal Joseph Sheehan reminded graduates that the future is theirs to continue to grow and find success. He told them they can "achieve more

than you can ever imagine" if they never become discouraged and demand more from themselves.

"As you step into the future with steadfast confidence, do so by bringing more of your talents to fruition and make this world a better place," he said.

Division Avenue High School Principal John Coscia welcomed families and had graduates think about the meaning of "commencement" – "to begin or come into existence," he said, "which all of you are doing here today. You're coming into your own existence as young men and women about to enter a new world."

The principals also acknowledged Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tonie McDonald, who retired this year. Mr. Sheehan thanked her for her "unwavering care, compassion

and actions" that were always based on a "what is best for kids" philosophy." Mr. Coscia handed her the first diploma of Division's ceremony and recognized her guidance that has helped Levittown be a renowned and successful school district.

"What I consider to be Dr. McDonald's greatest strength is that she can get you to believe in yourself better than anyone else," Mr. Coscia added.

Dr. McDonald welcomed families, friends and graduates and reflected on following the graduates' journeys throughout their years in Levittown's schools. "I remember those moving-up ceremonies, shaking your tiny hands. Now you will shake my hand as a fellow graduate and an adult," she said. "I could not be more proud of this class, who has had to go through situations no one could have imagined years ago."

During her address to the class, MacArthur High School valedictorian Summer Looney thanked school staff, administrators, friends and family members for their unending support and looked forward as she and her peers started "a new

chapter of our lives." She told her peers, "The future can be crazy; you never know what to expect, but one thing you can do is react to every obstacle with a positive mindset."

In her valedictory address, Division Avenue's Simar Parmar told her peers how grateful she is to have attended high school with them. "Although our high school experience had excessive social isolation and rescheduled and canceled events, we made it through and we're all able to celebrate this momentous occasion," she said.

The Class of 2022 also heard from their respective salutatorians and class presidents about their perseverance throughout their high school careers.

Each graduate proceeded across the stage to accept their diploma. Members of each school's senior concert choir closed out each ceremony with a performance of Joyce Eilers Bacak's "The Irish Blessing."



**MacArthur High School graduates ready to enter a new world.**



## SIMAR PARMAR: VALEDICTORIAN

Division Avenue valedictorian Simar Parmar has an impressive grade point average of 104.6 and is the president of her class. She has been a part of the Science Olympiad since middle school, and the club has invigorated her interest in creating new technologies. This year, the Science Olympiad team made school history with its best score ever at the Nassau East Regional. She is also a member of the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams. Parmar will attend Princeton University to study engineering.



Division Avenue's Valedictorian Simar Parmar

## GRACE LIM: SALUTATORIAN

Grace Lim, Division Avenue's salutatorian, has a GPA of 102.88 and is the president of the National Art Honor Society. She is also a member of the Student Council and is the co-captain of the girls varsity badminton team. Lim performs on the chamber orchestra and competes in the Science Olympiad as well. Lim is an AP Scholar with Distinction and is the recipient of the HOBY Leadership Award. She will attend Fordham University in the fall.



Division Avenue's Salutatorian Grace Lim

## SUMMER LOONEY: VALEDICTORIAN

With a grade point average of 103.8, Summer Looney has achieved academic success through several avenues at MacArthur. For the past three years, she has been a member of the varsity soccer team, and part of the varsity track and field for the past two, on which she helped the team win two county championships as senior captain. Looney is also the co-president of the Science Olympiad, which was among the top 10 teams in Nassau County last year and competed at the state level. She is also a member of the Math Honor Society, the National Honor Society and the World Language Honor Society and has been recognized as an AP Scholar for her AP exam scores. She will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to study environmental science.



MacArthur High School's Valedictorian Summer Looney

## ANNA CONWAY: SALUTATORIAN

Anna Conway, MacArthur's salutatorian, has a GPA of 103.5 and is also recognized as an AP Scholar. She plays on the varsity tennis team and has served as captain for two years. In MacArthur's chamber orchestra, she is the violin section leader. Conway is also a member of the Math Honor Society, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Tri-M Music Honor Society and World Language Honor Society. She will attend Vassar College to study neuroscience.



MacArthur High School's Salutatorian Anna Conway



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tonie McDonald shook students' hands as they crossed the stage.



Members of the school's symphonic bands performed during the ceremony.



Before the ceremony began, MacArthur High School graduates were ready to cross the stage.



Smiles shone brightly before the commencements.



Members of the Class of 2022 were ready to start a new chapter.



Dr. McDonald and Division Avenue Principal John Coscia, right, are pictured with Salutatorian Grace Lim and Valedictorian Simar Parmar.

## TOP COLLEGES for the Class of 2022:

- Cornell University
- Boston College
- United States Merchant Marine Academy
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of Richmond
- University of Michigan
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Case Western Reserve University
- Vassar College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Binghamton University
- Stony Brook University
- University of Florida
- Syracuse University

## Class Stats

- Candidates for graduation: 562
- Diplomas granted: 539
- Graduation rate: 95.9%
- Total Advanced Regents Diplomas: 73.4%
- Attending four-year colleges: 71%
- Attending two-year colleges: 13.9%
- Attending trade/tech schools: 1.6%
- Military service and workforce: 14.3%
- Seal of Biliteracy recipients: 133
- Total AP Capstone Diplomas: 36
- Total AP Scholars: 137



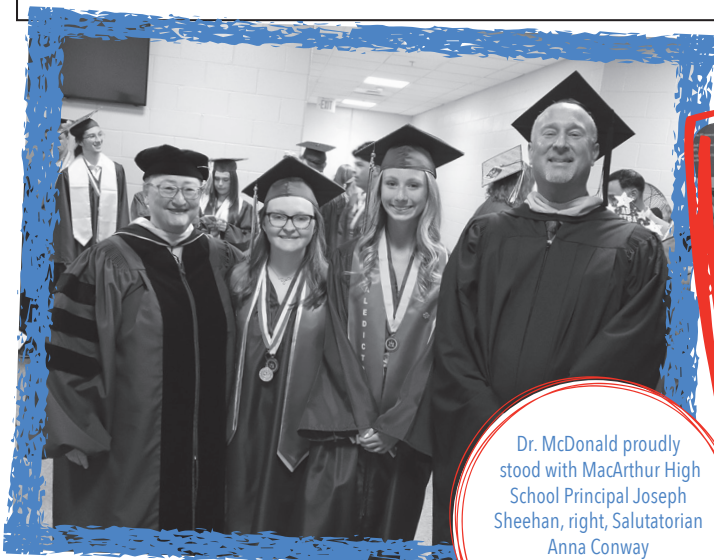
Graduates' pride was on display after receiving their diplomas.



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Dr. McDonald proudly stood with MacArthur High School Principal Joseph Sheehan, right, Salutatorian Anna Conway and Valedictorian Summer Looney.



Division Avenue graduates were ecstatic to move forward after persevering through their senior year.

# Congratulations!



Division Avenue High School graduates marked their triumph.



Cheers rang out as each graduate crossed the stage and became alumni of the Levittown School District.



MacArthur High School graduates proudly displayed their diplomas.

Summer 2022 Success for Every Student! [www.levittownschools.com](http://www.levittownschools.com)



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