



Summer 2024

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# Levittown LEADER

Class OF 2024



## From Seniors to Graduates for the Class of 2024



More than a decade of lessons, achievements and connections were represented in a single unforgettable moment as the General Douglas MacArthur and Division Avenue high schools' classes of 2024 crossed the stage and became graduates at the Hofstra University David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex on June 22.

MacArthur Principal Joseph Sheehan welcomed guests and urged graduates to keep moving forward into the future. "Be ready to embrace the new experiences that lie ahead and step on to that road to the future with steadfast confidence," he said. "Have faith in your own abilities, work hard, and there is nothing you cannot accomplish... I strongly encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself to you and seize the moment."

Mr. Sheehan also paid tribute to Assistant Principal Anne Rao, who is a MacArthur Class of 1986 graduate and will be retiring at the close of the school year.

MacArthur Valedictorian Zarif Jamal

thanked the family members and staff who have helped his peers reach this milestone. He reflected on the golden rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

"Kindness and respect – the golden rule," he said. "Without the golden rule, we would be living in a world full of disrespect. However, those who stand their ground to be respectful of others are the ones who strive toward happiness."

At Division's 65th commencement, valedictorian Syeda Nowroz addressed her peers and related their diverse experiences to the virtual world in the video game Minecraft.

"Despite the main objective of the game being to reach the end, players are given full freedom to do what they please," Nowroz said. "Minecraft is more similar to our high school paths than you might think... Each person carves their own path, and just because you aren't doing what that Science Olympian is doing, or what that football star is doing, doesn't mean that you're any farther from the path to success."

“

**Embrace the uncertainty that accompanies new beginnings. Life is a journey of exploration, unveiling opportunities along the way.”**

–Superintendent of Schools Todd Winch

Seniors also heard from their respective salutatorians and class presidents before musicians joined their schools' symphonic bands for a performance. Board of Education First Vice President Peggy Marengi congratulated graduates before beginning the conferring of diplomas. Each graduate crossed the stage and shook hands with trustees and administrators. Following the symbolic turning of their tassels, the classes of 2024 triumphantly launched their mortarboards into the air, marking their new beginning as Levittown Schools alumni.



MEET YOUR CLASS OF 2024 *Valedictorians & Salutatorians*



MACARTHUR

**ZARIF JAMAL: Valedictorian**

Zarif Jamal, MacArthur's valedictorian, named Science Olympiad as his favorite club. This year was his first year as co-president, a role which involved organizing events and participating in frequent competitions, such as their regional competition, for which they medaled in four out of four events. Last summer, Zarif took on a variety of learning roles at Nassau University Medical Center, observing how doctors interact with patients and help run the hospital. He has also served as a junior EMT for the Bellmore-Merrick EMS. The valuable experience has fueled Zarif's interest in pursuing a career in orthopedic surgery, and he hopes to take his medical experience to his family's home country, Bangladesh, to help those in need. Additionally, Zarif is a member of the Business, Math, National and World Language honor societies and played on the tennis and badminton teams. He takes pride in his work for Science Research, which won him a third-place prize for his findings on how mobile video game devices help users find comfort in certain environments. Zarif will attend Cornell University to study biology.

**BENJAMIN CAMPBELL: Salutatorian**

Benjamin, MacArthur's salutatorian, takes pride in his role as captain of the tennis team, which has been the catalyst to forming close bonds with his peers. Along with Zarif, Benjamin competed as part of the Science Olympiad team, which competed in the state competition. Benjamin greatly enjoys helping his younger peers, which he did in several ways, including through tutoring as the vice president of the National Honor Society. He also helped to run a robotics team outside of school, through which Benjamin encouraged younger students at nearby schools to form teams of their own. A musically gifted student, Benjamin is in his 10th year playing the cello and recently helped start the school's first cello choir. He also is a member of the chamber ensemble, is the vice president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, president of the Math Honor Society and a member of the Business and World Language honor societies. Benjamin will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to pursue a dual major in computer science and business.



DIVISION

**SYEDA NOWROZ: Valedictorian**

Syeda Nowroz, Division's valedictorian who has achieved an impressive grade point average of 103.9, held several leadership positions among her peers. As the vice president of Science Olympiad and the president of Mathletes, Syeda constantly challenged herself to come out on top in a variety of competitions. The Science Olympiad team recently made it to the state finals for the 16th consecutive year and brought home a fourth-place trophy at the Nassau East Regional, partly in thanks to Syeda's first place win in "Robot Tour" for which she designed and coded a robot. Syeda is also a finalist in the prestigious 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Syeda's musical interests take her on stage as a member of the chamber choir. Additionally, she works with younger peers as both a Peer Leader and a tutor in math and reading at Kumon. Syeda will attend Stony Brook University to study mathematics.

**CEYDA NAZLI: Salutatorian**

Ceyda Nazli, Division's salutatorian who sports a 103.2 grade point average, is a musically gifted student. She was a leader as the president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, sang in the chamber and standard choir, often played the piano at school events and took on a lead part in Division's latest play, "The Addams Family." Ceyda is also a member of the National, Theatre and World Language honor societies and assisted incoming freshmen as a Peer Leader. Additionally, Ceyda was named a Commended Scholar in the National Merit Scholarship Program and takes pride in achieving a perfect score on the AP Language test. Her athletic skills were on display as a member of the cross-country team in the fall and track team in the spring. Ceyda will attend Wesleyan University to study music and government.



Senior members of the Division string orchestra joined their peers for a performance.



Graduates showed off their diplomas.



Each senior crossed the stage at Hofstra University.



MacArthur senior choir members sang the national anthem and "Slipping Through My Fingers" by ABBA.

CLASS OF 2024  
*Congrats!*

**Thanks  
To Our Service Members:**

**Division Avenue High School**

Cailyn Ayers – Air Force  
Reynaldo Argueta – Marines  
Angel Jimenez – Army  
Alex Gao – West Point  
Aaron Quijije – West Point

**General Douglas MacArthur  
High School**

Brody Faivre – ROTC

**Class STATS**

Diplomas granted: **544**  
Graduation Rate: **> 99%**  
Total Regents Diplomas: **153**  
Total Regents with Honors Diplomas: **2**  
Total Advanced Regents Diplomas: **292**  
Total Advanced Regents with Honors Diplomas: **86**  
Attending four-year colleges: **399**  
Attending two-year colleges: **87**  
Military service and workforce: **40**  
Seal of Biliteracy: **135**  
Seal of Civic Readiness: **307**

**TOP COLLEGES AND  
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS  
for the Class of 2024**

Binghamton University  
Boston University  
Brittany Beauty Academy  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Electrical and HVAC/R Training Center  
Fordham University  
George Washington University  
Lincoln Tech  
Long Island Nail Skin and Hair Institute  
New York University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Stony Brook University  
SUNY College at Geneseo  
University of California – Los Angeles  
University of Maryland  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Texas  
Wesleyan University



Division Avenue High School graduates proudly processed toward their seats.



Division valedictorian Syeda Nowroz addressed her peers for her valedictory speech.



MacArthur seniors became graduates after receiving their diplomas from administrators and trustees.



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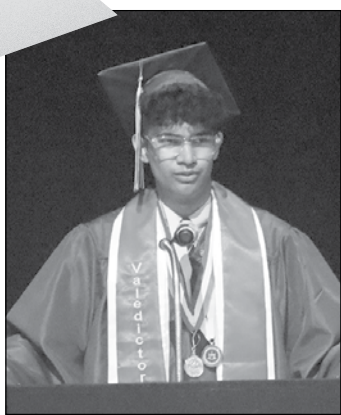
# Congratulations!



Before the ceremony, friends were excited to share one last moment together as seniors.



Graduates marked the momentous occasion by tossing their caps.



MacArthur valedictorian Zarif Jamal addressed his peers.



Division seniors were excited to cross the stage.



MacArthur graduates' diplomas signified the culmination of years of hard work.



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# Levittown LEADER

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