



# SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

## UPDATE

VOL. 4 • NO. 1

### MESSAGE from the Superintendent



#### **Happy summer to all!**

This past school year presented us with many unfamiliar challenges which we faced, as a community, with courage, compassion

and creativity. I would like to express my gratitude to our supportive families, diligent students and hard-working staff and community volunteers who have dedicated themselves to serving South Orangetown.

Tappan Zee High School's Class of 2020 has made us proud and I am confident that our newest alumni are well-prepared for the next step in their life journeys. Most of our graduates will continue their education at the college level or through career training; others plan to enter the workforce or serve society in other ways. Although their paths may differ, all have important contributions to make and roles to play as they transition into adulthood. I can't wait to see where their futures take them.

Our community's strong participation in and support of the 2020-2021 budget vote will allow us to continuously improve our District. To this end, we are busily preparing for the upcoming school year. Capital improvements are in progress in every building. Teachers are engaged in professional development and curriculum work to prepare for classroom instruction which may include in person and/or distance learning options for fall.

Despite the uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic, our students have a strong academic foundation upon which to build. While the details of how and when our they will physically return to school are contingent upon executive orders from the Governor's Office, we are developing contingency plans to maximize student learning and growth and minimize risks associated with the pandemic. Visit our District website at [www.socsd.org](http://www.socsd.org) for reopening updates.

Here's wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing you in person and/or online in September.

*Robert Pritchard*

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Congratulations, Class of 2020!



### TZHS 117th Commencement...in Three Parts!

Tappan Zee High School celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2020 through a series of socially distanced, outdoor ceremonies held June 26 on the Joseph J. Hickey Memorial Field. Caps and gowns were home-delivered to seniors in advance by more than 50 TZHS teacher volunteers.

The ceremonies featured a drive-in component for families, who were able to observe a live stream of the ceremonies and tune into an FM radio broadcast from their vehicles. A public live stream was posted on the SOCSD Events YouTube channel and District Facebook page for friends, extended families and the entire South Orangetown community.

Class President **Lucy Barsanti**, Salutatorian **Hannah Ahn** and Valedictorian **Jason Olszewski** delivered personal speeches during their respective ceremonies.

*"Difficulties are opportunities for us to learn, grow and have a positive impact on not only our own lives, but the lives of those around us," counseled Principal **Rudy Arietta**. "While you may not have any control over the obstacles you face throughout your lives...when you decide to take ownership of your reactions to these difficulties, you unlock the key to so many more opportunities for growth."*

*"If you take control of how you respond and look at each situation as an opportunity, you have taken back the power of deciding how you live your life. Just because you are graduating does not mean that our relationship ends. We are here for you, now and in the future."*



170 grads with local volunteer families.

The Class of 2020 received an outpouring of support from our South Orangetown community, from this banner installed thanks to the generosity of TZHS PTSA, Project Graduation and the TZ Red & White Sports Booster Club to the "Adopt-A-Senior" project spearheaded by SOCES PTA, which paired nearly





## Olszewski, Ahn Head Class of 2020

Congratulations to Tappan Zee High School Class of 2020 Valedictorian **Jason Olszewski** and Salutatorian **Hannah Ahn**!

Olszewski and Ahn were notified of their achievements by TZHS Principal **Rudy Arietta** via consecutive video conferences, with their parents and school counselors **Jaime Holzer** and **Randy Altman** on the calls. "Regardless of the school closure, we want to celebrate their accomplishments," said Arietta. "These are incredibly well-rounded students who have worked hard throughout their high school careers. This recognition is well-deserved."

Olszewski will major in bioengineering at Northeastern University and Ahn plans to study chemical physics at Harvard University.

## #TZDecisionDay2020

Tappan Zee High School (@Tappan\_Zee\_HS) kicked off its #TZDecisionDay2020 Instagram campaign on May 1 to celebrate seniors' post-graduation plans. Here are just a few:



**Nicholas Cabrera**  
United States Air Force Academy  
Computer Science



**Tatiana Guzman**  
Culinary Institute of America  
Food Business Management



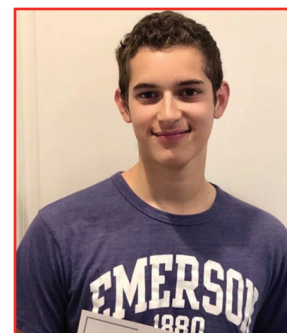
**Declan O'Boy**  
Macaulay Honors College at CUNY  
History



**Isaiah Olds-Campanile**  
Brown University  
Applied Math



**Hannah Moore**  
University of Hartford  
Musical Theater



**Ty Bourne**  
Emerson College  
Sports Communications



**Laura Pollock**  
University of Toronto  
Communication Sciences



**Vincent Loblanco**  
SUNY Delhi  
Nursing



**Kennedy Outlaw**  
Purdue University  
Biochemistry & Applied Physics



**Jessica Johnson**  
Brooklyn College  
Psychology



**Feroze Schenk**  
University of Maryland  
Mechanical Engineering



**Lucy Barsanti**  
Cornell University  
Bio/Environmental Engineering

## Four Seniors Earn Seal of Biliteracy

TZHS seniors **William Carroll** (Spanish), **Juliana Guarracino** (Spanish and French), **Tatiana Guzman** (Spanish) and **Juliet Hayes** (Spanish and French) earned the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, which recognizes graduates who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing one or more languages in addition to English.

Carroll will attend the Sam Draper Honors Program at Rockland Community College (Anthropology), Guarracino will study at New York University (International Relations), Guzman will attend the Culinary Institute of America (Food Business Management) and Hayes is headed to Villanova University (Finance and Business Analytics).





# SOCSD SNAPSHOTS

Across the District, our schools were creative in responding and adapting to the challenges of the COVID-19 related school closures. Here are a few examples of how they met the needs of our students and families:

1



**EIGHTH GRADE MUST-SEE MOVING UP:** Students and families tuned in on June 21 to view South Orangetown Middle School's Virtual Eighth Grade Moving Up Ceremony video, featuring speeches from administrators and Student Council President **Juliana Lomei** (above) and congratulatory messages from their teachers. The next day, eighth-graders received their certificates, awards and lawn signs during a series of contactless drive-throughs.

2



**WOS LEGACY ROCK GARDEN:** William O. Schaefer Elementary School staff invited second-graders to paint "legacy rocks" for a special garden at the building's main entrance to leave their mark as they move up to Cottage Lane Elementary School.

3



**VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS:** Since CLE and SOMS administrators were not able to host incoming third- and sixth-graders for tours this spring, they created virtual orientations (CLE Principal **Karen Ramirez**, above) and web resources to help students prepare for their new schools.

4



**TZ ATHLETICS LIVE:** Head Trainer **Jess Lappe** launched "Dutchmen Daily," an Instagram Live program to keep student-athletes active and connected. Featured content included coach interviews, training and self-care tips, career information for those interested in physical therapy—and frequent visits by Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics **Bill Pilla**.

5

**TZHS Counseling Department**  
Continuing your post-graduate planning from your couch...

**Be stubborn about your goals, and flexible about your methods.**

Unknown

**Thank you for joining our 3-part program**

**Tonight 5/12 @ 7PM;** Continuing your research in a virtual world

**Wednesday 5/13 @ 7PM;** A review of the Common Application (the most widely used college application)

**Thursday 5/14 @ 7PM;** We welcome special guest Dr. Lynch, Chair of the Sam Draper Honors Program and Associate Professor of English from RCC, who joins us to speak about writing the College Essay & Interviewing.

**TZHS COUNSELING GETS SOCIAL:** To better reach students (and parents) concerned about college admissions, SAT/ACTs and more, the TZHS Counseling Department launched Facebook and Instagram feeds—and its own YouTube channel, where its first-ever webinar series for juniors is posted!

6



**VIRTUAL SUMMER STEAM CAMP:** SOCSD has been hosting its annual, free Summer STEAM Camp since 2016. This year, the District pivoted to an entirely virtual program to serve 220 K-8 campers, with 22 faculty members running sessions.



## WELCOME New SOCS D Families!

New to South Orangetown? Be sure to contact District Registrar **Laura DiMaio** (ldimaio@socsd.org | 845-680-1137) ASAP to register your children for the 2020-21 school year! Children who turn age 5 by December 1, 2020 are eligible to register for kindergarten.

## Leadership UPDATE



### BOARD OF EDUCATION

At its July 7 Reorganization Meeting, the Board of Education swore in **Leon Jacobs** (left) and **Christine Lee** (center), who were re-elected in June. **Jacobs** was elected President and **Dan Lamadrid** (right) was elected Vice President of the Board for the 2020-21 school year.



### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

The following appointments were recently approved by the Board of Education (from left): **Brian Galvin** was named WOS Acting Assistant Principal, effective June 1; **Michelle Stevens** was named Coordinator of Transportation, effective June 18; and, **Rob Schliessman** was named WOS Acting Principal, effective September 10.

Congratulations to WOS Principal **Sheila Beglin** and Assistant Principal **Maggie White**, who will both be on maternity leave this fall!

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL: Student Physicals

**Students must be up-to-date with their vaccinations, even during a pandemic.** New York State law requires a health examination for all students entering the school district for the first time AND when entering pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades. Physicals completed within 365 days prior to the first day of school are acceptable.

Please contact your child's healthcare provider to schedule your child's health examination and required vaccinations. **Remember to sign consent forms allowing your provider to speak with school health staff** at the time of your child's examination. Communication between providers and school health staff is important for safe and effective care at school.

Parents are encouraged to keep copies of completed exam forms before sending them to the School Nurse's Office.

- The examination must be completed by a NY/NJ state licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.
- A dental certificate which indicates your child has been seen by a dentist or dental hygienist is requested at the same time.
- A copy of the NYSED Student Health Examination Form or your child's health care provider's exam form must be provided to the school within 30 days from:
  - 1) when your child first starts school AND
  - 2) when your child starts kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades.

*If a copy is not given to the school within 30 days, the school will contact you.*

- If your child has an appointment for an exam during the school year that is after the first 30 days of school, please notify the School Nurse's Office of the exam date.
- Links to the NYSED Student Health Examination Form and dental certificate are posted on the For Parents page at [www.socsd.org/for-parents](http://www.socsd.org/for-parents), under Forms.



**SOUTH ORANGETOWN**  
Central School District

**SOUTH ORANGETOWN  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913-1299  
(845) 680-1000 • [www.socsd.org](http://www.socsd.org)

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D. *Superintendent*

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Leon Jacobs** *President*

**Dan Lamadrid**, *Vice President*

**Thomas Henry**

**Christine Lee**

**Cara Stepanian**, Ph.D.

**Editor:** Jen Citrolo

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