

### MESSAGE from the Superintendent: BECOMING FUTURE-READY

Dear Community Members,

Throughout our nation's history, American public schools have attempted to define the meaning of "future success," or readiness, in the context of the societal norms of the era. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 held schools accountable to minimally acceptable standards of performance as measured through standardized testing, but did not address readiness and how schools could better prepare students for success. As a result, we had a good understanding of what we were "opting out" of, but not of what we should be "opting in" to.

The most recent evolution of national K-12 education policy is the Every Student Succeeds Act 2015 (ESSA). ESSA contains a provision that schools define "future readiness" for students and gives communities the means to hold themselves accountable on their own terms. To this end, our District has begun to use the research-based National Career and College Readiness Indicators as a lens through which to reflect on our work and ensure that we produce students who are "college ready," "career ready" and "life ready" by connecting their interests and talents with meaningful opportunities in high school and beyond.

As our Board of Education and administrative team align our District strategic plan, master capital plan and long-range budgeting with "future ready" students in mind, I encourage you to learn more about the Indicators by visiting [www.redefiningready.org](http://www.redefiningready.org). I look forward to sharing this important work with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

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

## Summer Projects Kickstart Master Capital Planning



**More than a dozen capital projects were completed in South Orangetown schools this summer to address infrastructure needs and enhance educational environments.**

Summer 2019 work represented years of planning that engaged staff members in every building, as well as the District's Facilities and Technology teams.

"When voters approved these projects a few years ago, it kickstarted our District's master capital planning effort," said Executive Director of Finance and Management Services Alicia Koster. "In each of our schools, principals established capital planning committees to review the state of their facilities, look at how spaces were being used and create a vision for the future. Many of their findings were built into our draft Five-Year Capital Plan. As work was being done this summer, our architects and a team of engineers conducted a comprehensive Building Conditions Survey District-wide to assess code compliance and the adequacy of critical systems. Our District Facilities Committee is examining and synthesizing all this information to plan for the next 20 years."

Koster emphasized that the District is focused on ensuring that everything from goal-setting to master capital planning to long-term budgeting is closely aligned to its strategic plan. *"We're looking at future readiness for all students and that includes ensuring that our facilities are designed to support the types of teaching and learning we expect to happen in our schools: What do our students need today to be successful 20 years from now?"*

## The #ProudTZGrad campaign features recent alumni who are excelling in an area directly connected to their academic and/or school-based extracurricular pursuits at TZHS.



"Tappan Zee High School helped me to discover my passion in many ways. I was able to cultivate my language ability by taking classes in Italian, Spanish and French, but I also

avidly frequented the computer lab...My experience with our championship Academic League team (with Ms. Benecke [Corcoran] at the helm) had a positive impact on my growth as well. It really did shape the way I thought about learning in that I found out it didn't always have to be in a classroom...I've carried that with me throughout college and into my professional career by engaging in hackathons, informal programming groups, and personal programming projects with former engineer coworkers from IBM and programming study groups at Google, where we all challenge each other with finding the best solutions and most efficient algorithms to solve a particular programming problem."

– **Edward Forgacs** ('06)

*works in Google NYC's Internationalization Department to make Google Search and Assistant work in different languages and locations. He is pursuing a master's degree in Computer Science at New York University and moving to a software engineering position at Bank of America.*

"TZ offered me the opportunity to try many different things to figure out if I was interested in them. If you asked me freshman year, I never would've said that I would major in anything remotely related to math. However, by taking math every year, I expanded on the knowledge I'd gained in high school and ended up minoring in data/social statistics in college. Additionally, learning about foreign policy in various history classes made me want to focus on studying international relations. I would like to thank Mr. Robertson and Mr. Resnikoff for their impact on my career and making me comfortable enough in my abilities to study something I previously never had in college!"



– **Lily Samett** ('15)

*graduated last spring from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where she majored in International Relations with Quantitative Methods. Lily works for PwC on its Data and Analytics team in Edinburgh.*

(continued on page 4)

## We Achieve



■ TZHS senior **Hannah Ahn** (pictured at left, with School Counselor **Randy Altman** & Principal **Rudy Arietta**) was named a 2020 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. **Lucy Barsanti**, **Caitlin Donohue**, **Jacob Greenberg**, **Jessica Johnson**, **Ethan Leigh**, **Kevin Liang**, **Katherine Lussen** & **Jason Olszewski** earned Letters of Commendation.

■ Twenty-two TZHS musicians earned New York State School Music Association Area All-State and All-State (\*) honors:

**BAND:** **Dylan Anderson** (French horn), **Diana Kim** (Oboe) & **Peter Wu** (Flute)

**CHORUS:** **Anna Carney** (Soprano), **Jacob King** (Bass), **Sarah Mesibov\*** (Soprano), **Delyth Philipps** (Alto), **Kyaris Rodriguez** (Alto), **Blair Seaman** (Alto), **Erin Sweeney** (Soprano) & **Rebecca Zachariah** (Alto)

**ORCHESTRA:** **Maya Clapp** (Cello), **Erin Cunningham** (Violin), **Darien Esposito** (Violin), **Henry Huang** (Violin), **Lois Kim\*** (Viola), **Lauria Martin** (Violin), **Mia Pakola\*** (Violin), **Isabella Santander** (Violin), **Adith Vettom** (Cello), **Jonathan Young** (Violin) & **Lindsay Zohar** (Cello)



■ Fifty-two TZHS and SOMS students earned 2019 Rockland Community College Hispanic Heritage Student Achievement Awards, which honor Rockland County students of Hispanic descent for outstanding academic accomplishments. The honors are awarded to students in grades 8, 10 and 12 in two categories based on performance the previous school year:

Academic Achievement for academic average above 90, but less than 95 and Academic Excellence (\*) for academic average of 95 or higher. They are:

**GRADE 8** (most pictured above with Principal **Chad Corey**, Ed.D. & School Counselor **Patricia Iannucci**): **Milena B.**; **Daniela C.\***, **Daniela C.**, **Allison C.**, **Jeslie D.**, **Sofia F.\***, **Ashley I.**, **Siena K.\***, **Sarah M.\***, **Kevin N.\***, **Sofia P.\***, **Arlene R.**, **Isabella R.**, **Elis R.**, **Brandon S.**, **Sofia T.** & **Rene V.\***

**GRADE 10:** **Christopher A.\***, **Mia A.**, **Edward A.**, **Endy C.\***, **Maya C.**, **Steve D.**, **Brandon L.\***, **Alivia M.**, **Dayana M.**, **Kaily M.**, **Alex M.**, **Kaitlin P.**, **Gabriel R.**, **Monica R.\***, **Ella R.**, **Frank R.** & **Karen T.**

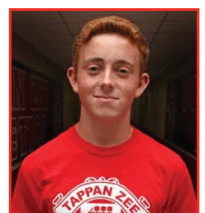
**GRADE 12:** **Naomi A.\***, **Marc B.**, **Nicholas C.**, **Dylan C.**, **Raelina C.**, **Julia D.**, **Tatiana G.**, **Miranda L.**, **Colin L.\***, **Anjali M.**, **Samantha M.**, **Sophia M.**, **Rasaura P.**, **Samantha R.**, **Daniel R.**, **Christopher T.** & **Kerly V.**

■ All-Section athletes: **Kelly Harris** (GS), **Niamh Healy** (GS), **Kennedy Outlaw** (GS), **Dylan Shalvey** (BS) & Honorable Mention: **Rachel Brownell** (GS) & **CJ Florencia** (BS).

■ Conference and League champions: **Girls Swimming & Diving:** **Emma Carolan** (200 Free & 100 Backstroke); **Marisa Medina** (50 Free); **Brooke Batelli**, **Emma Carolan**, **Ariana Cucaj** & **Marisa Medina** (200 Free Relay).

■ All-League athletes: **Max Alves** (XC), **Rachel Brownell** (GS), **Daniella Cambrea** (XC), **Mia Giaever** (XC), **Julia Fears** (XC), **CJ Florencia** (BS), **Kelly Harris** (GS), **Niamh Healy** (GS), **Austin Holmes** (XC), **Sam Mangini** (BS), **Meghan Majewski** (XC), **Shea McElligott** (BS), **Dylan McMorro** (XC), **Kennedy Outlaw** (GS), **Dylan Shalvey** (BS), **Gabby Shea** (XC), **Joe Varisco** (XC) & Honorable Mention: **Kaleigh Beirne** (GS) & **Elizabeth Sullivan** (GS).

■ TZ Boys Soccer's **Dylan Shalvey** (pictured, right) was named a Rockland Journal News Scholar-Athlete



BS: Boys Soccer | GS: Girls Soccer | XC: Cross Country

Photo Credit: Carucha L. Meuse/  
The Journal News



# SOCSD SNAPSHOTS: SUMMER 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Here's a quick peek at some of our completed Summer 2019 Capital Projects. For a detailed look at our upgraded facilities, along with reactions from students and staff, don't miss our video at [socsd.org](http://socsd.org)!



## William O. Schaefer Elementary School

Moving the main office to the front of the building enhanced security and created space for a student support suite that includes a reflection room, enrichment space and offices for the social worker, school counselor and school psychologists. The bathroom renovation at right was one of several projects to make WOS more accessible and modern.



## Cottage Lane Elementary School

Last year, building administrators worked closely with Library Teacher Kristine Wagner to design CLE's new modular library, which features lots of bookshelves and distinct learning spaces to accommodate multiple groups to use at once. Student Advisory Council representatives helped to plan and choose equipment for the school's accessible playground!



## South Orangetown Middle School

Air-conditioning, comfortable seating and enhanced lighting are among the improvements in SOMS' newly-renovated auditorium. Challenge Lab and Technology teachers provided input for the redesign of their classrooms, which included electrical and HVAC upgrades, new flooring, lighting, furniture and equipment.



## Tappan Zee High School

Athletics facilities received much-needed attention this summer, including the replacement of the main multipurpose turf field and installation of a multisport scoreboard. Main and rear gym walls were painted and floors refinished, and old wooden bleachers were replaced with handicapped accessible seating to comfortably accommodate all team fans.



## SOCSD Seeks Mentor Volunteers



More than a dozen local professionals attended SOCSD's first-ever Mentor Meet & Greet in October to speak directly with Tappan Zee High School students about their career aspirations, and mentorship and internship needs.

Mentors matter: "Research tells us that building industry partnerships is critically important to ensure that our students are college and career ready," explains Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services **Karen Tesik, Ed.D.**

Mentors, internship hosts and guest speakers are still needed in the following fields: advertising, computer science, construction, cybersecurity, digital media, engineering, environmental science, graphic design, law, nutrition science, medicine and television broadcasting.

**INTERESTED?** Contact Family Engagement Center Coordinator **AJ Walker** at (845) 680-1059 or [awalker1@socsd.org](mailto:awalker1@socsd.org).

## #ProudTZGrad *(continued from page 2)*



"By the time I reached high school, I wanted to write my own material. There was a Music Theory class and an AP Music Theory class. Sometimes, I wrote extra parts for orchestra or band, and these were great experiences for me to get a feel for what type

of music I liked to write and how to do it. I conducted groups with Dr. Wagoner [as part of the Choral Conducting course] and Mr. Rossi and recorded an arrangement of songs that I'd written with Mr. Hughes. These were rare experiences that I don't think I would have been encouraged to pursue in any other school district."

– **Jarrett Winters Morley** ('16)

*is a senior in Manhattan School of Music's Musical Theatre Conservatory. His original musical, "Morningside," was produced by the school this month—a first in MSM's 100-year history.*



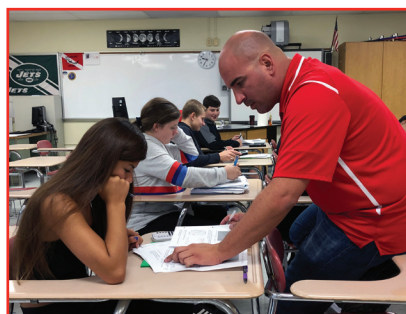
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**Editor:** Jen Citrolo  
*This newsletter was produced in cooperation  
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## Meet Our Master Teachers!



Tappan Zee High School science teacher **Stephen Cohn, Ph.D.** (pictured, above left) and computer science/maker space teacher **Karen Connell** (pictured, above right) have been selected for the highly-competitive New York State Master Teacher Program (NYSMTP).

"The Master Teacher Program offers teachers an opportunity to embark on a journey of rigorous professional development and to become part of a network of excellent teachers who are interested in growing as educators," noted TZHS Principal **Rudy Arietta**. "Having two teachers chosen for the program is not only an honor for Tappan Zee High School, but also a huge advantage for our students, as they will benefit from the program as much as their teachers will."

Master Teachers receive a \$15,000 stipend annually for four years and must complete a minimum of 50 hours of NYSMTP-sponsored professional development each year, in addition to school district and state requirements.

## Upcoming DATES

### PreK Playgroups

- Wednesday, December 4
- Wednesday, December 18
- Wednesday, January 15
- Wednesday, February 5  
9:30am & 10:30am | *Family Engagement Center @ SOMS*

### SOMS Winter Concert I

- Tuesday, December 10  
7:00pm | *SOMS Auditorium*

### SOMS Winter Concert II

- Wednesday, December 11  
7:00pm | *SOMS Auditorium*

### TZHS Winter Concert

- Wednesday, December 18  
7:00pm | *TZHS Auditorium*

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