



# SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

## UPDATE

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### MESSAGE from the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

John Quincy Adams once said,  
"If your actions inspire others  
to dream more, learn more,

and become more, you are a leader." Summer is the time when we remind ourselves to be the leaders who our children need us to be - leaders who inspire students to be better human beings, adventurers, and thinkers.

The recently graduated Tappan Zee High School Class of 2018 has made us proud, and we are confident that its members are well-prepared for their life-journeys. Most of these graduates will pursue an education at the college level or through career training. Others will enter the workforce or join the military. These young men and women will develop an understanding of the roles they will play as adults in society.

This summer, our staff is busily preparing for the 2018-2019 school year. Facilities and maintenance crews are enhancing our buildings and grounds. Business and operations personnel are replenishing supplies and ordering equipment. Our transportation department is drafting bus schedules. Throughout the summer, we will communicate our progress to our families. These "information updates" will ensure that our students return to school in September ready to learn.

I am hopeful that students will spend their summer days relaxing and enjoying a change of routine from the classroom. While on break, students should apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in school. Students can build upon their academic successes by reading about current events, writing in a journal, or taking an educational family field trip.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer break, and I look forward to seeing you in September!

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

## Congratulations 2018 Grads!



Tappan Zee High School Principal **Dr. Jennifer Amos** and Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Robert Pritchard** congratulate Valedictorian **Jake Laddis** during Tappan Zee High School's 2018 Commencement Ceremony.

### TZHS Graduates 289 at 115th Commencement

Tappan Zee High School celebrated the graduation of its senior class at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony—the school's 115th!—on June 21, at the Joseph J. Hickey Memorial Field. "We're all so proud of everything you've accomplished so far," said Principal **Dr. Jennifer Amos**, in her welcoming remarks. "Be the best versions of yourselves and achieve great things."

#### Here are some highlights from student addresses:

- Class President **Kayla McKiernan** spoke about the tattered sneakers that carried her through many formative experiences at TZHS: "Whatever path you choose to take, walk in your shoes with confidence...and do not let them stay clean."
- Constellations inspired Salutatorian **Nicole Malpeli's** speech: "We are able to identify as a class that shoots for the moon...The sky is not the limit for our class, but rather a starting line for us to discover what change we can create in the future."
- Valedictorian **Jake Laddis** focused on how South Orangetown students receive more than a standard-issue educational experience: "We were learning what we were supposed to learn, but we did so much more along the way...Our high school routine went so beyond what was mandated by the State, or by the Common Core, and it did so because we did it together...We all share the same thing, this collection of experiences that goes beyond the assembly line that is public education. We're done. We've been produced. I'm just so lucky that I was produced here, alongside all of you."



Thanks to generous support from across our community, **more than 100 scholarships and awards** were presented to members of the Class of 2018 during the Senior Awards Ceremony on June 4! Graduating seniors were recognized for academic, artistic and athletic achievements and volunteer service.



## We ACHIEVE

- Tappan Zee High School rising senior **Cassandra Bartels** was selected for the 2018 All-National Honor Mixed Choir. Cassie is the first TZHS student to earn All-National honors and will perform in the National Association for Music Education All-National Honor Ensembles program at Walt Disney World in Orlando, November 25-28.
- **SO BOTZ**, Tappan Zee High School's *FIRST* Robotics Competition team, won the Rookie All-Star Award at the *FIRST* Championship Detroit.
- Cottage Lane Elementary School's **Fifth Grade Chorus** performed in the June 8 American Young Voices Concert at Newark's Prudential Center.
- Softball's **Kaitlyn Borruso** was named 1st Team All-State and Basketball's **Oziah DeLoatch** earned an All-State Class A Honorable Mention.



■ **Madison Kousoulas**, **Trinity Lundemo**, **Conor Malanaphy** and **Nicole Malpeli** were named *Journal News/Iohud* Rockland Scholar-Athletes.

- All-Section honors: **Kaitlyn Borruso** (Softball), **Kyle Daly** (Baseball), **Leah Dillon** (Softball), **Nicole Malpeli** (Softball), **Tadhg O'Riordan** (Lacrosse), **Tom McGivney** (Baseball, HM), **Jonathan Weissberg** (Baseball) and **Emily Trozzo** (Softball).
- Varsity Softball Coach **Gene Kousoulas** was named Section 1 League 2B Coach of the Year and Rockland Coach of the Year.
- Varsity Lacrosse Coach **Andrew McIntosh** was named Rockland Coach of the Year.
- Track & Field's **Alex Gottlieb** placed first at Counties for discus.
- League Champs: **Baseball**, **Girls Track & Field**, **Golf** and **Softball**.
- All-County 1st Team: **Kaitlyn Borruso** (Softball), **Pat Castellano** (Boys Track & Field), **Kyle Daly** (Baseball), **Leah Dillon** (Softball), **Ryan Maloney** (Lacrosse), **Nicole Malpeli** (Softball), **Tadhg O'Riordan** (Lacrosse), **Elizabeth Tompkins** (Lacrosse), **Jonathan Weissberg** (Baseball) and the Girls Track & Field 4x800 team (**Tori Fears**, **Alexandra Thomas**, **Trinity Lundemo** and **Maddy Roth**).



## Oh, The Places They Will Go!

Ninety-one percent of 2018 grads are continuing their education at post-secondary institutions this fall. Some have committed to colleges for 2019, after a gap year to gain experience in an area of personal interest. Here's a glimpse of what's next for several of our newest Tappan Zee High School alumni:



**Salutatorian Nicole Malpeli**, *Duke University*, Biology; and, **Valedictorian Jake Laddis**, *Harvard University*



**Nykia Sturdivant-Reyes**, *City College of New York*, Music Studies



**Ella Delia**, *SUNY Geneseo*, Communications; and, **Braeden Stout**, *Western Connecticut State University*, Theater and Screenwriting



**Kayla McKiernan**, *Binghamton University*, Journalism and Spanish; **Vilnis Puris**, *Skidmore College* after gap year; and, **Kirsten Ranieri**, *SUNY New Paltz*, Childhood Education



**Andrea Kim**, *Manhattan School of Music*, Cello



**Yansi Rodriguez**, *Dominican College*, Biology



**Jake Laddis**; **Joseph Blanchet**, *Northeastern University*, Bioengineering/Honors Program; **Raymond Constancio**, *University at Buffalo*, Mechanical Engineering/Honors Program; **Gary Hu**, *Northeastern University*, Computer Science; **Matt Chun**, *Stony Brook University*, Computer Science/Honors Program; **Mitchell Jacobs**, *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*, Robotics Engineering; **Amanda Bermel**, *Southern Methodist University*, Computer Science; **Lily Gordon**, *University of Miami*, Nursing; **Eileen Lee**, *Syracuse University*, Information and Technology Management/Honors Program; and, **Ruben Sriskanda**, *Carnegie Mellon University*, Chemical Engineering and Public Policy.





**EIGHTH GRADE MOVING UP CEREMONY:** South Orangetown Middle School Principal **Dr. Karen Tesik** expressed pride in students' character and accomplishments. "You lead with an open heart and work to be inclusive," Dr. Tesik noted. "You lead by showing respect and kindness."



**FIFTH GRADE MOVING UP CEREMONY:** Cottage Lane Elementary School Principal **Karen Ramirez** encouraged fifth-graders to take three things that they learned with them to middle school: 1. Try something new. 2. Advocate for what you believe in. 3. Practice mindfulness by taking a deep breath and telling yourself something positive each day.



**SECOND GRADE VISITS CLE:** William O. Schaefer Elementary School second-graders had a blast visiting Cottage Lane Elementary School on June 14! Students figured out riddles to determine their tour destinations and had a chance to meet some CLE VIPs.

## Leadership UPDATE



### BOARD OF EDUCATION

At its Annual Reorganization Meeting on July 3, the Board of Education swore in new member **Thomas Henry** (left) and elected its officers for the 2018-19 school year. **Rosemary Pitruzzella** was re-elected as president, **Dan Lamadrid** was re-elected as vice president.

Thank you to outgoing Board of Education member **Ken Malpeli** for three years of dedicated, volunteer service.

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

The following talented professionals have recently joined, or taken on new roles with, the district's leadership team:



**ALICIA KOSTER**  
School Business Administrator



**KAREN TESIK, Ed.D.**  
Interim Director of Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services



**CURTIS HARRINGTON**  
Director of Facilities



**PAUL GUGLIELMO, P.E.**  
Supervisor of School Transportation



**SHEILA BEGLIN**  
Principal, WOS



**MAGGIE PILAR WHITE**  
Assistant Principal, WOS



**CHAD COREY, Ed.D.**  
Interim Principal, SOMS



**JOSEPH ONATIVIA**  
Interim Assistant Principal, SOMS

## Dates to REMEMBER

### ■ **MONDAY, JULY 16** | Fall Sports Registration Begins

Registration opens for fall high school and modified sports on new web platform. Log on at [socsd.powermediallc.org](http://socsd.powermediallc.org).

### ■ **MONDAY, JULY 30** | Alternative Site Request Forms Due

Need busing to or from a location other than your child's registered address? An Alternate Site Request Form must be completed and submitted to the Transportation Office by July 30 for alternate busing to be in place on the first day of school. The form is posted at [www.socsd.org/transportation](http://www.socsd.org/transportation).

### ■ **MONDAY, AUGUST 6** | High School Sports Registration Ends

### ■ **THURSDAY, AUGUST 16** | Fall Sports Physicals

Sports physicals will be administered in the TZHS Nurse's Office, 8:30-10:00am only.

### ■ **THURSDAY, AUGUST 23** | WOS Kindergarten Bus Orientation

### ■ **MONDAY, AUGUST 27** | SOMS Locker Day

### ■ **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4** | First Day of School

### ■ **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5** | Modified Sports Registration Ends

## NEW: Changes to School Physical Requirements for 2018-19

As of July 1, 2018, 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.

- The examination must be completed by a NY/NJ state licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner and on the approved NYSED Student Health Examination Form or one from your physician.
- 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 must be provided to the school within 30 days from when your child first starts school and 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 of our school district website, under Forms.

Communication between private and school health staff is important for safe and effective care at school. **Please be sure to sign consent forms allowing your provider to speak with school health staff** at the time of your child's examination.

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

## SOCSD is on BoardDocs!

Access Board of Education policies, agendas, minutes and meeting materials 24/7 through SOCSD's new BoardDocs portal. Agendas and presentation materials will be available on BoardDocs the day before a scheduled Board meeting. Meeting dates are posted on the district Google Calendar.

To access BoardDocs: Log on to [www.socsd.org](http://www.socsd.org) → Click on "Board of Education" → Under Quick Links, select "BoardDocs"



**SOUTH ORANGETOWN**  
Central School District

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

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