



Smithtown Central School District bids a fond farewell to the following retirees and thanks them for their dedication and service to our students:

- Anna Angelini, elementary teacher aide
- Donald Bailey, custodial worker
- Frances Blatt, teacher assistant
- Anna Camilleri, elementary teacher aide
- Barbara DiSalvo, art teacher
- Stephanie Florio, special education aide
- Mary Eileen Furst, teacher assistant
- Jacqueline Gallagher, foreign language teacher
- Sheryl Gelo, special education aide
- Michele Gray, special education teacher
- Marilyn Grinere, special education aide
- Susan Herron, office assistant
- Susan Joynes, home economics teacher
- Frances Kennedy, office assistant
- Jeanne Kull-Minarik, elementary principal
- Denise Licata, special education aide
- Darlene Losordo, special education aide
- Robert Lotito, custodial worker
- Peter Mulea, maintenance mechanic
- Edward Prechtl Jr., auto equipment operator
- Tracy Rinker, elementary teacher
- Joseph Rizzo, security director
- Candace Ruocco, senior office assistant
- Susan Schielke, special education aide
- Paul Sullivan, art teacher
- Rosene Talka, elementary school monitor
- Teresa Vitti, part-time tutor
- Jeanmarie Wilson, guidance counselor

Russell J. Stewart Named Interim Superintendent

Veteran educator Russell J. Stewart has been appointed the interim superintendent, effective July 3. Mr. Stewart joins Smithtown from the Center Moriches Union Free School District, where he was superintendent of schools.

“Mr. Stewart is a highly respected administrator who brings with him the professional experience, educational knowledge and interpersonal communication skills the Board requires to effectively lead our school district during this transition period,” Board of Education President Jeremy Thode said.

During his nine years as superintendent of Center Moriches, Mr. Stewart successfully oversaw the implementation of a districtwide International Baccalaureate endeavor, creation of a community service involvement program for high school students and expansion of a comprehensive K-12 8:1:1 program. He was also responsible for the enhancement of school safety through various efforts, such as increased

security protocols and the promotion of a positive school culture and social-emotional wellness programs. Additionally, he oversaw the successful completion of a comprehensive capital improvement project.

“I thank the Board for this opportunity and am excited to work with them and confirm my commitment to the students of Smithtown,” Mr. Stewart said. “I also look forward to collaborating with the community, students, staff and my central office colleagues to create a unified vision and further enhance the educational opportunities for all students.”

Mr. Stewart holds a Bachelor of Arts in health and physical education from the University of Sioux Falls and a Master of Arts in school administration and supervision from New York University. The Board is actively continuing its search for a permanent superintendent of schools and will keep the community updated as the progress continues.

CLOSING A CHAPTER

AS Class of 2019 Graduates



The Class of 2019 at Smithtown High School East and Smithtown High School West celebrated the completion of their academic journey on their respective football fields on June 26.

Accompanied by the Board of Education, administration and faculty, the graduates processed across the field to Edward Elgar’s “Pomp and Circumstance,” as family and community cheered.

At High School East, senior class president Kelly McSweeney led the flag salute while the senior class concert choir, under the baton of Mark Hegreness, sang “The Star-Spangled Banner.” At High School West, co-class presidents Rebecca Farrell and Alexandra Nieto led the salute to the flag, followed by the jazz choir performing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

At High School West, former Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Grossane congratulated the graduates, not

only for moving on to their next ventures in life, but for all they have contributed and for becoming role models for future generations to follow.

“We are so very proud of what you have accomplished to arrive here on this graduation day,” he said. “Promise me you will always remember – you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think. Always believe in yourselves, and I wish you all the best that life has to offer.”

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Jennifer Bradshaw spoke to the students at High School East about a Wharton School of Business study on whether givers or takers are more successful in life. She noted that givers “have long-term advantages” and said givers are “not pushovers” and “do not keep score.”

During his class address, High School East Honor Speaker Thomas Fanning gave

his peers words to live by to strengthen their character, such as integrity, perseverance, humility and resilience.

“If all else fails, just be optimistic,” he said. “You never know where your principles and audacity will take you.”

High School West Honor Speaker Jonathan Pofcher followed by addressing his classmates, saying it’s impossible to sum up everyone’s high school experience in just a couple of minutes.

“We’re experiencing what’s called a period of liminality, a time between two stages in our lives,” he said. “It’s uncomfortable and creepy, like being somewhere you’re not supposed to be. We’re not quite high school students and not quite college students, and that’s weird. We have the time to just think – to look back on the last 13 years.”

The Board of Education, administration and faculty extend best wishes of happiness and success to the Class of 2019.

High Honors

In lieu of a valedictorian and salutatorian, Smithtown’s two high schools choose an honor speaker to represent their respective classes at graduation. This year’s speakers, chosen by their classmates, were Jonathan Pofcher from High School West and Thomas Fanning at High School East.



Jonathan Pofcher

HSW’s Jonathan Pofcher is headed to Rochester Institute of Technology this fall to study computer science. During his time at West, Jonathan was the president of the Mock Trial team and the founder of S.A.V.E. (Students Against Vaping and E-cigarettes). He was a member of DECA, National Honor Society and the Quiz Bowl team.



Thomas Fanning

HSE’s honor speaker, Thomas Fanning, will be attending Stony Brook University and majoring in computer science. Throughout high school, Thomas was a member of the Italian Honor Society and Social Studies Honor Society and was part of the robotics team. He participated in winter track, the percussion ensemble and the pit orchestra. Outside of school, Thomas volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and Northwell Health.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY DIGEST

Published by the Smithtown Central School District

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Class Achievements:
 National Merit Letters of Commendation: 17
 National Merit Winner: 1
 National Merit Finalists: 8
 National Hispanic Recognition Program: 5
 NYS Awards of Academic Excellence: 21
 Regeneron STS Semifinalist Scholar: 1
 Regeneron STS Scholar: 1
 ISEF Finalists: 2
 ISS Genes in Space: 1 Finalist Team

Class Statistics:
 Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation: 71%
 Regents Diploma: 25%
 Total Regents Diplomas: 96%
 Local Diploma: 4%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math: 1.5%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Science: 12.6%
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math & Science: 10.1%
 Cohort Graduation Rate: 98%

Colleges Attending

- Adelphi University
- American University
- Assumption College
- Baruch College of the CUNY
- Baylor University (Engineering)
- Belmont University
- Bentley University
- Berklee College of Music
- Binghamton University
- Boston University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Colby College
- Colorado Mesa University
- Columbia College Chicago
- Cornell University
- DeSales University
- Dominican College
- Drexel University
- Dutchess Community College
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Elon University
- Emory University
- Endicott College
- Fairfield University
- Fairleigh Dickinson University - Florham Campus
- Farmingdale State College
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Five Towns College
- Florida Atlantic University
- Fordham University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gettysburg College
- Hamilton College - NY
- Hartwick College
- Harvard College
- High Point University
- Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Hofstra University
- Hunter Business School
- Hunter College of the CUNY
- Indiana University at Bloomington
- Iona College
- Ithaca College
- James Madison University
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the CUNY
- Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
- Kent State University
- King's College
- Lehigh University (Biosciences & Bioengineering)
- LIM College (Laboratory Institute of Merchandising)
- Lincoln Memorial University
- Long Island University, Post
- Loyola University Maryland
- Manhattan College
- Manhattanville College
- Marist College
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- McDaniel College
- McGill University
- Mercy College - All Campuses
- Messiah College
- Methodist University
- Molloy College
- Monmouth University
- Montclair State University
- Mount Saint Mary College
- Nassau Community College
- Nazareth College
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Northern Vermont University-Lyndon
- Nova Southeastern University
- Pace University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Providence College
- Purchase College, SUNY
- Purdue University
- Queens College of the CUNY
- Queens University of Charlotte
- Quinnipiac University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Roger Williams University
- Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Joseph's University
- Saint Leo University
- Salve Regina University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- School of Visual Arts
- Seton Hall University
- Siena College
- Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
- Southeastern University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- St. John's University
- St. Joseph's College - Long Island Campus
- State University of New York at New Paltz
- Stevenson University
- Stockton University
- Stony Brook University
- Suffolk County Community College
- SUNY Albany
- SUNY Buffalo State College
- SUNY College at Brockport
- SUNY College at Cortland
- SUNY College at Geneseo
- SUNY College at Old Westbury
- SUNY College at Oneonta
- SUNY College at Potsdam
- SUNY College at Potsdam
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- SUNY College of Technology at Canton
- SUNY Delhi
- SUNY Fredonia
- SUNY Maritime College
- SUNY Oswego
- SUNY Plattsburgh
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- The George Washington University
- The London School of Economics and Political Science
- The New School
- The Ohio State University
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Arizona
- The University of Northwestern Ohio
- The University of Scranton
- The University of Tampa
- Tompkins Cortland Community College
- Towson University
- Tulane University
- Union College (New York)
- University at Buffalo The State University of New York
- University of Central Florida
- University of Chicago
- University of Connecticut
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of Hartford
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Mississippi
- University of New England
- University of New Haven
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rhode Island
- University of South Carolina
- University of South Florida, Tampa
- University of Utah
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Valencia College
- Vanderbilt University
- Villanova University
- Virginia Tech
- Wagner College
- Western Connecticut State University
- Wilkes University
- Wingate University
- York College of Pennsylvania