

END OF YEAR ADDRESS

Hello Parents/Guardians:

(More details on last page)

With the 2017-18 school year winding down, I would like to extend congratulations to all the students as they finish this school year, especially to the Seniors as they move on to their next endeavors.

This year we will graduate the Class of 2018 on Saturday, June 23rd at 1:00 pm at Hudson Valley Community College in the McDonough Sports Complex. Parking is free for our parents and guests.

As always, I thank you for your continued support.

Your Partner in Education,
Michael J. Harkin



KUDOS **EDITION!**

**We are
Very Proud of
our CHS
Students!**

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PARKING UPDATE

The date for summer sign-up for student parking, along with detailed information will be sent under separate cover.

Upcoming Seniors (Class of 2019) should watch their emails for further information over the summer.



Transcript Requests / Proof of Graduation

Transcript request forms can be found on our website www.egcsd.org, under Forms. Please complete the transcript request form and mail along with a check made payable to the East

Greenbush Central Schools. There is a \$5.00 fee for each transcript requested. This fee does not apply to students currently enrolled at Columbia High School.

If you have any questions regarding a transcript,

please call the Columbia High School Guidance Department at 207-2020.

Operation Graduation News

Columbia High School is proud to announce the **Operation Graduation** Celebration for the June Class of 2018, which will be held on **Thursday, June 21st from 12:00-2:00** in the auditorium. We will conduct a short graduation ceremony followed by refreshments for our graduates and guests in the cafeteria.

Since 2011, our program has successfully graduated 128 students. We look

forward with anticipation to an additional 17 O.G. graduates in June.

As in previous years this ceremony is the culmination of not only the students' efforts but the many who have assisted them in their success. These students have the rare opportunity to make a personal video that honors these significant people.

It is an inspirational event and will affirm your commitment to the education of our students.



CTAEP

Eight students will graduate from The Center for Therapeutic Academic Excellence Program (CTAEP) this year. We are extremely proud of the students' academic accomplishments and perseverance. CTAEP will hold a picnic and graduation on Friday, June 8 at 1:00 p.m.



Do Not Go Where The Path May Lead. Go Instead Where There Is No Path And Leave A Trail.

Science Olympiad Goes To Nationals For 5th Year!

Columbia's Science Olympiad team earned its fifth straight invitation to the National Tournament where they competed on May 19 - 20 in Fort Collins, Colorado at Colorado State University against the top 60 high school teams from across the country. There are over 7,000 Science Olympiad teams in the country, with over 400 in New York State alone. In order to qualify for the tournament, Columbia's team had to place in the top two at the state finals in March against

some stiff competition. Columbia's team continued its record of excellence by finishing in 12th place overall at the National Tournament. This is a school and team record. Students also earned four national medals that included:

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
Game On - Peter Sergay and Owen Ball

BRONZE MEDALISTS:
Sam Koblensky and Peter Sergay for Hovercraft
Owen Ball and George Culver for Mission Possi-

ble
6th Place Medal in Optics for Owen Ball and Sam Koblensky

Science Olympiad is an event where a team score is based on the performance of individual members, and it is the combined efforts and consistent performance of all team members that allows Columbia's team to be so successful. Overall, the team achieved every goal it set for itself and went beyond them.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian 2018

Seniors Natasha Montiel and Jonathan Sills highlighted the 2018 Columbian Awards as they were named Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively. Congratulations!



Science Research Symposium

This year's Science Research Symposium was held on May 23rd, 2018. This event marked the 19th annual symposium.

Science research is a three year program where students determine a unique experimental question and then complete a research protocol under the supervision of a qualified mentor. The students involved in the program presented their work to this point at the symposium. Sophomores

presented posters and discussed plans for future work. Juniors gave poster presentations that provided the audience a glimpse into their projects which are currently being completed. Our seniors presented their final projects. This represents 3 years of conscientious and devoted work.



Computer Club



The Computer Club was brought back to CHS last year after a long absence. The club meets after school on Wednesdays in the HVCC computer lab. At the meetings, the students, along with advisor Mrs. Hladik, discuss problem-solving activities and puzzles, talk about current computer science research and news, study coding tutorials, play strategy board games, play video games, and work on their own computer programs, just to name a few things. Several students have built

their own raspberry pis that the students have been able to both demonstrate and play. The students have also been able to have guest speakers from the business & computer science world come in and share their experiences and expertise.

The club held their very first Hour of Code this year to encourage other students, not yet familiar with computing, to give it a try. The Hour of Code, which was held in December 2017, was a great success! The Computer Club students assisted in planning, hanging signs, preparing participation certificates, demonstrations

and on-site assistance. In addition, there were 20+ non-Computer Club students in attendance, to experience a glimpse into the wonderful world of computer science.

The club is a lot of fun and a good learning experience for all. Anyone is welcome to join Computer Club at any point in the year. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Hladik in the math department. The club hopes to continue next year and beyond!





SPORTS NEWS

For all things Athletic,
please check out the Athletics webpage at:
<http://egcsd.org/athletics/>

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME 2018

Six former student athletes were inducted into the Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame on May 5th.

Lisa Colpoys '82

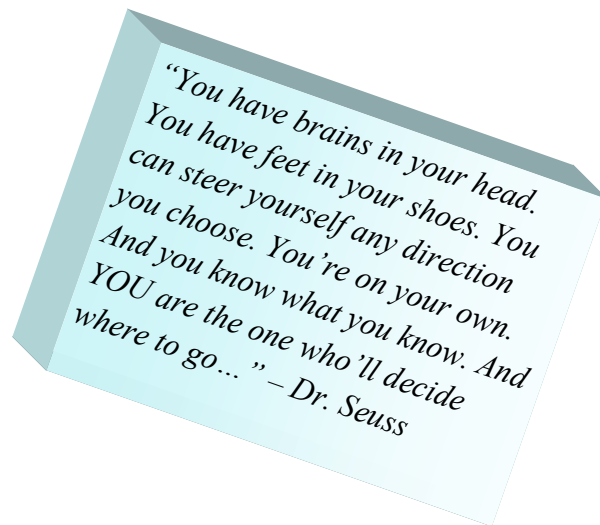
Jennifer (Amyot) Schneider '98

Bonnie Kenna '99

Dr. Chelsea Corr '02

Keith Glasser '04

Emory Parsons '07

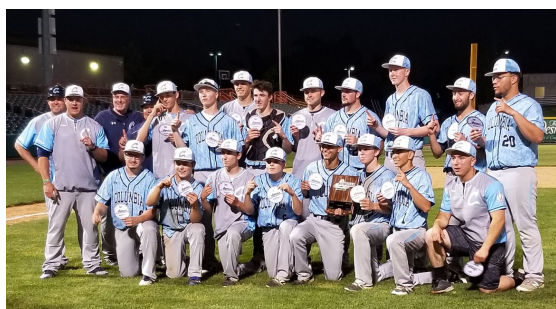


"Congratulations to the 2018 Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame inductees," said Athletic Director Michael Leonard.

"You show the true spirit of our athletes and bring the past and present together as one. Thank you to all for paving the way for all our young athletes and teaching them how hard work, integrity, strength, and pride can pay off. You are the pride of the East Greenbush School District Community and the Columbia Athletic Family."

CHS Baseball Team 2018 Goes To Regionals!

Columbia baseball had won the Class AA Section II championship with a 3-1 victory against the Ballston Spa Scotties at Joe Bruno Stadium. Senior Danny Watson threw a complete game with eight strikeouts and Nic Stagnitta, Willie Terrell and Matt LaHera each drove in a run to earn Columbia's seventh Section II title in program history. The Blue Devils went on to complete their amazing run at the NYS Regionals on June 2nd. Coincidentally, this was the same night as CHS's Senior Prom. While the boys were preparing for their game, the girls came to show their support looking lovely in their prom finery. Congratulations to all!



Boys' Indoor Track



1st Team – Triple Jump – A.J. Weinstein

Won Suburban Council championship and represented Columbia at the State and Federation Championships as well as the National Scholastic Indoor Championships.

2nd Team – 1,600 Meter Relay Team – Bobby Fredericks, Alec Wright, Tyler Lopresti and Dante Albanese

Won the Section II championship, finished 7th at the State and Federation Championships and represented Columbia at the National Scholastic Indoor Championships.

Wrestling

1st Team – Michael Gonyea

Won Section II Class A championship (126 pounds) and placed 4th at the state championships. Finished senior season with a 40-5 overall record and 173 career wins. Earned All-American Status at the NHSCA Nationals.

2nd Team – Jacob Edwards

Won Section II Class A championship (152 pounds) and placed 2nd in Section II Championships.

2nd Team – Sam Bergin

Placed 2nd in both the Section II and Class A Championships (160 pounds). Earned All-American Status at the NHSCA Nationals.

Coach of the Year – Anthony Servidone

Coached Columbia to its first Section II Class A championship in program history. Surpassed 300 career wins during the season. Columbia also won the Suburban Council Division Title.



Business Honor Society



The Business and Marketing Honor Society students were inducted on May 31, 2018. Ten business students this year have met the requirements. In order to be eligible, students must have completed a minimum of at least 3 business course credits with a minimum of an 88% GPA. These students have demonstrated leadership characteristics, community service participation as well as good character.



OUTSTANDING BUSINESS STUDENTS **Columbia High School** **May 31, 2018**

Presentation by Mrs. Gruet and Mrs. Shepardson

FBLA Student Recognition--Officers

Madison Washock and Alyssa Ciccarelli – Presidents
Natalie Obermayer and Ben Veneable – Vice Presidents
Rachel Morris and Justin Pangburn – Secretaries
Kaden Laurilla and Brandon Ostiguy – Treasurers

Outstanding Business Students of the Year Mark Webb and Daniel Watson

Business and Marketing Honor Society Recipients
Christian Davis, Matt LaHera, Olivia Massey, Brandon Ostiguy, Justin Pangburn,
Abigail Ray, Alexander Raymond, Daniel Watson, Mark Webb, Emily Zeyak

Business Students of the Month
Kaden Laurilla, Olivia Massey, Rachel Morris, Brandon Ostiguy,
Alex Raymond, Kiera VanWormer, Madison Washock,
Mark Webb, Emily Zeyak

FBLA Senior Recognition
Madison Barna, Anthony Bernard, Stephen Blydenburgh, Mark Bodnar,
Jakeb Boniface, Alyssa Ciccarelli, Kyle Coonrad, Christian Davis, Adam Dwileski, John Hawkins,
Matt LaHera, Jack Hernandez, Zachary Karius, Kaden Laurilla, Joe Meehan, Rachel Morris,
Arthur Morrison, Patrick Nolan, Natalie Obermayer, Zachary Olivan, Brandon Ostiguy,
Justin Pangburn, Abby Ray, Jonah Santos, Renee Smith, Tyler Spencer, Nick Stagnitta,
Madison Washock, Kiera VanWormer, Danny Watson, Mark Webb, Tyler Wilk, Robert Wood

When you feel like
quitting, think about
why you started.
– *Unknown*

MUSIC NEWS

Columbia Wins Best Musical at 2018 High School Musical Theatre Awards

The Columbia Players' performance of "Cinderella" won Best Musical at the 2018 High School Musical Theatre Awards at Proctors in Schenectady.

In all, 23 high schools entered the awards program and nine were nominated for Best Musical (awarded to three schools, one in each group that was determined by the show's budget). Columbia was nominated along with Tamarac ("Damn Yankees") and Troy ("Once on This Island") in Tier 3. Columbia was also nominated for Best Ensemble/Chorus, Best Supporting Actor and Best Actress. *Congratulations!*



Columbia Students Performed in Park Playhouse Production at Cohoes Music Hall



Columbia students Jake Goodman '20 (Seymour Krelborn) and Heather Pangburn '19 (Urchin) starred in the Park Playhouse production of "Little Shop of Horrors" at Cohoes Music Hall in April 2018. The show was directed by Columbia alumnus Chuck Kraus '99.



ART DEPARTMENT KUDOS

Art Students Participate in Sage College Masterclass

Columbia art students Lindsey Conboy '20, Ella Conway '20 and Elena Ferrari '19 recently completed an 8-week photography course at The Sage College of Albany. The highly competitive program Masterclass only accepted 15 high school students from the Cap-

ital Region.

The art course was taught by Sage College professor Melinda McDaniel who heads the Art + Extended Media Program. Students learned how to work with alternative cameras, processed film in the darkroom, created digital

negatives and learned several different printing options.

At the end of the course, the students installed their own final show and engaged in college-level critiques. The exhibit took place at Rathbone Hall's Little Gallery on the Sage campus in May.



19th Annual High School Art Regional

On Thursday, May 3, 2018 sophomore Lindsey Conboy and senior Mae-gan Drzymala had artwork on display at the 19th Annual High School Regional. The High School Regional is a juried

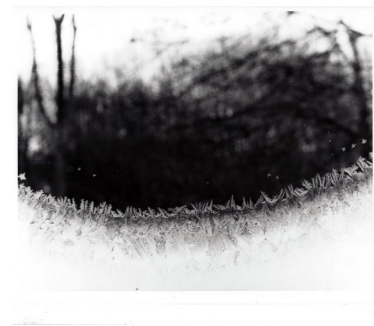
show. Over 520 pieces of student artwork was submitted by 24 area school districts. Only 100 works were accepted into the show and displayed at the Albany Center Gallery. Maegan submitted her

Untitled silver gelatin print from Ms. Neiman's Photography class and Lindsey submitted her ceramic tile piece titled "Up on Mt. Marcy" from Ms. Gordon's Ceramics/Sculpture class.

Lindsey Conboy and her ceramic piece:



Maegan Drzymala's photograph :



Horsing Around With The Arts

On Wednesday, May 2nd, seven Columbia High School freshmen from Miss Neiman's Studio Art classes had their equine themed pastel drawings on display at the "Horsing Around with the Arts" 24th Annual Student Art Show. The art competition took place at the National Museum of Racing

and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs. Here's a link to the website: <https://www.racingmuseum.org/collection-gallery/horsing-around-arts-grades-8-12>

Student participants included:

Ariana Wilary
Tristin Johnson
Ciara Mazzone
Steven Harper
Davina Delpozzo
Benjamin Nardone
Bailey Tator



Benjamin Nardone (left) won 3rd place and Bailey Tator (right) won 2nd place in the 9th grade category.

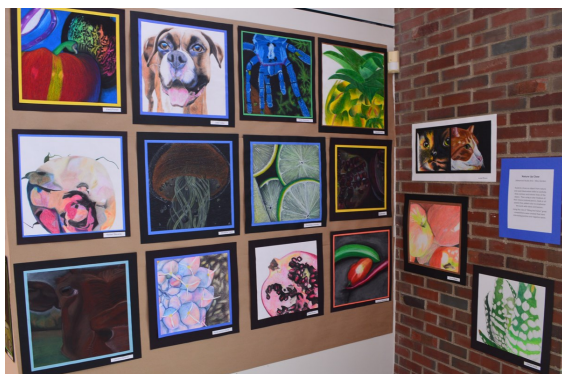


ART SHOW 2018

Students from across the East Greenbush Central School District showed off their creativity and artistic skills at the 2018 Art Show on Thursday, May 10th at Columbia High School.

More than 1,500 people attended the event which highlighted many types of artwork, such as drawings, paintings, ceramics and photography, all around the theme of "The Great Outdoors."

"This year's Art Show was a huge success!" said Columbia art teacher Patti LeRoy. "We're so proud of all of our students."



Columbia Receives Silver Medal Ranking from U.S. News & World Report

Columbia High School received a Silver Medal ranking in the U.S. News & World Report's 2018 Best High Schools list, placing it among the top 13.2% of schools in the country.

"We are proud that our community offers one of the best high school educational experiences in the nation," said Superintendent Jeff Simons. "This is a testament to our teachers and staff from kindergarten up through 12th grade, as well as our students and their families."

More than 20,500 public high schools were ranked with a College Readiness Index score out of 100, based on state assessments, graduation rates and college readiness for the 2016 cohort (students who entered 9th grade in 2012-13).

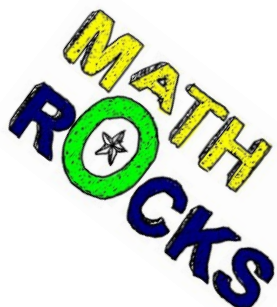
Columbia ranked 8th in the Capital Region, 207th in New York State and 2,472 in the country, according to the list.



CASDA Scholars Recognition



L-R: Natasha Montiel, Stephen Lapolla, Tyler Piel, Dottie Masiello



Columbia High School's NYS Mathematics League had another successful year. The Columbia team won their regional division this year.

Sam Koblensky earned first place, scoring the

NYS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE 2018

highest cumulative points in the six contests. Connor Roizman had the second highest cumulative points, and Ryan Wei achieved third place in overall points.

Over 140 participants from Columbia competed this year, and thanks to a donation by Stewart's Shops, each participant will receive a free ice cream coupon.

Congratulations to all who participated in a very challenging set of mathematical problems in this year's competition. Good luck to all of our graduating seniors!



MASTERMINDS!

The Columbia MasterMinds team wrapped up a very successful season, advancing to the Final Four at the regional playoffs and finishing 4th out of 30 schools in the region. Highlights included a 10-2 regular season record, an appearance in the Final Four of the region, and having Jonathan Sills named the league MVP. Participating students in MasterMind include:

Caitlin Lallier, Lenah Midani, Connor Roizman, Peter Sergay, Jonathan Sills, Adam DiCesare, Ryan Doyle, Elena Ferrari, Troy Krug, Sydney Lemire, Maxwell McNulty, Josh Tompson, Austin Tu, Jai Wargacki, Ryan Wei

RAINBOW GAMES!

The Rainbow Games brought out the best of Columbia High School on Tuesday, May 22nd. About 10 students with special needs were cheered on by classmates, teachers and administrators as they competed in a series of track and field events in the school gym.

Events included:

- 100m dash
- Discus
- Softball toss
- Slalom obstacle course



The Rainbow Games were coordinated by Physical Education teachers Courteny Hammond, Chris Hosley, Ryan Jones and Anthony Servidone. They were assisted by student leaders who demonstrated each event for the participants, setup the courses and kept records.

After the competition, students received medals and official Rainbow Games t-shirts.

"The Rainbow Games allow our students to work together to have a positive impact on the students who participate," said Principal Michael Harkin. "I'm proud of everyone involved in this special event." *Congratulations to all of our participants!*



CLASS OF 2018

Graduation Questions and Answers

Columbia's Class of 2018 Graduation Ceremony will be held Saturday, June 23 at 1 p.m. (students must be in the Ice Rink by 11:30 a.m.) in the McDonough Sports Complex at Hudson Valley Community College.

When will students receive their cap and gowns?

Cap and gown distribution is scheduled for Friday, June 22nd immediately after the **MANDATORY** graduation rehearsal. Students who have not ordered a cap and gown should call Frank Dignard at Jostens (888-248-9084) to order one IMMEDIATELY. Students are required to wear a cap and gown if they wish to attend graduation.

****Students will not receive their caps and gowns if they are on the CHS debt list (they have not returned school books or uniforms, or have an outstanding balance on their cafeteria meal account). The debt list is posted during Regent's week. Students will need to resolve all debts BEFORE the rehearsal on June 22nd.**

Is there a graduation rehearsal?

Yes, there is a mandatory graduation rehearsal. This will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, June 22, 2018 in the CHS auditorium. Students will need to provide their own transportation as there are no buses on this day.

Why is attendance at the graduation rehearsal mandatory?

We want to make sure the ceremony is a dignified, memorable event for graduating seniors and their families. During the rehearsal we will make every attempt to be sure the student's name is pronounced correctly and that the student understands appropriate graduation behavior.

Will students be receiving tickets for this year's graduation?

Tickets will not be dispersed this year. There is enough seating at HVCC for all.

What time is graduation?

Graduation will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 23, 2018 at the Hudson Valley Community College's (HVCC) McDonough Sports Complex.

What is the length of the graduation ceremony?

The ceremony lasts approximately two hours.

What should students wear under their robes?

Appropriate attire should be worn under the student's gown. Light colored dress attire should be worn (dresses for the ladies and dress pants for the gentlemen). Students need to climb and descend stairs and appropriate foot wear should be worn. Flip-flops are **not** appropriate and have caused students to fall down the stairs in past ceremonies.

What time do students need to be at HVCC for the graduation ceremony?

Students must be in the Ice Rink at HVCC Sports Complex by **11:30 a.m.**, Saturday, June 23, 2018.

How early should guests arrive?

Guests should arrive no earlier than 11:30 as there is a graduation ceremony taking place prior to ours.

What are the parking procedures?

Parking at HVCC is free. Please follow signs for the McDonough Sports Complex.

When will students in the National Honors Society (NHS) receive their gold cords?

Students will receive their gold cords at the graduation rehearsal.

When will students receive their diplomas?

VERY IMPORTANT: Students will receive a blank diploma holder at the ceremony. Immediately after the ceremony the students must **pick up their diplomas** from their counselors at tables set up by the main exit.



PLEASE NOTE THAT INFORMATION MAY BE REVISED PERIODICALLY