

# Columbia High School

962 Luther Rd, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Phone: 518-207-2000 / Fax: 518-207-2009

Website: [www.egcsd.org](http://www.egcsd.org)

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

**SPRING  
2019**

Volume 14, Issue 5

### END OF YEAR ADDRESS

Hello Parents/Guardians:

(More details on last page)

With the 2018-19 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.

As always, I thank you for your continued support.

Congratulations to everyone on a successful school year!

Your Partner in Education,  
Michael J. Harkin

This year we will graduate the Class of 2019 on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Hudson Valley Community College in the McDonough Sports Complex. Parking is free for our parents and guests.

### **KUDOS EDITION!**

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



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Parking Information	2	Business News	7
Transcripts Information	2	Music Arts	8 & 9
Op. Grad, CAP & CTAEP	3	Art Department Kudos	10 & 11
Science Olympiad	4	Key Club / Spotlight Youth	12
Val and Sal 2019	4	Math League / '13 Cares	13
Science Research	5	Sports News	14
Computer Club	5	Unified Basketball	15
Volunteer Awards	6	Graduation Q&A's	16



## PARKING UPDATE

The date for summer sign-up for student parking will be on Wednesday, August 28th, beginning at 10:00 AM

Upcoming Seniors (Class of 2020) should watch the CHS webpage for any updated infor-

mation over the summer.



*"You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes. You  
can steer yourself any direction  
you choose. You're on your own.  
And you know what you know. And  
YOU are the one who'll decide  
where to go..." – Dr. Seuss*

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



## Transcript Requests / Proof of Graduation

Transcript request forms can be found on our website [www.egcsd.org](http://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

Columbia High School is proud to announce the **Operation Graduation** Celebration for the June Class of 2019, which will be held on **Wednesday, June 26th 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 145 students. We anticipate an additional 16 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.

## CAP

CAP is very pleased to announce the successful end to the 2018-19 school year. CAP is Columbia High School's Alternate Program designed to serve approximately 50 students.

After working with these 13 seniors for the past four years, we are proud to announce that the CAP program will be graduating all 13 students. All of our seniors have met Columbia High School and New York State Regent's graduation requirements and will receive their high school diploma on June 29th at HVCC.

All our students will be attending college or trade school, entering the workforce, or joining the military in the fall.

We want to thank all of our CAP seniors for their time, effort, and patience.



## CTAEP

There will be 5 students graduating 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 14.

Special Congrats go to Matt Knapp who won Honorable Mention in the Public High School Section of the Constitutional Scholars Program's Fourth Annual Essay Contest, between 32 counties. We're very proud of him!

## Science Olympiad Wins At Nationals!

When the Columbia Science Olympiad team returned from the 2019 National Tournament held at Cornell University on June 1, five team members were wearing Gold Medals, and three of the National Champions were awarded \$10,000/year in scholarships. Led by their Executive Council, Kelly Nagel, Sam Koblensky and Ryan Doyle, the team set several new team records. The team earned a record number of National Championships (2), record number of top 5 finishes (7), and had their best overall team finish ever! There are close to 8,000 high school Science Olympiad teams in the nation. Columbia placed 11th out of the 61 competing teams, each of which are state champions representing states from around the United States and

Japan.

Over the four days of the National Championship, the team attended lectures by Cornell professors, a STEM expo and a screening of the award winning movie, "Float" about engineering incredibly light planes. They met and socialized with students from around the country at an Ice Cream Social and Swap meet, and played a round of ultimate frisbee against their "sister team" from Mira Loma, California. The Opening Ceremonies were a highlight with a parade of states where students showed off their home state pride and the keynote speaker, Grant Imahara of "MythBusters"

fame. And they attended the formal Awards Ceremony to culminate the weekend.

Congratulations to the team on an amazing finish to an incredible year! Coaches Darleen Morgan, Jeff Amos and Diana Prout are more than proud of the work the team accomplished over their daily 3-hour practices and thrilled that the students were recognized at the tournament. For awards list, click [here](#).



## Valedictorian and Salutatorian 2019

Seniors Samuel Koblensky and Leif Haley highlighted the 2019 Columbian Awards as they were named Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively. Congratulations!



# Science Research Symposium

This year's Science Research Symposium was held on May 21st, 2019. This event marked the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 CHS Computer Club meets every Wednesday in the HVCC computer lab. Students have an opportunity each week to play computer games, work on a coding tutorial, play deductive reasoning board games, discuss computer science research and/or news, try puzzles & unplugged activities related to computing, and we are always

open to new ideas and options!

Last summer, one of our club members built her own computer from scratch, and brought in pictures and discussed the process with the group. We also had another successful Hour of Code in December, in which students who may not have had any previous computing experience were given the opportunity to work through a tutorial and play on Code.org, a web-

site which promotes computer science literacy for all grades, K-12.

The CHS Computer Club is a welcoming environment and open to all students grade 9 - 12 in the district. It is a fun club & good for any college resume! If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Hladik in the math department.





## President's Volunteer Service Award

Columbia High School senior Molly DeMarco received the President's Volunteer Service Award in recognition of her outstanding community service this school year.

Ms. DeMarco completed more than 100 hours of community service on various projects:

- Painting three murals on walls in the school (click on underlined link to view murals)
- Painting sets for the high school musical "Big Fish"
- Teaching dance classes to pre-school children
- Selling raffle tickets for the Columbia PTSO
- Volunteering in the haunted hallway at Goff Middle School's Halloween Happening

"It's really cool. I didn't expect it," she said of receiving the award. "I thought that these (murals) really needed to be here. I also like doing Halloween Happening because I remember enjoying it when I went to middle school. And the dance class is super cute." After graduating in June, Ms. DeMarco plans to attend SUNY Oswego in the fall where she will major in both history and music.

"We're very proud of her for thinking about and contributing to the community," said Alex DeMarco, Molly's father. "It's important to not just get good grades but to be involved in school activities and have a purpose beyond oneself."



Molly DeMarco, joined by her parents, receives the President's Volunteer Service Award.



# Business News

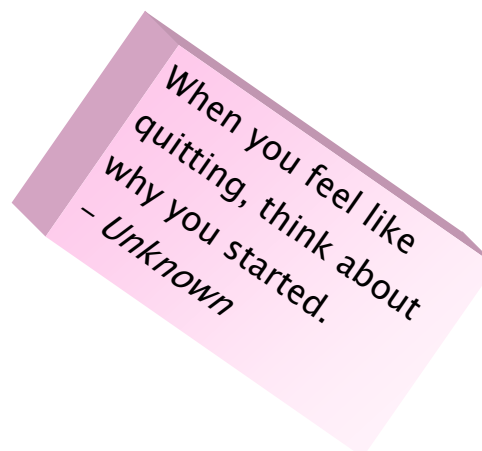


## Outstanding Business Student of the Year

Ryan Ostiguy '19 has been selected as Columbia High School's Outstanding Business Student of the Year! He was recognized along with 16 other local high school business students at the Business Marketing Educators' Association Awards Dinner on May 2, 2019.

As a senior, Mr. Ostiguy has taken Accounting for Investing, Microsoft Office Suite, Marketing Essentials, and Career and Financial Management.

Congratulations!



## Annual Computer Programming Competition

Congratulations to the following students who took 8th Place and 13th Place out of 30 teams in their division at the Siena College Annual Computer Programming Competition: Nick Gabriel, Connor Hurley, Noah Millan, Tyler Pearson, Alaina Gosh, Sydney Lemire, Max McNulty and Danielle Muth. Great job to all!

## MUSIC NEWS

### Columbia Wins Best Musical at 2019 High School Musical Theatre Awards

For the second year in a row, Columbia High School won Best Musical at the High School Musical Theatre Awards at Proctors in Schenectady. The Columbia Players won in 2018 for "Cinderella" and again this year for their performance of "Big Fish." The awards were announced at Proctors. In all, 30 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 South Glens Falls ("Sister Act") and Scotia-Glenville ("Mamma Mia!") in Tier B. Columbia was also nominated for Best Technical Execution.

"Being in Big Fish has truly been one of the best experiences of my life, and I'm sure that all of my castmates will agree," said Ethan Ploss '19, who played Edward Bloom, in his acceptance speech. "So much work has gone into making this show great."



The Columbia Players celebrate winning Best Musical at the High School Musical Theatre Awards at Proctors in Schenectady. (L to R): Logan Ploss '21 (Will Bloom), director Marc de la Concha and Ethan Ploss '19 (Edward Bloom).

### Baroque Chords & Chamber Singers at Plaza

Baroque Chords (Columbia's Rock Orchestra) and Chamber Orchestra performed at the Empire State Plaza in celebration of Music in Our Schools Month. NYSSMA, New York State School Music Association is hosting music groups from local schools throughout the month. Columbia's group performed a variety of rock and pop style tunes. Musicians participating: Cecilia Cardona, Alexis White, Sri Tata, Angelina Dwight, Hailey Deitz, Emilie Walsh, Eliana Bieneman, Taylor Inman, Rachel Weissman, Audrey Warburton, Nidhi Shah, Rachel Haney, Colin Mihill, Allison Headley, Thomas Breimer, Riley Freidel, Liz Manning, Benny Pauli, Rachael Pugh, Shelby Young, Ibbey Lewis, Nicole Presti, Noah Tiley, Cecilia Koenig, Leif Haley. Teachers: Sue Chrzan and Scott Halliday.





## Symphonic Band Excels

On Tuesday, April 16, 2019 the Columbia High School Symphonic Band participated in New York State School of Music Association (NYSSMA) majors. The group competed at a level VI rating. This rating is the most challenging in the NYSSMA repertoire. The group prepared two selections from the NYSSMA manual and a standard march. At the conclusion of their performance, the group received a rating of "GOLD." A gold rating is awarded to organizations that have demonstrated an outstanding level of technical and artistic skill in the evaluative categories identified on the evaluation form for all three of the performed selections. Congratulations to the students of the CHS Symphonic Band!

## Rensselaer County Event Photos

36 Columbia music students participated in the Rensselaer County Music Festival held at Columbia on January 17 & 19.



BAND: Eric Blostein, Adam Dicesare, Mike Digman, Oli Olds, Abby Pauli

TREBLE CHOIR: Brianna Bujak, Stephanie Bradbury, Brigid Mack, Emily Cahill, Molly DeMarco, Laura Haney, Emma Geisser



ORCHESTRA: Cecilia Cardona, Hubert Chang, Mae Molina, Jack LaDue, Kirsten Paultre, Paige Bencivenga, Andrea Federis, Alexis White, Eliana Bieneman, Allison Headley, Rachel Haney, Thomas Breimer, Kelly Hoxie, Clara Xin, Riley Freidel, Colin Mihill, Kourtney Brand, Liz Manning, Nicole Presti, Rachael Pugh, Noah Tiley, Cecilia Koenig, Ryan LeMay, Natalie Johnson

# ART DEPARTMENT KUDOS

## Art Students Selected for 3D Art Show

Columbia High School students Elaina Goodman-Briggs '19 and Alaaya Patterson '19 had artwork selected for the 9th annual Juried Art in Three Dimensions show at the Mohonasen High School Art Gallery. Of the 242 works submitted from 18 high

schools, just 76 pieces were chosen for the show by the jurors. Ms. Goodman-Briggs created a mixed media and plaster of paris figurative self-portrait. Ms. Patterson created a set of three pinch pots with sculpted details and mixed

media elements added in. Both students took Semester 1 Ceramics/Sculpture with Columbia Art Teacher Valerie Gordon.



## Student Artwork Accepted to Congressional Art Competition

Columbia High School students Madison Jakielaszek '19, Ella Conway '20 and Richard Turoski '20 had artwork on display recently at the 2019 Congressional Art Competition at the Wallace Gallery located in the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy. Ms. Jakielaszek submitted her

silver gelatin print titled "Growth among Destruction" from Ms. Andrea Neiman's Photography class. Ms. Conway and Mr. Turoski submitted drawings from Ms. Valerie Gordon's Advanced Studio Art class. Ms. Conway titled her piece "Therapy" and Mr. Turoski's piece was titled

"Roles Reversed." The Congressional Art Competition is an annual, nationwide art competition that accepts entries from high school students across the United States, providing them with a unique venue to showcase their artistic abilities.



Columbia students and teachers at the 2019 Congressional Art Competition at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy (L to R): Art Teacher Ms. Neiman, Richard Turoski '20, Ella Conway '20 and Art Teacher Ms. Gordon. Not pictured: Madison Jakielaszek '19.



## National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame

Four Columbia High School students from Ms. Andrea Neiman's Studio Art classes had their equine-themed pastel drawings on display at the 25th annual Horsing Around with the Arts show at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs in May. Below are the artwork and artists:



Amanda Craven



Lauren Ernst



Melody DeCerce

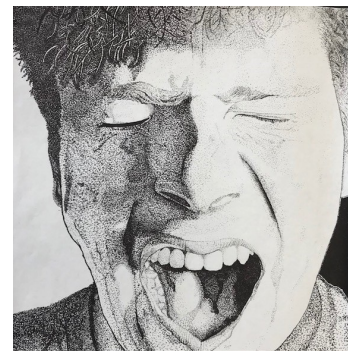


Koh-e-Noor Khan

## ART SHOW 2019

Students from across the East Greenbush Central School District showed off their creativity and artistic skills at the 2019 Art Show on May 16 at Columbia High School. The theme was "The Art of Compassion" and included drawings, paintings, ceramics and photography.

"All our students were involved in making incredible pieces of art that promoted non-bullying, acceptance, tolerance and appreciation for one another," said Columbia art teacher Patti LeRoy.



## Key Club

Key Club fundraised \$851.30 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Pennies for Patients. We used collection boxes, Cards for a Cause, and a bake sale.



## Students Receive Spotlight on Youth

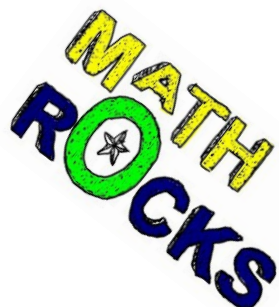
Nine students from East Greenbush Central School District were honored at the Town of East Greenbush Spotlight on Youth Awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, for their exemplary citizenship. Students were nominated for their volunteerism and exhibiting positive character traits such as kindness, citizenship, respect and responsibility. Congratulations!

### Spotlight on Youth Award Recipients

- Jessica Borst – Columbia
- Sophie Church – Columbia
- Lizzy Gambino – Columbia
- Lauren Obermayer – Columbia
- Heather Pangburn – Columbia
- Maya Preston – Goff
- Michael Preston – Columbia
- Adam Riley – Columbia
- Nova Vath – Columbia







## NYS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE 2019

participants will receive a certificate and ice cream coupon donated by Stewart's.

Samuel Koblensky earned the first place spot in this year's Mathematics League competitions at CHS. Second place was awarded to Tyler Pearson, and third place tie was between Ryan Wei, Connor Hurley and Nina Tedeschi. Sam will receive a \$50 gift certificate and all qualified Math League

Columbia participates in the New York State Mathematics League competition which includes six tests that involve high level math skills as well as problem solving strategies. Students score points for each correctly answered question, and the top scores are combined for a team score. Sam was Columbia's top

scorer. In addition, Columbia's combined scores earned Columbia first place in our Regional Division. Great job to all the participants.



## Jenna Almon Named One of '13 Kids Who Care'

Columbia High School sophomore Jenna Almon has been named one of the Capital Region's 13 Kids Who Care by News Channel 13. After school ends each day, Ms. Almon goes to her former elementary school, Green Meadow, where she tutors third and fifth graders. Congratulations!

To watch the video clip, you may click [here](#) to access the site.







## SPORTS NEWS

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

### ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME 2019

Four former student athletes and two former coaches were inducted into Columbia High School's Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, May 3. The Class of 2019 includes Joseph DiBello '80, John Lyons '92, Bill Mackey '68, Dr. Barbara Oesterlin '77, Steve Matheke and Fran Pugliese – all of whom made outstanding contributions to Columbia's athletic program.

To read more about the event, click [here](#) to reach the webpage site.



### Columbia Boys' Varsity Bowling Wins Section 2 Championship

The Blue Devils team includes: Tyler Bogholtz, Zach Bogholtz, Henry Dreisenstock, Kyle Fortin, Bailey Grugan, Jason Hahn (highest triple for the day), Ryan Lemay and Thomas Stein. They were coached by Bill Neumann.

## UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM CHS

The 2019 Unified Basketball Team played a great season! These student athletes worked extremely hard but also had LOTS OF FUN !!!!!

Unified sports programs are made possible through a collaboration between high school athletic programs and the Special Olympics. They give students with learning disabilities a chance to compete in a unique setting.

Our team is comprised of 42 students this year. We are now in our 6th year. It has been amazing each day to see these kids work with each other, all at varying levels of basketball/athletic skill.

The team is composed of athletes with and without disabilities and will compete against unified teams from across the country. The members of the team are current students and alumni of Columbia High School who all have participated on its Unified Basketball team.

"We are continuing to build a Unified program, helping students with and without disabilities compete together," said head coach Audra Di Bacco. "and helping the school become more inclusive through athletics such as basketball and bowling."

~ Audra Di Bacco and Chelsea Dyer - PROUD Coaches of the Unified Basketball Team ~

### ROSTER:

Selena Arroyo-Santos	Christina Guilbo	Emily Powell
Carolyn Berry	Alexis Hanks	Emma Rainville
Hollis Berry	Sarah Hazzard	Frank Rainville
Lucas Boehlke	Madison Hester	Malliree Roberts
Jayden Colaruotolo	Shawn Hoag	Nellie Severson
Lindsey Connor	Kyrstin Houser	Connor Sheehan
Chelsea Cotugno	Brandin Hughes	Abigail Sheldon
Anijah' Dodson	Devin Johnson	Christian Shepard
Oliver Donahue	Tristin Johnson	Christian Shepard
Abigail DOWEN	Mike King	Abigail Smith
Amber Duryea	Jackson Lentz	Alayna Smith
Sean Fila	Dylan Letzelter	Alex Sotomayer-Garcia
Tristan Fink	Ashanti Ligons	Nova Vath
Liam Gavin	Katelyn Miller	Lillian Wilkes
		Alexis Wynn



## CLASS OF 2019

### Graduation Questions and Answers

***Columbia's Class of 2019 Graduation Ceremony will be held Saturday, June 29 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 Thursday, June 27th 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 the day of rehearsal on June 27th.**

***Is there a graduation rehearsal?***

Yes, there is a mandatory graduation rehearsal. This will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, June 27, 2019 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 29, 2019 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 29, 2019.

***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 tassels?***

Students will receive their gold tassels 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**