

END OF THE YEAR ADDRESS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With the 2023-24 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.

Regents exams are once again taking place in June. Regents exam information may be found toward the back of this newsletter or please consult the District webpage for specific breakdown dates.

Please note that throughout this issue are links to articles. Simply click on the links to view.

Graduation will take place on **Saturday, June 29th at 10:00AM at HVCC**. Email



blasts will be sent to all Seniors and their parents with details.

Please note that Thursday, June 13th is the last day of classes.

Congratulations to all on a successful school year! As always, I thank you for your continued support.

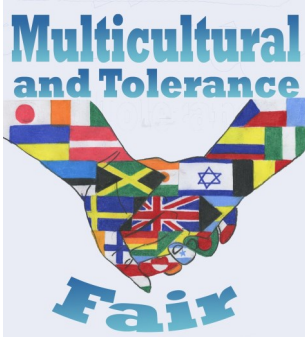
Your Partner in Education,
Michael J. Harkin



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Multicultural Fair



Columbia High School was transformed into a world's fair on April 11th as students displayed poster boards, performed demonstrations and distributed food to celebrate diversity at its Multicultural Fair.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story.

Staff Goodbyes

We say Goodbye to the following Faculty or Staff who are leaving or already have left CHS this year and will be dearly missed:

RETIREES:

Tara Maney, Special Ed. Teacher
Jim Obermeyer, Special Ed. Teacher
Kathleen LeForestier, Spec.Ed. Teacher
Donna Shepardson, Spec. Ed. Teacher
Adrienne Rudat, Teaching Assistant
Marianne Wilhelm, Teacher's Secretary



Seniors Only: Chromebook Return / Cap-Gown Distribution

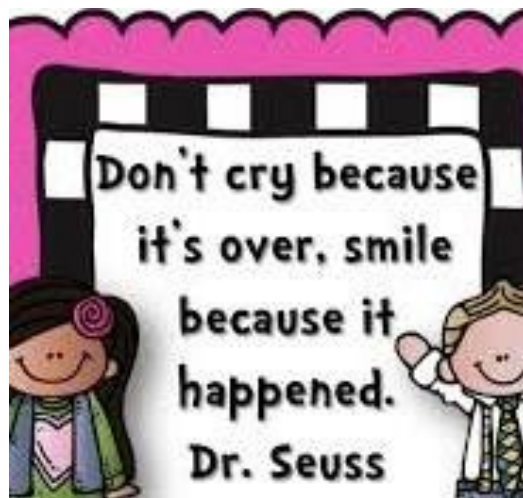
As Seniors prepare for graduation, they will be required to return all classroom text and library books.

Please note that **SENIORS ONLY** must return their Chromebooks before they can collect their caps & gowns. Tables will be set up in the Main Lobby for book returns on June 12th and 13th. Chromebooks will be returned to Mr. Margielewski.

SENIOR SURVEY:

Seniors must complete the Senior Survey which is being sent out to each student's email account.

Please keep checking on the District webpage for specific details as updates may be posted.



Grades 9-11 Textbook Returns

Underclassmen students, grades 9 through 11, will be required to return all classroom text and library books. Students may return books directly to their teachers. Please be sure the student's name and teacher are indicated on each book for easier return. Tables will be set up for returned books that last two days of classes prior to Regents exams.



Program of Studies for Next Year's Classes

Columbia High School has published its **2024-25 PROGRAM OF STUDIES** to assist students and families with course selections for next year. Counselors met with students in January and February to do course selection for next year.

- College Credit Options
- Career Paths
- Graduation Requirements

If you have questions, contact your child's **high school counselor**.

The Program of Studies includes important information including:

- Course Descriptions for Required courses and Electives

Awards Ceremony

The Daytime Columbian Awards Ceremony took place on Friday, **May 31st**.

Congratulations to the Award recipients!



The evening Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, **June 13th** at 6:00 PM.



Students with 90% and higher (weighted) GPAs were informed

National Honor Society Induction

of their candidacy in the spring and CHS tapped new members of the school's National Honor Society chapter in May. Teachers and staff recognized the students by surprising them with special shirts, funny

sunglasses, special treats and more.



Chamber Singers Perform

Rensselaer County families, friends, and loved ones impacted by drunk driving gathered for a memorial ceremony at the Rensselaer DWI memorial site on Tuesday, April 23. Rensselaer District Attorney's Office organized the event as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The observance honored 39 Rensselaer County residents who died in impaired driving accidents.

CHS's Chamber singers were invited to perform at the solemn event.



Math League

The Columbia Math League Club has completed another year of challenging and thought-provoking competitions. Congratulations to Neil Paul as he won 1st Place in Columbia's Math League contests! With a two-point difference, Emma Gentile secured 2nd Place in the rankings. Rory Brandon and Pierce Dalton tied for 3rd place.

"Our Math League participants dedicate themselves to solving difficult questions which require incredible focus, skill and insight," said Math League Club Advisor Marilyn Thompson. "I wish our seniors a heartfelt congratulations and we will see everyone else next year."

Special thanks to thank Stewart's Shops as well as our PTO for their generous donation of ice cream coupons to help us celebrate the end of our season!



PARKING UPDATE

Please note that next year's **SENIORS ONLY** (Class of 2025) may sign-up for student parking beginning the first day of school in September.

Upcoming Seniors may download Student Parking Forms from the CHS webpage.



*"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.*

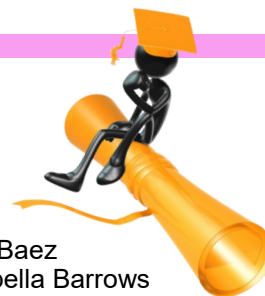
Transcript Requests / Proof of Graduation

Transcript request forms can be found on our website WWW.EGCS.D.ORG, under Forms.

If you have any questions regarding a transcript, please call the Columbia High School Guidance Department at 207-2020.



Operation Graduation



Operation Graduation currently has 19 students enrolled in the program. As the school year winds down and final work completion is collected, we are hoping for every student to receive their diploma.

Since 2011, our program has successfully graduated 232 students. We anticipate an additional 19 O.G. graduates in June.

As in previous years this honor is the culmination of not only the students' efforts but the many who have assisted them in their success.

Operation Graduation is an inspirational program that affirms your commitment to the education of our students.

Students anticipated to graduate are:

- Aria Baez
- Ariebella Barrows
- Layci Batcher
- Micah Brozowski
- Owen Elacqua
- Ella Koehler
- Angelina LaScala
- Alyssa McAvoy
- Alexis Morey
- Jackson Newell
- Jaden Palacios
- Kerrigan Quinn
- Liza Reilly-Hammond
- Keonna Robinson
- Rahul Singh
- Layla Squires
- Susan Stanchuk
- Devin Weber

CAP

CAP is very pleased to announce the successful end to the 2023-2024 school year. CAP is Columbia's Alternative Program designed to serve approximately 50 students.

We are proud to announce that the CAP program anticipates graduating 11 students this year once they meet Columbia High School and New York State Regents graduation requirements to receive their high school diploma. All our students plan on 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:

- Murtaz Ahmad
- Lucas Graham
- Andrew LaValley
- Paulina Perreault
- Izzabella Rudolph
- Morrison Young



- Dustin Gehrke
- Theodore Kerber
- Abigail Maung
- Benaiah Raphael
- Colton Wyant

CTAEP

There are 4 CHS seniors in this year's Center for Therapeutic Academic Excellence Program (CTAEP). We are extremely proud of all our students' academic accomplishments and perseverance.

The students anticipated to graduate in June 2024 are:

- Evan Downer
- Ozzy Jensen
- Leah Stadler
- Yaira Vazquez

Congratulations to all!

Science Olympiad Wins in 2024

Congratulations to the Goff Science Olympiad Team, who once again placed in the top 10 in New York State. The Goff Science Olympiad team competed against 40 other teams from across New York State on April 12th in East Syracuse, N.Y. These teams were the best teams selected from a field of 287 teams that competed in their regional competitions. Goff Middle School placed 10th at the New York State finals earning medals in five of the 23 events.



Click [HERE](#) for full article.

Columbia High School won 16 medals and placed 4th overall at the Science Olympiad Regional Championships on February 6th at Ballston Spa High School. The competition included 15 teams from around the Capital Region.

Click [HERE](#) for full article.

Congratulations to all!!

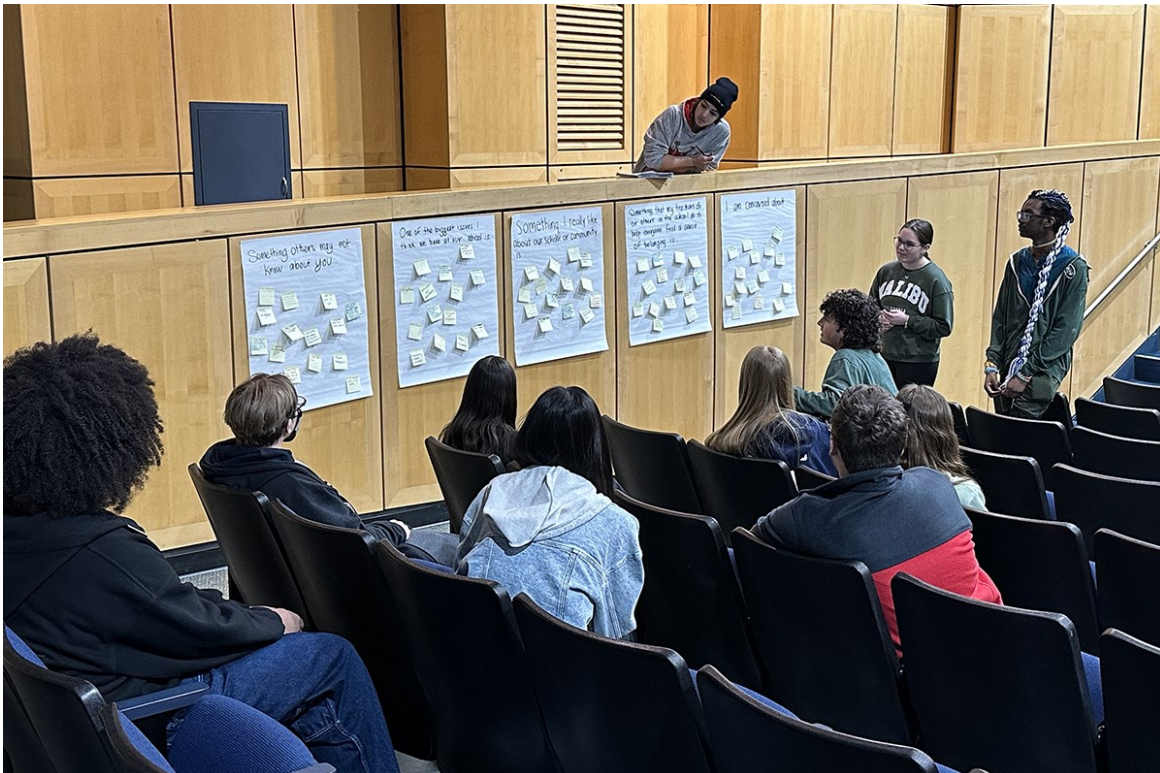


CHS Hosts 'Elevating & Empowering Student Voices' Program

A dozen Columbia High School students met in April to discuss inclusivity in school so that all students feel welcome and accepted. The program is called Elevating and Empowering Student Voices and was offered in collaboration with Questar III BOCES and its component districts.

Five Columbia students – Kole James Hardy '25, Reina Sullivan '26, Ellie Keenholts '25, Aries Raphael '24 and Reid Schiermeyer '26 – led the activity in the auditorium. They were trained as facilitators this past winter at Questar alongside students from other local high schools.

Click [HERE](#) for the full article.



Ethnic Coalition's Talent Show

Ethnic Coalition hosted their annual Talent Show on Friday, 5/10/24.

* Cheyenne Bott was the winner with the song "Watermelon Moonshine".



* Giana Weiss came in 2nd Place, dancing to "Favorite Crime".

* Tessa Santana won 3rd Place with the song "This Is Me".



Congratulations to everyone on a fabulous show!

Ethnic Coalition will be donating \$800 to KIND (Kids In Need of Defense).



MUSIC NEWS

Columbia Receives Three Nominations for High School Musical Theatre Awards

Columbia High School received three nominations for the 2024 High School Musical Theatre Awards, which was announced by the Collaborative School of the Arts at Proctors. **Emma O’Kane ’24 (Best Actress), Allison Hedgepeth ’24 (Best Supporting Actress) and the Columbia Players Pit Orchestra**

(Best Student Orchestra) were nominated for the Columbia Players’ production of Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast.”

Click [HERE](#) for the full story.



ART DEPARTMENT KUDOS

H.S. Regional Art Exhibition

Three Columbia High School students – **Madison Wagoner '24**, **Addison Brannock '26** and **Aeris Corrodore '26** – had their artwork accepted to the highly competitive 25th annual High School Regional Art Exhibition at the Opalka Gallery at Russell Sage College in Albany.

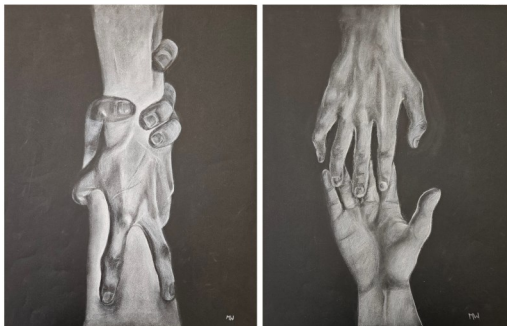
As a juried show, judges selected only 103 pieces of student art from 590 pieces submitted by 28 local school districts. An artists' reception for students, teachers, families, and guardians was held on Thursday, March 14 where CHS sophomore **Addison Brannock '26** won for her photograph "Rain through Sunshine."

Congratulations!



Madison Wagoner '24
"Betrayal"
Charcoal

Aeris Corrodore '26
"Judgment"
Silver Gelatin Print from the Darkroom



Art Show 2024

Columbia High School was transformed into a stunning art gallery on May 16, as it hosted the 2024 District-wide Art Show. Hallways were lined and display cases were filled with beautiful artwork created by students in grades K-12 from all seven schools.

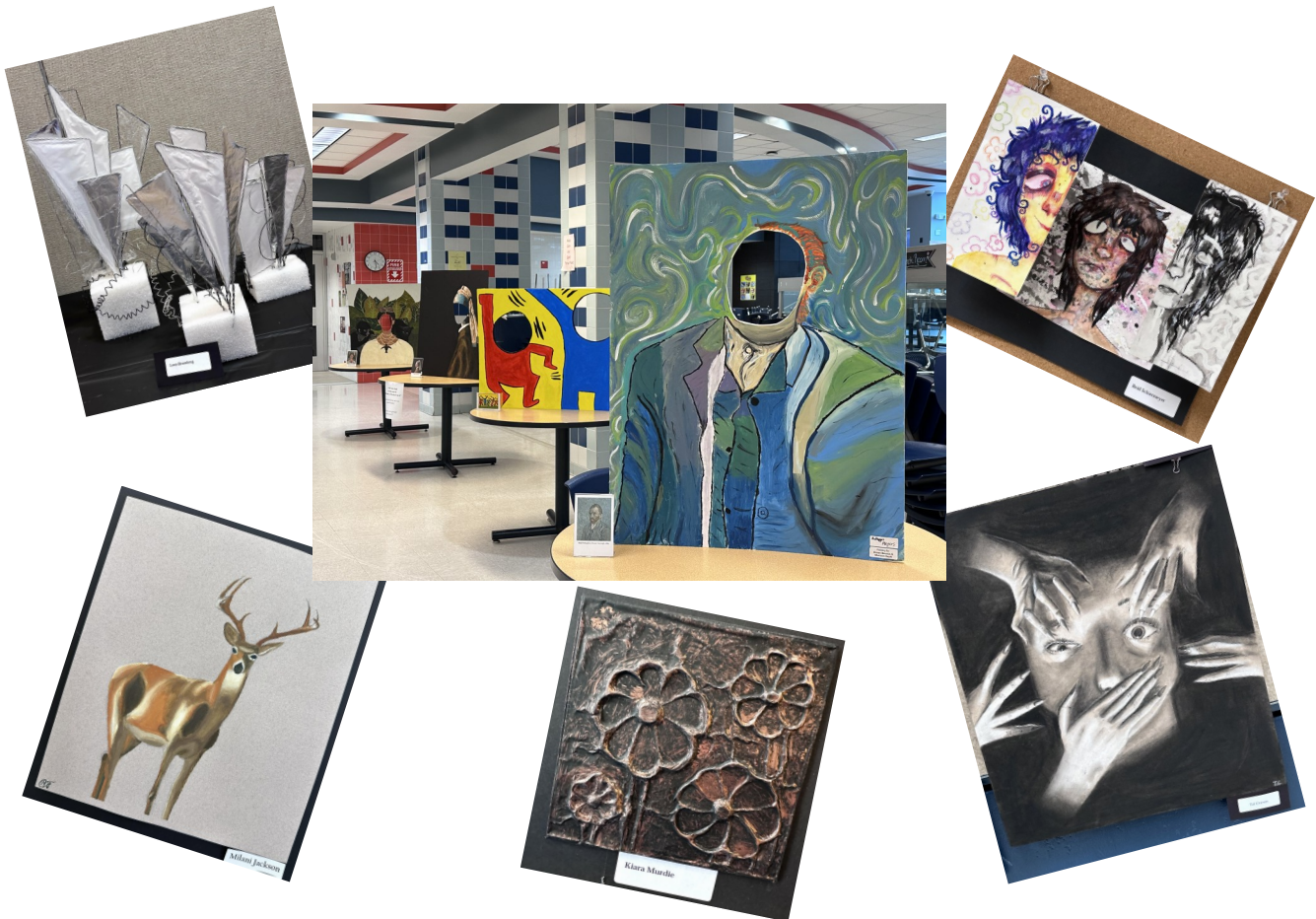
The artwork included drawings, paintings, pottery, photography, mixed media and video games.

"The District-wide Art Show was an incredible display of exemplary student artwork," said Art Department Chair Andrea Neiman. "The students' creativity and sheer talent is a reflection of the art department's passion, professionalism and dedication to their craft."

Special thanks to the district's art teachers who organized the Art Show, the maintenance department for preparing new spaces to hang the work and for setting up the cafeteria for refreshments and the photo booths, Marcin Margielewski for his tech support, Desmond Cooley for handling security, and Columbia Principal Michael Harkin for his role in making this a fantastic community event for all to enjoy.

[View District-Wide Art Show Photos](#)

[\(Click Here\)](#)



Outstanding Business Students of the Capital Region

Columbia High School seniors Athena Seebald '24 and Samuel Desany '24 were recognized as 2023-24 Outstanding Business Education Students of the Capital Region on May 2 at the Century House in Latham. They are among just 15 students from the Capital Region to receive this award for their academic achievement, outstanding citizenship and positive attitude.

Seebald has taken 10 business courses at Columbia including Accounting, HVCC Business and Personal Finance, Career and Financial Management, and HVCC Business Communication.

Desany has taken nine business courses at Columbia including HVCC Business 101, HVCC Entrepreneurship, HVCC Marketing, and Career and Financial Management.

At the ceremony, each student was acknowledged and awarded plaques. This event is sponsored by the Business and Marketing Educators' Association of the Capital District.

Congratulations to Athena and Sam from all the teachers in the Business Department and Staff at Columbia High School!



Congratulations to Columbia High School seniors Athena Seebald '24 and Samuel Desany '24 who were recognized as 2023-24 Outstanding Business Education Students of the Capital Region!



SPORTS NEWS

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



Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame Celebration

East Greenbush Central School District

Twenty Second Annual

Athletic Hall of Fame Celebration

Sponsored by

The Columbia All Sports Club

2024 Induction Ceremony

Alumni Athlete Category

*Casey Balzer 2009 / Hillary Faas 2010 / Caitlin (Cooper) Gibson 2013
Chris Smith 2013 / Gabrielle Childrose 2015*

Coach/Staff/Community Category

Robert Crain

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

Franklin Terrace, Campbell Ave., Troy

4:30PM Dedication

Athletic Hall of Fame Walkway @ Columbia High School

Columbia High School Earns National Special Olympics Recognition for Inclusion

Special Olympics New York and the East Greenbush Central School District announced at a pep rally on April 25th that Columbia High School has achieved national banner status in recognition of its leadership in creating an inclusive school community where all students are accepted, celebrated, and included. The distinction marks the highest level of achievement for Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools in the nation.

Click [HERE](#) for full story and additional photos!

Students from the Columbia Unified Basketball and Bowling teams being introduced at a pep rally in the school gym.



Columbia High School received a banner from Special Olympics New York at a pep rally to signify its designation as a National Unified Champion School.

UNIFIED SPORTS PROGRAM CHS

Columbia has Unified teams, which are comprised of both special education and regular education students, in basketball and bowling.

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. The team is composed of athletes with and without disabilities who look forward to each year's games.

On May 15th, we celebrated the last regular season's home game of the season. The following seniors were honored:

Kylee Church
Lyndsey Edick
Maya Eriole

Juan Moran
Silvio Orciouli
Aries Raphael

Lexi Szemplinski
Patrick Tracey

Thank you so much for your continued support of our amazing players!
~ Audra Di Bacco, Chelsea Dyer and Jess Fowler ~
PROUD Coaches of the Unified Basketball Team

Unified Basketball Roster 2023-24

Agar	Austin	10
Carroll	Anabelle	9
Church	Kylee	12
Cook	Keira	10
Cooley	Desmond	9
Demarco	Logan	12
Edick	Lyndsey	12
Eriole	Maya	12
Eveland	Logan	12
Farone	James	9
Girgenti	Nick	10
Graiff	Jesse	9

Green	Imara	11
Hebler	Ella	11
Hoffman	Noah	10
Kromer	Ben	11
Lambert	Dominick	11
McCarthy	Madison	12
Moran	Juan	12
Orciouli	Silvio	12
Ouimette	Kendyl	11
Pauli	Zach	10
Prugel	Trinity	11
Raphael	Benaiah	12

Reza	Ethan	9
Riaz	Areeb	11
Ring	Kennedy	11
Smith	Amber	9
Stone	RJ	9
Sullivan	Reina	10
Szemplinski	Alexis	12
Terry	Nathan	9
Tracey	Patrick	12
VanWely	Jared	11
Wylie	Claysiah	12

Library News

Hello Library Friends! The CHS Library holds amazing information for you to access throughout the school year. There is also a News Archive for you to peruse so that if you missed any of the posts you can go back and see what they've shared!



If anyone is interested in any specific books for summer reading, reach out to the Library team with questions. Happy reading over the summer. Stay safe, healthy, and wear sunscreen!

We hope everyone continues to stay safe and healthy. For any student or family seeking non-emergency mental health support please email the following **mental_health_support@egcsd.org** to connect with a provider. We are here for you!

Click **HERE** to access the CHS Library Webpage

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL!

THE BEGINNING:

Columbia High School created a Girls' Flag Football team as a new interscholastic sport in the spring. Columbia Athletic Director Ryan Jones had brought a proposal to the Board of Education at its public meeting, which was supported unanimously.



Columbia Won Girls' Flag Football Regional Championship, Advanced to NYS Final Four



THE RESULTS:

The Columbia Girls' Varsity Flag Football team continued its historic inaugural season on Saturday, May 25th, defeating Corning-Painted Post, 12-0, at Shenendehowa High School to win a regional championship.

With the victory, the Blue Devils advanced to the final four of the New York State Flag Football Championships. Congratulations on an incredible first season!

2024 Proms

The Class of 2025's Junior Prom took place on Saturday, May 18th at Columbia High School where good friends and good times were enjoyed through the evening!

Columbia High School's Senior Prom for the Class of 2024 was held on Friday, May 31, 2024, beginning with the Walk-In from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The prom was at The Albany Capital Center and a wonderful time was had by all!



Click [HERE](#) to view photos from this year's prom!

Best School District!



For the third year in a row, the East Greenbush Central School District was voted "Best School District" in the [Times Union Best of the Capital Region contest](#), which was announced in a special publication.

The annual contest has readers vote on a variety of topics in categories such as Dining, Entertainment & Leisure, Services, and Best of the Rest. East Greenbush CSD won by a margin of 214 votes.

Congratulations to all of our students, staff, families and community members!

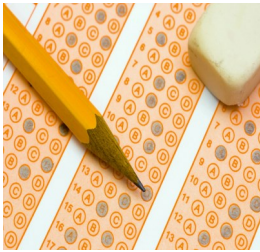
JUNE 2024 REGENTS INFORMATION

Columbia High School will administer Regents Exams on these dates:

June 2024 Regents Exam Schedule

- Tuesday, June 4
- Friday, June 14-Tuesday, June 18
- Thursday, June 20 - Tuesday, June 25

There will be no school for high school students on those days except for those taking exams. Columbia will be offering special bus runs home during the June Regents Exams. Please click [HERE](#) for full exam and bus details:



REGENTS EXAMS BREAKFAST / LUNCH SCHEDULE



Tuesday, June 4 – Breakfast Only (7am-8:30am)
 Friday, June 14 – Breakfast & Lunch (7am-12:15pm)
 Tuesday, June 18 – Breakfast & Lunch (7am-12:15pm)
 Wednesday, June 19 – Closed
 Thursday, June 20 – Breakfast & Lunch (7am-12:15pm)
 Friday, June 21 – Breakfast Only (7am-8:30am)
 Monday, June 24 – Breakfast & Lunch (7am-12:15pm)
 Tuesday, June 25 – Breakfast Only (7am-8:30am)

I.D. Badges

All students must have their Student Identification Badge to enter a Regents or Local Exam.

If a student lost or misplaced their Student I.D. Badge, they must go to Mr. Malloy's office (C-105) immediately to receive one.

REVIEW CLASSES

Various Review Classes continue to take place in preparation for Regents exams. Math Review Classes are listed below.

Please check with your teacher if reviews are being given for a particular class.

MATH: Check with your Math teacher for appropriate class, if questions.

Click [HERE](#) to see the full schedule.

FAQ

Graduation 2024

Saturday, June 29 @ 10:00AM

GRADUATION INFORMATION:

Columbia High School is hosting the Class of 2024 Graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m. Congratulations to all!

GRADUATION DETAILS:

- **Saturday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m.** in the McDonough Sports Complex at Hudson Valley Community College
- Tickets will not be dispersed as there is sufficient seating capacity for all students and their families
- There is a **mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, June 26 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Columbia Auditorium. At that time, graduating students will receive their caps and gowns.
- Graduation will be live streamed for free at www.egcsd.org

A detailed Question and Answer FAQ is posted on Columbia High School's page of the East Greenbush website. Please click on the link to access this information:

EGCSD.ORG

