



BELLMORE-MERRICK

Central High School District

High Expectations

High Achievement

The Pillars of Success
Academics, Athletics, the Arts and Altruism

POINTS OF PRIDE

September 2021

Academics

- Congratulations to the Class of 2022 Valedictorians and Salutatorians: Valedictorian **Christopher Prainito** and Salutatorian **Michelle Brown** of **Kennedy**, Valedictorian **Helena Fu** and Salutatorian **Justin Dioguardi** of **Mephram** and Valedictorian **Tina Cheng** and Salutatorian **Kaitlin Bondi** of **Calhoun**.
- **Tristan Bissoondial**, an eight-grade student at **Grand Avenue Middle School**, was named one of 300 semifinalists in the Broadcom MASTERS competition.
- **Kennedy junior Tyler Bissoondial** was among the three finalists in the International Spellman High Voltage Clean Tech Science Competition, a worldwide STEM research and design competition. He was awarded \$1,000.
- **Stamatia Papazis** of **Kennedy**, was among 14 Long Island seniors (and 1,000 nationwide) to receive a college-sponsored scholarship through the National Merit Scholarship Corp.
- **Eric Avellone** of **Calhoun** and **Helena Fu** of **Mephram** were named National Merit Semifinalists in the 2022 competition.
- **Ryan Kenny**, an eighth grader at **Merrick Avenue Middle School**, was accepted into the Institute for Creative Problem Solving.
- **Calhoun High School** was named a National Blue Ribbon School on Sept. 21.
- **Noelle McIntosh** and **Liam Miley** of **Calhoun** were selected as winners in the Stony Brook University Center for Italian Studies Essay Contest. Both students received a monetary prize and certificate.

Arts

- **Calhoun students Julianna Belbol (Alternate in Choir) and Bryce Gould-Anderson (Symphonic Band - bass clarinet) and Kennedy students Jessica Blumberg (Symphonic Orchestra – violin), Melissa Blumberg (Symphonic Band – clarinet), Gavin Chen (Symphonic Orchestra – violin), Massimo Marino (Symphonic Band – bassoon) , Chris Prainito Symphonic Band – oboe and also a Alto Sax alternate) and Zohar Spiegel (bassoon alternate)** were selected as participants/alternates for the 2021 NYSSMA All-State Performing Ensembles in Rochester in early December.

Athletics

- **Mephram's Emiliano Avalos Paiz, Luciana Setteducate and Hailey Stork and Kennedy's Zach Weitz** were among those named Newsday's Top 100 Soccer Players for 2021.

- **Mepham's Sofia LaSpina** was named the New York Jets Player of The Week and was honored by the Jets at their Oct. 3 game. Sofia, a junior wide receiver on the team, became the first female to score a touchdown in Long Island high school football history on Sept. 18. Regional and national media attention surrounded her accomplishment.
- **Mepham** student/athlete **Dominick Novello** received two nominees for the Heart of Giant Award, presented by the Hospital for Special Surgery and the New York Giants.
- The **Lady Sharks swim and dive team** placed first at the Nassau County Relay Carnival on Sept. 18, beating out 10 other teams.
- **Kennedy** unveiled a **JFK Athletics Hall of Fame** Sept. 25, inducting the first 53 inductees at the halftime of their Homecoming game.
- **Mepham Varsity Cheerleading** hosted a Cheerleader for a Day fundraiser on Oct. 2 at Grand Avenue for local children ages 5-13.
- **Kennedy** freshman, **Samantha Maryash** placed 16th in the **U.S. National Fencing tournament**. In addition, she added recent bronze and silver medals in saber and cadet at national events. Samantha is now ranked #11 in the nation in her age group.
- **Kennedy sophomore Isabelle Sivin** is one of 24 female soccer players chosen across the country to represent the United States delegation at the 2022 Maccabi Games as a member of the Women's U16 team. She will be traveling with the United States to Israel next summer to compete in the 2022 summer games.

Altruism

- The **Mepham boys soccer team** raised funds for Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center (ADRC) at their home opener on Sept. 17.
- **Jacqueline Geller's School & Community Leadership** students colored vineyard vines whales in the **Mepham** library to raise money and awareness for First Book, which distributes books and educational resources to schools in low-income communities.
- **Kennedy leadership students** raised money on Sept. 11 to install a field of flags on the school's lawn. Proceeds benefitted the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.
- **Kennedy students Shannon Su** and **Georgia Karantenilis** developed a plan to make a coloring book for sick children in the hospital as a charitable act that involved the Art Club contributing pages. After paying to bind the books, they delivered the books and supplies to Northwell Cohen's Children's Hospital over the summer.
- **Mepham's leadership classes** led by Kerry Dennis and Chris Patten, fundraised for their annual Flag Field of Honor, which is to be installed early November. This year's proceeds will benefit Tuesday's Children.