

The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD



Leaders of the

2020 CLASS OF

Sejal Gupta and Alaha Nasari have distinguished themselves as the top academic achievers of the Class of 2020 and have proven to be outstanding leaders among their peers and in the community.

Early on, Sejal realized her passion for STEM and has taken her interest and her qualities as a mentor to the highest of levels. In the eighth grade, she founded the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Café to teach young students about topics such as programming, prototyping and starting a business.

This year Sejal was named a Regeneron Science Talent Search semifinalist and a Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair finalist. For her project she developed an algorithm to detect walking patterns in patients with lower body injuries. She has a personal connection to this, having overcome her own injuries sustained through mixed martial arts competitions.

Sejal has taken on several leadership roles at Hicksville High School: secretary of Science Olympiad, head of business for the robotics team, president of the Math Honor Society and captain of the varsity golf team. She was also president of the Girls in Engineering and Mathematics program at the Hicksville Public Library, which introduces middle school girls to STEM through a free summer camp.

Through her internships in innovation and entrepreneurship, Sejal has earned a Presidential Volunteer Service Silver Medal and was a U.S. Presidential Scholar and Coca Cola Scholarship semifinalist. She is also a National Merit Commended Scholar.

Sejal will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she will study computer science and computer engineering and business management.



**SEJAL GUPTA,
VALEDICTORIAN**

- Since her freshman year,
- Alaha has shown an interest
- in science and humanities
- and, as a result, has
- completed Advanced
- Placement courses in
- biology, chemistry and
- physics as well as all AP
- courses in history and
- social sciences. She is an AP
- Scholar with Distinction.

- Alaha is also an avid
- writer, taking part in
- multiple essay competitions.
- She was named a national finalist in the Voice of Democracy
- Essay Contest, a recipient of the Uchida Memorial Award
- in the Japan Center at Stony Brook University's Essay
- Competition and was recognized in the Long Island Coalition
- Against Bullying essay contest.

- Her love for interacting with children has inspired Alaha
- to volunteer in the community, having tutored at the Kumon
- Math and Reading Center, interned at Hicksville Pediatrics
- clinic and offered her time at Nassau County Family Court. As
- a junior, she co-founded and has taught the elementary-aged
- science education program Inspire Science in Youth, held at
- the Hicksville Public Library.

- A leader among the student body, Alaha has served as
- an officer with the Ecology Club, Natural Helpers, and the
- National and Rho Kappa honor societies and has organized
- multiple service activities, including a school supply drive in
- support of impoverished communities in Afghanistan.

- Alaha will attend Harvard, where she will study history and
- science.



**ALAHA NASARI,
SALUTATORIAN**

Celebrating Our Students

In an unprecedented year, Hicksville Public Schools celebrated its graduating seniors and eighth and fifth grade students who are moving up in unprecedented style.

An online virtual commencement ceremony was held on June 27 to allow administrators, Board of Education members and student leaders to share special words of praise and inspiration with the Hicksville High School Class of 2020. Later in the day, grads were acknowledged in person during a safely conducted, on-site car parade and graduation walk.

“As you all get older and more experienced at this thing called ‘life,’ you will realize the challenges you face in life will make you better, stronger and ready for challenges yet to come,” Principal Ray Williams said. “What doesn’t break you will make you. I am proud of you all.”

Before introducing the Class of 2020, Superintendent of Schools Marianne Litzman praised the class for thriving through some difficult moments in history.

“Your future – our future – is strong and hopeful because of the special character you have developed over the years, living

and responding to every challenge thrown down before you,” Ms. Litzman said. “This character will hold you Hicksville strong every step of the way, no matter where you roam.”

You can view the full virtual ceremony at <https://hicksville-hs.stageclip.com/>.

On June 17, Hicksville Middle School students who are moving up to the high school celebrated with an outdoor ceremony to allow students to receive their middle school diplomas from Principal Mara Jorisch with their families on hand. Students safely walked by teachers, administrators and support staff members who applauded, cheered them and offered words of encouragement and good luck. The school also conducted its own virtual commencement.

Fifth graders said goodbye to their teachers and received moving-up certificates from their principals on June 10. Each school planned its own unique ceremony with the help of staff and the support and generosity of the PTA.

Congratulations to all of our students for making your community, your families and your schools very proud!



THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Administration Building
200 Division Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801

Board of Education:

Phil Heckler, President
Brenda Judson, Vice President
Carla Hoene, Secretary
Trustees:
Christopher Amato
Sunita Manjrekar
Linda Imbriale
Irene Carlomusto

Marianne Litzman
Superintendent of Schools

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HICKSVILLE
NEW YORK
PERMIT NO. 126

****ECRWSS****

Postal Customer
Hicksville, New York 11801

www.hicksvillepublicschools.org



Reopening Schools Planning

Hicksville Public Schools has formed a Reopening Schools Task Force that is meeting throughout the summer to create a District Reopening of Schools Plan to provide a safe and effective learning environment for all students and staff for the 2020-2021 school year. Information is being posted to our website regularly. Please refer to www.hicksvillepublicschools.com and all future communications from the superintendent of schools and your school for the latest updates.

ALUMNI *Spotlight*

ALLISON PACI

Hicksville High School
Class of 2016

I attended Savannah College of Art and Design, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in interior design. Hicksville High School certainly gave me a strong foundation for a career path in the design industry – it was there I learned most fundamentals of design. I took every art class available and that helped me grow to find all the disciplines I now love.

During the past year, I was invited to partake in SCADpro, an innovation studio that generates business solutions for international companies. I was fortunate enough to work on a team to develop the Samsung Galaxy Fold and presented our findings to the heads of Samsung. I was invited back to serve as project manager and led a team of 15 designers to create a new innovation lab for Snap-on Tools.

I later joined the Gulfstream Aerospace design team to develop conceptual designs for private client aircrafts, before joining Royal Caribbean Cruises, where I worked on the world's largest cruise ship revitalization for Oasis of the Seas. My team was named a semifinalist in the Walt Disney Imaginations competition!

During my senior year in college I served as president of the school's Interior Design Organization. It's been quite the journey and thanks to a great support system, every step of the way has been a blessing.



SAMANTHA FALKOWSKI

Hicksville High School
Class of 2013

I attended the University of Rhode Island, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in industrial and systems engineering, a Bachelor of Arts in Italian and a minor in business administration. My experience included studying in Italy and taking on an internship with the Rhode Island-based manufacturing facility Taco Comfort Solutions. The company acquired a manufacturing facility in Sandrigo, Italy, which enabled me to complete my internship with Taco Italia.

After returning from Italy and earning my diplomas, I accepted a position at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, as a process improvement engineer/black belt. In this position, I was trained on two different methodologies that help identify problems in the organization and reduce waste. I've already worked on quite a few major projects.

AP classes, sports, Science Olympiad, marching band, lifeguarding and volunteering hours during my time at Hicksville High School prepared me for life. Despite some college denials, I wound up in the right place (at University of Rhode Island) and I will cherish that opportunity for life. High school is a tough time for many; my advice to students is to do your best, keep living and remember that life is a journey. You never know what's out there for you until you're already living it!

