

Kaleidoscope

New Superintendent Thrilled for *New Year*

As the Class of 2015 said their final goodbyes in June, Superintendent of Schools Andrew Selesnick was poised to begin his new role as the district's leader.

Selesnick comes to the Katonah-Lewisboro School District from the Chappaqua Central School District, where he most recently served as Assistant Superintendent for Leadership Development and Human Resources. He also served as Principal of Horace Greeley High School for nine years and, prior to that, as an English teacher in the same district.

"I am thrilled to be working in the Katonah-Lewisboro School District and honored to be your superintendent," said Selesnick. "I'm eager for school to begin in September [and] excited to be learning about our district and our community."

In order to best learn about the district and community, Selesnick has held interviews with district

administrators, Board of Education members and staff to get to know his colleagues and hear about what is working well and what could be better in the schools. He invited community members, with or without children in the district, to meet with him as well. In the fall, Selesnick looks forward to meeting with groups of students to have similar discussions.

"Because education is all about people, about the relationships between and among them, and about the ability of adults to inspire children to be their very best selves, 'entry' must be an equally human process," Selesnick said. "It is accomplished face to face. By interviewing as many different stakeholders as possible, we will come to learn what is most cherished in our district and what is most needed."

Selesnick was chosen from a strong field of 40 candidates for the position of superintendent following a six-



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month search and was appointed by the Board of Education on Feb. 13, 2015.

A MESSAGE FROM

Your Superintendent

Dear Members of the Katonah-Lewisboro School Community:

Thank you for the warm welcome so many have extended. I am grateful to be here and excited for the work ahead.

I'm currently meeting with as many staff, parents, and community members as possible to understand what's working well in our schools and what can be even stronger. Once school begins, I will meet with students, too. These conversations will continue through the winter, and ultimately, they will lead to goals appropriate for our district.

I believe deeply that the more effectively we listen to one another and the more respectfully we work through our differences, the more productively we'll move our district forward.

With effective communication in mind, we've already made one

change. The district previously maintained an email address for our Governance Team. That single email encompassed our seven Board of Education trustees, the superintendent and our three assistant superintendents. With one email going to so many, the intended audience can be ambiguous and a response can be slowed as 11 people determine who should reply.

Your questions and concerns are always best directed to the person at the heart of the matter. A question about your child's classroom, for example, is best sent to the teacher. This is the most efficient, respectful, and productive communication. If further assistance is necessary, contact the assistant principal and then the principal. If your question is about a districtwide issue, contact the appropriate assistant superintendent, and then if necessary, me. Our

individual email addresses are available on our website.

If you're thinking of contacting our Board of Education, please know that the Board is engaged in matters of policy, vision, and fiscal oversight. If your question falls into one of those areas, all seven trustees can now be reached at: BOE@klschools.org.

Email alone does not equal good communication. We need to see and hear each other in a variety of settings to learn about the many wonderful things happening in our schools, to ask questions, and to share ideas. Those opportunities will begin this fall. I very much look forward to them and to meeting many more of you as we work together in support of our schools.

Sincerely,

Andrew Selesnick

New Athletic Facilities

TO BE READY IN THE FALL

John Jay High School and Middle School students will have access to some exciting new outdoor athletic and recreational facilities in the fall. The track and field are undergoing a complete overhaul, with the new turf field offering much-improved traction and the track being switched over to a rubberized surface in John Jay purple for the many athletic contests and school events held outdoors. The track and field improvements also include site work to assist in better storm water control and drainage.

The replacement of these two surfaces, which see heavy use during the school year, was funded by surplus monies approved by community vote to be set aside from the 2013-14 fiscal year general fund. In addition, the district anticipates approximately 25 percent of the project to be reimbursed via state aid over the course of 15 to 20 years.

The former turf playing field was installed in 2002 and has been maintained above industry standards, allowing it to last beyond its life expectancy. The track was installed in



1996, and its rubber layer significantly deteriorated over time and is being replaced with 1.5 inches of asphalt. It will be repaved with new asphalt and rubber material, in addition to undergoing some necessary subsurface repairs.

The tennis complex is also nearing completion on the high school campus. The state-of-the-art six-

court structure was paid for by the Katonah-Lewisboro Community Tennis Association. According to KLCTA President and varsity boys tennis coach Robert Labriola, the idea for the new facility has been in the works for three years.

"Our JJHS campus will be nicely rounded out by having another sport and facility for all to use," he said.

John Jay Sends Off Accomplished Class of 2015

John Jay High School's Class of 2015 celebrated their commencement on June 23.

"Throughout your time in high school, you have enriched the community, our community, through your dedication to academic, artistic, athletic and extracurricular endeavors," said Board of Education President Marjorie Schiff in her address.

The class's co-presidents, Karen Beaty and Emma Jansen, agreed that their peers represented a large range of interests and talents. In fact, when passing the school's Key of Knowledge onto Class of 2016 Co-presidents Gabby Dowd and Kelly McDonald, they solidified diversity as one of their class's defining attributes.

The students are heading off to a number of prestigious colleges and universities across the country, and many will take with them recognition awards they earned as seniors.

Among those awards were scholarships funded by ArtsAlive! for students excelling in instrumental

music, performing arts, technical crews, writing and art; Booster Club scholarships recognizing some of the class's outstanding athletes; and scholarships and awards from community organizations and memorial groups, including the Friends of John Jay Ice Hockey Scholarship, the Class of 1980 Scholarship, the Increase Miller Faculty and Staff Award and PTA scholarships, the Women's Civic Club of Katonah awards, and the John Jay High School Retired Teachers Award, among others.

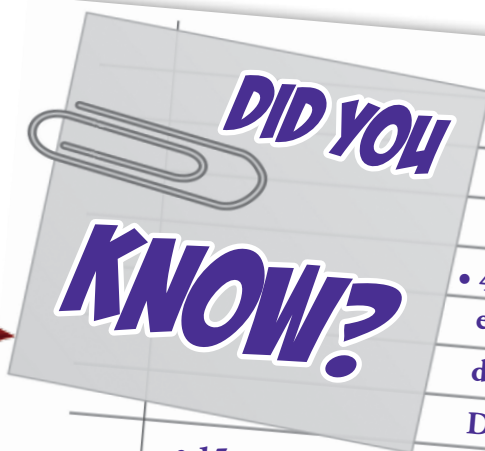
Each John Jay High School department also recognized standout



students in English, mathematics, science, social studies, French, Spanish, Latin, architecture, instrumental music, orchestral studies, technical theater, drama, chorus, band and physical education.

Additional members of the class received state and national recognition for a variety of accomplishments.

To view a full list of the Class of 2015's college acceptances, visit the district website (www.klschools.org).



- 96% of the Class of 2015 graduated with Regents diplomas.
- 43% of the Class of 2015 earned the additional distinction of a Regents Diploma with honors.
- 15 student-athletes will be competing in NCAA Division I athletics in the fall; three will be competing in Division III.
- 31 seniors received a J Award (played a minimum of six seasons of a varsity sport).
- 163 scholarships and awards were presented to the Class of 2015 during Senior Recognition Night (not including merit awards from colleges or other scholarship awards not overseen by JJHS).
- One student will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy in the fall.





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Eighth-Grade Students Are Headed to HS



John Jay Middle School fondly sent its Class of 2015 eighth-grade students onto the next phase of their educational journey during a moving up ceremony that represented the completion of three successful middle school years on June 24. The students will cross over to the other side of campus as John Jay High School freshmen in September.

"You will make mistakes, but it is what you learn from them that will matter," JJMS Principal Richard Leprine said. He exhorted students to grow by trying something new and shared examples based on the experiences of legendary individuals such as Babe Ruth. He also acknowledged the students' good character and noted that their growth is about more than achievements; it also reflects their readiness to care for each other.

Elementary Students Prepare for Middle School

John Jay High School's Class of 2022 made a big academic transition during celebratory moving up ceremonies across the district on June 25.

The fifth-grade students, identified by their single classroom teachers for the last time, each crossed a stage to accept a certificate, along with a handshake and a smile, from their teachers and building administrators. Principals also offered words of advice to the burgeoning sixth-graders.

"Remember to be kind, to always follow your heart and to practice making good decisions on your own," said Meadow Pond Elementary School Principal Carolann Castellano. "Remember that making mistakes is part of growing up. Learn from those mistakes and you will learn how to be your best."

Students had a chance to look back

on highlights – including pasta nights, gardening, making new friends and celebrating the 100th day of school – from their elementary years through photo slideshows at each ceremony.

Increase Miller Elementary School Principal Kerry Ford likened the supplies students need in school to the learning that has occurred in the school. The latter, she said, would allow students to "continue to set and measure [their] own goals in middle school."

Similarly, Katonah Elementary School Principal Cristy Harris compared the soon-to-be sixth-grade students to pencils.

"Just like a pencil, you have left a mark here at KES," she said. "As you move on to your next school, you will have the opportunity to make fresh new marks. Continue creating the kind of impressions that make us all so proud."

