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## **HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, SOPHIE EPSTEIN, IS ANNOUNCED AS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALIST**

High School Senior, Sophie Epstein, has been selected this year as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist! Sophie was also recently announced as a 2019 NYSSMA Conference participant for String Orchestra. She has been playing violin since the age of three.

Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, on Wednesday, announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the "65th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program." This academically talented high school senior, Sophie Epstein, has an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million dollars. These will be offered next Spring.

As explained in the September 11th Announcement, "To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title."

Over 1.6 million high school juniors in about 22,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level. They will be notified of their designation in February 2020. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

Sophie said that she hopes to attend college at Columbia University or Yale University. She would like to study to become a Pediatric Neurologist, and would like to do research in the field of Neuroscience. Sophie would also like to continue to live on Long Island.

Congratulations to Sophie Epstein as we look forward to her further accomplishments in this program.





# HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL FLAGS FLY IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11 - NEVER FORGET

As a special remembrance of a tragic day in American history, Mike Ruffini and the grounds staff installed American flags in front of the High School. We thank them for this wonderful tribute.





**FOREST BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
WAS A SEA OF RED WHITE AND BLUE TODAY AS  
THEY REMEMBERED 9/11**



Photos by Frank Bayer



# BRETTON WOODS STUDENTS ARE PATRIOTS ON SEPTEMBER 11TH





# PINES STUDENTS GATHER TOGETHER TO REMEMBER ON SEPTEMBER 11TH





# WHO HAS THE SPIRIT?

## BRETTON WOODS HAS THE SPIRIT!

Bretton Woods Elementary School students and staff celebrated "Spirit Day" on Friday, September 6th, rounding out their first week of being back to school.

Here are some great photos from their spirit-filled day!



Class 3-4  
Mrs. Bou  
Room 4-  
Class 3-4  
Mrs. Fey  
Room 4-  
Reading  
Mrs. Loy  
Mrs. Los  
Room 4-



## AT THE HIGH SCHOOL “NATURAL HELPERS” ARE HELPING OTHERS AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At the High School there is a club in which the students are helping others and making a difference. The “Natural Helpers” club is a peer-helping program used across the United States and in several other countries. It primarily serves middle school/junior high school and high school students who want to strengthen their communication and helping skills to provide support to others and service to their schools and communities.



The students in this club recently received training at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY. This was the 22nd year of providing training to new members of the Natural Helpers program. Students were selected through a survey process and invited to attend. Shannon Griffin, high school social worker and “Natural Helpers” club advisor was joined by high school Freshmen Counselor, Greg Foster; Band Director, Andrew Monsen and Teaching Assistant, Ginnie Schoen.

The Natural Helpers program is based on a simple premise: Within every school, an informal “helping network” exists. Students with problems naturally seek out other students, and occasionally teachers or other school staff whom they trust. They seek them out for advice, for assistance, or just for a sympathetic ear. The Natural Helpers program uses this existing helping network; it provides training to students and adults who are already perceived as “natural helpers”. It gives them the skills they need to provide help more effectively to young people who seek them out.

Natural Helpers are a cross section of students and school adults identified through an anonymous school-wide survey. After representatives of all the subgroups in the school community are selected, they are invited to participate in the Natural Helpers program. They take part in a Retreat Training in a camp-like setting; there they learn how to improve their helping skills, how to contact professional helping resources when problems exceed their limits, and how to take better care of themselves. It is constantly emphasized at the training that Natural Helpers are not professionally trained therapists or counselors.

After this Retreat Training, Natural Helpers attend Ongoing Training, either in a semester class or in a less structured format, which enhances basic skills and information covered in the Retreat Training, and which explores



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topics of concern to students, like stress, suicide, eating disorders, and relationships with friends and with family.

Natural Helpers report significant benefits from being involved in the program, whether their involvement is helping one to one, assisting with program coordination, volunteering for community projects, or fulfilling some other role. Natural Helpers find that the skills they learn and practice in working with others are beneficial with friends, teachers, family, and co-workers. They make new friends in the program and break down some of the barriers that exist in any community. Natural Helpers also experience the special feeling that comes from helping someone else and knowing that they have made a difference.

The Natural Helpers program is designed to meet three basic goals:

1. To teach Natural Helpers effective ways to help their friends
2. To teach Natural Helpers positive ways of taking good care of themselves
3. To teach Natural Helpers ways to contribute to a safe and supportive school environment

Thank you to all of those involved in making this program a success for our students!







Dr. O'Hara, Superintendent of Schools, is hosting  
Open Office Hours

Come meet with Dr. O'Hara to ask questions, share ideas  
and tell him about your experiences in the District.

## Open Office Hours

Thursday, September 26th, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Thursday, October 17th, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 14th, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

**\*\*Please RSVP with Mrs. Lyons at (631) 761-8200\*\***



## HAUPPAUGE STUDENTS ARE HONORED AT THE SCHOLAR-ARTIST AWARDS

On Wednesday, September 11th, two of our students were honored at a Scholar-Artist Induction Ceremony which took place at the Tilles Center located on the campus of LIU-Post. Angelina Mercurio was named a Scholar Artist for Theatre and Rose Recce earned an Award of Merit for Music.

Each year, the “Long Island Scholar Artist Program”, which is sponsored by the Long Island Arts Alliance, recognizes students who excel academically, and in the areas of either music, visual arts, dance, theater or media arts.

Congratulations to Angelina and Rose on this wonderful achievement!



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, A'KAI LITTLEJOHN LAUNCHED HIS SOLO SHOW AT NY FASHION WEEK

Hauppauge High School Junior, A'Kai Littlejohn debuted his solo show for his Spring/Summer 2020 collection at New York Fashion Week on Saturday, September 7th at the Hotel 50 Bowery located at 50 Bowery Street in NYC.

Pictured in the photo on the right is model, Ashley Harris, who is wearing the “finale” red gown from A'Kai's collection.

Congratulations, A'Kai on this fabulous show! We look forward to hearing more about you in the future!





## HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, DANNY MAURIELLO, IS NAMED ONE OF *NEWSDAY*'S "TOP 100 HS FOOTBALL PLAYERS"

High School Football is very big on Long Island and there are 110 teams who participate in the season. *Newsday* named its "Top 100 High School Football Players" and said they are "the athletes you'd want to watch play this fall season." *Newsday* identified the best of more than 3,300 players. Hauppauge High School's Danny Mauriello made the list!

Congratulations to Danny! Below is the excerpt from *Newsday* regarding his selection.

School: Hauppauge  
Offense: RB  
Defense: DB  
Height: 5-9  
Weight: 182  
Class: Senior  
Conference: Division III



"A multi-sport standout at Hauppauge, he won a state championship in wrestling last year and looks to bring that athleticism to the gridiron."

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## HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR SINGS AT THE HAUPPAUGE FIRE DEPARTMENT 9/11 MEMORIAL

The high school Chamber Choir sang on September 11th at the Hauppauge Fire Department 9/11 Memorial. Dr. Laura Landor, Director of Fine and Performing Arts, said "It was a beautiful and moving tribute. So happy to have our musicians be a part of it!"





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