

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCES FINALIST, EMMA VASILAKOPOULOS

High School Senior, Emma Vasilakopoulos, has advanced to "finalist" standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program of 2021.

Emma was named a Semifinalist in the program on September 9th and has now attained Finalist standing in the competition. All Finalists will be considered for National Merit Scholarship awards to be offered in 2021.

The selection of some 7,500 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 Finalists is now in progress. In March, the program will start notifying scholarship winners.

Congratulations, Emma! We look forward to your continued success in the program.



Chris Cook
Principal
High School

Emma
Vasilakopoulos
HS Senior

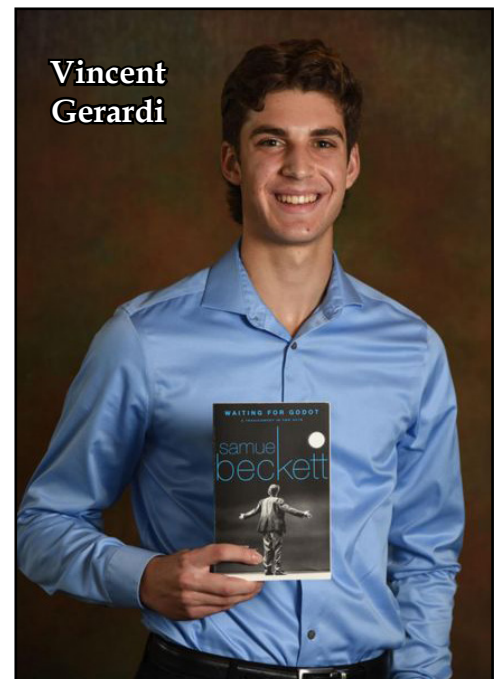
LONG ISLAND SCHOLAR ARTIST, VINCENT GERARDI, IS FEATURED IN *Newsday*

Each year the Long Island Scholar Artist program recognizes students who excel academically and in the areas of either music, visual arts, dance, theater, or media arts. This year, high school senior, Vincent Gerardi, was named a "Long Island Scholar Artist" for Theater.

Vincent is one of twenty selected Scholar Artists from across Long Island. *Newsday* has been publishing the profiles and photos of those selected during the school year. Vincent was featured recently in the month of February.

The article stated, "Vincent was named a Roger Rees Up and Coming Actor in 2019 and 2020, performed in "Broadway Back to School," and shined for the Thespian All-Star Company. A standout for the Educational Theatre Foundation, Vincent mentors young actors for the high school's drama club and is a member of the National English Honor Society, the International Thespian Society, plus the Hauppauge Wind Ensemble and Tri-M Music Honor Society."

Congratulations, Vincent, on your recent award and on a great feature in *Newsday*! [Click here](#) to see the feature!



Vincent
Gerardi

THIS ARTISTIC GROUP OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IS BEAUTIFYING THEIR BUILDING ONE WALL AT A TIME

An artistic and enthusiastic group of high school students have taken on the task to beautify their school building and inspire other students in the process. They began this undertaking last year, prior to quarantine, with some inspiration from their high school principal, Chris Cook, after listening to him speak at an assembly. He charged the students to “change their school environment.” With this inspiration, they began painting as they had been impressed by artwork in other schools and wanted to bring that to Hauppauge HS.

Last year, a small group comprised of Amanda Williamson, Elliot Klayman, Julia Martinez and Kaitlyn Abtey, completed a beautiful mural in Mr. Cook’s then office. The mural was created to let the entire school community know that “Together We Can Soar!”

After completing the mural, the students set their sights on a new project to beautify a room in the downstairs area of the high school. Mr. Cook now occupies this space as his office and it overlooks our lovely high school courtyard. The group started painting in January of 2020, and had to stop when COVID sidelined our District. They continued their project at the beginning of this school year and have been working on it during their lunch periods. They hope to have the room finished right before Spring Break. Painting has given them an opportunity to meet up with their friends and socialize, which they do socially distanced by working on separate walls. They find the painting a nice distraction in their school day and relaxing. They are happy that they are leaving their mark on Hauppauge HS and making a contribution.

The members of the group who call themselves the “Mural Club” are:

Amanda Williamson
Julia Martinez
Elliot Klayman
Liz Holdorf

Elizabeth O’Leary
Emily O’Leary
Savannah Brooks
Anne Lamendola

Mr. Cook’s office mural is divided into sections that tell the story of the learning that goes on in the school. The sections are:

Music and Theater
History and Social Studies
Languages

English
Art
Science

Also incorporated on a huge area of one of the walls is a world globe and it is quite striking in person!

Elliot Klayman has designed the various sections of the room’s artwork and wanted to use monochromatic colors. Their color scheme ranges from yellow, orange and red to blue, purple and gray.

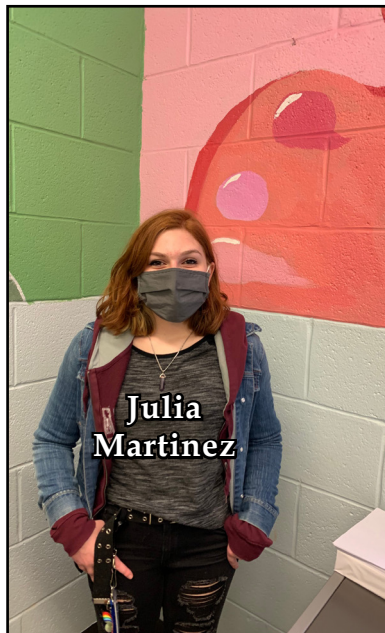


Chris Cook, Principal, with Amanda Williamson,
Julia Martinez, Elliot Klayman,
and Liz Holdorf

"The Mural Club"



**Elliot
Klayman**



**Julia
Martinez**



**Liz
Holdorf**



**Amanda
Williamson**



**World
Globe**

The group hopes to start their next project after Spring Break and plans on painting in Mr. Wieckhorst's room. Mr. Wieckhorst who is an Assistant Principal, has requested an eagle with an inspiring quote.

Elliot Klayman is a senior this year and was just recently accepted to the *School of Visual Arts* in New York City. While there, he plans on studying animation, story-boarding and design. He said, "I usually focus on creating characters with my artwork and this painting project has given me an opportunity to try something new."

Liz Holdorf is also a senior. She is undecided about where she wants to attend college and hopes to study and become fluent in German. She is also undecided about her career path but she has several options to think about; becoming a pilot, a teacher or a school psychologist. Liz recently received flight lessons for her 18th birthday and hopes to begin those soon.

Amanda and Julia are Juniors this year, but after graduation next year, Amanda hopes to attend SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Oneonta or SUNY Oswego and pursue a career in Child Education while Julia is hoping to pursue American Sign Language Interpreting and/or Creative Writing at Bloomsburg University, Townsend College or University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Amanda said, "Being a part of this group has given us meaning and we want to continue to make a difference. We have more to beautify!" We look forward to seeing more murals from this talented group!



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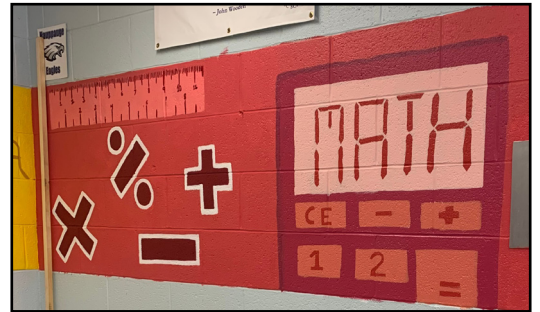
"The Mural Club"



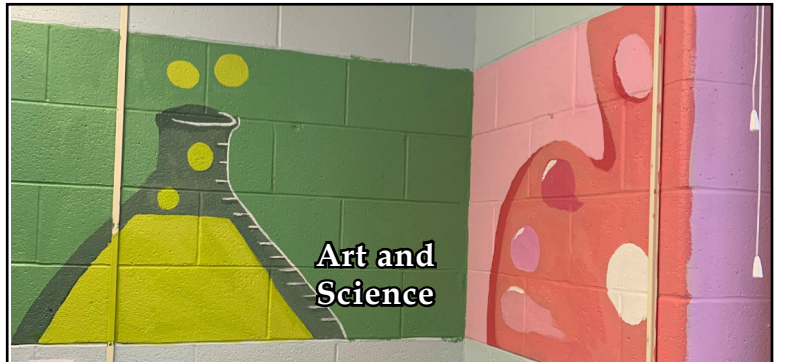
Music and Theater



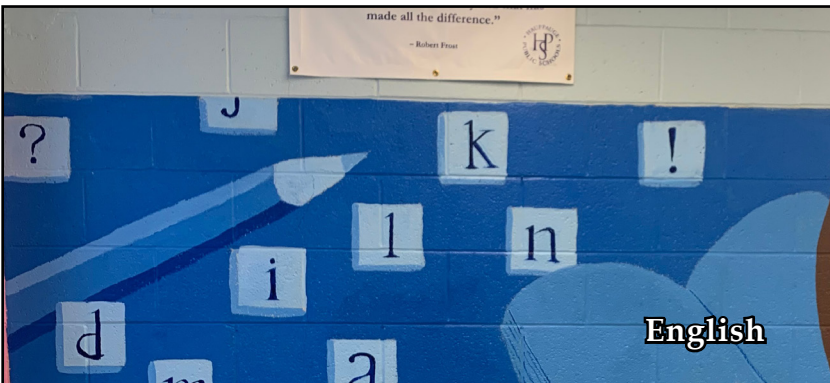
Language



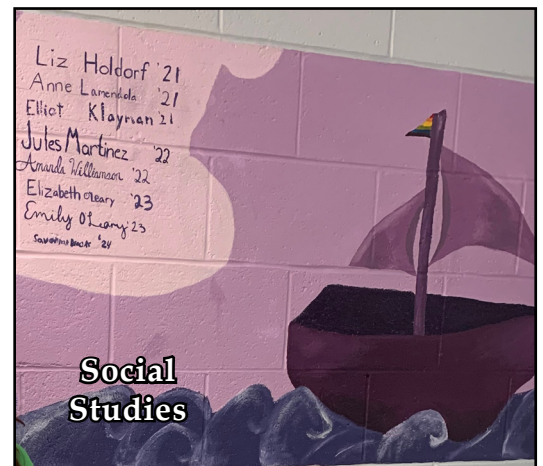
Science



Art and Science



English



Social Studies



The First Project



Mr. Cook, Principal, with Amanda Williamson, Julia Martinez, Kaitlyn Abtey and Elliot Klayman

BRETTON WOODS TEACHER IS NAMED HAUPPAUGE PATCH "TEACHER OF THE WEEK"

Bretton Woods teacher, Janet Kiernan, has been named the *Hauppauge Patch* "Teacher of the Week." Ms. Kiernan is a Special Education teacher and currently teaches Kindergarten, First and Second grades.

Ms. Kiernan was recognized and nominated by parent, Robert Rosenberg. Mr. Rosenberg's daughter is in the second grade. He wrote the following in her nomination, "Ms. Kiernan just goes above and beyond to help my daughter. Her improvement has been amazing and could not be done without her teacher's help and dedication. Once a week we drop her off early so she can have one-on-one time with her teacher to give her the help she needs. We are truly lucky to have Ms. Kiernan."

Congratulations to Ms. Kiernan on this wonderful and much-deserved recognition!



Janet Kiernan
Bretton Woods

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES

The high school has introduced a new "High School Alumni Speaker Series" which will run as follows: Wednesday, March 3rd; Wednesday, March 10th; Wednesday, March 17th; and Wednesday, March 24th.

Guest speakers for the series will be featured in the fields of:

Medicine
Education
Mental Health
Business

All of the speakers are Hauppauge High School Graduates and are accomplished in their chosen fields. If you would like to get more information on the topics, speakers and links to view their presentations, [click here](#).

We hope you will join our high school alumni!



VARSITY BOYS SWIM TEAM CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE

The Varsity Boys Swim Team has continued to achieve with some very impressive accomplishments!

Sean Napolitano, Michael Seda, Jake DiVilio, Vincent Reino, Jake Nielsen, Michael Schroeder and Marcus Ballerini received the "Sportsmanship Award" for Section XI Boys Swimming at their County meet. Boys Varsity Swimming placed 2nd, out of 8, in their League Championship meet as they headed into Counties.

At the County Meet at Stony Brook University, Sean Napolitano, Michael Seda, Jake DiVilio, Vincent Reino, Jake Nielsen, Marcus Ballerini, along with Colin Buscarino, diver, represented Hauppauge. Colin Buscarino, first year diver for Hauppauge, finished 4th in the County. Out of the 12 events in this swim meet, Hauppauge had qualified swimmers in all, but entered athletes into 10 events. Of the 10 events entered, all athletes placed and scored for the Hauppauge Team. Also, all athletes achieved personal records in at least one of their events, if not more.

Hauppauge Varsity Swim placed 4th in the County, but first in small school (League 1). Vincent Reino, Jake Nielsen, Sean Napolitano, Marcus Ballerini and Michael Schroeder are All-County Swimmers; Vincent Reino (200 Medley Relay and 100 Backstroke), Jake Nielsen (200 Medley Relay, 200 Individual Medley, 100 Breaststroke), Michael Schroeder (200 Medley Relay, 100 Butterfly, 100 Backstroke), and Sean Napolitano (100 Medley Relay). All qualified to go onto States.

A very special thank you to their Coaches, Brandon Modrov and Rich Lionetti, for an amazing season! We wish the boys good luck at States and look forward to hearing how they did!



Boys Varsity Swim Team

SALUTE TO SENIORS

Join us in celebrating the Class of 2021 and their future plans with our "Salute to Seniors."



ALEXA WATERS



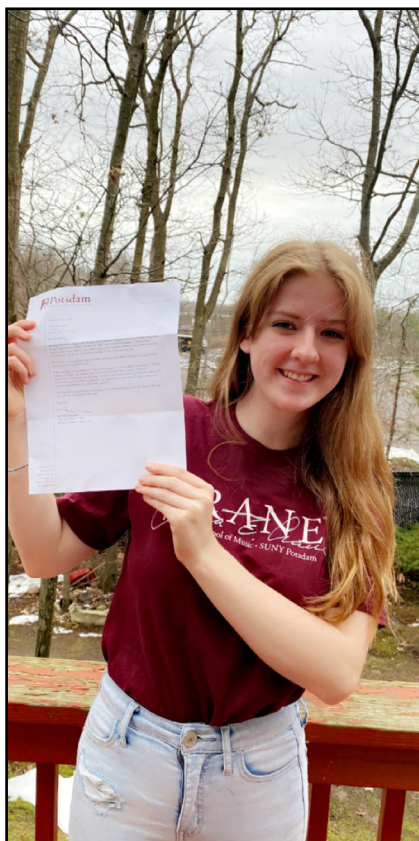
NURSING DIVISION I LACROSSE

Alexa Waters will attend the University of Florida where she will study nursing and will play Division I Lacrosse for the Florida Gators. During high school, Alexa enjoyed playing lacrosse and being a member of the NYS Champion Hauppauge Varsity Cheerleading Team. Alexa was named All-County for lacrosse and cheer (x2), was a two-time cheerleading MVP, and was All-Division and All-Rookie for lacrosse. Alex was also named News 12 Cheerleader of the Year. Congratulations, Alexa!

Elizabeth Combs will attend SUNY Potsdam where she will study music education in the Crane School of Music.

During high school, Elizabeth enjoyed participating in the marching band, the wind ensemble, the chamber choir, and the drama club.

Elizabeth is an AP Scholar who was also inducted into the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Congratulations, Elizabeth!



ELIZABETH COMBS



MUSIC EDUCATION

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AMBER RUDDEN



LIBERAL ARTS

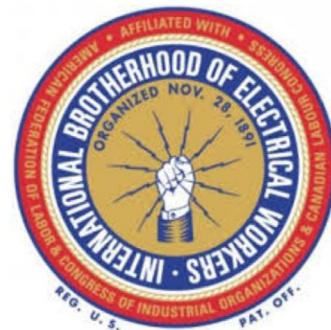
*Amber Rudden will attend
Suffolk Community College
where she will study
liberal arts.*

*During high school,
Amber enjoyed participating in
color guard and
varsity swimming.
Amber attended the
Eastern Long Island
Academy of Applied Technology
and she will complete her
cosmetology certification
this June.
Congratulations, Amber!*

*Matt Tsororos
will enter the
Electrician's Union.
During high school,
Matt enjoyed
playing volleyball.
Congratulations, Matt!*



MATT TSOROROS



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