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**JEADER** 



The culmination of years spent in Levittown Public Schools was reached on June 17 as seniors from Division Avenue and General Douglas MacArthur high schools officially became graduates. An overwhelming feeling of pride and joy filled the air at the Hofstra University David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex as loved ones lined the bleachers and graduates took their seats in front of the stage. Starting off Division's 64th commencement, Student Council President Sofia Ferreiro led the Pledge of Allegiance, and senior members of the concert choir, under direction of Allison Sellars. sang the national anthem. Families were welcomed by Division Principal John Coscia, who reflected on the exciting yet bittersweet day. "On one hand, I'm so excited for you and what the future has in store for

you," he said, "and I'm a little melancholy because this will be the last time ever that we are all in one room together."

At MacArthur's 62nd

commencement, Class of 2023 President Wasi Naqvi led the Pledge of Allegiance before senior choir members sang the national anthem, and a special performance of "Landslide" by Stevie Nicks was given by senior choir members.

MacArthur Principal Joseph Sheehan welcomed families and congratulated seniors. "This graduating class is so special in so many ways," Mr. Sheehan said. "Their introduction to high school was interrupted during the infancy of the spring semester of their freshman year... But over the next three and a half years, they exuded a much-needed tenacity and an illuminous display of perseverance."

Superintendent of Schools Todd Winch congratulated graduates during both ceremonies and reminded graduates that while their successes should always be celebrated, failure is also key in driving them forward. "Success does not usually happen quickly, or without setbacks," Mr. Winch said. "Don't be afraid of failure - embrace

it, learn from it and let it lead you on the path to future success."

During his address to the Class of 2023, Division valedictorian Aakash Veeravalli reflected on hurdles the Class of 2023 had overcome. "Although we had our ups and downs over the years, the delights and memories are all I'll remember and reminisce about,'

Aakash said. "These years really were the good old days and played a huge role in shaping us into who we are today.'

In her valedictory address, MacArthur's Mia Frattura reflected on the definition of success. "After all, one success doesn't necessarily match another's," Mia said. "This doesn't mean that each success is invalid, but rather suggests success is as nuanced as the person who achieved it."

Graduates also heard from their respective salutatorians and class presidents about their perseverance overcoming hurdles that, at times, seemed insurmountable.

Board of Education President Jennifer Messina began the conferring of diplomas. Cheers erupted from the audience as each graduate crossed the stage and shook hands with trustees and administrators. After their symbolic turning of their tassels, graduates threw their caps into the air to mark their officially becoming alumni of Levittown Schools

### AAKASH VEERAVALLI: VALEDICTORIAN

Division Avenue valedictorian Aakash Veeravalli has achieved an impressive grade point average of 104.21. Division's Science Olympiad has been a big part of Aakash's educational career, having been a member since the seventh grade. This year, he served as captain and continued the team's streak of making it to state finals. Aakash is also the captain of the badminton team and a player on the bowling and tennis teams. He is also the treasurer of the National Honor Society and is a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Aakash will attend Georgia Tech in the fall to study computer science.



# **YASSEEN BAYOUMY: SALUTATORIAN**

Yasseen Bayoumy, Division Avenue's salutatorian, who boasts a grade point average of 103.94, also competes on the Science Olympiad team and helped them make it to state finals for the 15th consecutive year. He also competes in Mathletes. When he's not competing with his mind, Yasseen has hit the mat as a member of the wrestling team since the seventh grade. Yasseen is also a member of the National Honor Society and World Language Honor Society. Over the summer, Yasseen enjoys volunteering at Levittown's STEM Camp and Camp Invention. In the fall, Yasseen will attend Boston College to study applied physics.

#### MIA FRATTURA: VALEDICTORIAN

MacArthur valedictorian Mia Frattura is a high achiever with a GPA of 103.9. Mia is the president of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Math Honor Society and co-president of the Science Olympiad. In her honor societies, Mia works with younger students to tackle difficult topics and also assists her peers as a Peer Leader. On the marching band, Mia sticks to the beat as the drum major. Over the summer between semesters, Mia performed high-level research, which was published in a peer-reviewed journal and which she showcased at the Harvard Club in Manhattan. In the fall, Mia will attend UCLA to study chemistry.



## ANA COMPTON: SALUTATORIAN

Ana Compton is MacArthur's Class of 2023 salutatorian with an impressive GPA of 103.68. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Math Honor Society and is the treasurer for the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Ana shines on the stage as a singer in the MacAppella select chorus and as a theater performer in various shows. As a Peer Leader, Ana helps her freshmen peers navigate through the transition to high school. Ana will attend the University of Pittsburgh to study mechanical engineering.

MacArthur seniors

were excited and

ready to cross the

stage before the

Student Council President Sofia Ferreiro led the Pledge of llegiance at the start of the cerem wn Publ \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 023 Presiden Vasi Nagvi led the Pledge of vittown School careers came as CLASS STATS Candidates for graduation: 598 Diplomas granted: 584 Graduation rate: 97.7% Total Advanced Regents Diplomas: 416 Attending four-year colleges: 430 Attending two-year colleges: 80

# TOP COLLEGES for the Class of 2023

Binghamtom University Boston University University of California Los Angeles Clemson University Cornell University Fordham University Georgetown University Georgia Institute of Technology Marist College New York University Pennsylvania State University Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rochester Institute of Technology University of Southern California Stevens Institute of Technology Syracuse University Stony Brook University SUNY Geneseo Temple University Virginia Tech

its together

raduates made their way across the stage and shook hands with Board trustees and

everance paid

off as graduates

received their

Attending trade/tech schools: 13 Military service and workforce: 62 Seal of Biliteracy recipients: 130 Seal of Civic Readiness recipients: 183 Total AP Capstone Diplomas: 21 Total AP Scholars: 115