

### PART ONE OF FOUR

# IN THIS ISSUE

- Board Tour
- Meet Our New Staff
- First Day of School
- Fall Events
- Awards
- Take our survey!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### OCTOBER

- Halloween Parades - 10/31

### NOVEMBER

- BOE Regular Meeting - 11/3
- Superintendent's Conference Day - 11/8
- Schools closed for Veteran's Day - 11/11
- BOE Public Work Session - 11/16
- Thanksgiving - 11/24

### DECEMBER

- BOE Regular Meeting - 12/7
- Schools closed for winter recess - 12/26 - 1/2

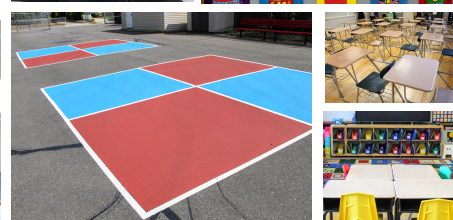
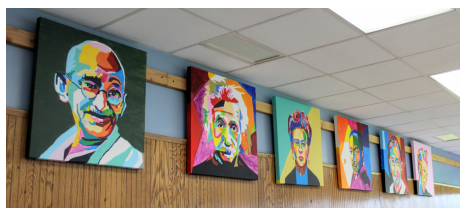
### JANUARY

- BOE Regular Meeting - 1/5
- Schools closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day - 1/16
- BOE Public Work Session - 1/18

TO ALL ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

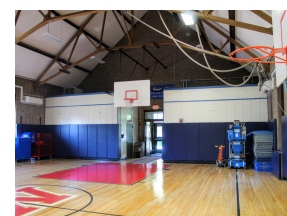
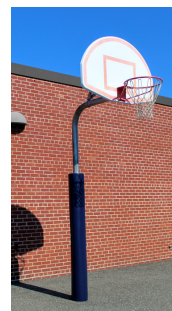
If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Ms. Jeanne Love, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services at 516-255-8928, or Rebecca Taylor, Chairperson for the Committee on Special Education at 516-255-8928, or Dr. Danielle Lundgren, Chairperson for the Committee on Preschool Special Education at 516-255-8815.

# YOUR SCHOOLS



## BOARD TOUR

To help kick off the start of our new school year, the Board of Education recently took a tour of the RVC Schools facilities, including new playgrounds, artwork, refurbishing, repairs, and all of our newest improvements.



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*Your Schools | Back to School Edition*

# WELCOME BACK

WE ARE GLAD TO SEE YOU!



## A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are excited to welcome all students back this school year! We begin this year with our new Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Gaven and we look forward to our students, staff and community members getting to know him.

We are confident that through the collaborative efforts of our administrators, building principals, teachers, nurses, clerical, custodial, and all members of our staff, we will have a successful year ahead.

We wish all of our students, faculty, and staff a positive and enriching school year.



## A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW GAVEN, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### Hello Everyone!

We are only a few weeks into the new school year, but the pride and joy all our teachers, faculty, and schools take in providing a safe and fun learning environment for our students has truly blown me away. When I became superintendent of RVC Schools, I decided to use #GameOnRVC as a hashtag on social media to show our communities how excited I was to welcome our students back.

Since I began using it though, the hashtag has taken on a life of its own. A few of the principals from our schools are using it to encourage friendly competitions amongst each other. They are all creating shirts that encompass their school pride and what makes their school unique. Students and teachers are also using the hashtag! Ms. Sprague's first graders found a creative way to show their school spirit, as seen in the photo below.



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# MEET OUR NEW STAFF

## MATTHEW GAVEN SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

There is so much to look forward to this school year, but I am especially excited to get to know the district! I'm thrilled to be working alongside my fellow administrators and the Board of Education in an effort to achieve our five Board Goals, which have recently been set for our school district:

- To establish a five-year curriculum review cycle for all district curriculum areas. Each of the four major subject areas will be reviewed every 5 years with one full year designated as a spotlight year for each of the four major subjects.
- To develop a K12 Scope and Sequence for three main areas: Computer Science, Robotics, Computer Assisted Design.
- To establish a committee of administrators, faculty, and service providers to review the current status of our district plan for academic support programs and make recommendations for improvements for Multi-tiered Support Services.
- To implement a full day co-teaching model at the elementary level.
- To establish a strategic list of priority needs that identifies outstanding items from the NYS mandated Visual Inspections in 2022 as the basis of establishing a five-year capital improvement plan.

There is so much ahead of us, and I am ecstatic to be a part in helping accomplish these goals with you all!

When not in school, Mr. Gaven enjoys walking his dog, listening to podcasts, and spending time with his family.



"I think it's just exciting to come to a great community," Matt Gaven said. "It's a professional challenge to come and assume the superintendency of a renowned district and build upon the impressive legacy that is already in place, and help guide what's next for the future. Anyone would be super excited about that."



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# MEET OUR NEW STAFF



## **NICOLE MORIARTY, ED. D. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

I am looking forward to everything! I am the new kid in school, and I am beyond thrilled to be here. I want to meet everyone, get to know RVC more intimately and sit on the rug reading to kids. My main project and goal is to learn everyone's names! I may fail at this but that's ok! It's an area of weakness for me so I am super jazzed to challenge myself in this area!

When not in school, Dr. Moriarty likes to read. She listens to books as she walks and drives and she reads before she goes to bed. She also loves to snowboard!!

## **JOHN MURPHY ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES**

I am looking forward to a new perspective. I have worked in the district a long time, and this is my first year in a district-wide position, outside of the high school. Same great district, same amazing students and staff but from a different perspective. Every time I visit one of our schools, I experience another activity, lesson or event that needs to be celebrated by our community.

When not in school, Mr. Murphy likes to read. He really reads a lot. He has also recently returned to running after a hiatus.





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# MEET OUR NEW STAFF

## **PATRICK WALSH, ED. D. PRINCIPAL OF SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL**

I am looking forward to learning from all the important groups in our school community about what makes our school great, and what areas we can look to enhance. I also hope to help play a role in reaching several of our Board of Education goals, notably related to enhancing Computer Science offerings, reviewing our current curriculum, and thinking about ways we help our students who need additional support to be successful.

When not in school, Dr. Walsh likes to exercise, read, travel, hang out with family, and grow vegetables in the garden.



## **RACHEL GREEN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL**

I am looking forward to meeting members of our school community and learning all about our school culture! Ms. Green has a master's in multi-cultural education from SUNY Stony Brook and a second master's from Touro College in educational leadership. She also has many years of classroom experience teaching French and Spanish.

When not in school, Ms. Green enjoys travel and outdoor activities — especially kayaking and hiking.





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## **WELCOME TO RVC SCHOOLS!**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU  
DO AN AWESOME JOB!



Lauren Campbell  
Special Education Teacher  
Watson



Jeremy Wiley  
Special Education Teacher  
SSMS



Ashley Harney  
Physical Education Teacher  
Districtwide



Mia Picone  
Special Education Teacher  
Covert



Brendan Fitzpatrick  
Science (Physics) Teacher  
SSHS



Christina Rekus  
Special Education Teacher  
Covert



Gabrielle Del Priore  
Elementary Teacher  
Watson



Kirsten Corwin  
Music Teacher  
Covert, Riverside, Watson



Taylor Aloisio  
Special Education Teacher  
Watson



Matthew Cohen  
Special Education Teacher  
SSMS



Anna Bassolino  
Special Education Teacher  
Hewitt



Brittany Arciere-Daley  
Math Teacher  
SSMS



Alexis Merguen  
Special Education Teacher  
Watson



Breanne Pinto  
Social Studies Teacher  
SSMS



Sean Hayes  
Special Education Teacher  
Wilson







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**WELCOME TO RVC SCHOOLS!**  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU  
DO AN AWESOME JOB!



Brendan Beiersdorfer  
Music Teacher  
SSMS



Gina Kadar  
Business Teacher  
SSHS



Kasey Tanenbaum  
Special Education Teacher  
Wilson



Tara O'Shea  
Special Education Teacher  
Riverside



Dr. Jacqueline Mancari  
School Psychologist  
SSMS



Erica Heffez  
Family and Consumer Science  
Teacher - SSMS



Lejla Xhelili  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
Teacher - SSMS



Patrick Duggan  
Social Studies Teacher  
SSMS



Dr. Danielle Lundgren  
School Psychologist  
Districtwide



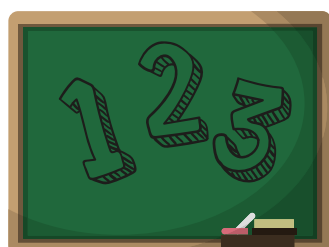
Christopher McGorty  
Special Education Teacher  
SSMS



Kieran Coughlan  
Library Media Specialist  
SSMS



Samantha Thomas  
ENL Teacher  
SSMS



Erica Parisi  
Special Education Teacher  
Hewitt



Kelly Cross  
Special Education Teacher  
SSHS





Jennie E. Hewitt  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



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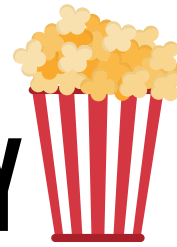


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# FALL EVENTS



## MOVIE NIGHT AT COVERT ELEMENTARY



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# FALL EVENTS



## WATERCOLOR PAINTING AT HEWITT ELEMENTARY



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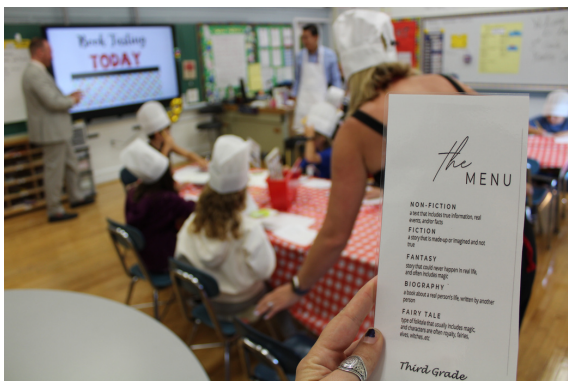
# FALL EVENTS



## READING CAFÉ EXPERIENCE AT RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY



Do you think they are reading classics like 'Where The Mild Wings Are' or 'The Bun Also Rises'?



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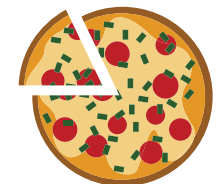
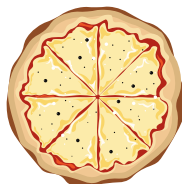
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# FALL EVENTS



## PIZZA PARTY AT WATSON ELEMENTARY

to celebrate the readers and writers who participated in our summer pen pal program!



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# FALL EVENTS



## NEW PLAYGROUND OPENS AT WILSON ELEMENTARY



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# FALL EVENTS



## FUN WITH FAST SHUTTER SPEED PHOTOGRAPHY



### AT SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



7th grade Exploratory with Mrs. Daly learned about fast shutter speed photography as part of the camera basics unit. Using high speed settings, students took bursts of photos to capture water balloons popping. It was a blast!



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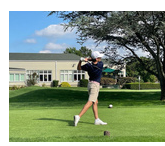
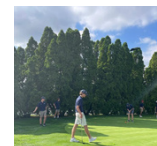
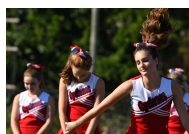
# FALL EVENTS



## PLAYING SPORTS AT SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL



This is the first year we have a Cyclones boys' volleyball team!



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# FALL EVENTS



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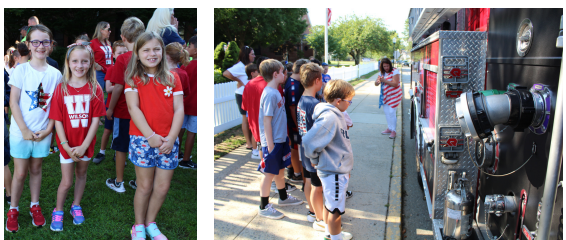
# FALL EVENTS



## 9/11 SPIRIT DAY AT WILSON

In an effort to help teach kids who are too young to have witnessed the events that took place on 9/11, teachers at Wilson Elementary educated students about that day with lessons focused on the community and those who helped, what their roles are, and why it is that we come together to honor those we lost on that day.

Spirit Day has since become an annual tradition, bringing students together to honor local heroes in the community for their bravery, hard work, and dedication.



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# FALL EVENTS



## 9/11 REMEMBRANCE AT HEWITT ELEMENTARY AND WATSON ELEMENTARY



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# FALL EVENTS



## BICYCLE SAFETY WEEK



The annual program is initiated by the Rockville Centre Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the RVC police.



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# FALL EVENTS



## DRESS UP LIKE IT IS THE 1920'S AT SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



It was the first of many #centennial celebrations to commemorate the SSMS building turning 100 years old this year.



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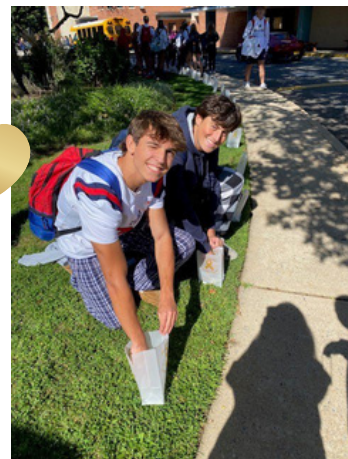


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# FALL EVENTS



## RVC SCHOOLS GO GOLD FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



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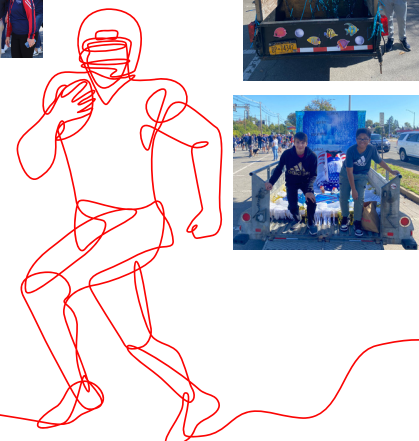


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# FALL EVENTS



## HOMECOMING PARADE AND GAME



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# AWARDS



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# AWARDS



## COVERT ELEMENTARY RECOGNIZED FOR HAVING THE BEST "10 AND UNDER" TENNIS PROGRAM ON LONG ISLAND



*Covert was recognized by the USTA (United States Tennis Association) at their annual awards dinner on September 20, 2022 at Chateau Briand in Carle Place.*



Covert's tennis program was part of a special initiative to enrich students through a non-traditional curriculum, called "Enrichment Clusters". The "Enrichment Clusters" were facilitated by Covert teachers Chris Zappia, Lynn Woods, and Antoinette Morgan.

The tennis cluster was instructed by Covert teachers Melanie Rubin and Danielle Bloecker as well as USTA LI board members, Sunny and Eddie Fishkind.

Students were able to select a cluster based on their self-interests. Other clusters included scrapbooking, robotics, gardening, and yoga. Each cluster included students from different grade levels.



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# AWARDS



## South Side High School students earn gold medals in local ACT-SO Fair

**The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) Fair is a subsidiary of the NAACP**



LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Delyse Rios and Aurelie Maurice

Two South Side High School students earned gold in the Long Island Academic, Cultural, Technological, & Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) Fair.

ACT-SO is a subsidiary of the NAACP and brings together high school kids from across the United States to compete in 33 possible areas of study, ranging from STEM, to the humanities, the arts, and culinary.

Through ACT-SO, students train with mentors for the local level of competition. Those that win a gold medal at the local level move on to the national competition.

This year, the national convention took place in Atlantic City.

Delyse Rios, a senior from South Side High School in Rockville Centre, won a gold medal for her biochemistry project at the local level, taking her to the national level in Atlantic City, where she won a bronze medal.

Her project, titled “Assessing Hydrogen and Halogen Bonding Strength in Simple Organic Molecules,” examined the relative strengths and usefulness of hydrogen and halogen bonding, and how these compounds bind to proteins in relation to various pharmaceuticals.

Aurelie Maurice, another senior from South Side High School, earned a gold medal in Poetry (Performance) for the local level.

“The poem that I wrote was essentially about my brother. For a lot of years, I spent a lot of time taking care of my brother and he recently moved to Florida,” Aurelie Maurice explained. “I wasn’t really able to vocalize my feelings any other way so randomly one night, I was like this is what I want to write about.”

Both seniors were quick to credit Mr. Weiss, the director of science research at South Side High School, for their confidence and interest in pursuing STEM careers.

“If I had to credit anybody, it would be Mr. Weiss,” Delyse Rios said. “He was like, ‘I see something in you, we are going to have you in everything’ and he started to incorporate us in many organizations, including ACT-SO. Over time, I realized how much potential he saw in me and, in turn, I was able to see it in myself.”

“Mr. Weiss does not get enough praise for what he does for his students,” Aurelie Maurice added. “He goes above and beyond, he makes sure that every student that he has is taking care of, and seen, and given lots of opportunities. He really is amazing.”



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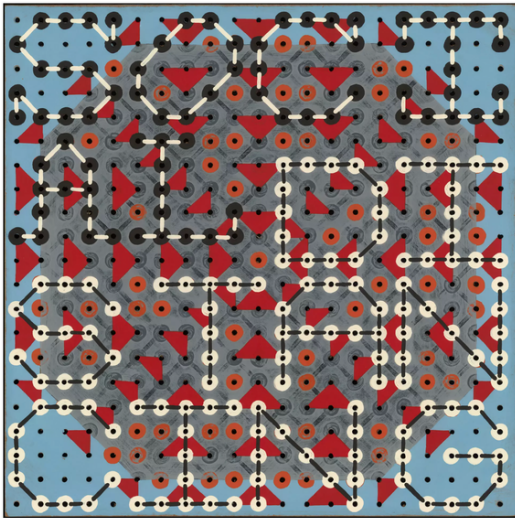


# AWARDS



## SSHS teacher's paintings accepted into 2022 Biennial exhibition

The 2022 Long Island Biennial features artwork by 57 contemporary artists from across Nassau & Suffolk counties.



Keith Gamache, Lynbrook  
COVID-19 Vol. 1: Social Distancing, 2020  
Vinyl Acrylic on Masonite pegboard  
www.keithgamache.com  
@gamache\_keith

An art teacher with the Rockville Centre School District is having his paintings featured in the 2022 Long Island Biennial at the Heckscher Museum of Art.

The 2022 Long Island Biennial features artwork by 57 contemporary artists on Long Island communities stretching from Freeport to Huntington to Sag Harbor. 723 artwork entries were received this year, with 95 selected for exhibition - including two painted by Keith Gamache.

"These two that were selected are actually ones that I made in the very beginning of the pandemic, when schools shut down," Keith Gamache explains. "So they were also something, especially those first two weeks when we closed and we didn't know what was going on. Are we coming back in two weeks? Are we not coming back at all? What's going on? So, the paintings also became a way for me to just stay connected with my students."

Keith said he would encourage his students to send him pictures of what they were working on and that he would do the same. As time went on and the schools began to utilize Google Meet and Zoom, Keith would host 'open studios with Mr. Gamache.'

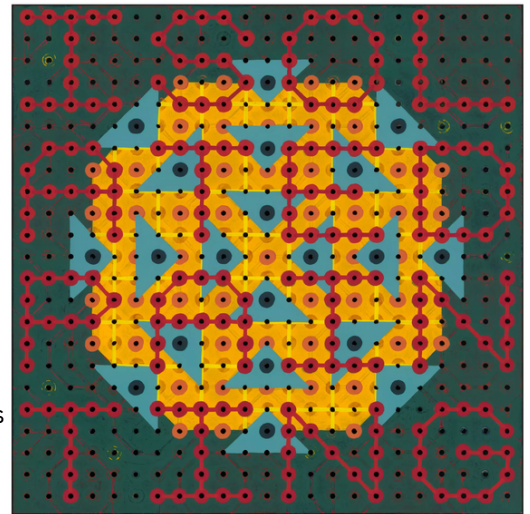
During these open studio sessions, Keith would be at his dining room table with his paints and he would have conversations with his students while he worked on his paintings, and they worked on their projects. "Anything to try and make those connections," Keith said.

"I ended up doing five COVID-related paintings over the next two years," Keith explained. "The first two were accepted as part of this exhibition so I called them COVID-19 Volume 1 and Volume 2."

Keith Gamache makes his paintings on Masonite pegboards. He paints circles around the holes and connects holes together with different lines.

"For the longest time, they were almost purely geometric abstractions," Keith said. "Then I started to work with text. This was the first time I blended some kind of image with my text. So, one of the texts is 'social distancing' and the other is 'isolated painting.' The images are my symbolic interpretations of the virus inspired by pictures being released as parts of news stories."

The 2022 Long Island Biennial at the Heckscher Museum of Art will be open to the public from October 1, 2022 up until January 22, 2023.



Keith Gamache, Lynbrook  
COVID-19 Vol. 2: Isolated Painting, 2020  
Vinyl Acrylic on Masonite pegboard  
www.keithgamache.com



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# AWARDS



## Congrats!



Congratulations to the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists and Commended students! They were among the top 4% of those who took the PSAT/NMSQT.



Matthew Downing is a 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist! His high scores on the PSAT/NMSQT placed him among the top 1% of eligible students. Finalists will be notified in February 2023 and Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in Spring 2023.



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# AWARDS



## Congrats!



Left to right: Mrs. Ramsey, Director of School Counseling K-12, Kelsie Backus, Soleil Vasconez, Adriana Wool, Leila Metzler, Alexander Gonzalez and Dr. Walsh, Principal.

## Congratulations to the winners of the National Recognition Programs!

Kelsie Backus, Alexander Gonzalez, Leila Metzler and Soleil Vasconez received the National Hispanic Recognition Award. Adriana Wool received the National African American Recognition Award.



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# TAKE OUR SURVEY

## DID YOU GRADUATE FROM SSHS?



The Rockville Centre School District is in the process of building an alumni database. If you are a graduate of South Side High School, please scan the QR Code below and share it with family and friends who graduated from South Side High School!



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