



AT THE TOP...Members of the Westfield High School Youth and Government recently earned top honors at the 81st Annual New Jersey Youth and Government Conference. Pictured, left to right, are: Morgan Rollins, Samara Useloff, Maggie Maguire, Madeline Stack, Grace Hutchinson, Greta McLaughlin, Mark Johnson, Kailey Zhao, Justin Anderson, and Shreya Jyotishi.

WHS Students Participate In NJYAG Conference

WESTFIELD — Members of the Westfield High School (WHS) Youth and Government Club recently participated in the 81st Annual New Jersey Youth and Government (NJYAG) Conference, receiving an experiential lesson on civic engagement and responsibility and earning top honors including "Outstanding Delegation."

The three-day, YMCA-sponsored program provides a legislative simulation that has students acting as state senators, assemblymen, justices, lobbyists, members of the media and other political powerhouses.

"It is essentially a mock state legislature where students debate and vote on bills they have developed for the conference," said David Della Fera, a WHS English teacher who co-advises the YAG Club with WHS history teacher Daniel Farabaugh. "Our students prepare for months leading up to this conference."

According to Mr. Della Fera, 27 WHS students were among the more than 500 students representing 20-plus New Jersey high schools who participated in this year's conference from April 12-14. Traditionally held in the historic New Jersey State House in Trenton, the conference was relocated this year to the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel due to renovations at the State House.

The honors awarded the WHS del-

egation included:

Seniors Austin Chen and Justin Joseph and Junior Annie Cerria served as officers for this year's conference. They spent nearly a year helping to organize and eventually run the conference.

The WHS Delegation was given an award for Outstanding Delegation.

Sophomore Kailey Zhao received an award for Outstanding Legislation and was elected to an Officer position for next year's conference.

Freshman Justin Anderson was elected to an Officer position for next year's conference.

Freshman Samara Useloff was awarded Outstanding First Year Delegate.

Senior Mark Johnson was awarded Outstanding Lobbyist.

Junior Margaret Maguire was awarded Outstanding Press Member. Juniors Morgan Rollins, Madeline Stack, and Grace Hutchinson were given an award for Outstanding Judicial Brief.

Junior Margaret Maguire and Senior Alexander McGrail were selected to attend the Conference on National Affairs (CONA) in North Carolina this summer. Seniors Justin Joseph, Austin Chen, Nicolas Guerriero, Junior Greta McLaughlin, and Sophomore Kailey Zhao were selected as alternates for the conference.

Mount Saint Mary Academy Announces Scholar-Athletes

WATCHUNG — Denise Matera, Director of Athletics and Assistant Directress for Discipline and Activities at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, shared the names of Mount scholar-athletes.

Caroline Cull of Scotch Plains: Somerset County Principals Association. Caroline is a soccer player who earned the Presidential Scholarship from Villanova University, which includes free tuition, room and board.

Erica MacDonald of Westfield: New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association. Erica is a volleyball player.

Grace Schleck of Metuchen: New Jersey Independent Schools Athletic Association. Grace plays field hockey and swimming.

Michaela Walsh of Basking Ridge: Skyland Conference. Michaela is a soccer player who will attend Syracuse University in the fall.



SCHOLAR ATHLETES...Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung recently shared the names of Mount scholar-athletes. Pictured, left to right, are: Sister Lisa D. Gambacorto, RSM, Ed.S., Directress, Scholar-Athletes Grace Schleck, Caroline Cull, Michaela Walsh and Erica MacDonald, and Director of Athletics and Assistant Directress Denise Matera.

The Student View

A Column Written by Local High School Students

By Amanda Pyle

This Friday, May 17, marks the end of yet another year of AP Testing. As this two-week period of painfully long and daunting exams comes to a close, it's hard not to reflect on my time and experiences in my AP classes.

I have taken four AP Exams while at Westfield High School: AP United States History, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP Language and Composition and AP U.S. Government and Politics. As a sophomore, I initially chose my AP classes for junior year because I was interested in the subjects and thought that would be helpful in improving my experiences in the class. However, a few months into my junior year, I realized that this was not the case.

I quickly learned that all AP classes are structured completely off of taking the exam. Granted, this is completely understandable as most students will take the exam, however this also brings to the surface a problem currently facing American education: is modern-day school all about test-taking and doing well on tests?

It sure seems like it is, and AP classes only emphasize this problem. Throughout my time in the different AP classes that I took, I can confidently say that I was primarily focused on doing well on that class's exam in May. Whether that motivation came from wanting to make my teachers or parents proud, or wanting to receive college credit for those classes ranges from person to person, yet what stays consistent is the fact that all people who pay to take the AP Exam go into the test with their own stress-inducing expectations.

We, as students, are so focused on memorizing information for tests that we are damaging our educational development. No one truly learns information by stressfully memorizing it only to spit it right back out on the day of the exam. Rather than focusing on actually learning the information in the accelerated AP courses, we are stressed about how well we will do on the Exam and what information we have to have memorized for it.

This is destructive to not only our mental health, but also our learning development. School nowadays is structured around test-taking rather than

learning information and applying it to real life, which causes students to study the subject matter with poor motives.

Although AP Exams can reap immense benefits such as receiving college credits and being able to pass out of a college class, AP classes are still representative of the flawed education system in the United States. An education system that drives the youth to their breaking point with an absurd amount of work and tests, rather than allowing them to apply their learning in a less stressful and more realistic way such as with increased projects or internships.

Personally, I regret letting the stress of the AP Exams control the way that I learned in those classes, but at the same time, that's the way that school is structured and until the U.S.' focus on test-taking is reformed, that's the unfortunate way most future AP students will also experience those classes.

Ninth Annual Mountainside PTO Science Fair Held

MOUNTAINSIDE — On Saturday, April 27, participants from grades 3-8 presented projects at the ninth annual Mountainside PTO Science Fair held at Deerfield School.

The mission of this annual event is to foster the love of science by encouraging Deerfield students to ask their own scientific questions and to explore the world around them with a fun, independent science project.

Students have been working on their demonstrations and experiments independently over the past two months. We had an erupting volcano, edible water bottles and color-changing cabbage juice. They learned about ants, crystals, slime and so much more.

The Science Fair Committee recruited professors, chemists, pharmacists, architects, teachers, researchers, parents, and community members as judges. They volunteered their time to talk with each participant and offer them advice about their projects. We could not have run this event without them.

First place and honorable mention ribbons were awarded at the end of the fair.

HONOR ROLL

Park Middle School - 3rd Marking Period

Grade 8 Distinguished Honor Roll

Hasan Ali, Naa Dei Ashie, Abigail Balagot, Grace Beirne, Riley Bhatia, Isabella Blake, Lily Camacho, Orenca Casimiro, Claire Cassidy, Helena Chan, Cara Checchio, Samuel Chichester, Zachary Chung, Mia Cutaia, Syona Dalvi, Disha Debnath, Ivana Delgado-Arvelo, Madison Diaz, Madeline DiSalvo, Olivia Eckstine, Olivia Encarnacion, Emma Fang, Lily Friebely, Sophia Gallo, Ella Goldstein, Justin Koizumi, Khan Lagemann, Lucia Laumbach, Allison Lesser, Ava Mach, Shehzad Madraswalla, Mikayla Mari, Dylan Mathew, Kaelan Mattos, Ella Mauer, Thomas Metzger, Meagan Migliaccio, Danielle Most, Alicia Murphy, Matthew Murray, Jessica Navarro, Emma Nobile, Sarah Paoletta, Dylan Patel, Jay Patel, Zoe Quraishi, Katherine Ramalho, Peter Reilly, Jordana Reisberg, Kady Rettino, Morgan Ritter, Catherine Rodrigues, Emma Schramm, Mireille Silva, Jay Slack, Gianna Tucker, Alicia Valenciano, Jayleen Velez, Lauren Verrastrro, Christina Wang, Margaret Whitney, Georgia Williamson, Andy Zhu, Mattingly Zullo

Grade 8 Regular Honor Roll

Andrew Bartley, Ryan Baumgartner, Stephan Baumgartner, Jenai Berry, Elisa Bianco, Ava Billotto, Morgan Boone, Kylie Byers, Ryan Cawley, Louis Cerchio, Nicholas Champagne, Kendall Chiang, Rushil Damania, Ananda Daniel, Davyd Dasi, Brianna Davey, Joseph DeSantis, Theresa De Vall, Matthew Dolowy, Jack Fallo, Carter Fallon, Matthew Fela, Sean Ferrone, Thomas Gain, Meghan Garrido, Grace Geminder, Braden Griffith, Jessica Gui, Paige Hagman, Jacob Hall, Annie Hansen, Trevor Headrick, Leah Herb, Camila Hernandez, Maximilian Ho, Emily Homer, Luke Kalafat, Elene Lagurashvili, Gavin Lesnevich, John Paul Lopez, Daniel Mahr, Jada Montgomery, Denys Muryn, Ava Niemczyk, Isabella Nunziata, Alden Nyamiaka, Daniel O'Brien, Katelyn Oser, Nefeli Pappas, Ella Platts, Vikram Ravishanker, Zachary Redling, Lucas Rivera, Andrew Smith, Dominic Souza, Safiya Syed, Briana Talmadge, Hazel Thurman, Anthony Tittanegro, Bianca Valente, Isabelle Verrico, Gabriella Virga, Morgan Virgil, Maya Viscardi-Carelse, Sophie White

Grade 7 Distinguished Honor Roll

Haley Acevedo, Hannah Alber, Sarah Alnasser, Sana Anand, Keira Baerson, Hannah Baik, Alex Baker, Amanda Baylock, Anastasia Berk, Karina Borysiak, Isabella Capati, Callie Capriglione, Grace Carter, Dominique Chitty, Anthony Christostomides, Tara Cino, Emily Cucurullo, Lauren Cunningham, Joseph DeFrancesco, Bianca DeVizio, Elizabeth Diamond, Abigail Elliott, Lily Friedman, Julia Friedrichs, Julianne Friedman, Lily Gaulin, Alessandra Gialanella, David Gomez, Olivia Gomez, Marissa Gregov, Samantha Hagopian, Ian Hobbs, Elorie Howell, Nemat Iddisah, Carolyn Joe, Emily Juckes, Erin Kennedy, Aadi Kenwar, Graham Kois, Nathan Korner, Robert Lambert, Sairah Llano, Kelsie Lubalin, Madeline Paik, Sairam Pantham, Jacob Pinsky, Fatima Qamar, Gokul Ramanan, Gianna Rojas, Shannon Rooney, Amelie Rousseau, Erin Ryan, Raquel Sanisidro, Michael Schmidt, Chloe Schunke, Ryan Serio, Heather Sherman, Maisie Shimko, Gianluca Skirde, Dylan Soriano, Anastasia Stellakis, Kelly Stewart, Grace Sweeney, Zuzanna Szewc, Janeli Tenecota Villa, Rebecca Wofsy, Michael Wojcik, Sara Wollman, Darion Yau, Emma Zheng

Grade 7 Regular Honor Roll

Justin Abadir, Alexander Allegra,

Max Aponte, Eva Austin, Brian Bartley, Charles Becker, Hana Berisha, Gwendolyn Boylan, Lily Cantwell, Cole Chludzinski, Joshua Citarella, Taylor Clement, Isabella Colon, Grace Conklin, Isabella Cucci, Tia Culjak, Cole Damarajah, Kristina Decker, Mia Delaney, Nathaniel Dematteo, Brady DeProspero, Ethan Diamond, Mason DiNizo, Spencer Doran, Emma Dougherty, Andrew Dreyer, Allison Eggert, Luke Ellison, Ava Fazio, Valeria Figueroa Rodriguez, Jalen Geneblazo, Olivia Gist, Matan Goldstein, Ma Victoria Gonzales, Abigail Griffiths, Mackenzie Harmer, Sean Harris, Jacob Hathcock, Hope Hausle, Angelina Holden, Ethan Holt, Zoe Hopkins, Kyle Hunter, Dietrich Jahnke, Aiden Jasul, Brian Karp, Kyle Karyczak, Danielle Kramer, Samantha Lasluisa-Diaz, Sara Lehman, Isabelle Li, Alexander Liverance, Jenalys Lugo, Lauren McNulty, Giau Nguyen Dao, Tiffany Nguyen, Michelle Nikolaev, James Carl Nitro, Philip Joseph Nitro, Maxine Novello, Jasmyn Nunez, Alexander Patino, Paige Peneno, Thomas Perez, Sequoia Pilgrim, Anderson Pollack, Grace Price, Ryan Quinones, Gonzalo Ramos, Diane Resnicoff, Elijah Rodriguez, Sebastian Roman Gaud, Katherine Romanyshyn, Aidan Route, Anthony Scuozzo, Aryan Singh, Nicholas Skawinski, Noah Tamayo, Lindsay Trela, Charles Vargas, Sheryl Velez, Olivia Vella, Emma Lee Vieira, Evelyn Villar, Mackenzie Virgil, Maria Vitoroulis, Jennifer Walsh, Meya Williams, Yousef Yacub, Sergiy Yurchenko, Rachel Ziegler

Grade 6 Distinguished Honor Roll

Grace Abadir, Pauline Elisha Aloit, Elizabeth Baglien, Morgan Barbosa, Matteo Barcellona, Caitlin Bellistri, Michael Bellistri, Abigail Bender, Juliette Besson, David Bolivar, Emma Boris, Isabel Bruce, Ella Butters, Nicholas Cammarano, Michael Cantwell, Grace Cawley, Antonio Cerchio Saggese, Hannah Charnock, Linxiang Chen, Isabella Cocca, Carolina Conklin, Raya Crisafulli, Ethan Cukrow, Emily DeGaetano, Carina DiLollo, Lydia DiSalvo, McKenna Dwyer, Thomas Eisner, Camryn Evans, Amelia Fallon, Julia Farin, Julia Ferguson, Lydia Flagg, Samantha Friscia, Max Gal, Tyler Glynn, Maria Gonzalez, Jeff Gui, Christopher Harris, Sofia Heta, Adelle Hunsaker, Olivia Hunsinger, Clarke Hunter, Blake Jackson, Sean Johnston, Elizabeth Koizumi, Paul Kole-Emmanuel, Sophia Labazzo, Isabella LaFerrera, Alexa LaRosa, Emily Laudman, Darrien Lee, Nathaniel Lerversee, Elana Lewis, Madeline Marcovecchio, Enisa Marku, Chelsea Martin, Krish Mathur, Grace Mattos, Ryan Mauer, Emily McCall, Luis Mendez Vargas, Caitlyn Meyers, Nicholas Mongold, Matthew Mui, Thomas Mui, Daniel Murphy, Kayla Murray, Sofia Murray, Jacob Ocana, Joslyn Odum, Mizuki Parker, Luca Passucci, Hanna Pearce, Samuel Perone, Christopher Plenca, Shawn Poliseo, Zoe Psathas, Meredith Reilly, Audrey Ricks, Fabian Roman Gaud, Hannah Rosenthal, Sophia Seith, Sophia Shapiro, Asher Silva, Emily Skara, Joshua Souza, Jack Sponheimer, Isabella Stepien, Saanvi Suresh, Cooper Tamase, North Thurman, Taylor Tsin, Angelina Valente, Samuel Valera, Logan Williamson, Jia Xue, Riley Yau, Torre Zullo

Grade 6 Regular Honor Roll

Christopher Abate, Ethan Afir, Araoluwa Akinwunmi, Fiorella Amari, Courtney Anthony, Anthony Aponte, Brandon Au, Christian Bates, Samuel Beirne, Lily Bishop, Arianna Blake, Ava Bland, Grace Bottomly, Ava Grace Bozetrnik, David Camba, Mason Cardenas, Adriana Cardinal, Emma Carinhas, Olivia Castucci, Jenna Cerchio, Emma Chan, Varun Chauhan, Lola Crain, Isabella DiFiore, Elisabeth Dolowy, Juliana Doran, Ysabella Fernandez, Jake Fezza, Dylan Fitzgerald, Dylan Fountain, Victoria Gain, Braeden Galway, Lindsay Gold, Vania Gonzalez, Logan Gray, Luna Guevara, Andrew Hagman, Luke Hahn, Jenan Hamad, Maggie Hayes, Shane Hickey, Mary Katherine Hoffman, Tristan Huber, Lily Kalafat, Grayson Kelly, Louis Kelly, Caitlin Keough, Aditya Khandelwal, Henry Lassman, Daniel Laurenzano, Arthur Levenson, Thomas Levine, Jackson Lorenzetti, Anusha Magdum, Colin Mahr, Ava Martini, Giavanna Mascola, Lucia Mascola, Joshua Matty, Jackson Mazzola, Wyatt Mendolia, Samantha Mingoia, Lucas Mirzwa, Kayla Mohabir, Lorelei Morrison, Christopher Murphy, Virginia Nanton, Carol Oakes-Garcia, Nicole Papadakis, Frederick Parchman, Evan Phillips, Rachael Pinsky, Abena Poku, Kalli Preston, Sean Price, Victoria Prizgar, Bakhtawar Qamar, Gabriella Quiceno, Beckham Quinn, Ryan Ricci, Madeline Richter, Isabella Rocha, Amya Rogers, Timothy Ryder, Andrew Saccento, Sonya Shah, Andrew Scinski, Shreya Singh, Tristan Sirmans, Angel Skolar, Phillip Snair, Hannah Spieler, Jada Sripada, Rocco Trainor, David Tsvayberg, Xavier Vega, Gianna Walker-Talbot, Ryan Watt, Meredith White, Erik Widhiatmodjo, Isaiah Williams, Tiffany Yang, Maria Zelener, Luke Zimmerman, Thomas Zimmerman

Shop May 18 to Support the Blue Devils Marching Band

WESTFIELD -- The Westfield High School Blue Devils Marching Band will hold a fundraiser this Saturday, May 18. Enjoy a shopping outing with a variety of collectibles, clothing, furniture, records, toys, housewares, linens, sporting equipment, jewelry and more. The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 812 Prospect Street in Westfield. There is something for everyone.

For questions, please contact Lisa at thezenlady@icloud.com.

All proceeds go to fund the Westfield High School (WHS) Blue Devils Marching Band. This is the

Marching Band that plays at WHS Football games and band competitions throughout the fall. Even though it's spring, planning for the band happens all year long.

Thanks in advance to all our family, friends and fans who come out to support the WHS Marching Band.

We'll Help You Get Your Business in the Spotlight!
goleader.com/form/bulletin

Local Residents to Graduate From Saint Peter's Preparatory School

JERSEY CITY — Saint Peter's Preparatory School will hold its 141st Commencement at Saint Peter's University on Thursday, May 23. The following local residents who are graduating, and their college destination, are:

Cranford: James Anderson, Georgetown University; Patrick Keenaghan, Elon University, and James McGann, Fordham University; Timothy Garcia, Owen Kealy, Jacob Quinones and Robert Scheurer, college selections not given.

Fanwood: Liam Christman, College of the Holy Cross.

Mountainside: Kyle Hess, University of Notre Dame.

Westfield: Nathan Bryant, Drexel

University: Patrick Johnston, Fairfield University; Aidan Lezynski, Fordham University; Mark Lovito, American University; James Moriarty, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; John Pettit, Fordham University; William Pikus, Loyola University Maryland; Matthew Preate, University of Scranton; Christian Della Rocco and Nicholas Manganello, college selections not given.

Prom Pics

Send your Prom Pictures to edu@goleader.com and we will print them in the newspaper and online.

It's Almost Graduation time!

ATTENTION PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS:

Congratulate your child or grandchild and send them well wishes for the future in

The Westfield Leader

The Scotch Plains – Fanwood TIMES

Contact Jeff Gruman, Sales Manager
Phone: 908-232-4407

email: sales@goleader.com



Passport Fair at Westfield Post Office

153 Central Ave
Westfield, NJ 07090
Saturday May 18, 2019
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Come in without appointment to apply for a passport, get photo taken and sent out all in one day.
Normal Hours of Passport Operation are:
Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Saturday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Appointments Only



ORIGINAL: Raised Seal Birth Certificate with Parental Information or Naturalization Document REQUIRED

Per Applicant Paid to:
USPS
\$35 Execution Fee
\$15 Photos
Expedited optional Express Mail \$24.70

Download & print or fill out applications in advance at: www.travel.state.gov
If you complete your application in advance DO NOT SIGN IT.
You will be required to sign it in person when You bring it to a Post Office Location.

Standard Processing
4-6 weeks
\$80 UNDER age 16
\$110 OVER age 16
Fees paid to: US Dept. Of State

Expedited Processing
2-3 weeks
\$60 Expediting
\$15.99 Express Mail Return
Fees paid to: US Dept. Of State

For Additional Information visit us at:
https://www.usps.com/international/passports.htm