

GOOD NEWS



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meet the Class of 2019 Valedictorians & Salutatorians

Corcoran High School

VALEDICTORIAN MAGGIE SARDINO

Syracuse University, Undecided

Best thing you've learned over the course of your time in the SCSD: Never underestimate someone.

Everyone you meet knows something you don't... never overlook anyone! **Advice for current SCSD students:** Work hard. It's important to understand that education is so much more than a grade... it's about what you're learning and that you're being challenged.



SALUTATORIAN MADDIE RIOUX

Union College, History

Best thing you've learned over the course of your time in the SCSD: How diverse

everyone is. It's so interesting that we can all grow up in the same city and go to the same school but see things so differently. I love that about this district!



Henninger High School

VALEDICTORIAN KAZI RAFEE

Syracuse University, Computer Science

Best thing you've learned over the course of your time in the

SCSD: You must have good relationships with everyone in order to succeed. I always thought that teachers are



just people who teach you material. At Henninger, I have learned that they are so much more – they help you with everything!

SALUTATORIAN LORI TRAN

Syracuse University, Creative Writing or Biochemistry

Best thing you've learned over the course of your time in the SCSD: I've

learned that I learned the most not by being in the classroom but by being on field trips or being involved in clubs and events. That's where I was exposed to life. Those are the things that helped me realize how important an education is.



Nottingham High School

VALEDICTORIAN TREVOR GIARDINE

Northeastern, Mechanical Engineering

Advice for current SCSD

students: Find what you like and pursue that. High school is your chance to try new things and see what's right for you.



SALUTATORIAN SANDY YANG

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chemical Engineering

Best thing you've learned over the course of your time

in the SCSD: Learning how to value people's differences. We're all so different, and you have to respect everyone.



Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central

VALEDICTORIAN MAZEN ALSAFI

Columbia University, Pre-Med with Concentration in African American Studies

What was your proudest moment in high school? Being named a QuestBridge scholar and getting into Columbia with a full ride

scholarship. That was always a dream of mine, getting into a prestigious university. Coming from a low income background, where neither of my parents went to college, I can now show other people that it's possible.

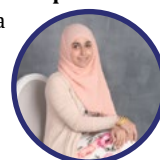


SALUTATORIAN AHLAM ZOKARI

Syracuse University, for Biomedical Engineering

What is something major you hope to achieve in life? I want to be a

role model for others – I'm the first in my family to go to college, so I want to get through that. I also want to break the stereotype of a Muslim woman... I want people to see me and realize that you can be independent, have a career and achieve success.



PSLA at Fowler

VALEDICTORIAN AYMAN AL-HARBI

Le Moyne College, Nursing

Advice for current SCSD

students: Listen to your counselor – that will take you a long way. There were some cases where I didn't listen, and I regret it now! They can help you with college applications and more.



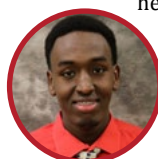
SALUTATORIAN SADIQ SIRAT

SUNY Broome, Dental Hygienist

Best thing you've learned over the course of your time in the SCSD: Stay in school

and stay off the streets. Stay focused on your education, and try to make something of yourself. And appreciate your teachers.

We have a lot of teachers here who are so helpful – if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be where I am. They motivated me to keep going and kept telling me that I'm going to be something great one day.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families,

Congratulations to the Class of 2019! We recently celebrated our high school graduates – please join me in wishing them well as they take their next steps. I look forward to seeing the successes that this newest group of students will achieve as SCSD alumni.

In addition to graduation ceremonies, there are many other student achievements to recognize. Thirteen Henninger students completed the Medical Assisting coursework, including work-based experience at Syracuse Community Health Center. Twenty-one students – representing all SCSD high schools – earned a Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas. A group of high school students got an inside look at the local government as part of the Syracuse Youth Advisory Council. Our students are proving their college, career and civic readiness!

Even our younger students are showing their leadership skills and their vision for the future. Clary students hosted a multi-school Peace Rally to encourage anti-violence in Syracuse; Dr. King students learned about financial literacy and created their own entrepreneurial ventures; and Ed Smith students became pen pals with veterans at the Syracuse VA Hospital. I am so proud of all of our students for their teamwork, engagement and drive.

Have a wonderful summer, and remember to follow our Facebook page (Facebook.com/SyracuseCitySchools) for summer learning tips to help keep your child engaged in his or her learning even while school is not in session!

Sincerely,

Jaime

IMPORTANT DATES

July 2019

- 22 BOE Work Session
- 24 BOE Work Session

August 2019

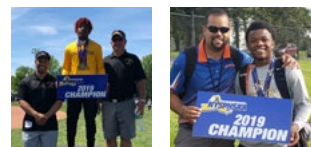
- 8 Regents Lab Practicum (Earth Science)
- 12 Educational Foundation 16th Annual Golf Tournament
- 13-14 Regents Exams
- 14 BOE Meeting
- 19 Varsity & Junior Varsity Sports Season Begins (Fall)
- 20 August Graduation Ceremony
- 26 BOE Work Session
- 28 Modified Football Season Begins (Fall)
- 28 BOE Work Session

September 2019

- 2 Labor Day
- 5 First Day of School 
- 5 All Other Modified Sports Seasons Begin (Fall)
- 11 BOE Meeting
- 20 BOE Audit Committee Meeting
- 23 First Day of Autumn
- 23 BOE Work Session
- 25 BOE Work Session

SCSD Athletes Named State Track & Field Champions

In the NYS Outdoor Track and Field Championships, two SCSD athletes were named State Champions! **Nottingham** student **Jason Howard** was crowned NYSPHSAA champion in the long jump, and **Henninger** student **Kwamere White** was named state champion in the high jump. Congratulations!



SCSD Students Named Scholar Athletes

Congratulations to the 10 SCSD athletes who were selected as Section 3 Scholar Athletes: **Corcoran** students **Maggie Sardino** and **Jonathan Kinane**, **ITC** students **Alam Chol** and **DeJuan Tigner**, **PSLA at Fowler** students **Kadija Hill-Custis** and **Sadiq Sirat**, **Nottingham** students **Megan Scott** and **Ben Ashby** and **Henninger** students **Elijah Underwood** and **Phoebe Faley**! These students were celebrated at a recent dinner and received a college scholarship along with their awards.



SCSD Students Receive Syracuse Rotary Scholarships

Two students from each SCSD high school were each named recipients of the Syracuse Rotary's annual scholarship. Congratulations to **Nottingham** students **Max Milstein** and **Marian Almohamad**; **PSLA at Fowler** students **Ahmed**



Ali and **Shabnam Shams**; **Henninger** students **Phoebe Faley** and **Nolan Spears**; **ITC** students **Dwayne Stroman** and **Salma Muse**; and **Corcoran** students **Dawit Gebremichael** and **Candeda Thomas**.

ITC Students Recognized at CNY High School Film Festival

Several **ITC** Media students were recognized at the 2019 CNY High School Film Festival. **Ana McGough** and **Ellie Mayberry** received 1st place for their documentary "Between Two Worlds," and **Ana** also took home the most prestigious award of the night: the Heidelberg Award for "Most Outstanding Filmmaker" in CNY. **Ana** was chosen for this award based on her portfolio, which included a documentary from her trip to Grahamstown, South Africa in 2018, a documentary highlighting a day in the life of Syracuse's Mayor, **Ben Walsh**, and a documentary telling the story about the value of diversity at **ITC** and all SCSD schools. Along with **Ana** and **Ellie**, **ITC** student **Barbadu Raacha** received 2nd place for her film "15 Seconds of Cinema," and **Nancy Ho** received 2nd place for her animation "Bubblegum!"

Henninger Medical Assisting Students Complete Program

Congratulations to the **Henninger High School** students who completed the Medical Assisting #SCSDCTE program! These students have all completed a 160-hour clinical experience at Syracuse Community Health Center, where they explored many different departments and roles. The students now have the opportunity to sit for a national Medical Assisting certification exam! Way to go, **Anthony Morales**, **Mohamed**

Omar, **MacKenzie O'Hara**, **Estella Sernode**, **Julia McNally**, **Sarai Nunez**, **Dorene Santana**, **Gjinia Lewis** and (not pictured) **Jonah Alston**, **Melody Atchley**, **Nirmala Dhimal** and **Bianca Tanta**.



Two SCSD High Schools Offer Unified Basketball

This past school year, special education students at **Corcoran** and **Nottingham** had the opportunity to join a new basketball team, thanks to the creation of Unified teams at both schools.

Special congratulations are in order for the **Nottingham** team, who completed their season undefeated, with a 6-0 record and regular season wins over **Corcoran**, **CNS**, **Cortland**, **Liverpool**, **Baldwinsville** and **West Genesee**.

Next year, we hope to add Unified bowling at both **Corcoran** and **Nottingham**, as well as create new Unified basketball teams at **Henninger** and **PSLA at Fowler**.



Students Recognized as Leaders in Physical Education

Forty-four SCSD students were recently recognized as leaders in Physical Education at the inaugural Physical Education and Health Education Student Leadership Awards! Sponsored by the Central North Zone of NYS Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the awards recognized students who demonstrated exemplary characteristics in exhibiting a healthy lifestyle, showing leadership and a positive influence on peers, demonstrating sportsmanship and citizenship, valuing their learning and an interest in establishing physical and health literacy.



CORCORAN Griffin Buck, J'Nayah Gladney, John Patrick, Jerin Spann, Hyriah Williams

ELMS Arshia Khadivizand, Julah Zuckerbraun, Alesha Wagner, Mathias Flansburgh

FRAZER Xayy Ortiz, Preston Wuest, D'Mitri Miller, Jenna Nguyen

HENNINGER Divine Griswold, Connor Leonard, Shallythaw Da, Sophia Holtsberry

ITC Ana McGough, Alam Zokari, Dejaun Tigner, Abdulrahman Ahmad-Hasan

LINCOLN Thaug Maung, Grace Holtsberry

MCKINLEY-BRIGHTON Abrionna Deuel, Nateef Gilkey

NOTTINGHAM Mohamed Hassan, Camelia Nash, Raheleh Tajik, Heben Legesse

PSLA AT FOWLER Mikayla Aldrich, Belal Hamand, Kashara Sanders, Malcolm Starling

SALEM HYDE Taylor Sampson, Jermaine Gainey

SEYMOUR Micheal Casanova, Alondra Figueroa-Tolentino

SYRACUSE LATIN Zanirah Brown, Zane Zubrzycki

WEBSTER David Okyem, Iy'Mani Shepperd, Elizabeth Mauro, Isis Lyles, Kaitlin Nguyen

Student & Staff Recognitions

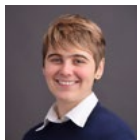
SCSD Students Selected for All County Jazz Festival

Congratulations to **Henninger** students **Nate Sweet**, **Alexandria Rexine**, **Molly Hoffman**, **Miles Owens**, **Timion Frye** and **Nottingham** student **Tim Vanable**, who were selected to perform in the recent All-County Jazz Festival!



Nottingham Student to Study in Taiwan

Nottingham graduating senior **Natalie Feikes** will be studying Mandarin in Taiwan this summer, thanks to a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State. The National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship will provide **Natalie** with formal language instruction, a host family to live with and an immersion environment where she will experience the local culture. She is one of about 600 students selected for the program this year.





PK-8th Grade News

Students Participate in Syracuse Soapbox Derby

Students from **Danforth** and **Huntington** joined forces to race in the annual Soapbox Derby. In the spring, students started building their derby car using trial and error and knowledge they acquired through STEM classes. First place Stock Driver **Florance Irankunda (Huntington)** and first place Super Stock Driver **Yussuf Abdullahi (Danforth)** qualified to complete in the World Championship Race in Akron, Ohio in July, and several other students were recognized with awards.



Dr. King Students Learn Financial Literacy through Danny Dollar Academy

Dr. King students in third through fifth grade learned about financial literacy thanks to Ty Allan Jackson and the Danny Dollar Academy. Students read a children’s book called Danny Dollar Millionaire Extraordinaire, which taught them about the basics of finance, entrepreneurship and economics. They worked with their classmates to come up with their own business pursuits based on the principles they learned about, including credit, debt, banking, interest, marketing and more. One class made and sold slime, generating a \$76 profit; another sold lemonade, making more than \$140; others made cookies, pizza, hosted a car wash and more.



“You have to be responsible to meet your goals,” one fifth grader explained. “No one becomes a millionaire overnight... you have to work hard!”

Students also learned the importance of giving back, and several classes said the money they raised will be donated to local charities. Great work, Dr. King scholars!

Clary Students Organize Peace Rally to End Community Violence

In one of her daily homeroom restorative circles, a **Clary** 8th grader shared the news that her cousin had been killed. She was distraught, and her classmates wondered what they could do to help. The class brainstormed and came up with many ideas, eventually settling on the concept of a Peace Rally.

“I’ve seen a lot of violence where I live,” **Zaniya Bell** said. “It’s sad. But



Roberts Students Start Circle of Giving

Roberts Student Council and **WEB** leaders recently led a school-wide collection for **Griffin’s Guardians**, a local organization that funds research for and offers support to children undergoing treatment for pediatric cancer.



Their slogan was “a little change can make a world of difference,” and the student leaders encouraged their peers to contribute in a grade-level contest. At the end of a three-week period, the school collectively raised more than \$752!

“We didn’t think students would be as interested as they were,” **Leah Nowak** added. “But because the winning grade earned an incentive, this was kind of a situation where you feel good about giving your money, because you are benefitting your class, but you’re also benefitting others who need it. We didn’t really realize how much our pennies would add up!”

To keep the chain of kindness going, upon finishing their three-week fundraiser, the **Roberts** students challenged their friends at **ELMS** to continue the effort. ELMS students accepted the challenge and raised \$435 through their own effort... and they continued the goodwill by challenging **Grant Middle School** to join in!

Want more photos?
Check out SCSD’s Flickr page
Access by visiting www.syracusecityschools.com



I want to make a difference. We do have a future, and we don’t want it to be full of violence.”

The students worked with ELA teacher **Jodi Ackerman** and school administrators to plan a rally featuring guest speakers from the community and from other schools, including **Danforth** and **Corcoran**.

After the rally, the 8th graders sat with Mayor Walsh to share their thoughts about how to reduce violence in Syracuse and to share their suggestions to help make the City a safer place.

Meachem Students Create ‘Musical’ Artwork through Ed Foundation Grant

Meachem students composed their own piece of music and learned some new art techniques to screen print it on silk, thanks to a grant funded by the SCSD Educational Foundation. First, in music class, students wrote their own short musical composition. Then, Art teacher **Stacy Griffin** taught students in grades 3-5 about the history of silk and silk screening. Students rotated through stations to draw their musical compositions in wax on a piece of silk, design the color and pattern for their artwork, and dye the fabric. When the pieces were complete, students



removed the wax to reveal the final masterpiece: a colorful display of their musical creation!

Ed Smith Students Connect with Veterans through ‘Operation Pen Pal’



Thanks to a grant written by teacher **Casey LaBrake** and funded by the SCSD Educational Foundation, Ed Smith students have had the ongoing opportunity to exchange letters with veterans at the Syracuse VA Medical Center.

By writing letters to the veterans, students say they were able to form connections with these people – whom they otherwise wouldn’t have known much about.

“Getting a letter from my pen pal, Richard, inspired me to learn about what he did,” **Jamiah Lyos** said. “I went home and started learning about the Korean War. It was a crazy war. I learned that the stuff that I complain about is silly. Richard left his family and went far away... to fight for us. It really touched me.”

Based on what they learned about their pen pals, students will write poems based on the veterans’

interests, printing and framing them in patriotic frames to deliver to the VA Medical Center. What a wonderful way to help students connect with the greater Syracuse community and show appreciation for our nation’s service members!

This is one of 22 projects funded in 17 schools this year by the SCSD Educational Foundation, totaling more than \$62,000. To learn more about this year’s grant projects, please visit www.scsdfoundation.com.



Farmer’s Markets Encourage SCSD Students to Make Healthy Choices

Students at **LeMoyne**, **Roberts**, **Frazer**, **Van Duyn**, **Delaware**, **Bellevue**,

Huntington, **HW Smith**, **Seymour**, **Dr. Weeks**,

Meachem and **Dr. King** had the opportunity to try

new fresh fruits and vegetables thanks to Farmer’s Markets in their school buildings! In partnership with the Onondaga County Health Department, the American Heart Association and other community agencies, students were able to select and sample their own bag of fresh produce. What a great way to help encourage students to make healthy choices when it comes to their nutrition!



High School News

SCSD Students Receive Seal of Biliteracy

Twenty-one SCSD students graduated with the New York State Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma when they crossed the stage at graduation in June.

The Seal of Biliteracy was established to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. The Seal is meant to appeal to students whose first language is English but who are learning a second language, as well as for English Language Learners who are developing academic proficiency in their home language while mastering English.

Congratulations to these #SCSDCivicReady students!



CORCORAN
Rukanika Rukanika,
Kinyarwanda
Dawit
Gebremichael,
Tigrinya
John Patrick, Swahili
Hassan Musa,
Kizigua

HENNINGER
Monet Brown,
Spanish
Hector Pizarro,
Spanish
Kazi Rafee, Bengali

Lori Tran, Vietnamese
Rahmo Rashid,
Somali
Shally Thaw Da,
Karen
ITC
Eliza Velazquez
Spanish

NOTTINGHAM
Tamara Ayala,
Spanish
Haben Legesse,
Tigrigna
Novel Lin, Burmese

Emmy Naw, Karen
Safa Hussein, Arabic
Noorhuda Al-Obaidi, Arabic
Bibek Siwakoti,
Nepali

PSLA AT FOWLER
Lia Marero Diaz,
Spanish
Nishal Basnet, Hindi
Shabnam Shams,
Dari

High School Students Compete in New Drone Racing League

Thanks to a grant written by **Nottingham** technology teacher **Bryan English** and funded by the SCSD Educational Foundation, students at **Nottingham, Henninger, Corcoran** and **PSLA at Fowler** all received the equipment needed to start their own drone racing team.

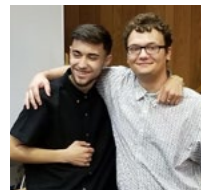
"Drone Technology is an emerging field," Mr. English said. "PSLA at Fowler has a program, but we wanted more kids to have the chance to become interested in drones in a fun, hands-on way. They're learning pitch, yaw, roll – principles of drone flight – through programming their controls."



This is one of 22 projects funded in 17 schools this year by the SCSD Educational Foundation, totaling more than \$62,000. To learn more about this year's grant projects, please visit www.scsdfoundation.com.

First Seniors Complete Building Men Program

After just two years of programming in SCSD high schools, the Building Men Program has celebrated its first two graduating seniors who completed the program. **Tony Muraco (PSLA at Fowler)** and **Miguel Perez (ITC)** were recognized with a certificate of distinction and were celebrated at a recent dinner, complete with a guest speaker. The high school Building Men Program continues to expand, and in the next two years, the group anticipates a graduating group of about 30!



SCSD Students Make a Difference through Youth Advisory Council

As part of the Syracuse Youth Advisory Council (SYAC), 15 SCSD students – representing **Corcoran, Nottingham, ITC** and **PSLA at Fowler** – students met at City Hall biweekly to discuss issues facing students in the City and their proposed solutions.

The two issues they chose to focus on with their advocacy: adding water

bottle filling stations to the list of school improvements during building construction, and increasing the diversity of teachers in the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

"I wanted to be part of a bigger change and help make the City of Syracuse a better place through my leadership," Corcoran sophomore **Saima Nezami** said. "Because of this process, I understand more about the government and political systems. This has given me the skills to be more involved and continue furthering myself in the future."



To conclude their service on the Youth Advisory Council, students presented their findings to the Syracuse Common Council as part of the SYAC Annual Assembly, where they also made recommendations for improvement and noted what they believe they can do to help improve Syracuse.

Corcoran Students Create Artwork for Children in Syria

Imagine being a child, living in a refugee camp in Syria.

That's what six Corcoran National Art Honor Society students did, when art teacher **Jeanette Capria-Lazzaro** asked for volunteers to create drawings – on their own time – for The Memory Project, a nonprofit organization that provides portraits as gifts for children around the world who are facing challenges.

"Art is a very expressive form of communication," junior **Mark Lissovenko** said. "The fact that our drawings were sent to an impoverished country, where kids don't get much exposure to art, really opens their world. I wanted to be part of that and to help make even just a small difference."

Staff from The Memory Project sent Corcoran students photographs of children in poverty in Syria. The students had two months to create their drawings before they were sent back to be distributed. We're proud of these Corcoran artists for sharing their talents to bring happiness to others!



"We have so much poverty here in Syracuse, but our kids are always willing to give whatever they can to help others, and that is inspiring."

—Teacher Jeanette Capria-Lazzaro



Corcoran



Henninger

Congratulations, Class of 2019!

Congratulations to the Corcoran, Henninger, ITC, Nottingham and PSLA at Fowler students who recently celebrated an important milestone: high school graduation!

Many of these hardworking students have plans to continue their education at prestigious institutions including Syracuse University, Brown University, West Point, Columbia University, Hofstra University, RIT and so many others. Others

have plans to enter the workforce, to create their own business or to enter the military. Collectively, this group has great ambition to enact change. Wherever their paths take them, we wish the Class of 2019 continued success!

Want more photos? Check out SCSD's Flickr page Visit www.syracusecityschools.com flickr



ITC



PSLA at Fowler



Nottingham

JUNE & JULY 2019





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To build, support and sustain school communities that provide all students with a high-quality education that prepares them to graduate as responsible, active citizens ready for success in college and careers and prepared to compete in a global economy.

VISION

To prepare and inspire all of our students to innovate locally and contribute globally.

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Derrick Dorsey

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MY BROTHER'S KEEPER SYRACUSE PRESENTS { CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION } PARTICIPATION

All are invited who seek the best for our children.



SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM



HENNINGER HIGH SCHOOL
600 Robinson St.

Please join the Syracuse City School District and My Brother's Keeper Syracuse for a special event providing strategies to mobilize and promote education for black and brown boys in Syracuse.

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE City of Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh • Syracuse City School District Superintendent Jaime Alicea • Syracuse Police Department Police Chief Kenton Buckner • Yonkers MBK Leadership Team



RSVP TODAY!

syracusecityschools.com/buildingmen