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Croton-Harmon

Strategic Planning Takes Shape

Croton-Harmon School District leaders are constantly exploring ways to enhance student learning to ensure our graduates are well prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of them. With that in mind, the district has begun exploring a strategic coherence planning process.



A team made up of Board of Education members, administrators, teachers, students and members of the school's parent groups is working under the facilitation of respected educators Dr. Lynn Allen and Jonathan Costa, who have led successful similar initiatives in school districts comparable to Croton-Harmon.

In beginning this process, the committee is reminded of the district:

VISION: That all Croton-Harmon students will develop the habits of mind and social skills to become lifelong learners, able to contribute to the well-being of society.

MISSION: We are committed to challenging all students, community inclusion and fostering respect. We will develop skills that enable students to become effective communicators, problem-solvers and researchers who are independent learners responsible for their own learning.

We look forward to keeping the community abreast of the strategic planning process and progress over the coming school year.

Congratulations & Thank you!



Congratulations to (from left) Lauren Fitzgerald, Noah Gallagher, Jacqueline Johnson, Maryann Zabbia, Ryan Callahan and Glen Klugberz, who were awarded tenure by the Board of Education.



Thank you to Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School's (from left) Robin Cooke, Kelly Maloney and Phyllis Carr for their 25 years of service in the Croton-Harmon Schools.

C  **NNECT**
-----WITH CROTON

 @CROTON-HARMON SCHOOLS  @CHUFSD

The district is excited to announce the launch of its Connect with Croton! social media campaign for the 2016-17 school year, building upon the introduction of its Facebook and Twitter pages in 2015-16.

Be sure to "like" and "follow" the district on both platforms to keep updated with school happenings and learn about upcoming opportunities to engage with the district throughout the year.

Reflections



SUMMER 2016

Published for the residents of the Croton-Harmon School District



A FORWARD PATH: *It was onward and upward for the students of Croton-Harmon as another year of incredible growth and learning wound down in June. A special congratulations to our graduating high school seniors, eighth-grade students and fourth-graders, who are taking the forward path on the way to the next big steps in their lives, as well as the tenure recipients who have solidified themselves as permanent members of the CHUFSD family.*

Community Salutes the Class of 2016

The Croton-Harmon Schools community joined together to celebrate an accomplished Class of 2016 on the evening of June 22.

“As you leave us, we know that you are well on your way to becoming independent learners. After all, ultimately you are responsible for your learning,” Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edward R. Fuhrman Jr. told the graduates. “While we as a school district provide opportunities to learn, you ultimately make the choices related to your own learning. Who you become is up to you. What you do and don’t do is up to you. Life is about making choices, and you are in charge.”

The evening was filled with memorable moments for those in attendance, including a welcome address from Class President Susan Rykowski. Rykowski later appeared again in front of her peers to address them as their salutatorian, followed by valedictorian Duncan McManus. Class advisor Daniel Delaney presented this year’s CHOOSE awards, while Principal Alan J. Capasso delivered his remarks to the students.

Capasso urged students to take their new freedoms and responsibilities seriously, including their right to vote at age 18.

“The leaders we elect will affect the course of history over the next few years. But to make this personal, let me remind you that their decisions will directly affect you and your generation,” he said. “As a nation, we are facing many challenges, yet I remain optimistic. The reason I am able to do so is that I have so much faith in you and your generation.”

Music filled the summer air throughout the ceremony, beginning with a processional led by Local 21 Pipes & Drums and a student-led rendition of the national anthem. Graduating senior Jasper Rogal’s rendition of Antonio Bazzini’s “Dance of the Goblins” on the violin elicited a standing ovation from his peers and the audience, and the playing of the “Music for the Royal Fireworks” overture concluded the evening’s recessional.

Board of Education President Giuseppina Miller conferred the diplomas, before they were distributed with the help of the Class of 2016’s officers.

“Class of 2016, we who are here with you today salute you,” said Dr. Fuhrman.

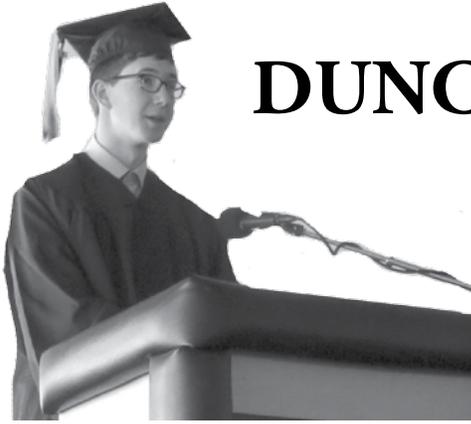


Senior Highlights

- 89 percent of 2016 graduates received Regents diplomas.
- Of those graduates, 40 also received Regents diplomas with honors.
- 82 scholarships, honors and awards were bestowed upon the graduates.
- One student will enter the U.S. Marines.
- 40 2016 graduates are members of the National Honor Society.
- 29 students received the President’s Education Award.

For more news about our schools, check out the district homepage at www.chufsd.org.

A Forward Path



DUNCAN McMANUS: *Valedictorian*

Duncan McManus is described by his school counselor, Tanya Thibideau, as “exceptional.”

“He is a vibrant member of our school community and is regarded in high esteem by faculty and peers alike,” she said. “Not only is he a stellar student, he is kind, clever,

mature and extremely ambitious.”

McManus has served as a member of the school’s Student-Faculty Congress for four years, was named president of the school’s Pi Squad, was a member of the Chinese and Spanish clubs, and has also participated in Croton Academic Challenge Team Intelligentsia competitions.

“My favorite classes have probably been physics – which I took last year and this year,” he said. “It’s also probably my strongest subject.”

The valedictorian’s passion for

coding led him to Brown University, where he plans to major in computer science with a possible double major in physics in the fall.

In his remarks to his classmates at commencement, McManus took time to thank his family for their “endless support” and the many members of the school’s community that helped shape the graduates.

“The teachers and guidance counselors of CHHS, PVC and CET are individuals we will always remember and always be thankful for,” he said.



SUSAN RYKOWSKI: *Salutatorian*

Susan Rykowski has an impressive résumé – class president for four years, the only female member of the school’s golf team, member of the debate team and all-around, high-achieving student.

But as her school counselor, Leslie Troise, pointed out, “She is so much more than book smart,” noting that Rykowski “observes and processes diverse information, whether

interpersonal or situational, in a way that far exceeds her years.”

Rykowski counts some of the rigorous math classes she has taken at CHHS as some of her academic highlights, including AP Statistics and AP Calculus. In addition to math, she enjoyed studying English and two languages – Chinese and Spanish – at CHHS.

“I think high school has definitely taught me how to have a great work ethic and how to manage my time well,” she said. “I have also had great experiences getting to know some of the teachers and faculty here and establishing great connections.”

Rykowski found a supportive learning environment similar to Croton-Harmon at Villanova University, where she plans to study business and accounting in the fall. In her closing words to her classmates, she thanked her peers of 13 years for memorable moments.

“I have had the honor and privilege of serving as your class president, and couldn’t be happier to have grown up with and gotten to know all of you,” she said. “We have had some great times together and have done a lot of positive things for the community and the school.”

PVC Graduates Encouraged to 'Forge On'

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edward R. Fuhrman Jr. fascinated eighth-grade students and their families as he asked for two volunteers to tackle a Barrel of Monkeys during the June 23 Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School graduation.

The students soon found that combining their monkeys allowed them to build the longest chain.

"When they work together, look at what happens," said Dr. Fuhrman. "I call this the 'chain of collaboration.' We expect the same of you. We know that when students work together, they succeed together."

The graduates also heard from Board of Education President Giuseppina Miller, who quoted author J.K. Rowling to encourage the graduates to use their power to transform their world; and from Principal Dr. Barbara



Ulm, who praised the students' embracing of the eighth-grade "Change" Project.

"I look forward to the positive changes that you will make and the brighter future that will be the result," said Dr. Ulm.

Student Council President Elan Roth's remarks, which incorporated his love of math, entertained and inspired the audience. Assistant Principal Michael Plotkin shared a moving poem with students in his farewell address that encouraged them to "forge on" in the face of adversity.

A Big Milestone for the Fourth Grade

Fourth-graders celebrated the first of many milestones in their academic careers during a moving up ceremony on June 22. The Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School students will embark on the next phase of their educational journey as they move



up to Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School in the fall.

Principal Kelly Maloney acknowledged that all 122 students are academically, socially and emotionally ready to be successful fifth-graders. She said they're respectful, accepting, cooperative, honest and people of good character.

"I am going to miss you," she told her fourth-graders. "I have enjoyed watching you grow during these last five years. A lot of special memories have been created over the years here at CET."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edward R. Fuhrman Jr. asked every fourth-grader to look out into the audience to thank their parents,

grandparents, brothers and sisters for their support.

"We are so very proud of you," he said. "Each of you has grown and learned much in your time at CET. You have learned how to problem-solve, communicate and think creatively."

Student government representatives Aaron Lewis and Tiana Kovacevic reflected on their meaningful experiences at CET and assured their classmates that they're ready to take on the next challenges. At the end of the ceremony, the graduates of CET sang "Hello PVC," a song that was written by the students themselves, and exited the stage ready for their next educational undertaking.