

THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Administration Building
200 Division Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801

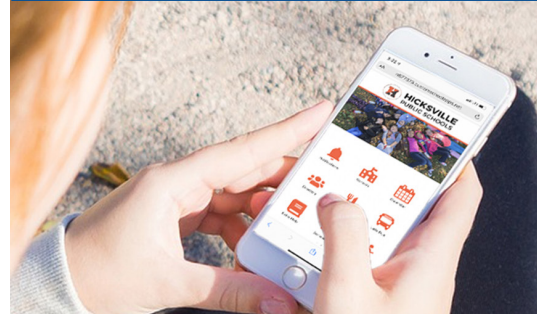
Board of Education:
Brenda Judson, *President*
Sunita Manjrekar, *Vice President*
Linda Imbriale, *Secretary*
Trustees:
Phil Heckler
Irene Carlomusto
Annette Beiner
Danielle Fotopoulos

Marianne Litzman
Superintendent of Schools

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HICKSVILLE
NEW YORK
PERMIT NO. 126

****ECRWSS****
Postal Customer
Hicksville, New York 11801

www.hicksvillepublicschools.org




**HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
IS NOW MOBILE**
 

The district has launched a new mobile app, available on the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app features push notifications, directory and contact information, calendars, lunch menus and information on late buses, extra help and more – all at your fingertips.

ALUMNI *Spotlight*

COURTNEY BREEN *Hicksville High School Class of 2008*

After graduating from Hicksville High School in 2008, I attended Hofstra University where I played on the women's soccer team for four years and the women's basketball team for one year. Throughout my high school years, I played varsity soccer and varsity basketball for all four years. Being a student-athlete in high school allowed me to prioritize my time and balance my academics and athletics. My teachers were true leaders and set examples for me to follow.

I graduated from Hofstra with a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in health education. I then went on to become the Hofstra women's soccer assistant coach for three years. In 2016, I started my teaching career at Hawtree Creek Middle School, in South Ozone Park, Queens. Being a teacher now allows me to follow in the footsteps of what my high school teachers taught me. I am a proud graduate of Hicksville High School and I am forever grateful for my experience!



Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

Top of their Class

In middle school, Sean was the valedictorian and Sam the salutatorian. This time around, the roles are reversed; Sam Zhen is the valedictorian of Hicksville High School. His GPA is 103.83 and he was accepted early decision to Cornell University where he will be studying mechanical engineering. Sam is dedicated to robotics and was the secretary of the school's robotics team.

Sean Zhen is Sam's twin and the salutatorian of Hicksville High School. His GPA is 103.62 and he was also accepted early decision to Cornell University. The brothers plan to be roommates in college. Sean will be studying mechanical engineering but will pursue aeronautical engineering as a master's degree in his future. Sean was the treasurer of the school's robotics team.

In addition to robotics, Sam and Sean both participated in Natural Helpers and the Chinese, Math, National, Science and Social Studies honor societies. Sam and Sean were both selected as semifinalists in robotics for the international, prestigious Dean's List awards.

Sam's twin brother Sean has had the biggest influence on him and vice versa. To quote Sam, "From the beginning of childhood, [Sean] has always

shown me the best way to do my work and what is acceptable to others. The work ethic, study habits and my cooperative skills with others that have given me so much success in life are influenced by my brother's advice and thinking. I would not have as much success today without my brother." This highlights how Sam looks to others for inspiration to help him succeed. Sean also feels that having his brother has been inspirational and paramount in his success. These are two amazing brothers that work together to improve those around them by encouraging other students to participate in robotics.

A personal accomplishment for the brothers was when they and a group of friends decided to take a bike ride from Hicksville to Montauk. Sam and Sean have a real interest in long bike rides and prior to this trip, they had biked 53 miles in their longest outing. This ride to Montauk clocked in over 100 miles. It took Sam and Sean 16 hours to complete this ride and the roads were treacherous. At one point on the trip, Sam even popped his back tire. He was able to fix his tire and complete the trip. Sean has over 500 miles logged in biking. Their perseverance once again helped them to succeed.



SAM ZHEN
Hicksville High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian
GPA: 103.83
College: Cornell University
Languages he speaks: English and Mandarin
Hobbies: biking and playing badminton

SEAN ZHEN
Hicksville High School Class of 2022 Salutatorian
GPA: 103.62
College: Cornell University
Languages he speaks: English and Mandarin
Hobbies: biking and playing badminton



HICKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrates CLASS OF

2022

Hicksville High School graduates made their way to the school's athletic field on June 25 as "Pomp and Circumstance" echoed through the stadium. The commencement ceremony kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Principal Raymond Williams was the first to welcome the Class of 2022, offering peace and thanks to all. He said it was his honor to be celebrating this milestone with everyone in attendance. His welcome was followed by graduating senior Allison George's rendition of the national anthem.

After the national anthem, Principal Williams began his remarks, stressing the importance of gratitude. "Graduates, I want you to continually show gratitude for every little thing you have. You have survived and powered through, and I reiterate, 'powered through,' the pandemic. You survived personal challenges this year, survived 10-day quarantines and survived full-day schooling. You are all seated here, and that means you are a champion. You are a survivor. As you charge forward in life after high school pause and give thanks for the small things ... and you'll find that things will change for you. Blessings and opportunities will flow into your life."

His remarks highlighted the

pride, respect, integrity, discipline and excellence shown by each of the graduates. He closed by encouraging the students to be strong but not rude, be kind but not weak, be humble but not shy, be proud but not arrogant.

"Be good to each other, Class of 2022," he said. "Onwards and upwards."

Other speakers included honored guest John Immerman, Hall of Fame recipient 2022; Board of Education secretary Sunita Manjrekar; Board of Education trustee Annette Beiner; Class of 2022 valedictorian Sam Zhen and salutatorian Sean Zhen. Both students addressed their classmates directly, reminiscing about fond memories made together, and shared good wishes as they move forward in life.

Valedictorian Sam Zhen spoke fondly of his time at Hicksville High School, but mentioned their time wasn't without challenges and uncertainties, particularly with the pandemic. Zhen said life will be the same, and when this happens, "I want you to think of famous words by Hong Kong martial artist Bruce Lee: 'Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless like water.'" He referenced how water is versatile, adaptable and flexible to any surface or anything, and said "water can flow or crash." The valedictorian closed his

speech by telling his peers, "Be water, my friends, when faced with any sense of uncertainties the future may bring."

When Superintendent of Schools Marianne Litzman spoke, she began with a big welcome to the students to this open-air celebration. "Today you will walk through the open door," she said. "Yes, we are letting you free today! Yes, exit stage right and stage life."

"Sometimes your path was hard and sometimes your road was easy," she continued, "but you always remained true to self. True to your word with all. So, keep that truth always. Always filled with hope. You maneuvered through a world pandemic with calm head and steady hand."

She reminded them that if the wind should gust, bringing rain and snow, temperatures cold and warm, look back to Hicksville and those around them for an encouraging word. "Hicksville will always be your home, and we will always remember your name," she said. "Keep that fire in your belly and go out and set this world on fire."

After the speakers, the high point of the ceremony took place. Diplomas were presented to the Class of 2022, and each graduate received applause and cheers from guests as their name was called.

