Class of 2018 Grads Look Forward Toward the Future

The members of the Class of 2018 celebrated their graduation on June 21, as well as their experiences in Islip that have helped them get to this pivotal point in their lives.

After a processional, along with “Pomp and Circumstance,” which was performed by the Islip High School Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, Morgiana McDevitt performed an amazing rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” After Principal Michael Mosca welcomed students, staff and visitors to the festivities, valedictorian Julia Horman spoke to her classmates. She congratulated them on the wonderful story they’ve written but said that they were all ready to move forward.

“It’s time to turn the page and move forward with our successes,” Horman said. “Thank you for this adventure, and I can’t wait to hear about the new ones all of you create!”

After some inspirational words from Board of Education President Brian Clock and Principal Michael Mosca, salutatorian Madeline Marconi gave advice to her classmates while quoting from “The Great Gatsby,” but also paid tribute to her teachers and family.

“To be standing here on this stage today is only one of the many fruits of our efforts throughout these past four years,” Marconi said. “However, I believe that my classmates will concur with me in saying that we could not have traversed this far without the immense support of our families, as well as the hard work and dedication of our teachers.”

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“Class of 2018, develop your own compass and trust it,” Schnebel said. “Take risks, dare to fail and put civility, kindness and character first.”
The Islip School District Board of Education appointed Dr. Ellen Semel as the next superintendent of schools at its April 18 meeting, effective July 1, 2018. Dr. Semel started in Islip as the Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction, K-5 in 2006. In 2008, she was named Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction. Dr. Semel has more than 35 years of experience in education and an extensive background in curriculum development.

“After a comprehensive and intensive search, as well as interviews with multiple candidates, the school board agreed that the most qualified candidate for the position was one of our own administrative team members,” said Board of Education President Brian Clock. “She emerged as a student-centered instructional leader who embraces our supportive community and is committed to educating the whole child in ways that empower and challenge our students.”

Dr. Semel has been with Islip for 12 years. During her tenure, she supervised the mapping of curricula in all areas and implemented a quality leadership curriculum. Under her direction, she introduced Reading and Writing Workshop to K-8 students, PSAT to all high school students and introduced interactive whiteboards for instruction, coupled with 15 hours of professional development for all teachers. At the high school level, Dr. Semel launched a cosmetology career program, provided computer-driven SAT prep and coordinated Academy programs.

Dr. Semel, an Amityville resident, holds a Ph.D. in literacy from Hofstra University and a Master of Science degree in administration from LIU Post.

“I am delighted to be chosen as the next superintendent for the Islip School District,” said Dr. Semel. “For the last 12 years, I have worked closely with a wonderful administration team and dedicated staff who enrich the lives of students daily. I am looking forward to forming partnerships with our students, staff and community and continuing our commitment to excellence as your superintendent.”

Dr. Ellen Semel Named Next Superintendent of Schools