



## TWIN BENCHES DEDICATED TO FORMER COACH

A former Saugerties Lacrosse coach and Art teacher was remembered with a tribute to his decades-long career on May 27. Bob Slate, who passed away in November 2019, was honored during a festive celebration attended by friends, players, and family members—an event made possible by the lifting of some COVID-related restrictions.

Thanks to Class of 2020 graduate Matt Morgan, who created two memorial benches as part of his Eagle Scout project, future generations will now learn of Mr. Slate's passion for, and dedication to, lacrosse and the young people who play it. The benches, along with a commemorative plaque, are located near the lacrosse fields in front of the Junior/Senior High School.

The event also featured a hard-fought Boys Varsity Lacrosse game against Red Hook. Although the Sawyers lost the game to the Raiders, in true Bob Slate fashion they vowed to win next time!



# Saugerties

## Central School District

SUMMER 2021

## Even in Retirement, Our Teachers are Champions

Thomas Miron worked for the Saugerties Central School District for nearly 31 years as a substitute, Physical Science, and Earth Science teacher. He also coached a variety of sports, including soccer, track & field, wrestling, and gymnastics. At the end of the school year, Mr. Miron officially retired and will need to shift gears and become "all tied up" with his next adventure. Mr. Miron said that teaching was a very rewarding career choice, adding that although it was demanding, it also offered the opportunity to make a genuine difference in a student's life.

Mr. Miron says he will miss his students, but he won't miss knotting a tie around his neck every day—even though he is a big believer in dressing the part! Ties are a mark of professionalism, he said. Who would have thought that a relatively small piece of fabric could make such a big impact, he added.

Prior to ending his career, Mr. Miron was still making an impact by selling off his neckties as a fundraiser for shelter dogs. "Rescuing one animal won't change the world, but it will change the world for that one animal, and maybe yours too," suggested Mr. Miron, whose own two dogs are adopted from a shelter. Mr. Miron sold his neckties in the faculty room over the last few days of school. He plans to donate all the proceeds to the Town of Saugerties Animal Shelter. Even in retirement our teachers are true champions.



## THANK YOU, VOTERS!

The Board of Education and the Administration of the Saugerties Central School District appreciate the community's support of the 2021-2022 school budget in May.

"I would like to thank everyone for their support of the School District and the budget vote," said Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt.

In addition to approving the budget, voters also elected three members of the Board of education: incumbents Robert Thomann, Raymond Maclary, and James Mooney.

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Kirk Reinhardt

### Assistant Superintendent

of Curriculum & Instruction, Assessments & Student Data  
Dr. Darlene Westinghouse

Newsletter produced/designed by Ulster BOCES

## CONGRATULATIONS

### to all of our 2021 High School Graduates!

For more photos check  
out pages 4 and 5.



Saugerties Central School District

FIND US:   





## Mum Queen Crowning



Coordinating the crowning of the Mum Queen and her Court during the Mum Bowl typically begins months in advance, with plans rarely deviating from what has become a long-standing tradition. That is, until this year. With the COVID-19 pandemic preventing football from being played, it was starting to look like the crowning wasn't going to happen either. But, organizers were resolute about maintaining this tradition and decided to reimagine the event. A Mum Series-like Crowning was held during the Varsity Boys Baseball game on Saturday, May 15. Organizer Maureen Rothe said, "I think most people were worried that this would be another moment stolen by the pandemic. But instead, it encouraged a spirit of innovation."

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MUM QUEEN AND HER COURT

**Queen** - Carmen Costello

**Student Escort** - Colin Leahy (Sr. Class President)

**Court** - Charlie Sasso

**Student Escort** - Matt Arteta

**Court** - Theresa Fisceletti

**Student Escort** - Evan Sullivan

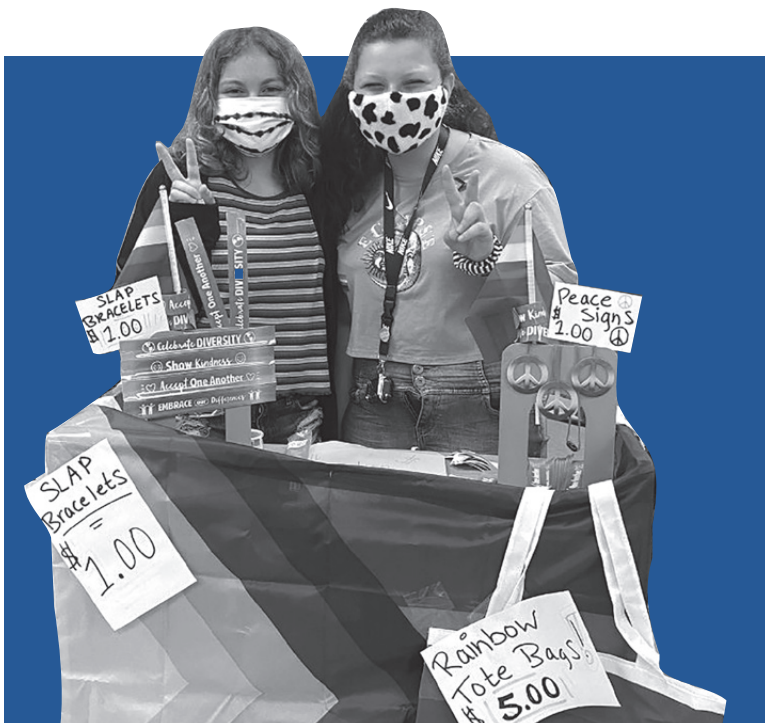
**Mum Festival Committee** - Jeannine Mayer

**Lion's Club** - Jim Halwick

**Student Escort** - Jaden Whittaker

## Bus Appreciation Week

**Students at Riccardi Elementary School** "wheelie" wanted to STOP and say thank you to their bus drivers. On May 14, Grade 5 Student Government officers helped put together grab and go breakfasts for their bus drivers and crossing guards. Students in Kindergarten also decorated gift bags which included the special breakfast, as well as a gift certificate. We all appreciate what you do to get our students to and from school safely.



## Students Celebrate Pride Month

**JUNE WAS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH.** It commemorates a police raid at the Stonewall Inn in New York City in June of 1969, which sparked a liberation movement and a call for inclusivity, liberty, and equality for all. This year, the Saugerties Gender-Sexualities Alliance (GSA) Club helped students celebrate Pride Month with the sale of rainbow-colored bags, slap sticks, necklaces, and other accessories. The Club is open to everyone, including allies, who want to promote tolerance of diversity.



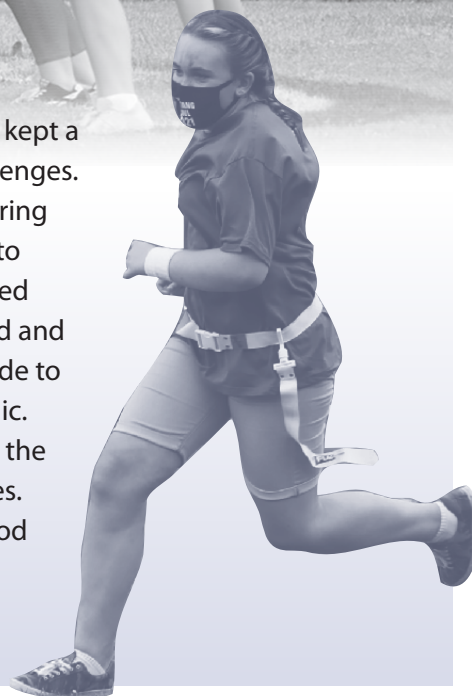


**Cahill Elementary School students got an early taste of summer with some ice cream from the Good Humor man! (AKA - Bob Siracusano) We really appreciate our community partners.**

## Morse Provides Outlet During Pandemic with Flag Football



**G**rant D. Morse administrators, teachers, PTA, and students kept a yearly school-wide tradition alive despite pandemic challenges. The annual football game, called the Mustang Bowl, came roaring back to the field, with students in red and blue battling it out to see who reigns supreme. For the first time, the game was played in June, with only sixth graders, in front of a very limited crowd and with flags instead of two hand touch. These changes were made to closely adhere to the limitations forced by the COVID pandemic. Yet, the excitement and action was not limited in any way. For the teachers, it was a day filled with high energy and hidden smiles. For the players, it was a day of fun, camaraderie, and some good competition.



## New Golf Range Helps SNAG More Golfers

**S**tarting New at Golf (SNAG) inflatable golf range is both an incredible teaching aid and a player development tool, but it is also a way for a local family to honor a 2001 Saugerties graduate, Josh Persico, who lost his life in an automobile accident in 2011. Saugerties High School Math teacher Jessica Armstrong, and her aunt and uncle, Toni and Garry Persico, purchased the jumbo-sized driving range to help students learn the sport of golf, one of Josh's favorite pastimes. Students at Mt. Marion Elementary School recently had the opportunity to take their best shots after learning the art of a good golf swing. The equipment will be made available to students at all "FORE" Elementary Schools.

## Pre-K Registration

**P**re-K Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is still being accepted. To participate in the Pre-Kindergarten program, children must be residents of the Saugerties Central School District, and must be 4 years old by Dec. 1. Selection for enrollment in Pre-Kindergarten is made through a lottery process based on the number of students the program can accommodate. For more information, call Jessalyn DiFazio at: 845-247-6800 Ext. 4033 or email at: [jdifazio@saugerties.k12.ny.us](mailto:jdifazio@saugerties.k12.ny.us).





# CAPS OFF TO THE SAUGERTIES HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021!



One hundred and eighty students were celebrated during a traditional-style SHS Graduation ceremony on Friday, June 25. The event was a feat many students never thought would come to fruition during such a tumultuous and challenging year. Prior to this day, students and administrators had been resigned to the prospect of a drive-through graduation. But as COVID-19 restrictions continued to ease, students and their families were thrilled to learn that a traditional commencement would truly take place.

Promptly at 6:30 PM, a river of blue caps and gowns made their way to their seats on the football field, while an audience of parent spectators sat in the stands. The air was abuzz with excitement, and unmasked smiles could be seen everywhere.

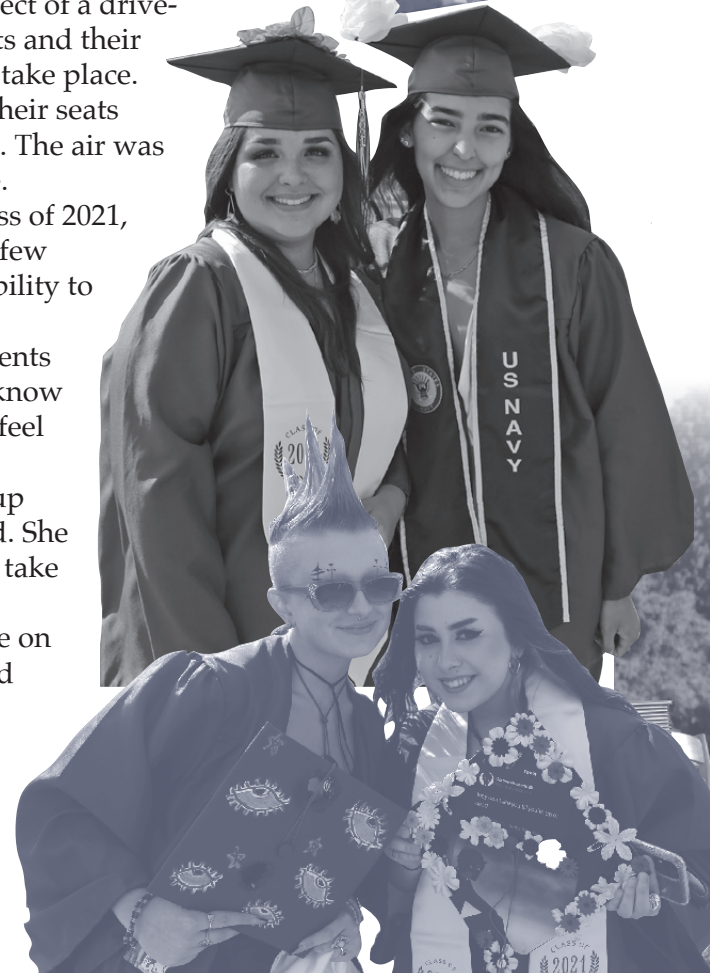
Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt, the first speaker to address the Class of 2021, expressed his gratitude for what he has seen the class do over the last few months. He complimented their hard work, perseverance, and their ability to rise to the occasion, and said they were ready to take their next steps.

Reinhardt also offered some words of advice. He encouraged students to take their talents and to try one of the following: "Listen without offering advice. Give a gift when you know you will not get one in return. Smile when it is the last thing you want to do. Pay a compliment when you feel you may need one. And most importantly, just be kind to someone."

Salutatorian Sophia Kamrass compared the pandemic to the storms of life. "Having a pandemic blow up your senior year is proof enough that the unexpected is always there to mess up your plans," Kamrass said. She encouraged her classmates to live in the moment, rather than just wishing life to get past the storm, and to take a good long breath before digging in their heels and moving forward again.

Valedictorian Olivia Staby said that going to school during a pandemic has given her a new perspective on life. "Happiness is about letting go of what I thought my life was supposed to be and what people expected of me and just embracing where I am now," she said. Staby also reminded students to never forget where they call home. "When we fall in this world or get lost, because it will happen, know that you have a town and a school to welcome you home and that home is always near," she added. In her closing remarks Staby declared, "Despite the challenges we faced, we are not the forgotten year, we are the resilient year."

Congratulations once again to all of the members of the Class of 2021! What a joy it was to have you in our schools this past year! The District wishes you well as you move forward in your life's journey!



## When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Promenade!

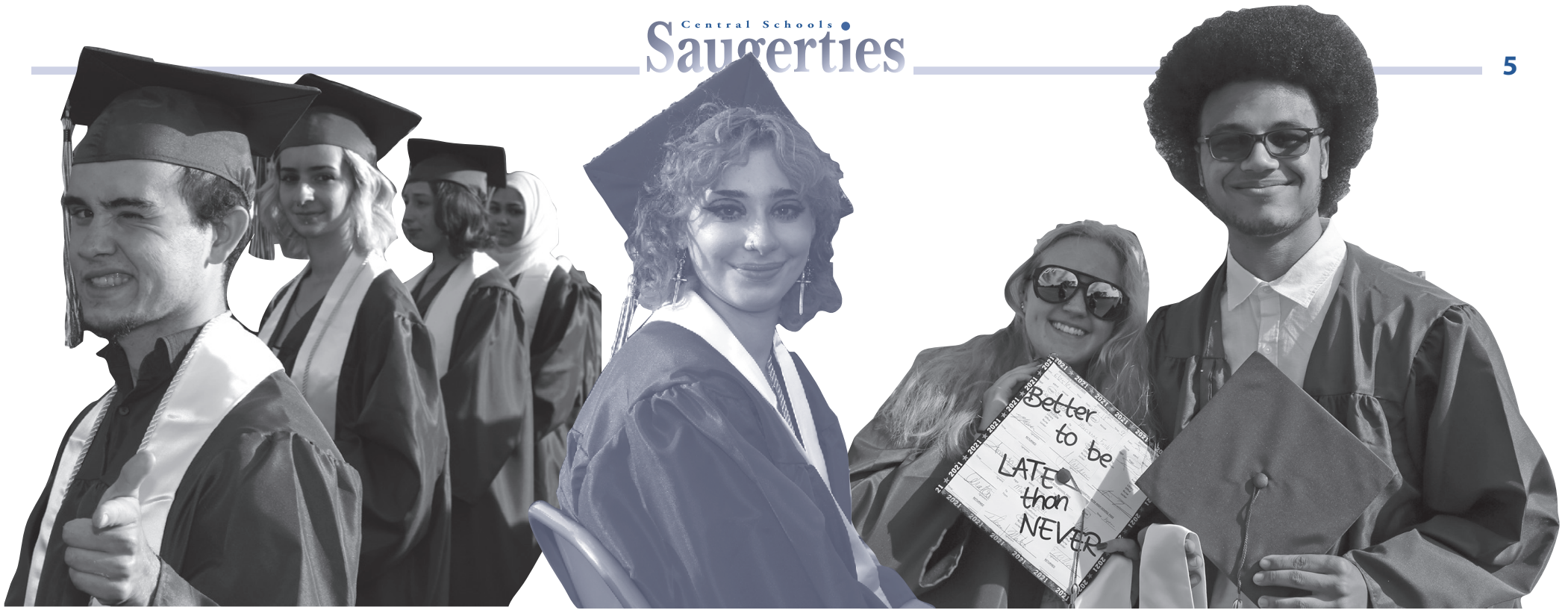
Saugerties Senior Class advisors didn't want this school year to end without allowing seniors to enjoy one of their traditional rites of passage, the senior prom. But instead of a typical prom, characterized by slow dances and a formal dinner, organizers decided to hold a different kind of event—one that took COVID safety considerations into account.

For the first-ever Village Promenade, seniors were encouraged to dress up and stroll the Village of Saugerties in outfits of their own choosing. Fashion choices, which ranged from ballgowns to baseball uniforms, khakis to ripped stockings, high heels to sneakers, were as varied as the teens themselves. Promenade participants received complimentary formal photos in the open air at the Kiersted House, and local businesses offered discounted dinner specials for attendees.

In addition, students were invited to compete for prizes during a Promenade Scavenger Hunt. Prom was certainly different from what these seniors had originally envisioned, but given the fact that they had already missed out on their junior prom and so much more, they were no doubt grateful for the tiny bit of normalcy before graduation. And we think they all looked fabulous!







## Senior Picnic Punctuates the Last Year of High School

On a hot and humid summer day, seniors were treated to a special senior picnic. It was a great day to see our Grade 12 students enjoying themselves with their fellow classmates: eating, playing carnival games, signing t-shirts, making memories, and saying good-bye to four years of High School. We would like to congratulate each and every one of these students for persevering through such a challenging school year. Many thanks to the Senior Class Advisor Veronica Stinemire and to all of the teachers who volunteered their time in helping us celebrate these amazing young people. We are so proud of these Sawyers.







## Grade 6 Students Celebrate Move Up Day

Celebrating their hard-earned promotion to Junior High School, Cahill, Grant D. Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi Elementary School students participated in a car caravan-style moving-up event on different days in June.

Students, riding in family vehicles decked out with banners, balloons, streamers, and congratulatory messages, traveled along the bus lanes located in front of each of the schools. Looking on were cheering teachers and staff members, who waved signs, rang bells, and in some cases danced to the celebratory music. Students were given their moving-up certificates, awards, and medals. We wish our Grade 6 “graduates” the best of luck in Junior High.



## THE CLASS OF 2025 MOVES UP

The Saugerties Grade 8 Moving-Up Ceremony was one for the books. Families and faculty gathered IN PERSON to mark this special occasion of the students' completion of their time at the Junior High School. The program featured meaningful remarks from Olivia Staby (Class of 2021 Valedictorian) and Student Team speakers Chloe Turner, Sahil Sekhon, Jessica Gumbel, and Kudakwashe Muronda.

Junior High Awards were also announced along with the five recipients of SUNY Ulster's President's Challenge Scholarship. The President's Challenge Scholarship is awarded to select first-generation college bound students in Ulster County. Scholarship recipients, identified in Grade 8 by the sponsoring school district, receive mentoring and college readiness preparation through the completion of High School. Upon graduation, students attend SUNY Ulster tuition-free for two years.





# Sounds of Music



The Saugerties Auditorium was once again alive with music on June 2 during the Music Department's Spring Piano and Voice Recital. Students were allowed three guests and had to adhere to strict COVID-19 protocols, which included assigned seating and temperature checks. This year's piano and voice showcase was under the direction of Rebecca MacDougall and Justin Zelamsky.



## SCSD is happy to announce that the USDA is extending its free breakfast and lunch for the 2021/2022 school year!

**P**articipation helps both families and our District. More participation means more kids eating nutritious foods and more funding for our District's nutrition program.

We would like to remind all our families of the importance of completing the Free & Reduced Application that you will receive in August. This form needs to be submitted each year. If anyone in the household receives SNAP or Medicaid benefits you do not have to complete this form.

It is very important for EVERY family, who does not receive SNAP or Medicaid benefits, to fill out this form because doing so helps bring much additional money and services to your child's school and our district. Studies show that many eligible students, particularly junior and senior high school students, do not complete this form each year, leaving hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding on the table.



## STUDENTS EARNED THE SEAL OF BILITERACY

Saugerties High School is proud and excited to announce that Olivia Staby and Clinton Stutzman are this year's Seal of Biliteracy earners. The Seal of Biliteracy is a prestigious award given to students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English and one or more World languages by the time they graduate high school. The (seal) is an award that appears on a student's diploma, is worn at graduation, and is noted on the graduate's transcript, which will be sent to their colleges and universities. Congratulations!



## Parent Portal



Saugerties Central School District values parent engagement and understands that communication plays an important role. One way that parents can be engaged in their child's learning is by using the Parent Portal through Infinite Campus. The Parent Portal enables parents to stay informed of their student's schedules, progress reports, report cards, and attendance.

Using a self-designated username and password, parents are able to access information about their students.

If you need help setting up your Parent Portal, please contact [scsdportal@saugerties.k12.ny.us](mailto:scsdportal@saugerties.k12.ny.us).

## UPCOMING DATES FOR THE FALL OF 2021

**SEPT. 2 – Superintendent's Conference Day**

**SEPT. 6 – Schools Closed for Labor Day**

**SEPT. 7 – School Begins**

**Half Day in the AM for Grades K-6 and 8-12**

**Half Day in the PM for Grade 7**

**SEPT. 16 – Schools Closed for Yom Kippur**

**OCT. 11 – Schools Closed for Columbus Day**



# COLLEGE SPIRIT DAY

*Saugerties seniors are heading out to colleges and universities all over the country. On Senior Picnic Day, dozens of Saugerties High School seniors were donning t-shirts from their future colleges and universities. We wish them all the very best in their future studies.*



## Saugerties Athletes Evan Sullivan and Jillian Murphy Selected for MHAL Senior Scholar- Athlete Awards

Congratulations to Evan Sullivan and Jillian Murphy, who were named this year's Mid-Hudson Athletic League (MHAL) Senior Scholar-Athlete Award recipients for Saugerties High School.

Sullivan, who will be attending SUNY Ulster in the fall, is ranked 17th in his class. He participated in Cross Country and Track & Field, serving as captain for both teams. His academic honors include being inducted into the National Honor Society and being named a New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar-Athlete. He maintained a grade point average (GPA) of 90 or better throughout his high school career. His extracurricular activities included participation in the Key Club, Poetry Club, and Eco Club.

Murphy, who plans to attend Northeastern University for Chemical Engineering, is ranked 10th in her class. She played Varsity Soccer and Varsity Lacrosse. A NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete, she maintained a GPA of 90 or better throughout her high school career.

Murphy also excelled outside of sports, serving not only as a member of the National Honor Society but as the chapter's secretary as well. She also participated in Student Government and was Student Council treasurer. In addition, she was a member of the Key Club and the Saugerties Math Team. Outside of school, she helped coach an American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) team.



## Lacrosse Section 9 Champions

Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Lacrosse team, which became Section 9 Champions! The battle for bragging rights was played on June 10, on the football field. The team avenged the only loss of the season in a dramatic win over Goshen. The final score was 7-6. Freshman Lia MacDougal had five goals including the game winner in overtime.



**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** The Saugerties Central School District affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide an environment that is free of harassment and intimidation as required by Federal and state law. Harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the District prohibits and condemns all forms of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, veteran status, disability, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, or domestic violence victim status by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors as well as any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaging in activities subject to the supervision and control of the District. All inquiries regarding the Non-Discrimination policy and/or all complaints regarding violation(s) of these policies should be directed to the Compliance Officer, Dan Erceg, Director of Human Resources; (845-247-6550).