



THE BANNER

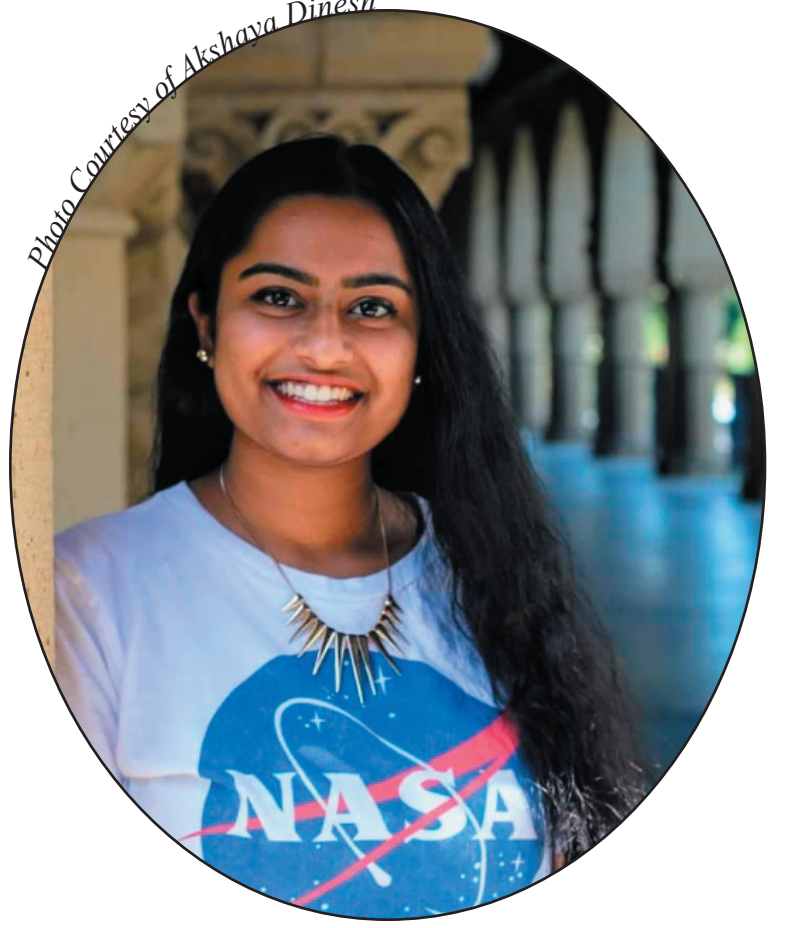
North Brunswick Township High School
98 Raider Road North Brunswick, NJ 08902
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Photo Courtesy of Kristina Criqui



Valedictorian:
Angelo Kayser-Brown

Photo Courtesy of Akshaya Dinesh



Salutatorian:
Akshaya Dinesh

Photo Courtesy of Kristina Criqui



Class President: Mileny Perez

Photo Courtesy of R. Rouantree



Class Speaker: Armando Hernandez

Graduation 2018

SENIOR SPEECHES

Heather Gilmore

For anyone who is upset that I am the one giving this speech today, you can take it up with my English teacher, Mr. Burgess. He handed me the flyer for this graduation speech contest while saying, "This is an optional writing assignment for everyone, but for you it is mandatory." I thought to myself, 'Burgess has lost his mind. I'm literally on my way home to write a ten page research paper for him and now I have to do this? I think not.' I didn't even know what to write about, let alone why he was telling me I absolutely HAD to do this... then I kind of hated myself for questioning him. He is one of the few people who recognized my potential and did not want me to let this opportunity slip through my fingers. Coming to that realization, I still didn't know what to say, for I was scared of being boring or simply reciting cliché messages that come on strong with that discernable tinge of nausea. So I sought out some of my friends for help. I asked them what had stood out to them the most during their high school career, whether it was good or bad. Everyone mentioned AP testing, PARCC, the rotational schedule, the cumulative final, blah blah blah. Then I asked a friend in college what they missed about high school, and all they mentioned was the relationships they had with others and how much easier it was back home. It made me realize that there are so many little things that we take for granted in high school that we won't have the privilege of taking advantage of in college. Here

is a list of some of those things just to put everything into perspective.

* When you're done eating your food in college, Mr. Farrell won't be

standing behind you wheeling around the garbage can to throw out your trash. You actually have to get up and find the garbage can yourself.

* When the next Post Malone or Weeknd album comes out, you can't listen to it and cry as loud as you want while in your own bed. You have to silently weep in your dorm room in a confined area with a total stranger in hopes of not waking them up.

* Boys, season 5 of Fortnite comes out after we graduate. Just

think about that. No more LAN parties with the bros. You can only

* No matter where you are going to college, it'll be a lot longer of a drive to Bagel Boys on Saturday mornings versus when you were in high school, in preparation of a day of recovery after a long, long night of... studying.

* That instagram following you worked for years to build up? It'll all go to ruins after we graduate. I guarantee half of you will cut each other off two weeks from now. But do not fret, that just means you'll make double the amount of those connections in college.

* You're going to realize how much you relate to the cheesy things the main characters say in '80s movies, and it'll make you question your sanity and everything you've become.

In all seriousness, I want everyone to realize how many things they look past every single day. I looked past Mr. Burgess urging me to enter this contest when he only had my best interests in mind. Just take a look around. Some of us have been together for 13 years out of our 17 and 18 years of life, and you may never see each other again. How we even managed to get here is beyond me. Don't forget where you came from. Don't lose sight of where you're going. Don't even THINK about forgetting to value every little moment you have.

So, I'm going to close it off with one of those cheesy '80s movie lines I was talking about earlier. As the great Ferris Bueller said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't look around once in a while, you could miss it."



communicate with them via cheap headset where you can't even hear them half of the time.

* And girls, when a boy breaks your heart (probably because he's playing season 5 of Fortnite), you can't just go to your friend's house to cry with them while they hold you tight. You have to call them from hundreds of miles away and grieve alone.

About The Banner

As a news publication of North Brunswick Township High School, *The Banner* serves to provide students with interesting, timely and important information about the school and community. Its staff covers events and stories that are pertinent to the student body at NBTHS.

While honoring the provisions the school has established to maintain a safe environment for its students, the staff upholds freedom of speech as ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines*.

The Banner runs online; throughout the year, the staff maintains a circulation of an electronic publication among NBTHS, the Board of Education and other areas in the community.

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SENIOR SPEECHES

Johnathan Williams

I'm happy and sad for senior year to be over. I would like to thank my friends and everyone who supported me, throughout high school years. I would also like to thank my teachers because they were so supportive and patient with me and worked with me to help get my work done. I would also like to thank God for helping me through some difficult times. I will miss everyone from my grade level. I learned as a student to work hard at everything I do and to stay away from drama. When you lose focus on your grades, they plummet down because you're worrying about another person or thing.

It is important to have friendships with different types of people. It's important that no one feels left out or excluded from a specific activity. I would like other people to have a conversation with me rather than just saying "hi" and "bye" to me. If people approached me more in the future I could have a more positive effect around that

person. As Albert Einstein once said, "Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving". This is a good quote because no matter what obstacle you have in life don't let hold you down and you have to pick yourself back up. A personal experience was when CS and I last year talked in Ms. Peabody's class. I felt comfortable when talking to him because sometimes I would tell him some of my secrets. I had a friendship with CS because he was an easy person to talk to. I'm going to miss at least one thing during High School which was clubs. Key Club, Anime Club, and Tech Club. I'm sure my fellow peers will at least miss one thing from the past four years. Lastly, I felt good about the workload I was able to accomplish over the past four years, I plan to do after High School is 2 years of Middlesex and then 2 years of Rutgers. My favorite thing from the past four year was Homecoming during Senior year I wish you all the best of luck and pursue your dreams!

Joseph Provenzano



Good morning dignitaries, administrators, teachers, parents in the audience, and my fellow classmates sitting in the rows ahead of me. It's very odd to see me up here considering that most of you know me as the guy who sits down, does his work, and says absolutely nothing. Actually some of you might recognize me for my outgoing side but then again that's a small minority. Which is exactly why I felt obligated to make this speech. I didn't really get involved too much during my tenure here. As a matter of fact all I really did was wake up, go to school, chill at home, sleep, repeat. Four years reserving the right to speak made me think of a lot. Yet when I thought I had a lot of things to say, when I thought I was going let out everything my mind has to offer, that I was going to cut a promo on everybody here, one phrase surfaced....just one phrase. Thank You.

Yeah it amazed me, you keep your voice down for 1,460 days and that's it...that's all you have to say. But it really is. I truly want to thank each and every one of you for making my time here bearable.

A lot of people like to judge our generation, but if one thing is for sure it's that we're extremely loyal to each other. You guys looked past the person I was perceived to be and even if I did nothing, you just accepted me. And that's exactly what I want you to reminisce about. Look around you. I don't want you to only think about the friends you spent most of your time with. I want you to take the time to remember all the familiar faces you have seen almost everyday and think about how your high school experience just wouldn't be the same without them. During that time that I mentioned beforehand where I wasn't really doing anything I ended up binge watching The Office. And upon the finale there was a quote from Creed where he says "No matter how you get there or where you end up, human beings have this miraculous gift to make that place home." Well I thought it would be sweet to end this speech by letting you guys know that you have made this place home to me. And as we all bid adieu to North Brunswick High School I encourage all of you to use that miraculous gift and make the next place home.

SENIOR SPEECHES

Rebekah Negrón

Good afternoon teachers, administrators, staff, friends, family and Class of 2018. We finally did it! And we worked so hard to get to where we are today, Graduation. It feels so weird to say that word because just four years ago it felt so far that I thought it would never come, but here we are, GRADUATING. Taking our next steps into the future. We entered into North Brunswick Township High School as children and are leaving today as adults. But as we look back on the years spent together, we can truly say that it's been a rollercoaster. Whether it was A TON of essays, homework and last minute study sessions at 11 o'clock at night. Or what we all hated the most, drama. We learned we had to make it through those experiences to make it to today. We had to lose relationships with people to realize that we can't make it anywhere in life if we don't push through the pain. Regardless of the passed we always had to choose to push through and keep our heads up. But through these times, we never had to face it alone. We had our friends and family, yes, but we also had our teachers.

We thank you for sharing

your time, talent, and knowledge with us, and we



know it wasn't your job to do so, what you did for us went way beyond the call of duty. You took the time to explain assignments, sometimes more than once because we weren't paying attention the first time. You

let us come to you after school for extra help, when you could've been home spending time with your families. You demanded greatness from us, whether or not we wanted to give it. You believed in us when nobody would. You set the bar high and challenged us to live up to it, and for that we thank you.

I wish to thank our parents as well, for supporting us in more ways that it's possible to count. You dragged us out of bed, fed and clothed us everyday. You helped us with homework, and supported us in our sports, clubs, school plays and more than I can list. But you also gave us strength when we had none and gave us words of wisdom when we had given up. And an unconditional love that only a parent can give to a child, so we can be better than we were yesterday.

And for that, we Thank you too.

There are obviously more people to thank and no time to do it in, but just know, we are thankful for you as well. But I do want to thank two very important people that had an impact in all of our lives, but sadly could not be with us this afternoon, Ibrahim Kargbo and John Cox. Two people that brought us all closer. So let us not be saddened by the thought of them, but be joyful in the memories that we shared, and move forward with our lives knowing that they've left their imprint in our hearts.

So as you can see, behind every graduate there are many people providing support in a dozen ways, and the impact they have on our lives. The best way we can show our gratitude is to make the most of the opportunity we've been given, and move forward into the world with the intention of making it a better place for the generations that follow behind us. We thank all the people that have supported us and made us who we are today by facing it forward, together. So I can truly say, no WE can truly say WE ARE...NORTH BRUNSWICK! Thank you!

Kyle Reiman

Let me start by getting the standard graduation clichés out of the way. Here we go, "We've finally made it!", "What I've learned in boating school is," "Best 4 Years of my life!", "I want to thank the academy." "I can't wait to get out of this place," and "Today's graduation was brought to you by the letters N and B!"

Now that that's out of the way, on to the serious stuff. As far as I understand it, high school commencement speeches are meant to not only reflect on our years that we've spent together in high school, but to also serve as a way to inspire us to go out into the big world and do big things. My speech, I hope, will do both and more.

For me, I can't really reflect back on four years of high school with all of you because I came in for only one year. I spent my first three years of high school in a charter school. This charter school was academically driven, so driven,

that it called itself a "college prep charter school". Its main focus was to prepare us for life outside of high school, for college, for a career. But in my opinion, there is so much more to being prepared for college and life, other than the academics.

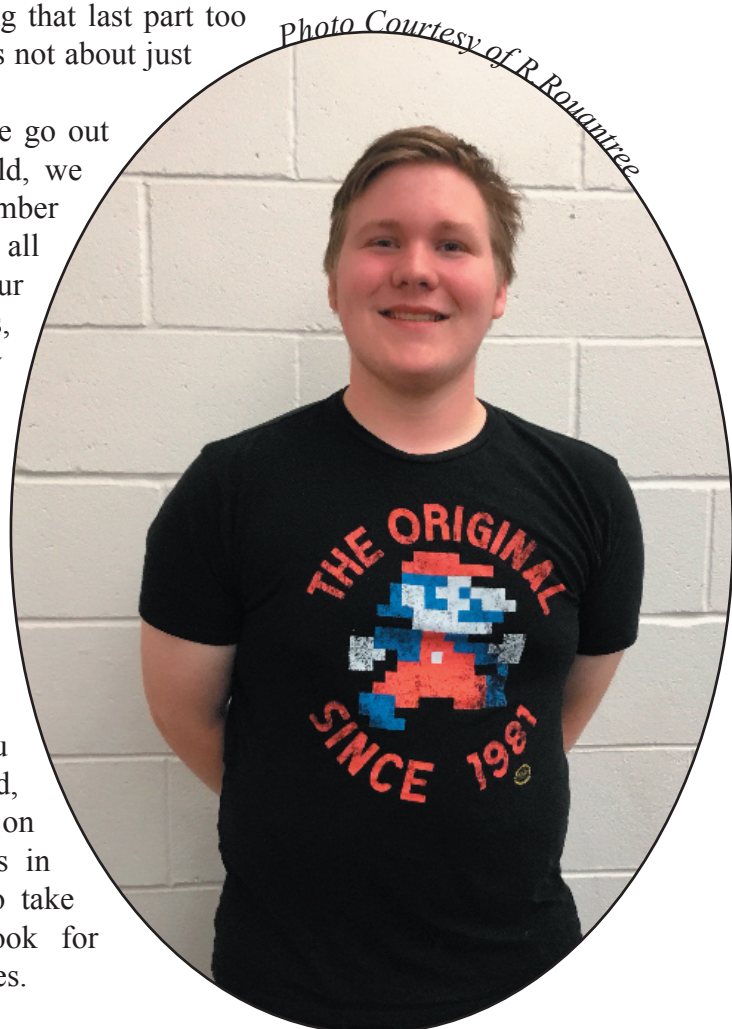
I could have chosen to stay at this charter school for my last year, but by doing this, I would have missed out on the experience that I have gotten here at North Brunswick. Don't get me wrong, the charter school gave me the academic focus that I needed. There was a piece of my puzzle that was missing. I didn't know what it was at the time, but I do now, and would like to share it with you.

The missing piece to my puzzle was all the other things that I needed in life outside the academics, and it's something we all need; to be a well rounded individual. I needed sports, I needed friends, extracurricular activities, community service, to have fun, to

slack off, and sorry to my teachers for maybe taking that last part too seriously. Life is not about just one thing.

When we go out in the real world, we need to remember to not only take all the pieces of our puzzle with us, but to gain new ones because having each piece keeps us well rounded and completes our bigger picture.

It's good to work hard, but if you just work hard, you'll miss out on the other pieces in your puzzle. So take the time to look for those other pieces.



SENIOR SPEECHES

Clay Zahler

We' all going to die. Face it. There's way to prevent it, be it through old age or by each other, everyone will eventually meet the Reaper. Despite this, many people despair at the mere thought of their own demise. Don't like that. Rather, we all have two lives. Our first is our own - our living, breathing moments on this planet. The second is our name - and who we were as a person and what we did. Some people still live, even if they had died thousands of years ago. We still speak of Julius Caesar, the man who truly made the Romans an empire - becoming their single ruler, the one to have the last say in everything. The dead still live today, though only in our minds.

So what is life? What is it's purpose? If you're go by what direction this speech is going down, I think it's pretty obvious. Live a good life, do good, and probably make history, right? Well, not quite. The other way to achieving historical immortality is a bit less... well... for the right reasons. We all know who Pablo Escobar was. The

infamous drug lord who plunged Colombia into chaos, killed hundreds of innocent people, just to stay in power. So how do we live, so that we can live forever in the minds of our descendants, for the right reasons? Well, according to the street artist Banksy, that isn't quite the case. He said, "I mean, they say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time." So, you can't really prevent your own death the second time around. I've already accepted that fact.

If we can't truly live forever, a'that our lives are pointless, how should we end up living our lives? Just be happy for now. You're alive, you're listening this speech and you're missing the bigger point. Life is life. It'll screw you over; it'll have you experience things you don't want to experience. However, it'll live you the best moments you'll remember, the ones you'll remember for the rest of your life, and all those who were involved in that moment.



Photo Courtesy of R. Rouantree

Iftikhar Ali

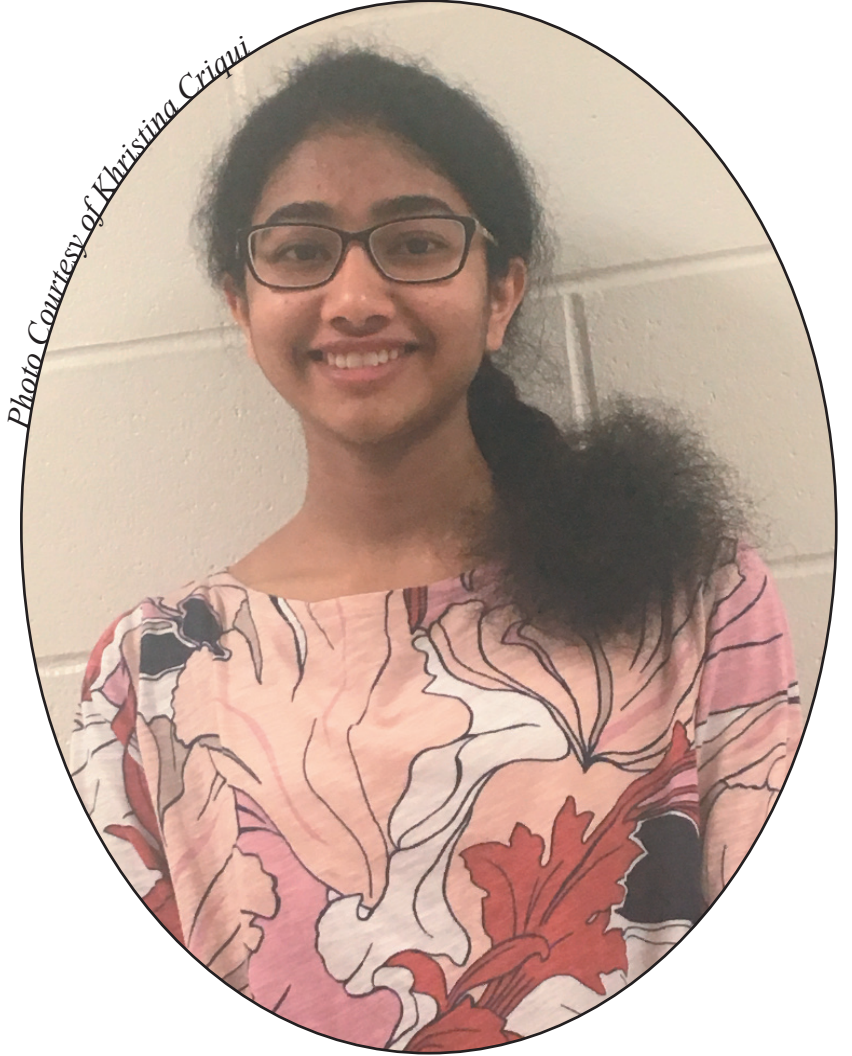


Photo Courtesy of Kristina Criqui

Welcome and good afternoon visiting dignitaries, administrators, parents, teachers, students and Class of 2018! Today I am going to talk about the importance of high school. Before I talk about high school, I would like to discuss breakfast. This might seem silly, but I assure you that there are important correlations.

So, as some short and personal anecdotes: Some mornings I would eat waffles with blueberries, whipped cream, and syrup. Sometimes I would eat a banana. Other times, I would even grab a granola bar and run out the door, racing for the bus.

Now, what is the importance of a discourse about breakfast on graduation day?

The answer stems from the fact that after breakfast, I attend my classes and I acquire knowledge. Our entire high school career was enriched with knowledge and wisdom like a healthy breakfast enriched with nutrients. I thank my parents, who constantly protected and supported me like a poached egg,

teachers, who wrapped education around my mind like a warm burrito, and friends, who added a little sugar to my gloomy days. I thank NBTHS, the entire plate, filled with so many experiences.

NBTHS was where some of us made corny jokes and awkward social blunders, (some are yet to pass that stage). However, it was also a time with supporting teachers, interesting classmates, and a fun education. The experiences in high school are endless, from a first fail all the way to a first 100.

So Class of 2018, we ate our breakfast, yet we are approaching the time of our next meal. At present, we need to realize more than ever that what we consume now, will fortify our tomorrow.

We had a rigorous training ground and now we will put our effort, our learning, and our will onto a plate full of action. Let us use the vivacity of our morning meal—NBTHS, something we are leaving behind, but will carry forever, and step into the world and make our next meal. Go Raiders!

SENIOR SPEECHES

Zena Aluboudi

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, today is a special day. We are all here coming together to celebrate a four-year accomplishment, and we finally made it. Some people's journeys were harder than others, but the simple fact that these four years shaped us into the people we are today will be a great beginning for where we will go next. I moved to North Brunswick my sophomore year and one thing I've noticed is how much the teachers care for their students, and believe it or not that has a great impact on the students learning experience.

As freshmen, we looked up to the seniors like "Oh my God they're so cool, I wanna be like that when I grow up", vs them when they would say "God I hate freshman". Sophomore year was basically a way of saying "I'm not a freshman, I'm valid" junior year we complained like 10-15 times more and by Senior

year we thought we could kick back and relax but that was not the case, at least for me it wasn't. We learn at least five valuable things during high school that we should always take with us as we move on.

Photo Courtesy of Lora Studios



Number one I know this might sound cliché but believe in yourself. Yes, believe that you can finish off strong, believe that you will get a good grade on that test and

believe that you have a purpose.

Number two "go ahead and ask" No question is stupid and trust me I know, sometimes I ask questions where the whole class would turn around and be like "really, you should've just googled it". But honestly, you never know until you try, Never just assume the answer, always ask.

Number three, Don't take no for an answer. I can stand here and explain why you shouldn't settle for less, but it all comes down to how bad you want it at the end of the day; if you want it to get it.

Number four, is a sense of accomplishment. We all know that feeling when we get that essay in at the last minute, we have that burst of happiness for five minutes, then we receive a 10-page packet and, it's like should I laugh or cry?

Number five, the last one is never giving up. We all went through or are going to go through a point in our lives where we felt discouraged, lost, hopeless, and lonely. Something about these emotions is that everyone feels them no matter what you have or where you came from. We are equal in sense of our emotions and the time that we are given in a day. Always push forward, find motivation

and remind yourself what's really important, Life is about learning and listening and doing good by others. Even our coaches say that (that's if you play a sport)

When Michelle and I played football we would always listen carefully to coach's speeches because we knew what he was saying about being together and uniting. It was a big part of everything we did both on and off the field. During basketball season, Coach Zielinski would always tell us to do good by our families because he knew that when you're in peace then everything else you do is taken care of. Together we stand and alone we fall and I'm saying this because of our families; they helped us so much I know so many of my friends and teammate's parents like they were my own, so I wanted to thank all of the parents who are sitting here today.

I would also like to thank the teachers, coaches, and the staff for making our high school years unforgettable. I want to give out a special thanks to Marcy Marx, Jen Lynch, my coaches Michael Cipot, Mark Zielinski, and lastly Aaron speller. Once again, congratulations to the class of 2018! I hope your years will be filled with blessings, happiness and new opportunities, Thank you.

Sneha Vijayakumar

Good evening everybody, good evening parents, families, esteemed faculty, staff and guests of the class of 2018. I really want you to take a look around and think for a moment of how we got to this place right here. How impossible it seems that all of us ended up right in the little town of North Brunswick.

The time that we found here, it seems like luck. Picking up every stone, every slap of concrete, it is so easy to forget to step back and admire what we have built. We sit here today, embodying the love and sacrifices, the opportunities and strengths we have been given. We are a community built by diversity, united by similar stories of immigration and memories.

The sweat and tears that have led your family to you is a

miracle of its own. Do not forget to say your thank you like prayers and hold onto your pride like faith. Do not forget that we are the palaces our ancestors once dreamt of creating. Tomorrow, we will spread apart like dandelion seeds do, learn to kiss the roads on the highways. We will stare at the future like we do at the sky, but please remember, it can seem a bit too bright sometimes.

Do not be blinded. Before you continue to build, touch before you dig, envision a purpose before the blueprints, and don't forget to look back on the little town that isn't so little anymore. Congratulations Class of 2018 on your remarkable journey here and on a greater adventure that awaits you.

Photo Courtesy of R. Rouantree



SENIOR SPEECHES

Kena Chavva

Good afternoon to all of the wonderful students, teachers, administrators, and families at today's ceremony. Thank you for allowing me the honor of speaking here.

Have you ever realized that when you're young, you assume that you're always going to be the same person that you are at that moment?

When I was in third grade, I wanted to be an accountant, because nothing seemed quite so simple, so satisfying, as doing math problems in my little blue workbook. I imagined that spreadsheets would be the same way. And then a year later, in fourth grade, after my class had memorized all the major bones in the body, I told my parents that I wanted to become a radiologist. I didn't realize, then, either, that medical school is a little more involved than just bones.

Spielberg saw one of his short films and turned him into a star. He went from writing papers on Shakespeare to drifting in Tokyo in just a few years.

It was that story that made it clear to me that who you were in fourth grade, or two years ago, or yesterday, is not who you are going to be. It isn't even who you are now. My future, and yours, aren't set in stone at age eighteen. As Walt Whitman said, "I am large, I contain multitudes."

Fast forward eight years, and here I am, standing in front of all of you, and I can quite honestly admit that I have no idea what I want to do with my life; I applied to college undecided. My own indecisiveness used to stress me out a lot--but nothing calmed me quite as much as when I read a story about one of my favorite actors, Vin Diesel.

So many of my fellow seniors already have ten-year plans mapped out, and these ambitions never cease to amaze me, but really--ask yourselves: what would you try and do, if nobody was holding you accountable to your former selves?

Now, most of us know Vin Diesel from the hundreds of Fast and Furious movies that he's starred in--but how many people know that he was actually an English major in college? It's true! He started out in Hollywood as an arthouse director and writer, and one day, Steven

I promise you, fellow seniors, that none of us have ever been too stupid to do something in our lives: just too lazy, or too afraid. With this new horizon in front of us and our thirteen years of school behind us--let's leave behind that laziness and that fear, too. We are unconquerable, we are the class of 2018! -- Thank you!



Abhishek Shetty

I'd like to thank Dr. Zychowski, the Board of Education, Mr. Kneller, the administration, the faculty of NBTHS, my family, friends, and the Class of 2018.

a warm evening on the lake.

As the water lapped up onto the shore, I noticed a small stone lodged in the sand. As the water receded, the stone caused ripples that extended as far as the eye could see. I urge you all to be this pebble. No matter how small and unimportant you may think you are, you have the potential to make waves in this world, and anyone who tells you otherwise has no idea what they're talking about.

When I came to the graduation of the Class of 2017 and experienced the student speeches, I was blown away by their eloquence and courage. I dreamed of speaking in front of thousands of people and my fellow graduates. That night around one year ago, I drafted my own graduation speech. Since then, I've worked on that very speech for hours - no - days. That speech is not the one that you'll be hearing today.

As I walked back to my car, I noticed a short brick wall trapped in tangled roots. I found myself wondering: How did a brick wall end up in the woods? What secrets did the wall hold? I ask you to never ever let go of your childhood curiosity. Find out the story of that wall. Be adamant in discovering how the world works, and why things are the way that they are.

One day before the deadline to submit this speech, I felt as if it was missing something, and I was going in circles trying to figure out what that was. I decided to take the advice of a dear friend and drove down to Farrington Lake to watch the sun set. I believed that by doing this, I would find the missing piece to my speech. Instead, I found something even better - the strength to abandon what was tormenting me, and I found the words I will now tell you, hidden in the plain sight of

As Abraham Lincoln once said, "In end it's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years." To the Class of 2018, I hope your years are full of love and wonder, and you may celebrate accomplishments that tower over the one we celebrate here today. Thank you.



SENIOR SPEECHES

Samantha Medina

As we grow up, we start to see that life falls into place in the weirdest ways. This existence gives you curves, hills, trails, and many threats to overcome. In our short time here, we have experienced many. High school, although four years that flew by like a rocket, gave us a lifetime of lessons and experience that cannot be found easily elsewhere.

Although I personally did not start my journey in North Brunswick, as I came in the beginning of my junior year, this town has given me a lot of challenges that I was able to take on and come out of like a warrior. NBTHS has handed me many opportunities to sprout and thrive into the young woman I am today, and I am positive I am not the only one. Academically, teachers and counselors have aided me in my quest to see my full potential. Some days the storm felt like too much and all this work seemed to all be pointless. The staff has shown me that although the storm looks messy, the sun will always

be out in the morning, and warm days with rainbows will come after. Personally, this town gave me the

knowledge that life will never go to plan.



As you get older you realize that certain people will only use you for their benefit. It also becomes very clear that although everyone may be your cheerleader, not everyone will be on your team. But in those hardships, you learn your true worth. You realize that in this life you can truly conquer everything, that you deserve the absolute best, and time does not stop for anything, so keep pushing through. As important as academics are, there is a bigger picture coming out of this process. We all stand here,

united as one, from every level of every spectrum. All of us, especially myself, have dealt with the stress of finding friends, a place of comfort, someone to bond with, finding their identity, school work, extracurricular activities, and trying to find the perfect balance of everything. We all overcame circumstances meant to pit us against each other, and start a war within all of us. We took the fuel and energy from that, and used it to kindle the fire in us to succeed. Without knowing it we won all the battles. We all came out stronger. We are all here sitting with each other as one big class of 2018. So here is to all of us, being warriors, and coming out of all of this alive. Thank you for giving me a home and an army to fight with. I'm very excited to see where life takes us, because we all will go very far. We will always be warriors, we will always be soldiers. No matter what life throws at you, you will always have the strength to fight on the front line, and you will forever have the power to win. Thank you.

Rishi Patel

Friends, family, faculty, and distinguished guests; please pay attention to your nearest exits on the left and right, and if this speech were to have major engine failures...then

I'm sure your seats will serve as decent flotation devices. Unfortunately, this flight also has no seatbelts, but that's where class of 2018 owns up to its pride. We never needed seatbelts; we my fellow classmates didn't let a buckle strap us into our seats. We, the class of 2018 stood up and persevered.

Allow me to read you a quote by Charles R. Swindoll, "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." And let's just say we reacted all right. There were many adversities along the way, lots of turbulence. Whether it was the first day of freshman year, the first class, the first dance, the first girlfriend, personal hardships at home, academic struggles, oh and the second girlfriend, the third girlfriend, the first time you realized the problem was actually you. Nevertheless, we did not fly through high school because we sailed through it.

We didn't sail in the ocean, we sailed this big boat through a

winding river, the river that taught us who we are and the same river that led us all here. In life I've learned that you initially fly in the clouds, only to return to sail in the river, because at the end of the day, you learn the most and gain the most by flowing in a snake like pattern docking at points "a", "b", "c", and "d" rather than flying in a straight path from point "a" to "b".

My classmates and my teachers, we have learned a lot about each other and a lot about ourselves in the past four to five years. I want you to walk out of this hall today not reminiscing, but feeling driven. Every single one of you has matured in your own way after flowing through this river.

Your next step is to trail this sea called the future, the real world, whatever else the adults call it nowadays. And each day when you struggle, I want you to think about how you, as a person, will react to whatever comes your way. In this sea, you must navigate your own path and create your own river. As redundant as that sounds, it is possible.

Class of 2018, we made it, and we will continue to live our

lives to the fullest, never forget your experiences, never forget what got you here, and more importantly never forget your path.

Congratulations to you all and I wish every single one of you all the luck and happiness in the world, for your next endeavor. Thank you.



SENIOR SPEECHES

Mwanza Fitzpatrick

Welcome Dr. Z, Mr. Kneller, members of the Board of Education, all of the administrators, counselors, amazing teachers, and esteemed graduates. If you don't know, my name is Mwanza Fitzpatrick, and just like everybody sitting before me it's time to move onto bigger and better things in life. I would like to thank everybody that made this opportunity possible. I would like to thank the teachers and administrators that helped me through my journey. I would also like to thank everyone that kept me afloat through the rapid waters of high school.

I remember walking into the high school for the first time and being so amazed at everything; seeing all the new faces and hearing the crazy bells when they actually rang. And now I stand in front of those same faces for the last time. It was a crazy ride wasn't it?

Every time your teachers said, "high school will be a blur so enjoy it" now we see they weren't lying. When your parents said, "enjoy being a child because adulthood will come quicker than you know" well adulthood is here now. After this we're off to being our own individuals and there's no more "Mommy, come save me" or "NO, I wasn't ready." The big boy/girl pants have to be put on presently. It isn't going to be easy, but nothing that is worthwhile ever is.

I believe that every face in front of me can be successful.

We can change the world as a graduating class. I know that we all hold that power. High school made an impact on our lives in some way, shape, or form. High school threw something at us that was bigger than us. It put something in our way that

brought us to rock bottom, and it brought us to a real life realization about the people you surround yourself with or you as a person. High school creates a lot of change, and readies you for college or whatever post-secondary activity you would like to take part in. If

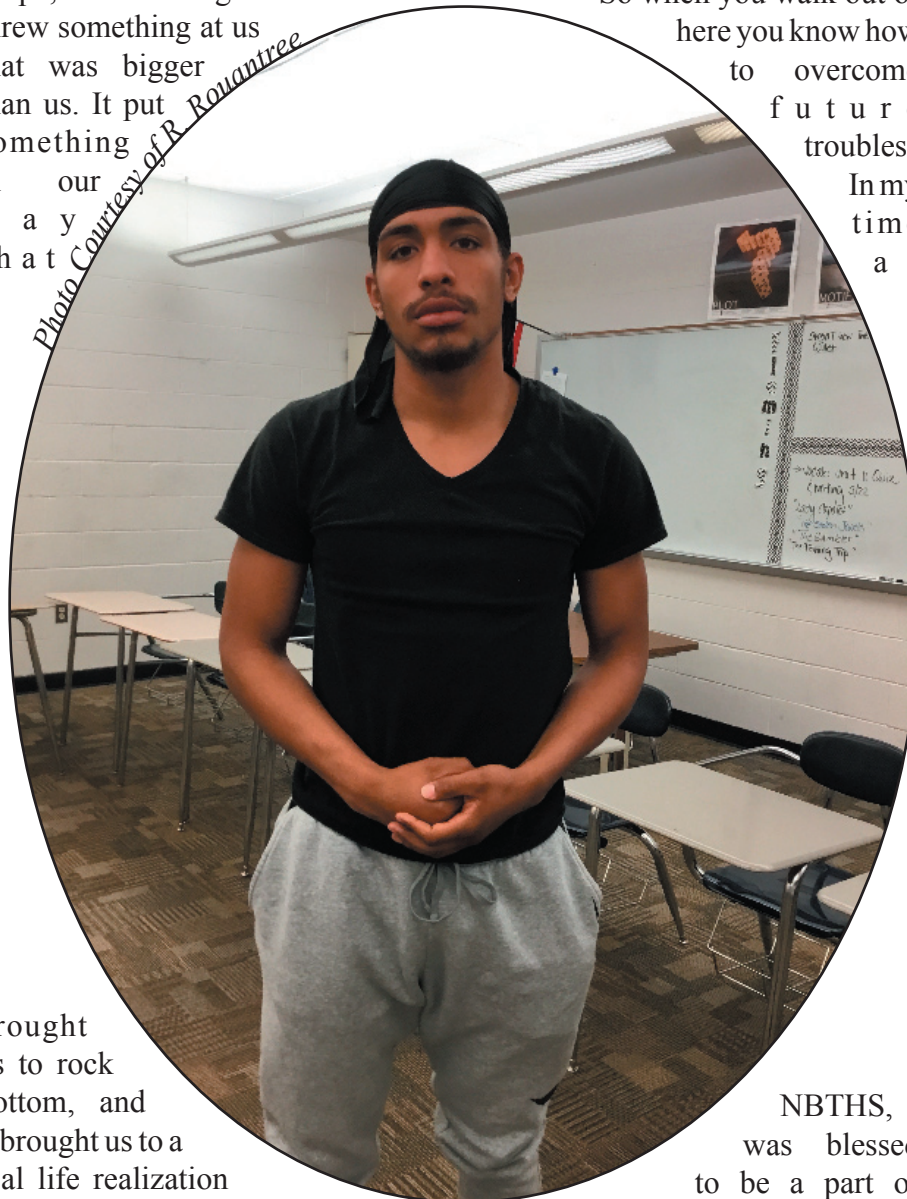
you overcame that thing or things life threw at you, I congratulate you. You've found a way to overcome whatever troubles life threw at you.

So when you walk out of here you know how to overcome future troubles. In my time at

career and there I found the taste of victory. Athletics are a form of escape for many of us. But who could have ever prepared us to lose one of our own brothers? Track is a family and through the loss of our brother Ibrahim "Ib" Kargbo, we grew tighter, stronger, and in the end - more successful. This past season, our Shuttle Hurdle Relay won the relay championships, and Ib was with each of us' each hurdle, one by one. Among every race we gained strength and camaraderie. Whether you found family within Robotics, Alchemists, Key Club, Innovation, Culture Clubs, or even just hanging in the Commons you understand that NBTHS taught us the value of relationships. The one thing that no one can take away from us is that we will forever be Raiders.

My years here have taught such an important life lesson: the art of self reliance. I learned that sitting around and crying about your own situation will not do anything for you. You have to get up and change it yourself because nobody is going to do it for you. When the cards are stacked against you, you find it in yourself to keep going. Thank you Mom for keeping me here and thank you to everybody from here that doubted me and my abilities. You guys are the thing that keeps me going.

So to the class of 2018 I stand before you to tell you that we made it !!! Now high school is behind us, and may life treat you well.



NBTHS, I was blessed to be a part of amazing teams. On the football team we learned to rely on one another, block when necessary, and leave everything on the field. In basketball we were fortunate to obtain championships early in my

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Alessandra Abad
Science Education at Sea

Isai Aguilar
Rutgers University

Anastasia Aleksandrova
Rider University

Sanjith Anand
Rutgers University

Mariam Abass
Rutgers University

Shehbaz Ahmad
Rutgers University

Iftikhar Ali
Rutgers University

Alexander Angeles
U.S. Navy

Abdulrahman Abdulai
Kean University

Shivaen Ahuja
Washington University in St. Louis

Tajae Ali
Rutgers University

Andrew Angeles
Middlesex County College

Kenneth Abode
Middlesex County College

Deeksha Ajeya
Drexel University

Carl Almazan
Rutgers University

Jessica Apostol
Middlesex County College

Dylan Adom
Possibilities

Amir Alderman
Middlesex County College

Zena Aluboudi
Mercer County College

Roberto Aquino-Montes
Williams Patterson University

Shania Aguiar
Hudson County College

Anthony Alejo

Israa Amer
Kean University

Jessica Ardita
University of New Hampshire

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Arooj Arif St. Peter's University	Pruthvi Banginwar Cornell University	Sanjit Boparai Purdue University	Amaya Caraballo William Patterson University
Audrey Asare Rutgers University	Tijah Banks	Matthew Borselli Possibilities	Whitney Carpenter William Patterson University
Rachel Asham Rutgers University	Isaiah Barnett Brookedale Community College	Jacqueline Boyd Middlesex County Adult Vocational Program for Cosmetology	Natalie Chapman Stanford University
Samira Attal Rutgers University	Arlen Barrera	Aysia Brister Spelman College	Kena Chavva Barnard College
Emily Aulenbach Rider University	Chernoh Barrie Kean University	DeJon Buchanon	Alice Chehade Middlesex County College
Andres Avila St. Peter's University	Mohanna Barrie Fairleigh Dickinson University	Kate Budrow Rutgers University	Sebastian Chicaiza Middlesex County College
Mario Awad Seton Hall University	Keren Barrientos Paz Middlesex County College	Aditya Burle Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Megha Choudhari Rutgers University
Anam Aziz Seton Hall University	Maneet Batra Stevens Institute of Technology	Tykeisha Burrell Middlesex County College	Gerard Chua Rutgers University
Oluwaferanmi Babalola Eastern University	Aldo Bautista Middlesex County College	David Burrows Middlesex County College	Avery Claggett Rockland Community College
Sammy Badawy Lincoln Technical School	Karim Bayoumi Middlesex County College	Edgar Cabrera Middlesex County College	Kiara Clemonts Middlesex County College
Sagar Bahl Middlesex County College	Cassandra Berth Fairleigh Dickinson University	Stephanie Cadiz Middlesex County College	William Cobb Middlesex County College
Sheba Baidoo Middlesex County College	Victoria Bertrand Rutgers University	Melanie Calderon Guardado Middlesex County College	Angela Colandrea Ithaca College
Caroline Baier Rutgers University	Bryan Bettencourt Rutgers University	Naseem Caldwell Middlesex County College	Miguel Colon Middlesex County College
James Bailey	Riddhi Bhagat Rutgers University	Toni Caliolio United States Navy	Alyssa Contreras Central Connecticut State University
Pramila Baisya The New School	Nishreen Bikanerwala Rutgers University	Celina Calix Middlesex County College	Gregory Cooper
Shriya Bajagur Michigan University	Masiyah Blue	Tyler Callahan U.S. Marine Corps	Jisel Cortes-Melo U.S. Marine Corps
Dy'Zjanay Baker Empire Beauty School	Maria Katrina Bolastig Middlesex County College	Shane Cannady Middlesex County College	Anthony Costa Cape May Police Academy
Youstina Balamon Kean University	Isabelle Bongiovanni Rutgers University	Donovan Cannon Middlesex County College	Khristina Criqui Middlesex County College
	Jason Bonsu Kean University		

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Tyra Crumb Rutgers University	Sara Donnellan Bentley University	Dana Fields Montclair State University.	Heather Gilmore Rutgers University
Brittany Cruz Middlesex County College	Imran Dumbuya Fairleigh Dickinson University	Kayla Figueroa Middlesex County College	Clara Gimenez Rutgers University
Maryane Cruz Lincoln Technical School	Mariana Duran-Ramirez Berkly College	Mwanza Fitzpatrick Bridgton Academy	Alexander Girello
Carlos Cuevas Middlesex County College	Alex Eaton	Khayla Flemmings Rockland Community College	Akilah Glover Oxford College of Emory University
Aminah Dar Middlesex County College	Dakota Ehlers	Iris Flores Middlesex County College	Naomi Gobena Rutgers University
Rae Michaela Dario Rutgers University	Saad Elliott Middlesex County College	Tiffany Francis Middlesex County College	Manav Goel Middlesex County College
Raj Dave Middlesex County College	Aya Elmezyen Middlesex County College	Gabriel Freytes Middlesex County College	Heena Golakiya Rutgers University
Nathan Davidov Middlesex County College	Nicole Eng Rutgers University	Marcy Funez Middlesex County College	Jarett Goldberg Temple University
Roberto Davila	Jeremy Enriquez Mercer County Vocational	Jasmine Galindo The College of New Jersey	Gabriel Goldstein The University Of Texas at Dallas
Lorena De la Cruz Purdue Global University	Brianna Espinosa Middlesex County College	Joseph Gambino Rutgers University	Omar Gomez Middlesex County College
Lovell De La Cruz	Darlenis Estevez St. Peters University	David Garcia Middlesex County College	Cristopher Gomez Madrid Middlesex County College
Gwyneth Deligente Middlesex County College	Adefemi Fagbewesa Stevens Institute Of Technolgy	Reina Garcia Perfecto Mercer County College	Juan Gonzalez Middlesex County College
Nicole DeMato Middlesex County College	Natayah Farley	Itzel Garcia Rivera Middlesex County College	Victor Gonzalez-Merino St. Peters University
Alison Diaz Middlesex County College	Abdul-Mannan Farooqui Middlesex County College	John Gargano	Marco Gonzalez-Tello Middlesex County College
Tyrease Diggs	Emily Farrell Rider University	Lexington Germosen Case Western Reserve University	Indrakshee Goon Rutgers University
Akshaya Dinesh Stanford University	Lyndsey Farrell Montclair State University	Abdel El Kareem Ghannam Bossier Parish Community College	Christopher Gorda Middlesex County College
Aryaki Dixit Rider University	Sabaa Fayazi University Of Connecticut	Basheer Ghannam Bossier Parish Community College	Kyle Gosner Rutgers University
Nicholas Dohn Middlesex County College	Naomi Feliz Rutgers University	Jesse Gibbons Rider University.	Christopher Graham Middlesex County College
Maryuri Dolores Montecinos Middlesex County College	David French		

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Deanna Graulich Middlesex County College	Elijah Hood Middlesex County College	Kara Jones Middlesex County College	Carly Lodise Muhlenberg College
Trinity Gray Norfolk State University	Jerel Hooper Middlesex County College	Kasten Kabu-Kubi Berkeley College	Allen Lopez Rutgers University
Eric Guardado-Lopez Middlesex County College	Kelson Hopson United States Marine Corps	Fatima Kamara Felician University	Jonathan Lopez Middlesex County College
Sophia Guerriero Middlesex County College	Parinay Howale Middlesex County College	Isaac Kamel Rowan University	Josselene Lopez Chamberlain school of Nursing
Efe Guler New Jersey Institute Of Technolgy	Stelle Hyppolite Middlesex County College	Abigail Karczynski Middlesex County College	Yamileth Lorenzo-Pelaez Middlesex County College
Tirza Gutierrez Burgos Middlesex County College	Chidiebere Iheanacho Middlesex County College	Angelo Kayser-Browne Princeton Uniceristy	Karine Lozewski Pratt institute
Paula Habib Monteliar State University	Nicole Ilicic Drexel University	Sarah Kessler Rutgers University	Alex Lucas Lopez Middlesex County College
Dorian Hardy East Carolina University	Shakeem Jackson-Pamplin	Rachel Kim Rutgers University	Leonardo Lugo Middlesex County College
Talani Hart Kean University	Sneha Jacob The College of New Jersey	Pranav Kotilingam Washington University at St. Louis	Sinia Lujan Zaldivar Middlesex County College
Angel Hawkins Lopez Middlesex County College	Ishita Jain Rutgers University	Eugene Kozlakov Stevens Institute of Technology	Eric Lung Penn State University
Angelo Hernandez University of New Haven	Parsh Jain Stevens Institute Of Technology	John Kuchler Villanova University	Rosemary Lupovich Rutgers University
Armando Hernandez	Abu Jalloh Kean University	Krupa Lad Rutgers University	Kevin Lynch Rown University
Tyler Hernandez Middlesex County College	Hope Jalloh Middlesex County College	Katrina Lauri Johnson & Wales University	Edwin Magana Middlesex County College
Shelsie Herrera Berkeley college	Kiara James St.John's University	Malik LeBron Montclair State University	Kanav Mahajan University of Michigan
Eberson Hidalgo United States Navy	Nikhil Jariwala Rutgers University	Dante' Lee Lincoln Technical Instsitute	Kyle Mairs Possibilities Plus
Noelia Hinds Delaware State University	Paige Jarusiewicz Rutgers University	Sharon Len Boston University	Cassandra Maisonet
Jalen Holman Rowan University	Justin Jenkins Middlesex County College	Elizabeth Leung Rutgers University	Dorian Maldonado Middlesex County College
Ajahnai Hoo Middlesex County College	Kalol Jha Rutgers University	Linda Linares Mercer County College	Justin Maldonado Possibilities Plus

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Xavier Maldonado Kean University	Edgar Mendoza Middlesex County College	Sabrina Murdocca Middlesex County College	Andres Pardilla Middlesex County College
Kevin Maleck-Pichardo Middlesex County College	Rafael Merino Ramos Middlesex County College	Emily Mykietyn	Sanil Parkhi Indiana University
Elsaid Manaem Rutgers University	Stephen Mihalenko Rutgers University	Arjun Nair Rutgers University	Miles Pastrick Middlesex County College
Isatou Manneh Rutgers University	Shyann Minor William Paterson University	Ishan Nambiar	Jainil Patel Middlesex County College
Niharika Manubolu Middlesex County College	Vanessa Mirabal Middlesex County College	Kunal Narula Rutgers University	Kush Patel Rutgers University
Colin Marrero SAE Institute	Yardin Miranda Middlesex County College	Shubham Nath Rutgers University	Maulik Patel New Jersey Institute of Technology
Gabriela Martinez Middlesex County College	Maira Mirza Rutgers University	Nathanael Negrón Middlesex County College	Nihal Patel Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Roel Martinez	David Mitchell Evans	Rebekah Negrón Middlesex County College	Prerak Patel Rutgers University
Rose Martinez American Institute of Medical Science	Forum Modi The College of New Jersey	Jeffery Ning Middlesex County College	Rishi Patel University of Delaware
Salha Masloom Middlesex County College	Emily Moffitt Montclair State University	Michael O'Bannon Middlesex County College	Rishil Patel Rutgers University
Abraham Mathew Rutgers University	Tyler Monaghan Middlesex County College	Cassandra Oake Temple University	Sweta H. Patel Saint Peter's University
Bilal Matin Rutgers University	Jared Montes Andino Middlesex County College	Kamely Ochoa Alban Cosmetology School	Sweta V. Patel New Jersey Institute of Technology
Arianna Mattis Middlesex County College	Giovanni Morales Middlesex County College	Eryn Ollivierre Middlesex County College	Vraj Patel Rutgers University
Kayla McCargo Seton Hill University	Ariana Morgan Rutgers University	Elena Olmedo Rodriguez Cosmetology School	Yash Patel Rutgers University
Andrew McGrath Middlesex County College	Rawan Moustafa Rutgers University	Lizbeth Olmedo Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Shaurya Pathak Rutgers University
Brooke McPherson Middlesex County College	Michelle Munguia Reyes Middlesex County College	Damian Ortiz Rutgers University	Natalie Peralta Middlesex County College
Samantha Medina	Alexis Munoz Middlesex County College	Ohenewaa Osei-Boakye Bowie State University	Bernard Pereda The College of New Jersey
Dhruv Mendiratta The College of New Jersey	Kening Munoz Torres Lincoln Technical School	Katherine Panitch Middlesex County College	Elijah Perez Middlesex County College
		Hunter Papp Middlesex County College	

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Mileny Perez La Salle University	Sanjana Ramanathan Drexel University	Jakob Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Amanda Sandy Montclair State University
Christy Perez Lopez Kean University	Michelle Ramirez Middlesex County College	Jason A. Rodriguez U.S. Air Force	Abel Santiago
Samantha Persaud William Paterson University	Blanca Ramirez-Vazquez Middlesex County College	Jason Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Lilibeth Santos La Salle University
Kamani Peterson-Ridley U.S. Army	Martha Ramjiawan Middlesex County College	Samantha Rodriguez Saint Peter's University	Rushika Saripalli Rutgers University
Cheyenne Piggee Kean University	Edwin Ramos Middlesex County College	Angel Rodriguez Marcano Middlesex County College	Meghna Sarmah University of Massachusetts
Athena Pisack Middlesex County College	Suilem Ramos Cordova Middlesex County College	Alba Rodriguez Mendoza New Jersey City University	Kyle Sarnecky Possibilities Plus
Jason Plaha Middlesex County College	Graham Randall New Jersey Institute of Technology	Ruben Rodriguez Morales Middlesex County College	Michael Scimone Middlesex County College
Michael Poku	Daniel Reardon Rutgers University	Jadell Roque Middlesex County College	Rasha Seddikoui
Brandon Powell Middlesex County College	Kyle Reiman Rutgers University	Jose Rosado Middlesex County College	Anusuya Sen San Diego State University
Nina Powell U.S. Air Force	Fabrizio Reyes Monmouth University	Alex Rossman The College of New Jersey	Lae Lonie Serrano Middlesex County College
Anagha Prasad Rutgers University	Faustino Reyes	Valerie Rossmeyssl Middlesex County College	Rashi Shah Rutgers University
Rohan Preeth Rutgers University	Cynthia Rhodes Middlesex County College	Abdoulaye Sako Northampton County College	Gita Shanker Kean University
Joseph Provenzano Fairleigh Dickinson University	Keneil Richards Rutgers University	Viktor Salas-Farje Middlesex County College	Yusuf Sharaf Rutgers University
Montarah Purcell Middlesex County College	MarJohn Rivera Middlesex County College	Jordan Salisbury Rutgers University	Shreya Sherikar The University of Tampa
Timothy Quach Stevens Institute of Technology	Meghan Robayo La Salle University	Monica Samy Rutgers University	Reema Sheth Rutgers University
Jassiel Quintana-Segovia Middlesex County College	Angelica Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Caprice Sanchez	Abhishek Shetty Rutgers University
Vladyslav Rachkovskyy	Christopher Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Jorge Sanchez Middlesex County College	Courtney Short Rowan University
Subhan Rafi Rutgers University	David Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Raudy Sanchez Vargas Middlesex County College	Anthony Sidotti Middlesex County College
Kunal Rajani Carnegie Mellon University			Baljit Singh Middlesex County College

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Inaya Singh Rutgers University	Olutobi Tella Arcadia University	Alwyn Varghese Temple University	Bryce Wade Middlesex County College
Yashmeen Singh Rutgers University	Erika Tena Quintero Cosmetology School	Irvin Vasquez Middlesex County College	Kaley Walsh Delaware State University
Shawn Smith Rutgers University	Manav Thadani Villanova University	Jaimie Vazquez Middlesex County College	Colin White Mercer County College
Diana Sosa Middlesex County College	Akshad Thirugnanam The College of New Jersey	Leslie Vazquez-Mozo Middlesex County College	Jalen White
Jadus Spann Middlesex County College	Alejandro Thomas Berkeley College	Jordan Vega Middlesex County College	Jason Williams Middlesex County College
Christopher Spataro Centenary University	Kianna Tierney Middlesex County College	Amy Velez Seton Hall University	Jonathan Williams Possibilities Plus
Yanee Stafford	Autumn Torres Middlesex County College	Diana Velez Middlesex County College	Lashaune Williams Montclair State University
Ariana Stewart	Orandy Torres	Yomaira Velez Rodriguez Middlesex County College	Bryan Winkler Rowan University
David Strzeminski Muhlenberg College	Edgar Torres Mendoza Middlesex County College	Sneha Vijayakumar University College Dublin	Spoorthi Yasa Drexel University
Rokia Tamraz Rutgers University	Vasik Vadgama Rutgers University	Alexandra Villalba Middlesex County College	Clay Zahler Middlesex County
Isha Tariq Middlesex County College	Nicholas Valle	Sydney Voelbel Washington College	Alexander Zhao Rutgers University
Adam Taubenslag University of North Carolina School of the Arts	Arjun Varadhan Indiana University	Shivani Vyas	Tristan Zic Middlesex County College
Sean Telepo Middlesex County College	Elena Vargas Rutgers University		

