

RBR — OVER 100
YEARS OF ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE

SUMMER 2019
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

RED BANK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

RBR

Best Wishes to the Class of 2019

Following a week of seemingly monsoon rains; the sun shone brightly on RBR graduates at their commencement ceremony. Class President Aislinn Butler, who will go on to Rutgers' University's honors program to study biological science, welcomed the assembled.

She stated, "We made it Bucs! My biggest thanks are to the teachers. You dedicate your heart and soul to this job, and your work paid off, believe me.... To the parents and guardians, thank you for being there for us. When we needed support, a ride somewhere, or even just a good word in an essay, you were there. I can only guess how proud you are of our impressive class of athletes, students, volunteers, artists, musicians, and future military."



In all, the Class of 2018 earned over \$15 million in grants and scholarships, with over \$883,000 in local community support. Some of those educational institutions throughout the United States include (but are not limited to): Dartmouth, M.I.T. American, Boston, Clemson, Colgate, Georgia State, Indiana, James Madison, Lafayette College, Michigan State, Louisiana State, Tulane, Villanova, Muhlenberg College, NYU, Oberlin College of Arts and Science, Penn State, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, San Diego State, The Universities of Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Maryland, Miami, Tampa, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming and West Point Military Academy. Staying closer to home, students will be attending (but not limited to): Brookdale, Montclair, Monmouth University, The College of New Jersey, Rutgers, Rider and the New Jersey Institute of Technology.



Salutatorian, Lauren Marcolus, a VPA dance major who will study at NYU next year, talked of the bright future that lies ahead.

She stated, "These caps and gowns mark a transition into a life filled with new people and opportunities, but also one with new responsibilities and challenges--a life we have the power to



make into something remarkable, but one we must confront the unknown to create...

Now is our time to explore that unknown-- our time to travel, create, connect, to take every opportunity to try things, things that scare us, and to learn and grow from both our successes and, more importantly, our failures."

Salutatorian Hannah Gazdus, a studio art major RBR, will study mechanical and/or materials engineering and pursue a concentration in creative writing. She evoked the foundation that her fellow students will build upon. She told the audience that she had transferred from a magnet school to her district high school and came to realize all the opportunities RBR had to offer.

She explained, "The less-than-ideal school experiences before I came here have made me appreciate RBR even more. We tend to take things for granted, but RBR is truly a remarkable place. My experience in searching for the right school has shown me that no other high school in the area boasts the academic rigor, passionate faculty, and diversity of student body that RBR does."



She added, "We may depart from RBR today, but we can't deny its existence on our paths in life. Remove RBR, and the path breaks. Our paths have led to RBR and will depart in so many unanticipated directions. Look behind on the road and you may see a moment, a waypoint, or a guide. Don't forget these years. Appreciate how far you've come and how far you have yet to go. The path leads on."



RBR WELCOMES JULIUS CLARK AS OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

RBR's friend and colleague, Julius Clark, will be our new principal and should take up his responsibilities by September 1, 2019. He replaces Risa Clay, who is retiring and officially leaves the district in October. Mrs. Clay was on medical leave for the 2018-19 school year.

Julius Clark began his educational career in the Red Bank Borough Public School District as a math teacher just after graduating from the College of New Jersey in 2005.

Mr. Clark was named Red Bank's 2014 Teacher of Year and received the New Jersey Governor's Teacher Recognition Award. He also served as a head basketball and head soccer coach while at Red Bank. Mr. Clark obtained his Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2012 followed by his principal certification in 2013. Mr. Clark left Red Bank this past school year to take an assistant principal position for the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District.

He states of his new role at RBR, "I am thrilled to be back in this community which is near and dear to my heart. I intend to focus on educating the whole child so that students are prepared for an ever changing global society and continue to encourage teachers to create a positive, welcoming classroom environment that challenges students to be their best self."

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Building Project Update

The Board continues to meet with the architect to finalize the building drawings. A decision has been made to use a masonry exterior versus steel. Every attempt to bring more light into the media center is a priority and is being explored. A decision has been made for the infill on the artificial field, a concern for our community. We will use a new type of rubber infill that addresses the health concerns of the old materials but maintains all the benefits. It is used on professional fields including, most recently, the University of Notre Dame.

Our original timeline is still on track. We will soon be participating with the Monmouth County Improvement Authority for the sale of bonds utilizing their AAA rating. This should give our taxpayers an estimated savings of over \$800,000 over the life of the bonds. We intend to break ground in late fall with an anticipated completion date of late 2020.

MEET SOME SHINING STARS FROM THE CLASS OF 2019

NICOLETTE GLEN of Red Bank is a creative writing major in RBR's VPA. She believes that decision was life-changing and brought a very important person into her life, her mentor, now retired creative writing teacher Dr. Gretna Wilkinson, with whom she still communicates. She arrived at RBR a very shy and reserved young lady. She states, "Through the performance poetry, I found my voice. I got very comfortable on stage and now I love performing." Nicolette was a very successful writer of prose and poetry and has won national and regional awards from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards every year of her high school career. She has also been an active member of the multicultural club which produces amazing programs for Hispanic and Black History months every year. Nicolette also won first place in a Monmouth County Black History Month art contest. She has been a faithful ally in the Dreamer's program providing her fellow students with compassion and support. She has also sought her own support at the SOURCE stating, "Sometimes when things got a bit overwhelming, they did a good job in helping me find my balance." Nicolette will be attending the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising this fall on a generous scholarship. She intends to major in fashion merchandising and minor in international business. She states, "I blossomed at RBR. Finding poetry and short story writings made me care about everything beautiful. I love to express my feelings through my clothing and hope to create my own fashion line."



MATT IZZO of Little Silver has always been a lover of video games. When he entered RBR he discovered he could spend every day immersed in IT classes as an Academy of Information Technology major. He really enjoyed technology and programming. He states of his AOIT academy, "I liked the combination of all towns that are in the academies, I wouldn't have met my friends if it was just Little Silver students." Matt has competed in the national Cyberpatriot competitions, leading a team one year and contributing to this year's second place championship for the State of New Jersey. He has also competed in this year's AT&T Capture the flag competition (his team captured third place), The Monmouth University Programming competitions as well as coding competitions at Stockton University. Matt is an AP Scholar having achieved a score of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams. For the past two years, his schedule has included 3 or more AP courses. He has maintained the honor roll every year of school and has gained entrance into the National Italian Society and the National Technology Honor Society. He will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology on their Presidential Scholarship with the intention of making a career in the programming or software engineering field.



SOPHIA POUSO of Shrewsbury has spent the last two years of high school in the International Baccalaureate program and earned the distinguished, world-renown IB diploma. She states, "I wanted to do it to be part of a smaller community in a big school. It was the best thing I did in high school!" She explains that the teachers are very close to their students and the writing and

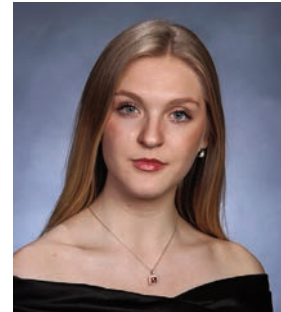
community service requirements are never overwhelming, adding, "The teachers really help you out and the students all work together." She serves as Vice President to her IB class and is a recipient of the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy. In addition, she holds leadership positions in the history club as secretary and is a student-to-student peer leader, mentoring freshmen. She is a member of the FCCLA club, which fulfills her creative need in baking and creative art competitions. Sophie has been a member of RBR's tennis team for the past four years, which provided the highlight to her high school career with two division titles in her freshman and senior years, stating "Our team has had the most wins of any RBR team ever!" Sophie will attend the West Virginia University's business school next year on a generous scholarship. She intends to major in global supply chain management and hopes to pursue a career in the international business world.



JULIA SCHNEIDER of Little Silver, a student in RBR's Engineering Academy, has experienced a very unique high school career, since she has virtually missed her first two winters at school while competitively skiing. Julia has skied since the age of two and began her competition career at age nine. By eighth grade she was rated fifth in the country for national competitions. In addition to competing all over the country, she has also trained in France. A shoulder injury cut short her competition career. Julia claims it came at a good time since she wanted to concentrate on college preparation. While missing two winter seasons at high school, she maintained her studies with a tutor and flourished academically when she returned to RBR. She is also a 2018 AP Scholar Award winner excelling in her many AP classes. She won the Academic Varsity Letter in her junior year where she maintained the high honor roll every semester that year. She was appointed a student to student peer leader and was awarded the Society of Women Engineering Certificate of Merit. She has played soccer for RBR all four years of high school. Julia still keeps her hand in skiing, as a competitive freestyle ski coach to 8 to 13 year olds, traveling to upstate New York every weekend during the winter months. A highlight of that job brought her to Colorado this April where she coached in the national competition. Julia accepted a generous scholarship to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where she will study in a rare five-year architectural program, which grants an architecture certification upon its completion. She was delighted to have the opportunity to attend the Engineering Academy stating, "Engineering allowed me to see what opportunities I had in the field."



CLAIRE TAYLOR of Ocean, a vocal major in RBR's VPA program has amassed many accolades for her amazing talents since attending high school. Most recently, she was awarded the 2019 All Shore Chorus Vocal Performance Scholarship. Claire has been selected to perform in the All Shore, All State Chorus as well as the All State Opera; the latter three times. These honor choirs bring together the best high school choir singers in New Jersey and the counties of Monmouth and Ocean respectively; Claire performed solos at these prestigious events. At the



most recent Basie Awards, Claire was presented with The Bank of America Arts Matter Impact Award for all of Monmouth County. She was awarded the Governor's Award as top performer in the NJ All State Opera Festival, which afforded her the honor to perform at the Governor's Awards in Art Education. That also earned her the C. Scripps Beebe Scholarship which she used to attend the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory Summer Vocal Academy last year. She was also awarded the 2019 all-shore chorus vocal performance scholarship. She has appeared in numerous RBR plays and musicals as well as community theatres in leading roles. She is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, the National Honor Society, National Italian Honor Society and National English Honor Society. She has been a member of the girl scouts since 2006.

Claire is a student leader who spearheaded the March 15, 2018 National School Walkout Day at RBR in memory and in solidarity with the Parkland, Fl., high school students who experienced the worst school massacre in US history. Over 500 RBR students joined her on the high school track to walk for 17 minutes in tribute to the victims and to advocate for sensible gun safety legislation.

This past year, she earned very distinctive awards in both the Young Hero Award from American Legion Auxiliary for New Jersey as well as the Medal of Honor from the Girl Scouts. Both were awarded for her heroic actions taken last year in performing CPR, which saved her younger sister's life. Claire explained to the press that she learned CPR while obtaining her babysitting certification.

She stated, "It's definitely worthwhile to have some sort of emergency response background. When the moment does arrive, if it does, you can focus on taking action with what you already know."

Claire will be attending the prestigious Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford and intends to pursue a career in vocal performance.

KA'SHAUN TURNER of Red Bank has been playing football since he was six years old. He ventured into basketball when he was in middle school but found his way back to his first love in eighth grade. He joined RBR's football team as a defensive tackle and soon distinguished himself as a BUC football star. Ka'shaun's dedication to his sport was on full display as he worked out four days a week and practiced every day. His junior year football experience was a bit



disappointing as RBR only won two games, but he significantly contributed to the great comeback this year, when RBR qualified for its first playoff game since 2015 with a 7 and 3 record. Ka'shaun earned 9 sacks in his junior year and 10 in his senior for a total 19 career sacks. His football accolades include the All Division and All Shore first team; he will participate in the Summer All-Shore Football Classic. Ka'shaun was recently awarded the Vince Lombardi Award for his football performance. He has been an active member of the District's Student Advisory Council to the Superintendent during his junior and senior year. Ka'shaun is very excited to be playing football next year at East Stroudsburg University where he will study criminal justice.

Congratulations to our Students and Staff on all their Amazing Accomplishments



RBR VPA creative writing majors won nearly two dozen regional and two national awards in the prestigious 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards sponsored by the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. **Nichollette Glenn** and **Alexandra Lewis** were the National winners, each earning a Silver Medal. The other regional winners include: **Grace Davidson, Elizabeth Heinemann, Penelope Hill, Julia Merola, Katelin Rowe, Lilly Thygeson, Madison Young, Aurelia Whitehead, Morgan Almasy, and Gabrielle Jamieson,**



RBR photo majors recently won accolades for their photo art in the Ocean County Camera Competition. **Georgia Landree, Isabella Albarella, Julie Glidden, Emily Gannon, Stephanie Flores Avina, Maya Restifo, and Sophia Morales.** and **Jamie Hicks,** will all be going on to the national competition. Honorable mention awards were also given to: **Heidi Jacinto, Claire Petrone, Sarah Caldwell, Sheridan Torres, Chloe Rosen, and Fiona Slattery.**



RBR received seven Basie Awards for the 2019 student fall play and spring musical in the following categories:

- "The Diary of Anne Frank"
 - Set Design - **Carl Grillo/Claudia O'Connor**
 - Lighting Design - **Francis Hankins/Manuel Rosario**
 - Costume - **Gloria Meiterman**
 - Outstanding Supporting Actress - **Shea Grant**
 - Outstanding Supporting Actor - **Kevin Cogan**
 - Outstanding Production for Drama - **Reuben Jackson**
- Spring Musical nominee "The Music Man" - Orchestra-**Camille Thompson**

VPA Groups Took Home Top Honors from the Virginia International Music Festival. They include:

Choir under RBR Choral teacher **Nicole Hodge:**

- Mixed Choir - Gold First Place
- Women's Choir - Gold First Place
- Best Overall Vocal Soloist – **Catherine Creed**
- Grand Champions – RBR Mixed Concert Choir



Concert and Jazz Performers under RBR band teacher **Kevin Pryor:**

- Concert Band – Gold First Place
- Jazz Band – Gold First Place
- Best Overall Instrumental Soloist – **David Grant**

Thirty one RBR students earned the State of New Jersey's prestigious Seal of Biliteracy, demonstrating proficiency in



writing, speaking, listening and reading in a foreign language as well as proficiency in English. They are: **Gillian Andresen, Paul Bikker, Giovanna Luna, Jack Davis, Aidan Dougherty, Stephanie Flores, Amy Gardner, Hannah Gazdus, Emanuel Arevalo Gomez, Shealyn Grant, Callie Haytaian, Dean Hottmann, Amira Ibrahim, Helayna Ibrahim, Maria Jimenez, Liam Landree, Page Lootsma, Lauren Marcolus, Rafael Martinez Ponce, Renee Mercereau, Meghan Murray, Macy Narang, Lily Pena, Salvador Pena, Sophia Pouso, Suzette Rodriguez, Erin Rooy, Craig Scharmann, Summer Smith, Patrick Sullivan, Christina Wichmann.**



Seven students earned the prestigious IB diploma. Twelve rising seniors received their IB pins and are candidates for the

diploma next year. The IB diploma recipients include: **Summer Smith, Sophia Pouso, Ashley Lloyd, Claire Lynch, Grace Noglows, Quinn Moore, Brady Lynch.** Rising seniors who received their IB pins include: **Maxine Lloyd, Kyle Weisman, Cameron Nifoussi, Catherine Metzger, Lillian Thygeson, Chloe Rosen, Claire Petrone, Alexandre Decker, Eric Dykerhoff, Tor Haugenes, Tyquann Crawford.**

Congratulations to our Eagle Scouts. Five RBR seniors achieved the highest rank in boy scouts this year. They are: (from troop 126) **Gianni Profetto, Marc Brewer, Brendan Loftus;** (from troop



67) Craig Scharmann and Erik Olsen. Craig Scharmann also just received the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor --the highest award given to youth by the US Congress.

RBR's Girls' Go Cyberstart team composed of **Jessica MacLean, Adeline Monfil, Kaylin Hernandez-Perez, and Mackenzie Wood** took third place in the State finals held in early June.



VPA studio art major **Dori Valentine** took second place in the BLICK Art Materials National Multi-Media Competition; for her multi-media self-portrait.

Susanne Lopez was the GRAND PRIZE WINNER in the Monmouth Day Care Art

Journal contest. Other students whose art work was represented in the journal include: **Anjali Naranj, Penelope Buchanan, Ava Forbes, Remi Ryan, Ellie Colella, Felipe Solar Flores, Cecilia Conti, Shelly Vazquez, Catherine Medina, Adrianna Donato, Stacy Osorio-Perez and Brenna Kilcooley.**

more accomplishments on page 4

BELIEVE IN POWER



Spring Sports Highlights:

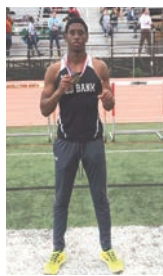
RBR athletes who committed to play sports in college next year include:

NAME	SPORT	COLLEGE
Brendan Loftus, Little Silver	Shotput and Discus	Dartmouth College
Aidan Kelly, Little Silver	Baseball	Salisbury University
Alaina DeRose, Little Silver	Cheerleading	Sacred Heart University
Jackie Prestininzi, Shrewsbury	Track	Bryant University
Jack Niesz, Red Bank	Football	Coastal Carolina
Donovan Turner, Shrewsbury	Football	Hartwick College
Jack Povey, Shrewsbury	Baseball	Villanova University
Evin Lawlor, Red Bank	Football	Fairleigh Dickinson University
Ka'shaun Turner, Red Bank	Football	East Stroudsburg University
Ryan McCarthy, Little Silver	Track and Field	University of Oregon
Nigel Mitchell, Red Bank	Football and Track	Tiffin University
Colin Chatto, Shrewsbury	Football	Bridgewater State University
Patrick Sullivan, Little Silver	Swimming	The College of New Jersey

more accomplishments continued from page 3

OUTDOOR TRACK

- **Nigel Mitchell** was named the Monmouth County 100m and 200m Champion, Shore Conference 100m and 200m Champion, New Jersey Group 3 Champion 100m and 200m. Additionally, Nigel broke the 200m school record with a time of 21.27
- **Brendan Loftus** was named the Central Jersey Group 3 Shot Put Champion
- **Gabe Kroll** broke the 400m school record with 48.99
- **Maggie Cahill** was named Central Jersey Group 3 100m Champion
- The Lady Bucs 4x100m relay team, **Maggie Cahill, La’Niyah Jackson, Desiree Marshall** and **Tara Crilly** broke the school record with a time of 48.86



BOYS’ TENNIS

- The team completed the season with a record of 13-7 and reached the second round of the Shore Conference Tournament and the States
- **Jake Cohen** was (1st Singles) runner up at the Monmouth County Tournament



GIRLS’ LACROSSE

- For the first time in RBR history, the Girls’ Lacrosse Team advanced to the semi-finals in the Shore Conference Tournament and the finals of the Central Jersey Group 3 State Tournament

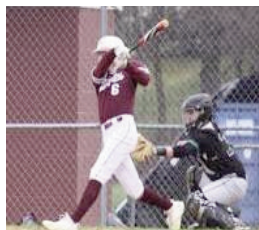
- **Claudia Kelly** scored her 100th career goal
- **Meghan Murray** broke the school record for career assists

BOYS’ LACROSSE

- The team played extremely competitive game in the NJSI-AA State Tournament vs Wall
- They experienced a four-game winning streak mid-season and during the season accumulated almost more wins than the last three seasons combined

BASEBALL

Senior **Jack Povey** attained his 200th career strikeout on May 15, 2019; he was named to the B North All-Division Team (second consecutive year) and the Third Team All-Shore



Congratulations to the RBR 2019 Inductees to our Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.



*Ashley Marinaccio
Judge Anthony Bruno
Michael Very
Taylore Fowler and
Michael Welsh*

BEST WISHES TO OUR RETIREES

EARLY EDUCATION TEACHER SUE EADS, AND GUIDANCE COUNSELOR MIKE DECOTIS BOTH ENJOYED A 24-YEAR LONG CAREER AT RBR. COMMUNITY INFORMATION OFFICER MARIANNE KLIGMAN RETIRES FROM RBR AFTER 13 YEARS.



Message from the Superintendent to the Class of 2019



Members of the Class of 2019, in addition to your families, the administration, teachers, counselors, coaches, and staff have all been devoted to your success. A lot has been expected of you but the hard work has paid off. You are ready to pursue your dreams and thrive in a complex and interdependent world.

At this school we celebrate democracy; we embrace diversity and inclusion; and in our shared work, we exemplify what excellence means in education.

You have all contributed to that proud legacy. When facing challenges and occasional setbacks, you’ve responded with determination and courage. We saw it in the grit evident every time the Buccaneers competed. You’ve brightened our world with artistic performances, academic achievement, and in service to our community.

You’ve earned multiple awards and scholarships. With Relay for Life you again led the effort to raise thousands to assist those struggling against cancer. RBR students once more played a central role in planning and carrying out the Ridge Road Run that raised over \$60,000 to support suicide prevention efforts. But it goes beyond fundraising, even though that work has been remarkable. It’s also about the compassion and commitment you have demonstrated in helping your fellow classmates and others.



We celebrate your completion of a challenging high school program, recognized nationally for its excellence. So graduation does mark an endpoint to an important phase in your lives; but more than this, your graduation represents the start of something new—new beginnings, new challenges, and new opportunities.

Members of the class of 2019, in lighting your own course, you also light the way for others and for all of us. I know that you will continue to hold up the high standards that have been set by your teachers and your families. As Bucs we strive—as we always have—to remain engaged, to serve, and to make our world a better place. Once a Buc, always a Buc.

All the best to you always and congratulations for a job well done. We are proud of you.



Red Bank Regional High School
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RBR is now on Facebook; go to the link on our website www.rbrhs.org

RBR Superintendent Dr. Louis Moore