Senior Awards & Scholarship Ceremony
Class of 2020

June 9, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Mahwah High School
Senior Awards Ceremony

Welcome ................................................................. Mr. John Pascale

National Anthem ...................................................... Miss Lydia Charyn (Class of 2020)

Principal’s Awards ...................................................... Mr. John Pascale

President’s Education Awards ...................................... Mrs. Linda Bohny

Co-curricular Awards .................................................. Mrs. Linda Bohny

Structured Learning Experience Award ........................ Mr. Joseph Cozine

Military Service Awards .............................................. Mr. Dominick Gliatta

U.S. Marine Corps Awards

U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award
This award is in recognition for academic achievement and leadership as a high school scholar.

U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award
This award is in recognition of a high school senior who participated in a school sponsored sport and exhibits courage, poise, self-confidence, and leadership.

U.S. Marines Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Music Excellence
This award is in recognition of a high school senior who holds a first chair position and capable of performing as a soloist with the band, and exhibits dedication and diligence towards his/her musical talents.
Testing Awards ................................................... Mr. Dominick Gliatta
National Merit Recognition Awards ..................... Mr. Dominick Gliatta
Business Education Awards ............................... Ms. Nikki Van Ess
Social Studies Awards ....................................... Ms. Nikki Van Ess
English Language Arts Awards .......................... Ms. Maureen Lynch
Academic Decathlon Awards ............................. Mrs. Christine Hartigan Miller
Mathematics Awards ........................................ Mrs. Danielle Poleway
Math League Awards ........................................ Mrs. Danielle Poleway
Integrated Design and Engineering Awards .......... Mr. Dennis Jarvis
Science Awards ............................................... Mr. Dennis Jarvis
Science League Awards .................................... Mr. Dennis Jarvis
Performing Arts Awards ................................... Mrs. Miriam Lezanski
Visual Arts Awards .......................................... Mrs. Miriam Lezanski
World Languages Awards ................................. Mrs. Miriam Lezanski
Physical Education Awards ............................... Mr. Roger Pelletier
Athletic Awards ............................................... Mr. Roger Pelletier
County Coaches Association Awards ................... Mr. Roger Pelletier
Presentation of Scholarships

Bergen County Coaches Association, Lou Lanzalotto Scholarship
This award is presented to one male student from each high school in Bergen County who displays sportsmanship, leadership, and participated in ten or more sports seasons during his athletic career.

Bergen County Directors of Guidance
This award is presented to a senior student who has demonstrated outstanding character and is continuing on to higher education.

Bergen County Women’s Coaches Association
The BCWCA awards one scholarship each year to a female student-athlete from each high school in Bergen County. This award is based on scholastic performance, leadership, athletic performance and multi-sport participation.

Bergen County Realtors Association Scholarship
The New Jersey Multiple Listing Service, in conjunction with the GBR Realtors Core Foundation, is very pleased to be able to sponsor 52 scholarships to our local public high schools for deserving seniors going on to college.

Craig Suhadolc Memorial Scholarship
Craig was a Mahwah High School student from the Class of 1987 who was tragically killed in a skiing accident during his senior year. Craig will always be remembered for his Mahwah High School pride and spirit.

Don and Meg Minassian Ice Hockey Memorial Scholarship
Don and Meg Minassian have promoted and fostered the love of ice hockey to the younger players of Mahwah and have given back to the Mahwah Ice Hockey Association through volunteerism. The award is based on what the students have done outside of their team responsibilities as a player, Captain or Assistant Captain.

Dr. Mark G. Cacciatore Memorial Scholarship
The Dr. Mark G. Cacciatore Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a Mahwah High School senior who has expressed a love of English; displayed strong academic performance in English Language Arts; realized the importance of education; and defied all odds by attending a 2 or 4 year college, university or higher educational institution after high school – all qualities Dr. Cacciatore held in high regard as an educator.

DZ Foundation Scholarship
This scholarship is given in memory of Daniel Zolotorofe, class of 2009. The scholarship is given to a student who has overcome adversity.

Elizabeth Ortiz Pride and Spirit Award
This scholarship is given in memory of Elizabeth Ortiz, Class of 2004 and proud Marching Thunderbird Alumni. Elizabeth was an extraordinary young woman whose intelligence, determination and bubbly personality were only matched by her unwavering kindness and compassion for others. During her short time on earth, Elizabeth had the innate ability to always put the needs of others first. This humility combined with her unique personality allowed her to positively impact the lives of everyone she met. As a testament to her character, it was
Elizabeth’s wish to create this scholarship in hopes that it could help another young Marching Thunderbird achieve their full potential and make their own positive impact on the world.

Frank Chamberlin Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to a student who has consistently demonstrated good work ethic and leadership qualities as seen through the eyes of teachers, coaches, and peers.

Frederick and Margaret Wehran Memorial Scholarship
The Frederick and Margaret Wehran Achievement Award Thunderbird Scholarship is in recognition of the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Wehran toward founding the Thunderbird Fund in 1959, and their promotion of higher education in the world of business among our young men and women.

Greater Ramsey UNICO Scholarship
UNICO is a nationwide service organization which promotes Italian-American heritage and supports cultural, educational, and community causes.

Howard Shaeffer Avery Memorial Scholarship
Mr. Avery was a Mahwah resident and a former member of the Mahwah Board of Education, whose words of encouragement helped many students achieve their goals. To honor the memory of their father, the Avery family continues to award an annual scholarship to a student who will be majoring in science. This year’s scholarship is in honor of Jane Vilmar, who was a Mahwah resident and family friend.

Jacqueline Sancetta Newhouse Memorial Scholarship
Jackie (Class of 1986) was known for her enthusiasm and energetic smile as a Mahwah High School cheerleader, and a source of great strength to her family and friends.

JoAnne A. Fox Memorial Scholarship
This scholarship is presented by the Mahwah Drama Club in memory of JoAnne A. Fox. It is awarded to students who participated in the Drama Club and will continue to study theater in college.

John F. Carty Memorial Scholarship
John was a remarkable educator and coach and admired by all for his dedication to the youth of Mahwah.

John Royle Rotary Scholarship
The award is named for Mr. Royle’s father who was a Rotarian for over 35 years. The scholarship is based on ability and contributions to the school and community.

Kinchley’s Sports and Scholastics Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to one female and one male student with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, strong community service and has earned at least two varsity letters.
Lightbridge Foundation Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to a student who will continue their studies in a recognized elementary or early childhood educational post-secondary program.

Mahwah Assistance Scholarship Organization Scholarship
The MASO I scholarship is awarded to a student with an outstanding academic average who has been selected by the high school staff and teachers as the student who represents the characteristics of the ideal Mahwah High School student.

Mahwah Assistance Scholarship Organization Scholarship II
The MASO II scholarship is awarded to a student who has faced the challenges of high school and has achieved the respect of teachers and staff, a student who models the characteristics of the student whom Mahwah High School works to encourage.

Mahwah Elks - The Paul Shorey Scholarship
This scholarship is based on community service.

Mahwah Fire Department Company #2 Scholarship in Memory of Fire Lieutenant Patrick Roe
This scholarship is presented in memory of deceased Brother Firefighter, Lieutenant Patrick L. Roe (Class of 1998). Patrick was a dedicated member of the fire company whom was lost in a tragic accident. This scholarship is given to the student who typifies the qualities of Patrick, including family values, integrity, and community service.

Mahwah High School Home and School Association Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to a student who has demonstrated a significant desire to enhance the Mahwah community.

Mahwah High School Sports Booster Club Scholarships
Fifteen scholarships are being awarded to Mahwah High School senior athletes who have demonstrated growth through sports.

Mahwah Music Boosters Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to a senior involved in the music program. To be eligible, the student must have taken a music course or be part of a school-sanctioned musical group such as the orchestra, chorus, marching band, or another college approved music-related activity.

Mahwah Policemen’s Benevolent Association #143
This scholarship has been established in memory of deceased police officers who have served the Township of Mahwah. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who intends to follow a program in Criminal Justice, Law or one of the Social Sciences at an accredited two or four year college.

Marcus Kayal Memorial Scholarship
This scholarship is given in memory of Marcus Kayal, MHS Class of 2021. This scholarship is given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated success, played soccer at MHS, has a passion for the game of soccer and embodies the character traits that reflect who Marcus was on and off the field, including leadership, respect, kindness, and dedication.
Michael Sargenti Memorial Scholarship
This scholarship is given in memory of Michael Sargenti, RRMS Class of 2017. This scholarship is given to a well-rounded student who demonstrates kindness and outstanding character.

Michele J. Szwed Memorial Scholarship
This scholarship is given in memory of Michele Szwed, Class of 1971. The scholarship is given to a student who is pursuing a B.A. or a B.F.A. in music at a 4 year college or conservatory.

Mickey Corcoran Scholarship
Mickey Corcoran was a coach, teacher, athletic director, referee, and leader in the Bergen County high school sports scene for over 70 years. This scholarship will recognize a student athlete who embodies the very characteristics by which Mickey lived his life.

Nicholas Lauerwald Scholarship
This scholarship is given in memory of Nicholas Lauerwald, Class of 2017. This scholarship is given to well-rounded students who demonstrate outstanding character, with an emphasis on kindness.

Ramsey Knights of Columbus Scholarship
This scholarship is intended for post-secondary use with any accredited college, vocational school, technical school or secretarial school.

Saddle River Valley Lions Clubs Scholarship
The Saddle River Valley Lions Charities, since 2001, have generously contributed to the Thunderbird Scholarship Fund for two students who have demonstrated community spirit.

Student Government Association Spirit Award
The Student Government Association awards two $250 scholarships to seniors on the basis of service to the school and school spirit. The scholarship is not based on grades but on their school spirit and service to their class or to Mahwah High School as a whole. The applicants are chosen by the Class Advisory Council in a blind screening.

Valley Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship
This scholarship is presented to a student who demonstrates excellent performance based on their academic achievements, extracurricular involvement including volunteering within their communities, and focus on pursuing a health-related area of study.
Presentation of Thunderbird Scholarships

The awards are privately funded by gifts and contributions, independent of the Mahwah Board of Education. Students shall either be in the Senior Class or a graduate of Mahwah High School, actively pursuing a full program in an accredited school above the secondary level.

Betsy Ross Home School Organization Scholarship
George Washington Home School Organization Scholarship
Joyce Kilmer Home School Organization Scholarship
Lenape Meadows Home School Organization Scholarship
Ramapo Ridge Home School Organization Scholarship

As a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Mahwah Home School Organizations, Betsy Ross, George Washington, Joyce Kilmer, Lenape Meadows, and Ramapo Ridge Schools each award two annual alumni scholarships.

Top Student Awards
These are presented to the five highest achieving students at Mahwah High School.

The Maxwell Riggsbee, Sr. Thunderbird Scholarship
In recognition of former Mahwah High School Guidance Director, Mr. Maxwell Riggsbee, Sr., a man of outstanding character. This scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates outstanding character and moral fiber in his/her pursuit of education.

Thunderbird Scholarships
These are presented to students who have displayed exemplary character, a strong performance in the classroom, and contributed positively to the environment of MHS.

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Linda A. Bohny, Assistant Principal
Dominick J. Gliatta, Director of Guidance
Roger Pelletier, Director of Athletics
Robert H. Mac Farran, School Security Officer
Joseph Cozine, Supervisor of Special Education 6-12
Ruth Davis, Supervisor of Technology Integration K-12
Dennis Jarvis, Supervisor of Science 6-12, Integrated Design and Engineering 9-12
Miriam Lezanski, Supervisor of World Languages 6-12, ESL K-12,
Performing and Visual Arts 9-12
Maureen Lynch, Supervisor of English Language Arts 6-12
Roger Pelletier, Supervisor of Physical Education and Driver Education 9-12
Danielle Poleway, Supervisor of Mathematics 6-12
Nikki Van Ess, Supervisor of Social Studies, 6-12, Business 9-12

Special thanks to
Anne Kitz
for creating the virtual awards ceremony video.