

National Honor Society
Teacher of the Year Speech
Sarah Conway



Teachers possess a gift, unlike any other profession. They encompass the ability to help guide and shape future generations. A teacher is driven by a fervor found within; they cultivate young minds, and, in doing so, become an essential part in the lives of their students. While there is an abundance of passionate and talented educators at Oyster Bay Highschool, this year, the seniors of National Honor Society have chosen to commemorate Mrs. Lauren Harnick.

Mrs. Harnick is an incredibly hardworking, integral member of the academic community at Oyster Bay Highschool. Her willingness to help her students strive for success does not go unrecognized as she continues to endlessly inspire her students to advance and prosper in all aspects of life.

Having had her as my own teacher in AP Government this past year, I can wholeheartedly say that she does not just teach; she

motivates her students to take an interest in the world around them and encourages them to take part in it. Mrs. Harnick is a mentor for her students. She prompts us to analyze and comprehend the bigger picture of the world around us and continuously encourages her students to aspire to be conduits for change. In the words of Dr. William Arthur Ward, “The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” Mrs. Harnick genuinely embodies all the qualities that make a teacher truly great, and, on behalf of the National Honor Society, we would like to thank her for that.

While we honor a current Oyster Bay High school staff member today, we also say goodbye to another: Dr. Peter Rufa. From chorus teacher, to Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts, to our very own assistant principal, Dr. Rufa has proven to be a diligent and ardent member of the Oyster Bay community. His love for this community and the music and art programs in it is what has made him such an essential component of this school.

I know that Dr. Rufa will bring the same warmth and earnestness that he has shown us to others in his future endeavors. In the words of Marcel Proust, “The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking out new landscapes but in having new eyes.” While you happen to be moving to a new landscape, you bring your old eyes with you too. You bring the same dedicated work ethic wherever you go, and I know that it will serve you well. We wish you the best of luck, Dr. Rufa. Thank you for everything that you have done.