

## Salutatorian Address 2019

Michael Biggiani



I want to begin by extending a warm welcome to the family and friends of my fellow graduates, our

Superintendent Dr. Seinfeld, our Assistant Superintendents, Dr. Mulhall and Mr. Cipriani, Principal Lasher, Assistant Principals Dr. Rufa and Dr. Gonzalez, our Board of Education, and our distinguished faculty for being here for this momentous occasion.

I am truly honored to be named the Salutatorian for the Class of 2019 and to have the opportunity to speak before you today. This is an honor I will always cherish. It is a privilege to be part of a class of such talented students. Whether performing in the classroom, theater, or athletic arena, playing an instrument, singing a song, or creating a masterpiece of art, my classmates display their talents every day.

Looking back, I am sure we all agree we had a very memorable last year in Oyster Bay High School. With the excitement of the great Billy Joel coming through the doors of our high school during the dedication of the new music wing, the near perfect season of our terrific football team, the smash hit of Legally Blond, and so many students being recognized by Nassau County, Long Island, and New York State for their tremendous accomplishments.

Needless to say, the future looks extremely bright for the Class of 2019 as we look forward to the new and exciting challenges that lie ahead. Remember President Abraham Lincoln's words, "You can have anything you want if you want it badly enough. You can be anything you want to be, do anything you set out to accomplish if you hold to that desire with singleness of purpose".

Class of 2019, we must pursue our dreams no matter what obstacles stand in our way. Problems, challenges and doubts will confront us. Be strong and be courageous. We must continue to work hard at our crafts and always believe in ourselves. We must always approach everything ahead of us with integrity. If we do so, we will find success. I know you will all fulfill your dreams and make your mark on the world in whatever you choose to do!

As I set out for the University of Virginia this fall, I want to thank my parents and my brother Kevin. I could not have succeeded as I have done without your constant love and support.

I want to give a big thank you to all my talented teachers for imparting their knowledge and inspiring me to learn. I owe much of my success and my achievements to all of you and I am grateful for all you have done. The faculty of the Oyster Bay East Norwich School District truly cares about their students and always inspires us to achieve. Being part of this school district is being

part of a large and caring family.

Our fantastic music department played such a large part in my education here at Oyster Bay. I thank my Vernon music teachers, Mr. Devassy and Mrs. Macy for introducing me to the trombone, Mr. Femino, Mr. Giannetta, Dr. Dissinger, Ms. Kozee, Ms. Murphy and especially Mr. Sisia for a music program at the high school which is second to none and not only educational but a lot of fun. I want to give a special thank you to Mr. Sisia. The last four years playing music under your direction have been amazing. You expose the band students to many educational, fun and inspirational experiences while always pushing them to be the best that they can be. Thank you.

In addition, I want to thank Dr. Seinfeld, the Administration and the Board of Education for running our school district so smoothly and giving unconditional support to a curriculum that promotes success for all students. We must commend Dr. Rufa, Dr. Gonzalez, all the Department Supervisors and the entire faculty for everything they do for the students, but especially Mrs. Lasher, who is present at every single school event and is always there to show her endless unconditional support to each and every single student of this entire school.

Class of 2019, remember the words of our own Marie Catherine Colvin,

“Be passionate and be involved in what you believe in, and do it as thoroughly and honestly and fearlessly as you can.”

I conclude with an inspirational poem I found online.

“Now is the time for us to shine. The time when our dreams are within reach and possibilities are vast. Now is the time for all of us to become the people we’ve always dreamed of being. This is your life. You’re here! You matter! And the world is waiting.”

Baymen, go out in the world and reach for the stars!!! Thank you, and  
Congratulations, Class of 2019.

