Leaders of the Class

Mary Foxen
Valedictorian

During her four years at Garden City High School, Mary has made her mark as a leader and as a changemaker. Mary served as president of the National Honor Society, captain of the fencing and volleyball squads and even started the Garden City High School chapter of Girls Who Code Club. You can add track onto her list of activities, making her a three-sport athlete for all of her four years and 12 seasons.

Mary's love for sports was evident in her role as editor of the Sports and Community sections of the school newspaper. She participated in the Columbia University Science Honors Program, was a peer educator for three years and tutors five days a week. She also volunteers at Mercy Medical Center, both in the emergency room and at the front desk.

"Rarely have I come across a student with such superior talents who presents as humble and modest as Mary," Tim Casale, Mary's guidance counselor, said. "She will graduate Garden City High School with broad-based achievements that have touched students and faculty in nearly every area of our building."

One of Mary's fondest memories from Garden City High School came in her junior year, during engineering class. "My group worked together to create an autonomous transfer system that produced an original piece of 'artwork' using robot arms and vex parts," Mary recalls. "We all had fun with the entire process, and I loved working together to see how far we could push ourselves with a small assignment."

Mary will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has also accepted the NROTC scholarship. She is planning on majoring in mechanical engineering.

"I owe everything to my teachers, friends, family and coaches who have given me endless support and guidance for these past four years," Mary said. "I will never be able to show just how grateful I am to have grown up in such an encouraging community which has prepared and inspired me to pursue my own interests."

Katherine Staub
Salutatorian

During her four years at Garden City High School, Katherine has been named a National Merit finalist, earned a perfect score in the ACT exam and was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Latin honor societies. She is also a member of the school's Latin Cerramen and math teams.

She spent much of her time volunteering in the community, supporting families of children with special needs through St. Anne's Church, and distributing food and gift donations through the Loaves and Fishes Ministry. An accomplished lacrosse and soccer player, Katherine captained both the JV and varsity lacrosse squads and was named defensive player of the year in an elevated lacrosse league. She was named a News 12 Scholar Athlete for soccer and also plays for the Garden City Centennials travel team.

"Katherine's demeanor belies so many outstanding characteristics," James Malone, her guidance counselor, said. "With her humble, low-key presence, it is hard to recognize the depth of her strength as a superb student, an accomplished athlete and an outstanding leader. She is a confident and highly capable young woman who can achieve even the loftiest of goals."

One of Katherine's fondest memories from Garden City High School was when she signed up for Latin on a whim, during her freshman year. She remained enrolled all four years of high school. "I love the unique experience of this class and appreciate the dedication and energy Magistra Durkin, one of my favorite teachers at the high school, brings to the classroom," she said. "I'm so happy I took this class."

Katherine will attend University of Virginia. She is undecided in her major at this time.

"Academically, the wide range of classes offered and the committed teachers have inspired me to try new things and taught me not to limit myself," Katherine said. "The community within Garden City Schools has shown me the importance of support and the value of relationships."

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Dear Community Members,

Welcome to the Summer 2020 edition of On The Line, which dedicate to our graduating class. On behalf of the Board of Education, administration and faculty, congratulations to the Garden City High School Class of 2020.

I have only had the good fortune of being with this group for two years, but one thing I have experienced in talking to seniors, their parents, teachers and others is how optimistic and resilient they are. This is a group that has lived through some historic times: born in the shadow of 9/11, growing up through the transformative technology revolution and now living through a pandemic. I’ve seen their grace and poise during the school year and I could not be prouder.

I also see a vast array of talent in this class. I see artists who draw, paint and sculpt, industrial and graphic designers, film directors, photographers and fashion designers, each vulnerable but not afraid to share their unique perspectives of the world.

I see scholars, engineers, computer scientists and researchers. I see athletes and musicians — but in everyone, I see caring young people who reach out to help others.

As the Class of 2020 moves on to the next phase of their lives, I urge each member to carry their optimism and resilience with them. I am confident that our graduates will meet their future with the same grace and poise that I have witnessed and lead their lives with purpose and intention. They are our future leaders, our beacon of hope, and they will make us all better.

I wish you all health and happiness for those remaining days of summer.

Sincerely,
Kusum
Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.

Class Gift
$3,000 to the Jamie and Paige Malone Foundation

Keynote speaker and English teacher Nancy Fleming, the final speaker of the day, lauded the class for its support for one another and also advised them to guard against complacency.

"Many people settle in jobs that they do not fully enjoy," she said, "yet if you follow your most intense obsessions mercilessly, you will live the life you not only want to be living, but ought to be living."