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WALLENPAUPACK AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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February 13, 2023

Dear Wallenpaupack Community:

It is our belief that our students experience success in different ways as they progress through their schooling. For some students, success is highlighted through academic achievements. For others, success is achieved through experiences offered in athletics or other co-curricular endeavors and competitions. As we began thinking of ways to determine a selection process of Commencement speakers for the Class of 2023, we wanted to make sure the successes of our students are at the forefront of the decision-making process.

The Administration, in conjunction with the Senior Class Officers, have determined that *all* graduating seniors in the Class of 2023 can apply to be considered as a Commencement speaker. In previous years, the honor of speaking at Commencement was reserved for the Class President, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian. This year, the Class President will speak along with three at-large representatives from each of our three College and Career Academies.

Applications will become available to seniors beginning on March 1, 2023. The first step in the process is to respond to one of four essay prompts that in some way highlight the student's success as a student in Wallenpaupack Area School District. All essays will be blind scored by a committee against a rubric that will be available in the application packet. Students who meet the cut-off score will be invited to participate in the next step, which is the submission of their Commencement speech. The speech will also be graded against a rubric. Students who meet the cut-off score in this step will be invited to submit a video of the speech, which will also be graded against a rubric. The final selections will be made and announced on Friday, June 9, 2023.

With Paupack Pride,

Christopher Caruso, Ed.D.
Principal

Grace Steffen
President, Class of 2023