



JCRC-LI PRESENTS LONG ISLAND'S

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION

In partnership with

New York State Senate and Assembly Members
Representing Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Student Biographies

This annual program honors the memory of those lost in the Holocaust and recognizes Long Island youth working to create a more civil society.

Thursday, April 15, 2021

www.jcrcli.org



Baldwin High School

Kourtney Bobb

Kourtney has been an active member of numerous outreach programs, such as Key Club, that perform service projects within the community; Athletes Helping Athletes, educating elementary students about the importance of good sportsmanship, perseverance, and the dangers of drugs; the Principal's Leadership Team; the Student Advisory Board, and near and dear to her *Be.The.Change*, a program she founded, that provides tutoring and mentoring as well as service projects tailored to the community's needs. As the program's Chief Executive Officer, Kourtney has organized and facilitated many of these service projects and runs the group's Blog.

Brooke DeLuca

Brooke is currently on the Principal's Advisory Council and serves as a Senior Ambassador, working along-side the Principal on various building issues. Brooke works with representatives of Northwell-Cohen as an anti-bullying ambassador on how to mitigate bullying in school and promote a healthy school environment for all students. Additionally, she has volunteered as a Counselor at the Baldwin Summer Program the past two years. Brooke also volunteers as an active listener for the online program 7 Cups of Tea, listening to people in need of free online service for counseling regarding their mental health or life issues.

Tess Ferguson

Tess worked alongside one of her friends who founded her own youth led blog called *Be.The.Change*. She has published work regarding social, environmental, and personal health issues. She has participated in the Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention. Mental health advocacy has become a strong passion of hers and she strives to bring awareness to this topic that impacted her personally. She is the President of Athletes Helping Athletes, a Certified HIV/AIDS Peer Educator and Executive Board Member. Tess has worked to facilitate workshops for underclassmen on various aspects of teen health issues and decision-making skills. She is on the Principal's Leadership Committee and serves as a Senior Ambassador, working to create and enforce the No Place for Hate initiatives and enhance cultural awareness within the school.

John F. Kennedy High School

Samantha Einbinder

Samantha has been a part of the Nassau County Youth Council organizing events that focus on mental health. For the past three years she has volunteered to teach dance weekly. Additionally, she is working with the Lymphoma & Leukemia Society and has helped raise over \$50,000 for the organization. Samantha is also a member of Key Club and has engaged in a variety of service projects. Lastly, as a member of the Student Government, she has participated in holiday food drives to benefit local families.

Rachel Nossen

This past September, the school newspaper published Rachel's article expressing her opinion on the gender bias in sports our school and community continue to perpetuate. Rachel demanded that the local newspapers and announcements stop using the term "Lady Cougars" and instead simply call us "Cougars". The impact was immediate. First, she received emails and was interviewed by the Merrick Herald. Then, the county newspaper announced that they now recognize this bias due to the persuasive words of her argument and will stop using this term.

Layla Schechner

Layla learned about Sunrise Day Camp where children going through chemo and their siblings go to summer camp for free and knew she wanted to help. She conducted a Virtual Turkey Trot this fall and raised \$13,000 for Sunrise Day Camp. She is also the community service coordinator for Student Government and helped spearhead a cookie fundraiser for Valentine's Day, a penny wars competition, and soon a Spin for Sunrise event where all proceeds will go to Sunrise Day Camp.

Brentwood High School

Ezequiel Diaz

Ezequiel's fellowship in My Brother's Keeper (MBK) is what sets him apart from the other students. As part of MBK, Ezequiel has worked to benefit young men of color in his school and community. Ezequiel went to Brentwood's many elementary schools and local laundromats to read to younger children. Through his involvement in MBK, Ezequiel also had the opportunity to attend multiple conferences. Ezequiel's mentorship and guidance to future generations is an invaluable part of MBK and he honorably wants to continue to serve others and the community by becoming a police officer.

Sanford H. Calhoun High School

Amritha Jacob

Amritha is an active member of Calhoun Model Congress. She began volunteering for a local senator whose win was in part due to her efforts. She participated in local rallies to help increase funding for local public schools and proposed bills to help low-income students be able to go to college. At Yale Model Congress she was awarded "Best Legislator" on her committee. Amritha did an in-depth Ted Ed talk about implicit bias - highlights of which she delivered again in a speech to the Calhoun community during our first ever "Culture Day." Amritha has become a vocal and active member of Long Island's Erase Racism Student Task Force.

Joan Mesy

Joan joined International Buddy Club (IBC) as a sophomore and has grown to become an active and passionate president of the club. Joan has helped the club to familiarize members with various world cultures, and as IBC president and member of Long Island's Erase Racism Student Task Force, Joan has also aided in the development of workshops and trainings regarding culture, racism, and discrimination for staff and students, K-12. She often becomes the leader who can bring diverse groups of students together to get the job done.

Jordan Novak

Jordan was chosen as one of six Student Leaders to help create a program where students assist students with everyday challenges. She presented the program to freshman classes hoping that it will ease stress and anxiety as they transition from middle school into high school. She helped to transfer this program into a presentation that will be used by other schools, winning her and her fellow leaders a spot at the LI Youth Summit. Jordan has worked to introduce The Cinderella Project which brings together all of the resources needed to help underprivileged students in Brooklyn prepare for a prom. She and her fellow leaders often act as an extension of the Counseling and Wellness Staff in school.

Commack High School

Benjamin Tortora

During the pandemic lockdown Ben single-handedly began a Facebook program where community members could adopt a graduating senior. He was recognized for his efforts by the Board of Education and a local radio station. Ben's current projects include volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club of Oyster Bay and tutoring young students. He also volunteers with Birthday Wishes of Long Island, supporting children afflicted with childhood cancers, and is an organizer of the Child Life program at Stony Brook Hospital, creating and delivering gift bags for children undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School

Jada Angel

Jada is a member of One Mind Club, Key Club, Class of 2021 Vice President, National Honor Society, Voice to Voice Women's Empowerment, Varsity Club, Booster Club, Cheerleading, and Winter Track team. Each of these organizations has the common goal of improving society by teaching empathy and compassion to its members. Jada serves as the President of the One Mind Club whose mission is to create understanding and unity amongst the diverse student body population. Student led and organized activities foster trust and help form new friendships. Jada has dedicated countless hours ensuring the success of this program even by organizing activities remotely during the pandemic.

Jennifer Calderon

Jennifer has devoted countless hours helping others by participating in the Trash for Cash program which recycles bottles in order to clean up the earth and donates the proceeds for needy students. As a member of the Madrigals, she has participated in events to help spread cheer throughout the community singing for senior citizen groups, church groups, and as a member of the Tri M Honor society she has inspired and helped younger students with their music education. This year, she has been selected to sing the National Anthem for the Town of Babylon's Women's History Month Celebration.

Yessica Ortiz Max

Yessica is a compassionate individual who has participated in several clubs in the school which are aimed at helping others. She was a member of the newly arrived club, a group that focuses on helping newly arrived immigrants' transition to life in the United States. There, she gave hope to others who had completed the difficult journey to the country by sharing her own story. In addition, she has been an active member of the Spanish club and has volunteered in various community service events which focus on helping others, including helping the elderly and other groups in our community.

East Meadow High School

Jeremy Goldstein

Samantha Goldstein

Dylan Mednick

Dylan is currently President of our EPIC (Expressing Pride in Israeli Culture) Club. Dylan was chosen by his peers to be President, and Jeremy and Samantha are Co-Vice Presidents getting ready to take over for Dylan after he graduates this spring. Throughout the school year, EPIC runs several events, including educational presentations, outside speakers, and fun activities. All three immediately stepped into their leadership roles by setting up meetings, preparing for guest speakers, and rallying students together to participate in school-wide events.

This year, because of the pandemic, the club has been unable to meet in person. But rather than let the club dissolve, they organized various virtual meetings and events, including "Jewish Jeopardy." While it's been difficult to adapt to this new way of running clubs and activities, Dylan, Jeremy, and Sam have done their best to keep members engaged, with promises of next year returning to a more normal club.

East Rockaway High School

Clare Acuti

Clare was recommended to represent East Rockaway as a moderator for the Island-wide program called "Team Up for Unity." She sat in on a training session and learned how to promote equality and anti-racism across high school sports. Each month, two students are chosen to moderate a discussion among athletes, coaches, administrators, etc. via Zoom. Clare attended the first session and is awaiting her turn to moderate in the months to come. In the meantime, she will be an active participant in these discussions. The topics that will be discussed include anti-bullying, anti-racism, DASA violations, LGBTQI issues, etc.

Madeleine Prucha

Madeleine recently participated in the Model G20 Summit (Climate Summit) and served as the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, where she was responsible for creating policy to communicate climate change to the South African public and for negotiating with other groups. Madeleine's team earned the "Most Outstanding Delegation." Madeleine is involved in many extra curriculums including but not limited to Key Club, Mock Trial, DECA, the ERSD newspaper-The *Gull*, Varsity Cheer, Science Research, and National Honors Society.

Farmingdale High School

Shuana Champagnie

Shuana is the current President of the Ambassadors' Club and has been a member for the past three years. As President, Shuana leads discussions on social issues and organizes fundraisers for said issues. Shuana has also taken part in the Adopt-A-Survivor Program. As a participant in that program, she met with first and second-generation Holocaust survivors to hear their stories. Shuana's goal in that program was to become an Ambassador for the survivors to ensure that their stories are heard well after the survivors are gone.

Floral Park Memorial High School

Brentney Josephs

A few of the community service and volunteer activities Brentney committed herself to include but are not limited to: The E.R.A.S.E. Racism project, running the carnival booth for the Floral Park community, assisting with the Rotary Food Foundation, participation in climate change presentations, Homecoming, Spirit Day as Vice-President of Student Council, as well as participation in a joint Adelphi University choir performance.

Jake Goldberg

Jake is a Hebrew School volunteer and Honor Society tutor. He is a leader of the Floral Park Memorial Mock Trial team and a member of the World Language Honor Society. Outside of school he participates in the Junior Achievement Program.

Daniella Zacharis

Daniella has volunteered in her community to help fundraise for breast cancer for the past seven years. She organizes the fundraiser and makes survivor bracelets and ornaments to raise money for the cause. On every level, Daniella is enthusiastic and responsible. She is a mature, motivated, and self-confident young woman.

Freeport High School

Shyanne Gardner

Shyanne is a young woman who is mature beyond her years and headed for true success. Her inquisitive nature and her innate intelligence are remarkable. She has held a leadership position in the Freeport High School Student Government for the past two years. Shyanne is a rare combination of intelligence and benevolence and is sure to bring positive change to an uncertain world.

Brenna Igneri

Brenna is an academic achiever with a unique social awareness. Her maturity allows her to explore topics and issues with an adult perspective and extraordinary humanitarian angle. Brenna's dedication to her studies is matched by her dedication to social causes. She holds a leadership position in the Freeport High School Student Government and has participated in numerous community service activities throughout her high school career.

Jillian Igneri

Jillian consistently demonstrates a high level of intellectual curiosity and achievement. She is a socially conscious individual who dedicates her time to bettering her community. She holds a leadership position in the Freeport High School Student Government, dedicating herself to the Breaking Borders Program. She is kind, caring, and truly considerate of others.

Sameerah Lawal

Sameerah is active in a meaningful way in extracurricular activities. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Government, and Peer Leaders. Sameerah takes part in the Breaking Borders Program and Anti-Bullying Program. She is dedicated to her studies and helping those in need in the community.

John L. Miller Great Neck North High School

Chelsea Cohen

As the recipient of both racist as well as sexist remarks, Chelsea is adamant that change needs to occur. She has organized various speeches and walks to educate others about what racism and sexism really look like. She is also a founding member of the North High School No Place for Hate Club and member of the Gay Straight Alliance. With her diverse background Chelsea serves as an incredible liaison for these causes and hopes to continue in the field of human rights law so she can instill strength in others while creating policies to help those in need. She has worked with the NYS Governor's Youth Council helping to organize town halls and drafting a policy recommendation to the state.

Ellie Lampione

Ellie is fiercely opposed to all forms of prejudice that wrack society and is always looking to educate herself and others in hopes of breaking down barriers and making us more unified. As a member of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), Ellie has devoted a significant amount of time to make this small club a presence in our school and although it is a subtle one, if one student feels safer as a result of their existence, it was worth her time and effort. Ellie has a strong interest in human rights and reformed the defunct Amnesty International Club. Currently the president of the club, Ellie enjoys discussing important issues and sharing ideas with her peers through their intense discussions.

Lauren Murphy

For the past six years Lauren has been a member of the Junior Firefighters and last year was elected as captain. Lauren also works with the Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation, trying to help this population in any way possible. She spends countless hours performing and working beside our music teacher organizing instruments and helping other students who are struggling. To round out her activities within Great Neck North High, Lauren has worked as a Peer Leader within the Advisory Program.

Giselle Rodrigues

For several years, Giselle has volunteered her time through her church, performing various acts of community service on a regular basis. She is also incredibly passionate about the Black Lives Matter movement, attending many peaceful protests and supporting her friends and her community. As an active member of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), Giselle stands up for the LGBTQ+ population, helps educate others, and provides nurturing, support, and encouragement to students in our school who struggle with sexual identity or are in the minority.

Half Hollow Hills High School East

Rayanna Shwom

Rayanna has been involved in multiple facets of making the community a more inviting and inspirational locale. Her participation in Budding Friendships, where she has served as President, gained her recognition as recipient of the Suffolk County Anti-Bias Award. She has also spent a large portion of her time working with the UJA-Federation Witness Project, connecting teenagers with Holocaust Survivors to continue the remembrance of this horrific tragedy for future generations. Additionally, she began a pandemic initiative, communicating with individuals in assisted living housing, in hopes of creating some sense of normalcy. This was accomplished through pen pal writing.

Half Hollow Hills High School West

Maxwell Schriro

Max has worked to break down gender bias by becoming a member of WISE: Women In Science and Engineering and also Glamour Gals, where he spends time chatting with the elderly at a local nursing home and learned to give manicures! Max is also an upstander. Over the summer, a senior group chat was formed to discuss upcoming events. The chat soon took off in an unintended direction, becoming hostile and inappropriate. Max took it upon himself to remove those who were attacking others in the group and reported the texts. Throughout it all, Max remained calm and poised, never stooping to their level and always standing strong in his actions.

Theodore Schriro

A member of Key Club and Glamour Gals since tenth grade, Theo broke the typical gender norms of this club and spent time at a local nursing home getting to know residents and even giving manicures! He has also volunteered through LI Helping Hands, Island Harvest, and as a Junior Volunteer at Huntington Hospital. Theo also earned The George Washington Book Award which recognizes high school juniors who embrace the George Washington drive and spirit through academic excellence, leadership outside of the classroom, diversity of thought, and ability to put knowledge into action.

Harborfields High School

Aliyah Steinberg

Aliyah is extremely involved with UJA-Federation where she is a member of the Witness Project. Aliyah meets with a Holocaust survivor biweekly to talk about her story and experiences. She is currently working on putting together a documentary to help share the survivor's story with the next generation. During quarantine, Aliyah also became involved with Black Lives Matter. She created a short documentary with her friend which was then turned into an article written by Steve Israel and published in The Hill.

Huntington High School

Yolani Cabrera

Yolani is a New World Mentor and has run activities that bridge the two cultures. Yolani assists English learners with any type of issue they may have, school-related or otherwise. She was selected as a delegate for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI) which brings issues that face the Hispanic community to the forefront. She has met with local government officials to discuss potential bills and supported them in a public forum last year in Albany. Yolani also interns in a local community activist's office where they help community members with food, clothing, and gifts for the holidays.

Jorge Parada Cisneros

Jorge has been extremely active in the Tri-Community and Youth Agency (Tri CYA). He tutored students there as well as served as board president. In his roles in Student Government and the National Italian Honor Society, Jorge has accomplished many positive actions for the community. He has also served as a parent liaison at English Language Learners (ELL) parent meetings.

Yanira Rivera Ronquillo

Yanira participates in many club activities that provide help to the community such as food drives, creating Covid angels for first responders, visiting and working with senior citizens, creating greeting cards for senior citizens and Newcomer English learners for holidays, running holiday meets with English learners to welcome and share traditions, distributing blankets to people in need, and making and distributing ear savers to hometown heroes. At her church, she is the director of a club that includes making and distributing boxes of food for the needy. Yanira is also one of the parent liaisons in the New World Club where she answers questions parents may have from the student perspective.

Locust Valley High School

Jessica Chi

Jessica was instrumental in bringing more cultural awareness to the high school and was able to turn this into the Culture Club. She felt that students do not share their culture and it is important for students to learn from each other. Her ideas to bring more cultural awareness to the school have been an amazing new addition.

Isabella McGlone

Bella has a desire to be part of creating change in the world. She helped create the Global Students Society creating a safe space for students to express their opinions on topical situations while learning about their cultural implications. The club has raised funds for wildfire efforts in Australia and Covid relief efforts in Venezuela. Her favorite quote is “The world you desire can be won. It exists...it is possible...it’s yours.”

Sabrina Raichoudhury

Sabrina and friends started the Global Students Society, educating students on cultural diversity and helping underrepresented groups to be heard. She is a well-rounded student excelling academically, musically, and linguistically. Her goal is to make a big impact on the world and believes that there are many ways to do that.

Longwood High School

Amber Caldas

Amber participates in many clubs including Students Building Bridges. She created a school-wide activity for the Art and Art Honor Society, called *Price, Spirit, HeART* where she encouraged all students to decorate a paper heart and used those personalized, artistic expressions to decorate the school. Amber has been active in Best Buddies working to build one-to-one friendships between people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and their peers.

General Douglas MacArthur High School

David DeRienzo

David is extremely involved with MacArthur Key Club, New York District of Key Club, and Key Club International. His Eagle Scout project involves adding 400 cubic feet of growing space to his temple's garden. All the food grown is donated to food insecure congregation members and to Island Harvest. He is working to make the garden accessible to those with physical disabilities and increasing the variety of crops that can be donated.

Mineola High School

Delanie Landivar

Delanie is one of the most dedicated volunteers in the Student Service Center. She is a regular participant in the Ronald McDonald Dinner Project, cooking dinners for families whose children are being treated at Cohen's Children's Medical Center. Her activities that focus on service to children include Gingerbread University, babysitting for various parent meetings, and helping at a carnival for at-risk children. Delanie is a regular participant in SPARC which brings students together for a monthly service project. She is an active volunteer with the Mary Brennan INN Youth Board, and very close to her heart is Nursing Home Visitors.

Oceanside High School

Emma Romano

Emma developed a program called HUMANS OF OCEANSIDE. To date, she has diligently worked with over 25 different individuals sharing a wide spectrum of personal experiences while providing the subjects with a safe, secure, and welcoming environment to be heard. Topics that the interviewees brought up are discrimination, loneliness during the pandemic, eating disorders, as well as positive stories about passions that drive these subjects in their daily lives. She has built bridges between cliques within the high school and shown people there is a way to share your uniqueness. These interviewees feel more understood by their peers and talk to kids that they never spoke with before because of Emma's work.

Oyster Bay High School

Muskan Kumar

Muskan is involved with the implementation of Breaking Borders, an interscholastic club that meets several times a year. Muskan is an active member of the Be the Change Club, Undecided Club, SADD Club, and is the founding member of the Social Justice Club. In addition to all of this, she is an outstanding student leader as evidenced by her role as the student advisor to the middle level SADD club for the past three years.

Riverhead High School

Azharia Allen

Azharia is a head junior volunteer at The Butterfly Effect Project in Riverhead. She has had the opportunity to be a positive role model as well as creating a safe space for young girls to dream and succeed. Azharia has volunteered many hours helping with food drives for her community during the pandemic. She also dedicated her time to help the Council for Unity by presenting at Riverhead School Districts 2021 Black History Month Celebration.

Amiyah McDaniel

Amiyah has been an officer for student government and has participated in the Council for Unity for the past for two years. Amiyah has been a great leader during class and at school events. Amiyah has volunteered her time to help present on behalf of Council for Unity for Riverhead School Districts 2021 Black History Month Celebration.

Deonte Ramos

While being a part of student government Deonte has helped in fundraising for many events, such as ALS Ride for Life, a food drive for the local food pantry, and high school Angel Tree for the local homeless shelters. He also dedicated his time to help the Council for Unity by presenting at Riverhead School Districts 2021 Black History Month Celebration.

Smithtown High School East

Olivia Scioscia

Olivia's warmth, honesty, and intellectual curiosity make her an asset to any classroom. In her psychology course, she truly wanted to explore human behavior and interaction. She genuinely cared about others. In her Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights elective, Olivia was always ready to tackle the tough questions. She wanted to ensure the phrase "never again" wasn't just a hope, but a reality.

Genevieve Talento

In the Social Studies Honor Society, Genevieve currently serves as an officer, helping to guide the course and direction of the organization. More importantly, she readily worked with other students in a kind, compassionate, and collaborative manner. Genevieve was also selected into the district's leadership program and consistently rises to the challenge of making her school and community places to learn and grow.

Kylie Williams

Kylie sincerely cares about the subjects discussed in her U.S. History and Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights classes. Her empathy truly emerges through her writing. Whether it was an assignment on the Greensboro Four or the Kindertransport, Kylie accurately understands how our past should be used to make for a brighter future.

Smithtown High School West

Michaela Dugan

Michaela is currently working on a project to raise money for Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism (NSSA), a school for students with autism. She is the creator and chief organizer of the project. She is also one of the lead students to organize the delivery of 54 care packages to ICU staff at St. Catherine's during December.

McKenzie Luna

As Vice President of Interact, McKenzie was meticulous when it came to sorting food for the annual Thanksgiving food drive. She helped create a "Positivity Mural" outside of the school's Social Studies office, and she organized the stuffed animal collection for the Teddy Bear Brigade which provides stuffed animals to children in war torn countries, or have recently experienced natural disasters.

Abby Rindfleish

Abby is one of the lead students who put together the "Positivity Mural" outside of the Social Studies office. She is always helping with any Leadership or Interact project in the school. She was hands-on during the food drive, actively involved in Student Council, Relay for Life, and is currently helping with the selling of Yuda Bands as part of an Interact project to raise money for a student's education in Guatemala.

Syosset High School

Laci Janus

Laci has participated in the UJA-Federation's Witness Project which connects students with Holocaust survivors. She worked with students and faculty to expand the current Holocaust Remembrance Day program acting as a liaison with the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove to connect students with survivors. This project has created a vehicle that fosters priceless intergenerational conversations between high school students and survivors.

Valley Stream Central High School

Mary Chong

Our 2021 salutatorian, Mary always strives to outperform herself, but she never puts anyone down. She was in charge of the blood drive and gave countless hours planning the drive from start to finish. Even more amazing is that Mary was born in Hong Kong and overcame a language barrier and adapted to a totally new home and culture while still valuing where she is from.

Walt Whitman High School

Ariana Levin

Ariana is a committed, genuine activist in the Town of Huntington. Her 2020 Juneteenth Long Island Unity March was a tremendous success, both in educating members of our community about the importance of this day in our collective history, and in bringing awareness of the importance of recognizing it to our state and local leadership. Ari has already begun planning for this year's event and she is harnessing smart technology to reach as many potential participants as possible. Her active leadership in R.I.S.E, including panel discussions, demonstrates how she encourages learning and functions as an incredible role model to our students and community.

John Rodriguez

John is a Boy Scout and is actively working towards his Eagle Scout Award. For the community service portion, he plans to hold a dictionary drive and give the collected dictionaries to those who may be struggling to learn English. John has been an altar server since seventh grade in his parish, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church. He has participated in numerous community service activities, including park and beach cleanups, food drives, and fundraisers. John is most proud of his participation in Rotary Youth and their Leadership Awards - an experience he was chosen for to help students expand their skills as a leader while further developing their communication and problem-solving skills.

Daniela Santoiemma

Daniela is a caring and kind person who tries to create opportunities for others to succeed. As a volunteer at Helping Hand Rescue Mission with various community events such as clothing donations, food drives, and holiday events she has immersed herself in bettering her community. She loves teaching younger Girl Scouts in the South Huntington Service Unit about scouting and camping skills. Daniela even helped create a camping manual for younger troops to teach them everything that she's learned so they too can be successful at camping.

Ward Melville High School

Riley Meckley

Riley is a dedicated member of the Town of Brookhaven Youth Board advising the Brookhaven Youth Bureau about issues affecting youth. Riley is also on the Junior Advisory Board of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove participating in meetings to discuss youth discrimination and tolerance for high school students on Long Island. Riley is an active member of Patriot Pride Club at Ward Melville High School. In this role, she takes a community focus, helping local veterans from the LI Veterans Home in Stony Brook.

Wyandanch Memorial High School

Dennis Anariba-Funez Deborah Villette

Deborah and Dennis are involved and actively participate every day with the morning "Support Emotional Learning (SEL) Show." This is a show that supports student needs during the pandemic. The program is under the Counseling Department; however, it is the students who lead the discussion and bring in their views on a variety of topics that are discussed for the day. Both Deborah and Dennis motivate and encourage their peers to become involved with the discussions.