



PHOTO BY HENRY HERNANDEZ

Valedictorian Vincent Sposato

VALEDICTORIAN

Vincent Sposato tops Class of 2019

By Henry Hernandez

The class of 2019 valedictorian is Vincent Sposato. You may have seen him walking around between advanced placement courses. "He is a nerd who has great clothes," said his charismatic friend Eric Rivera jokingly. He added, "He is a great speaker and a good friend."

Getting good grades is one thing, but getting the respect of your peers is another. Students who know Vincent all respect and like him. "He is a great guy," said salutatorian Armando Martinez.

Vincent's plans after graduation include getting ready for his entrance to University of Michigan, to major in economics. He enjoys the world of finance and how financial institutions and businesses work together around the world. He wants to use this degree to gain a career as a business consultant.

ness consultant.

Vincent learned about economics through various classes here at PHS. His favorite class though, was AP Comparative Governments. He took that class last year, and he enjoyed the way it made him think about the ways that various governments operate. He will get the chance to work with governments through his economics degree.

Success is something that Vincent wears well, along with his great clothes. He has advice for his fellow Indians to find their own success.

First, he said, "Take every year seriously, especially freshman year. Every year counts and every year is important."

He feels humbled by the fact that he is the top grade getting for the class of 2019. "It is a humbling honor," he said.

Vincent also wants everyone to know

that he did not achieve this honor by himself. He said he is thankful for the "support cast" that is available to him here at PHS, including other students, classmates, teachers, counselors, and other staff. Vincent advises his classmates to "rely on the support of the staff at PHS. They are here to help you if you let them."

He decided to stay at PHS, rather than graduate from the Academy for a specific reason. He said, "At PHS I learn a lot from a lot of different people. There are lots of different backgrounds here." PHS certainly has a large pool of talent to help students.

So when you see Vincent at graduation, congratulate him on his success, because he will certainly congratulate you on your success. He will be the one in the great clothes.

SALUTATORIAN

Armando Jason Martinez wants to make the future more fashionable

By Yeni Flores

"Be everyone's friend," is the way that Armando wants his friends, classmates, teachers and staff to remember him. They are good words to live by. In being everyone's friend students will be able to help each other, and then everyone has a better chance to succeed.

Armando's own secret to success seems to have helped him. He is the salutatorian of the Class of 2019. He wants to take his success at PHS and translate that into his new career in fashion marketing. This fall he will be attending Marymount Manhattan University to study international business and fashion marketing.

While he always had an interest in fashion, he was worried about how others would view him in that career. However, when he learned that former editor of Vogue, Andre Leon Talley, was straight and a fashionista, he

knew that he could be a part of that industry too.

"Don't let the struggles be an anchor to your dreams, let it be the stimulant to your success," said Armando about his desire to find success in an industry that is highly competitive. Anyone who knows Armando knows that he will give it his all and that he will always remain true to himself.

When asked about how well PHS prepared him for the next phase of his education and career, he said that it had prepared him well. He said, "The daily chaos of high school imitates the chaos of real life." He says that there is a great team of teachers and staff here at PHS, but that he wants to especially commend the English and math teachers he has had for their dedication and talent.

Armando wants to be remembered and leave an impression on those that he knew while attending PHS. His secret and his advice is, "be memorable, leave an im-

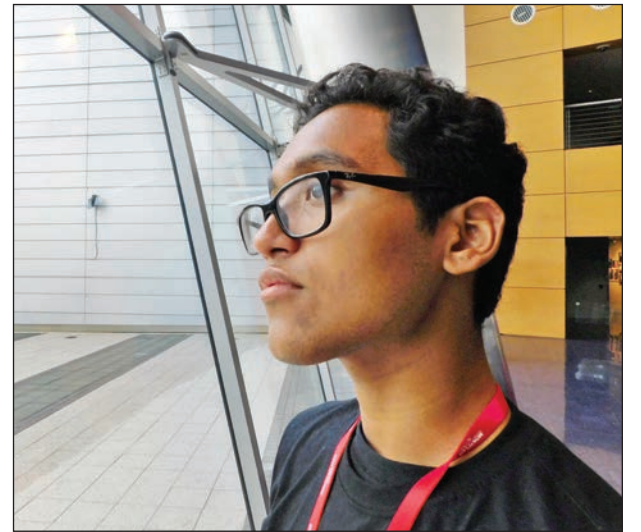


PHOTO BY YENI FLORES

Salutatorian Armando Martinez looks to the future.

pression, and put yourself first."

To those that knew him here, his charisma and style have left a strong impression on PHS. Good luck making your mark on the fashion industry!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS



PHOTO BY EDWIN MORALES

Congratulations to these hard-working Indians, as they represent PHS in the Special Olympics.



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REMEMBERING D-DAY

Commemorating D-Day's 75th Anniversary

By Juan Orazzco

D-Day occurred on June 6, 1944, during the middle of World War II, which lasted from 1939-1945. While many of us remember that World War II began for the United States with the bombing of Pearl Harbor at the end of 1941 and ended with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945, D-Day can seem like it is just one more fact to learn in the thick history book of facts. However, it important, not only for those who were there, seeing their friends die, but also for us seventy-five years later.

D-Day was the first step in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from the Nazis,

which was called Operation Overlord. 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops launched an amphibious attack on five Normandy, France, beaches.

Hitler had known and had planned for this invasion for years. Ever since he conquered France and almost routed the British at Dunkirk, the Nazis had been building up the Atlantic wall to defend against the almost certain Allied invasion attempt.

Looking back 75 years later, reading the history books, and seeing those black and white pictures, it is easy to think that this invasion was inevitable or even a guaranteed success. However, that cannot be farther from the truth. If the Americans, who fought so hard for Omaha

beach, the bloodiest of the D-Day beaches, had failed. The war may have turned out differently.

Here are some interesting facts that you may have missed if you have not done Mr. Becker's homework. First, D-Day does not stand for anything. It was used because it does not mean anything; sometimes the time of the attack was called "H-hour," because the Nazis would not know what that meant.

D-Day was the largest amphibious invasion in military history. With over one hundred and fifty thousand troops, almost seven thousand ships and twenty-four hundred aircraft, this was a massive organizational nightmare. The fact that all these



UK TELEGRAPH
World leaders, including President Donald Trump and England's Queen Elizabeth, gather in Portsmouth, England to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

men made it to the beach at all is amazing.

This invasion was the beginning of the fight to get the German Nazis out of the western democracies of Europe. This was to get France back, for the French, and then the rest of Europe back too.

Therefore, this battle was not the beginning or the end, but it was the very beginning of the end.

This battle shaped the way Europe looked ever since. The effects of this major battle are seen in the free countries of Europe today.

What PHS Students Have to Say about D-Day

Isidro Alevante

D-Day is significant because it marks the day that tide turned in favor of the allied forces in WWII on the Normandy beaches. It should always be remembered because it is basically what started to change the war and it came at severe cost to Allies forced from many countries around the world. From the US to the UK, New Zealand to Canada so on and do forth. It should be remembered with a moment of silence on every June 6.

Edward Doval

D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy. On June 6, 1944 the Allied Forces of Britain, America, Canada, and France attacked German forces on the coast of Normandy, France. With a huge force of over 150,000 soldiers, the Allies attacked and gained a victory that became the turning point for World War II in Europe. The event of the battle should be remembered for its big impact on the war, and there should perhaps be a parade in the capital of each state in commemoration for it.

Ery Familia Nolasco

If the invasion of Normandy had been unsuccessful that day, Europe might have remained under Nazi control, and our world would look very different today. This even should be remembered because the American troops who fought in D-Day were not fighting to liberate their own land they also fought to have and give us a free world.

Kevin Flores

I think it should always be remembered because it was a war that thousands and thousands of soldiers that



Graveyard in Normandy, France.

HISTORY.COM

sacrificed their lives for their country. It should be remembered by the board telling the schools to talk about D-Day on their anniversary or they should put up a monument in every single state of the US.

Rafael Ramiro

This event should be remembered because that is the day where the U.S. soldiers won but it was also a bloody war where they had to sacrifice themselves to win the war against the Nazis.

Diana Romero-Cuatlayotl

It is the day where in a war they had the largest military operation over sea.

Rafael Suarez

The D-Day invasion was the largest invasion by land, sea and air in history. The invasion has also been credited with changing the course of the war and pushing the Nazi troops back into Germany. It should be remembered as a great battle where many soldiers lost their lives protecting what they believe in.

Kimberly Torres-Barragan

D-Day Invasion is where the landing operations. It should still be remembered because it was the largest seaborne

invasion in history. It should be remembered as a place where they were safe but not safe in a way.

Munavvarhusain Bunglawala:

The significance of the Normandy is that they saved Europe from Nazism. I think it should be remembered because so many soldiers lost their life or went missing during the Battle of Normandy to protect their families, friends, and Country.

It should be remembered just the way it has been with the respect, pleasure, and honor for the once who lost their closer people.

Mirialys Canela-Margarita

The only reason we celebrate D-Day is to acknowl-

edge our fallen American soldiers. The men who died to stop the Nazi. But to be honest I think it's time to forget the past. It only keeps the slightest of grudges alive when I think we shouldn't keep bringing up something to the Germans just to make them feel ashamed of their past. It's better to just forgive and forget.

Gabriela Liriano Perez

For me the significance of the Normandy, D-Day invasion 75th anniversary, is to remember the sacrifice that Americans soldiers or the army did for us to keep American free and save. In addition, to commiserate those who die on the largest military operation and the liberation of the Nazi occupied Europe. This should be remembered by creating a memorial day and by that retell, the even so people in the future would really know what happen and why should be remembered.

Luis Peralta Acosta

By the end of June 1944, about a million Allied troops had reached France I think this should be remember as a reminder of our allies and to remind us the we are not alone if we go to war also to remember those who die.

Jocelyn Ramirez

This event should be remembered because this invasion was the beginning of the end of war world II and for respect to those brave soldiers.

Devraj Rana

I believe that we should remember this event because so many soldier lost their life in that war so we should cry for those who died for us

Diana Rivera-Cala

Although it has been 75 years, I feel like this event should be remembered because it is significant to people who have families that were involved with D-Day. For me, it doesn't really affect me but I feel like America helping out those countries was really great on their part.

Damian Rotte

While I personally don't know all the battles from World War II, I do know that so many men fought a lot of battles so that people can be free. This anniversary should be remembered for those men who kept fighting from place to place. However, what should be remembered most is the respect for the U.S. for what we have done during this horrible war.

Mark Valmonte

This is the invasion that saved the lives of Europeans from German control. This event makes us remember the past, the harsh reality that they had to endure before. It is very saddening indeed but the D-Day gives us the idea that with great planning you'll be able to be successful. Also the fact that people risked their lives to save others is very heart-



Soldiers hitting the beach on D-Day.

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Continued on next page



Soldiers crossing the English Channel on the way to D-Day invasion. HISTORY.COM



Men of the 16th Infantry Regiment, US 1st Infantry Division, wading ashore on Omaha Beach on the morning of June 6, 1944. WIKIPEDIA.COM

warming and that's a lesson we shouldn't forget. We should always be willing to help the others despite the circumstances

Rosemary Huaroc

I believe this event should be remember because we should remember and respect the brave soldiers and because this invasion was the beginning of the end of World War II.

Cyndy Jaquez

D-Day is another name for the invasion of Normandy in which the Allied forces attacked the German forces in a place called Normandy on the coast of France on June 6, 1944. There were some 156,000 Allied troops that invaded that day. It was a turning point in the war.

Erik Torres

Honestly D-Day was a very significant event in the history of the united states which shifted the way we lived forever. It should be remembered because people sacrificed themselves for a country. If we can't celebrate or honor those soldiers who fought the battles then that would make us insensitive

Luisa Fernandez

To me the significance of the D-Day invasion is that is a very important day because On June 6, 1944, The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. One of the many reasons why it should be remembered is because men from all over the world came to fight in Normandy to defeat Nazism and re-establish freedom. Which means it all happened to give people back their rights and freedom. One of the way I think it should be remembered is to programmer numbers of events which will

be putting together to bring the memory of this tragic period of world history to life, all while emphasizing the spirit of hope.

Emmanuel Garcia Paz

It marked the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. It's been a long time since the world was shook by its event. This day should be remembered because it has such a big significance to the world and to the people who lost loved ones and them themselves who lost their lives. We should have monuments to remember those who lost their lives and a battle description on it so that future generations can have a vivid image of what these brave men encountered on that beach and that day.

Gissel Gutierrez-Perez

The significance of Normandy was that many soldiers risked their lives so that Western Europe can be liberated from the Nazis. Because of the D-Day invasion people were free from the Nazis and the Germans were removed from northwestern France. This event should be remembered because many soldier from American, France, British and Canadian forces all came together to stop the Nazis from invading even more territory.

Jesus Luchetti

The significance of the D-Day invasion now that it is the 75th anniversary it is a very important day because it gives us the day to remember who has and have risked their lives and the ones who has died.

Eva Medina

In my opinion, I think D-Day should be remembered because it had a big impact in America. The "Operation Overlord" campaign was launched and Their



U.S. paratroopers prepare to jump prior to invasion. HISTORY.COM

mission was to free Europe from the tyranny of Nazi domination. The attack was being planned for more than a year. The attack was remained a secret and Germany didn't know they were coming, that is why I think it was mostly successful. I think D-Day should be represented as more important than it is because a lot of young people don't even know about D-Day. D-Day should be a day like Memorial Day.

Kimberly Reyes-Espinosa

The significance of the D-Day invasion should be remembered because it was the turning point of World War II, and especially with many allied forces like America, Britain, Canada, and France

Irais Rojas-Ahuatl

D-Day for me is a moment in history taken place in WWII where a family of brothers and only 1 brother survived. Not only that but the moment where allied forces invaded northern France on the beach. This event should be remembered because it led to many deaths of soldiers and the victory that gained north west Europe its freedom from Germany.

Nyzir Roman

It should be remembered because of the people that had the balls to be in that situation and fight for their country. The significance is that they end up getting through everything and complete what they had to complete. Just that a lot of families lost their loved ones because of this day, which is another reason why it should be remembered .

Emeli Soriano

The significance of today being June 6th, 2019 and it being the 75th anniversary is that D-Day was the largest invasion by air, land and sea in all history. It was very important to the world war II. This event should be remembered because this became a turning point during ww2 and it really killed off so many off our soldiers and so many were brave and courageous for taking on so much.

D-Day should be remembered as a holiday where we all get a little knowledge of what happen and appreciate those who were there. They risked their lives for this country so we should at least care for them and learn about what happened.

Fernando Castelan

To remember those who fell in the battle of Omaha beach. It should be remembered as that battle was one leading foot to the end of the war. As taking down the German back allowed the allies to come at them from to two sides

Erick Matos

D-Day should be remembered as a historic day that was a turning point in World War 2. Many movies take place on D-Day and go through the events that transpired. It should be remembered as a day where the U.S. stormed the beaches of Normandy and fought the Nazis in France taking back territory.

Stephen Mejia

What makes this day significant is the fact of all the lives lost in the attempt to free a part of the world from Nazi terrine. This event in history must be remembered with a moment of silence and honoring the veterans who are still alive. We must remember this day because it's a point in history in which the U.S. took an official stand against the Axis powers and the Nazi party.

Yaire Rodriguez

D-Day was significant because it had reestablished front for the allies. It should be remembered because of the lives lost that day. It should be remembered in the affected peoples homes or anyone's who wants to remember that day.

Laura Siri Nova

The significance of the D-Day invasion, is that on June On June 6, 1944, men (soldiers) from all over the world out all their strengths together to find for what they believed was right. To

fight together with a purpose which was to defeat Nazism and re-establish freedom. This event should be always remember , because in a day like this lots of men who left their homes and families to fight lost their lives, fighting for a better future with freedom and humans rights. It should be remembered by every year put together many different activities which would be based on the history of the pain they went through, and the hope they had of getting out alive and see what they were fighting for.

Kayla Soto

It should be remembered because of the people that had the balls to be in that situation and fight for their country. The significance is that they end up getting through everything and complete what they had to complete. Just that a lot of families lost their loved ones because of this day, which is another reason why it should be remembered.

Karla Flores

They should have a day to show history videos so that we can see and learn about this event.

Aldara Hernandez

D-Day is on which Allied forces invaded northern France by means of beach landings in Normandy, and that there was a lot of damage.

Michael Martinez-Guerrero

The significance of D-Day is when American soldiers invaded upon the beaches of France during World War II. It should be remembered now that its been 75 years since the event because it showed how much of a terrible and struggle and strength it takes to get through the beach and still manage to win the battle.

Patricia Morales

The significance of D-Day today is about World War II. It should be remembered now that it was 75 years ago, like with fireworks, a nice ceremony.

Drama Club Presents 'Emma: A Pop Musical'

By Elisa Matos

The PHS Drama Club presented their school musical performance this year with "Emma: A Pop Musical."

The plot of this play is loosely based on Jane Austen's novel, but updated for a modern audience, with classic hit pop songs from The Supremes, all the way to modern hit pop songs like Katy Perry, and everything in between.

This play came out in 2015, on the anniversary of the first publication

of *Emma*, by Jane Austen. It has been adapted in many ways, but none so uniquely as the version performed by the PHS Drama Club. All the songs are seamlessly incorporated into the narrative, which follows the novel's plot.

Director Laura Rizzo said, "The students have been working very hard to present this piece including after school, weekends, holidays and vacation times."

The hard work was evident by the way the complex music, dancing and acting, worked together to tell the story of Emma.



Photos by Sandi Sanchez



College and Career Fair

In order to help students find that post high school, high-paying job, students need to see what options they have out there in the real world. To that end, PHS offered a comprehensive college and career fair, open to all students.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to see various careers and college post-graduate training and education options. Visitors to PHS are always impressed with the behavior and maturity of the students here.



Photos by Jorge Rosemond



SENIOR QUOTES

What was the funniest or craziest excuse you ever gave a teacher or principal?

That I couldn't make it to class because I have to go another class.

I never lied to either of my teachers or principals.

I left my homework at home.

What homework?

Sorry I'm late, I was slaying the arch dragon.

I was there because my book bag was there.

I'm sick.

I was driving so I drove over my homework.

That I couldn't do work because I couldn't write with my right hand.

I never gotten in trouble I was always honest.

I told a teacher that I had to leave school to go help my family with something but the truth was that I just wanted to go home and nap.

I had a doctor's appointment.

Taking finals, period 2, we were taking finals and they were having a fire drill, I told my teacher if we can just hide and finish our exams (she didn't let us, she laughed) then we told her she should just give us A's because they interrupted our final, she also didn't let that happen.

Okay fine, security was chasing me.

I think said that I didn't... when in reality it was my fault.

I love doing your work.

Forgot I existed so I didn't do my work.



What was your most embarrassing moment?

I fell going up the stairs.

When I peed on myself in front of everyone in gym.

My YouTube channel being shown to my friends.

Forgetting my gym clothes

Asking people what does e.y.e.s spell.

Almost falling off stage at The Emma musical.

Going into the wrong class.

When I fell and ripped my pants, not in a good spot.

I don't think I have one. I never get embarrassed.

Everyday is an embarrassment for me.

Accidentally calling my teacher "mom." It was a while ago.

Falling down the stairs in the rain in the courtyard.

What is the best advice you would give to the incoming freshmen next year?

Try not to do anything stupid and do your work.

Try to get the good teachers so you don't suffer too much.

Having a small circle of real friends is the best thing you can do.

Take all 4 years of high school seriously but don't forget to also have some fun.

Stay on top of school and never follow bad influences to look "cool".

Take everything seriously. One year can affect all the others and it's better to start strong and finish strong and on a good note.

Pass your classes for the senior events in the future.

I'm going to say something different from everyone else and that is do not skip because you can't get away with it, even if you tried.

High school may be difficult but do your work, yes everyone says that but it will help you in the long term, once you start to procrastinate everything piles up and you end up stressing out and not doing any of the work. I did it my junior year and that hurt my GPA and it was hard to get back on track.

These four years will be the most emotional and meaningful in your life, so be free to the idea of mistakes because they will happen and you'll learn from them.

Always create goals for yourself during the school year whether it be setting a time in which you should be sleeping or just setting a due date for an assignment.

Don't take chances.

Please follow the rules, get good grades because in your senior year you can be free.

People would say, "try to fit in", I say don't. There are people that need to mature and it's not who you want to be around. Focus on your academics first.

Don't get attached to things, because they can end just as fast as they started. Focus on your work and attendance or it'll come back to haunt you. Take advan-

tage of the opportunity's the school has to offer and always appreciate the teachers who genuinely care there are too many teachers who go unnoticed hats off to them! (Thanks! -ed.)

Even though high school is a little hard at the beginning, when it comes to your senior year your gonna have some fun events

Ask for all the help you can.

Do everything, even if it seems to be out of your comfort zone.

To take freshman year seriously as it will set the tone for the rest of the years.

My advice to the incoming freshman next year would be to not fall into the wrong crowd. School can be hard but it will be worth it in the end. Do not be scared to try new things. Make your high school years memorable.

Pass all your classes. I cannot stress this anymore and if you already failed a class make it up as soon as possible, cause if you don't you will regret it.

What are your summer plans?

Have fun until I can't anymore.

Work to be able to enjoy myself and to be able to accomplish a life goal, which would be buy my own car.

This summer I will be taking two vacations to Florida and Mexico.

Working.

Get ready for college, practice every other day to get better at soccer, and work to make money.

Get a job and go to Mexico.

Work as a carpenter and save enough money to buy a camera and explore the world of photography.

Enjoy summer with all my friends before everyone leaves for college or work or military.

I'll be beginning my career at Montclair State University as an EOF student so half my summer I'll be in school.

Go to places I haven't been to since I was either in band or studying.

Undecided, but something good.

Work and travel.

I will be on a STEM summer program, taking 2 free classes, and working.

Go to the beaches and lakes and



to amusement parks.

Summer program in college.

Get a job, explore the tri-state area, prepare for college.

Traveling and spending time with family and friends before college.

My summer plans are to do a college program at Bergen community college. I'm also going to California after graduation.

This summer on going to be working, moving to a new house and having the time of my life.

What are your plans for when the summer ends? How will you pursue your career goals? (College, training, working, military?)

Playing Division 2 basketball at Bloomfield.

When the summer ends I'm going to go to a technical school to pursue my interest in cars.

I plan to keep training a lot to prepare myself for college baseball.

Beauty academy and I plan to open my own salon and work full time every single day.

Just getting myself ready. Whether it be practicing, learning a new topic for school, or applying for jobs.

Get in college. It's not too late!

I will be attending the Montclair State University to pursue my career as a cinematographer.

I will be working to pursue my career in acting.

I'll be going to college to study homeland security.

Maybe college but mostly just work.

I will be attending college to become a mechanical engineer.

College is the next step. I will be attending Rutgers University in pursuit of a degree in economics and political science.

Going to William Paterson University to pursue nursing.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Successful, caring, loved, and respected.

I would still be studying cause I took a medical course RIP.

Working for a foreign car company.

I see myself playing professional organized baseball.

A successful makeup artist making \$100k a year.

Being a cop and patrolling the city of Passaic to make it the best city it can be. (Thank you)



Still learning who I am as a person.

Working at a studio.

Hopefully successful.

In 10 years, I see myself working for the Education Administration of Passaic, running my own school and beginning a legacy for my family.

Making money and hopefully giving at least \$500 to the school for a person's future education.

I can't picture myself that far, but I hope to have my life together at that point and just be happy doing what I do, whatever it is!

Having fun with my family and go to fun places.

I see myself becoming happy and satisfied with my life matching my inside and my outside. If you know, you know.

Definitely running for a position in government. Perhaps for Representative or as a State Senator.

I see myself as a successful nurse practitioner.

In 10 years, I see myself working for Disney or Marvel in their graphic design department.

In 10 years, I see myself owning my own business in multiple locations like New York and Los Angeles.

What is your greatest achievement at PHS? What do you want your PHS legacy to be?

My greatest achievements are playing on the varsity team for three years and graduating Passaic High School.

My greatest achievement at PHS will be graduating.

To be one of the best ball players that came from this school.

My greatest achievement is not following people who don't care about school and staying on top of my grades to graduate on time.

I helped most of my friends when they needed it.

My greatest achievement at PHS is being able to setup everything for an ASEZ Club, for the next school year, that is working with the United Nations to fulfill the 17 SDGs by the year 2030.

My greatest achievement at PHS is having been a part of the class representatives and being able to open up to many opportuni-

ties by being in the drama club. I want my legacy at PHS to be someone who worked really hard to get out of a dark place physically and mentally while trying to stay on top of my work because life is really hard and school can sometimes stress you out. I made it!

Being part of the history of my team. School record to be broken.

I achieved been in the newspaper, be the first on my family having a scholarship in the United States and being in a lot of clubs and achieving my success.

My greatest achievement was becoming the captain for the indoor color guard and winning first place at championships.

I believe pulling myself to the very top and graduating as Top 3 is a great achievement. I want people to know that it's possible to makeup for past mistakes and overcome adversity.

My greatest achievement is finishing off with 30 college credits and 2 career certifications.

Getting a scholarship and being a varsity athlete for multiple sports.



What trend or fad are you most embarrassed about having taken part in?

Floss
 The fidget spinner trend. Every single person had one although it was nice looking back, it felt like elementary all over again.
 Saying period t
 Fortnite. Too many lost nights of sleep.
 Do u know da wae?
 Flappy Birds and Trivia Crack, you remember those?
I am most grateful for...
 Everything life has given me.
 The connections I've made.
 Being able to play baseball.
 The opportunity the school gives to remove centrals and graduate on time.
 Mrs. Ament, she didn't give up

on me my freshman year when she could've, and if it wasn't for her then I probably wouldn't be graduating.

My parents.
 Friends and Teachers.

All the great opportunities that were given to me when I first transferred to PHS as a junior.

The teachers that were very supportive and helped out the students that needed it, like me.

The good teachers.
 My family.

I am most grateful for the people that have entered my life in high school and have taught me at least something that had changed me for the better.

The teachers who helped me out along the way.

My mom, grandmother and stepdad.

All the blessings life has given me so far.

The resources we are lucky to have.

The teachers who actually motivated and pushed me to believe in myself.

My teachers for never giving up on me. They had patience with me and I couldn't ask for better teachers than them.

I am most inspired by...

People who want things in life and actually do something to get it.
 The 1%.
 My big brother.
 Mr. Maisonet and Mrs. Romero, for their stories that I once heard. They gave me the little fire in my heart that tells me when something goes wrong.
 My idols.
 My Father and Mother.
 Mrs. Soto, she is very inspirational as has become a role model to me.
 Mr. Kleinman has inspired me the most. He always saw the potential in me that sometimes I had forgotten I had, he inspired me to follow a career in administration and he's always been a good person towards me. I hope one day I get to be as inspiring as he is to many students.
 Better people.
 My three favorite teachers are Mrs. Hernandez, my Spanish teacher, without her school would be difficult for me; Mrs.

Fuller is so sweet, she made me laugh during the last four years of high school, and always there during the difficult times; and last, but not least, Mrs. Mariana, who followed me around for the past five years.

I am most inspired by my parents. Seeing them work for my siblings and I. Most of my mom's money goes to food and clothes. Most of my dad's money goes to rent, bills, insurance, etc. They're both hardworking and they deserve the best.

My mom.
 My mother for supporting me for all the decisions I've made.

The talent my peers exhibit.

What was the most meaningful assignment you completed?

Creating a story with the help of the entire class.

Most meaningful assignment I've completed would be my SUAS drone test for the FAA.

A project on how to commit the perfect murder.

My psychology final- I had to draw and write about my personalities and after the project I realized the great person I am.

I believe it was a letter to my future self.

Science projects.

The most meaningful assignment I've completed was my demo reel which depicts what type of filmmaker I am in the industry.

Personal legends in Mrs. Zeidan's class, it was very emotional and about opening yourself to what your legend is.

In NJROTC we had to make presentations about our plans for the future and the college chosen we're attending. That was the most meaningful because I was given the opportunity to share my future with my classmates and other juniors.

Abortion.

Writing in first newspaper publication about Venezuela, Mr. Zeiler told me how I can do it.

The most meaningful assignment I've completed was my own Inside Out.

About me website in Ms. Pyron.

My personal legend.

A case study on the City of Passaic. I discovered so much like our history, the museums we had, the role Passaic played in the Underground Railroad, and our cultural diversity.



If I were Mrs. Torres-Gomez for a day, I would ...

Drive that Camaro all day.
 Command every teacher to treat their students in a restaurant.
 Remove all centrals for every senior.
 Let the seniors have a day off.
 Let students skip to lunch if they are hungry because one lunch is never enough.
 Let the kids and students have a chill day , where no work is given out, everyone just goes through the day having fun with one another.
 Get rid of uniforms.
 Play Queen in the hallways with my Bluetooth speaker and Air-Pods on.
 Remove uniform at least twice a month.
 Do nothing.
 I would give a play day in the park.
 I would create more fun events for the students.
 Change the dress code.
 I would let the kids drink soda.
My best memory of PHS is...?
 When a bunch of money was thrown off at the court yard
 Going on the senior trip

Senior prom.
 Prom 2019!
 How wonderful everyone looked at the Prom!
 Honestly, it's getting to know so many different people that share the things I undergo.
 Meeting all my friends and being a part of Alice in Wonderland. We cant forget about getting the opportunity to be in the senior trip and our prom at the castle.
 Wining State Champions for marching band back in 2017.
 Graduating.
 My field trips were the best!
 First day of my freshman year.
 1. Having graphic design class. 2. Graduating. 3. Leave school.
 Prom, definitely the Prom.
 The Senior Award Night. It felt great to get in those acknowledgments.
 Participating in all the extracurriculars I did and making new bonds with the people in these programs.
 My best memory at PHS was being captain of my girls JV soccer team.

The administrative team at PHS – Mrs. Torres-Gomez, Mr. Lungren, Mr. Acevedo, Mrs. Romero and Mr. Maisonet – would like to congratulate all the graduating seniors of the Class of 2019!

THE HILLTOP STAR
 The Student Newspaper of Passaic High School
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RETIRING INDIANS

Mr Kleinman: Loss of an Advocate for Kids

By Jose Perez

After a long career in the Passaic school district Mr. Brian Kleinman is retiring to spend time with his two granddaughters and his family.

He said that he has seen a lot of changes over the years in the town of Passaic, and in the schools that serve the students here, but the students themselves are the constant. Mr. Kleinman is one of those kids himself.

Growing up in Passaic he graduated from Passaic High School. Not many people know this but he was a wrestler for Passaic, under Coach Westfield. He was even ranked in the county. However, after graduation he went to college to become an elementary education teacher.

He came back home in 1972 to teach at number 11 school. Kleinman also taught at number 9 and number 8 schools as well until he 1979, when he went into business.

Effort in the business world brought success and money. So after 25 years Mr. Kleinman returned to his first and true passion, kids. He earned a master's degree in counseling and was hired by Mr. Creech as a guidance counselor here at PHS. The next 14 years are history.

As a new guidance counselor, coming from the professional world of business, Mr. Kleinman began meet-

ing with his students. After each meeting he would extend his hand to end the meeting with a handshake.

His first students didn't know that a professional way to end a meeting is with a firm handshake. However, they learned quickly and after every successive meeting they would know to shake hands, and also conduct themselves in a professional and business-like manner.

"Shaking hands is a way of giving a personal touch to every meeting," said Mr. Kleinman of his method.

He has always striven to demonstrate common sense solutions to his students here at the high school. Helping students has also come with some conflict, such as when he was fighting for a student with Mr. Creech, who was principal here back in the 2000's. Even though the meeting became heated, Mr. Creech assured Mr. Kleinman that there were no hard feelings because, as he put it, "I expect you to be an advocate for the kids."

This is the advice that has directed the career of Mr. Kleinman here for many years.

There are many problems that all students encounter every day. Either trouble in school, or at home, the problems are similar. However, "Every student attacks their similar problems in many different ways," said Mr. Kleinman. "I have always kept

my door open and have never turned a student away who needed help," he added.

Students know this to be true, one student, who is graduating this year said, "I know that whenever I had a problem, if I could find Mr. Kleinman, I would be okay." He added, "He is the best counselor there." This sentiment is echoed throughout the graduating class.

Mr. Kleinman attributes his success to his common sense approach to dealing with student problems. "I am not a miracle worker," he said, "I can help student create a plan, but they need to put forth the effort and do the work."

After two full careers Mr. Kleinman is ready to enjoy his family and his home. He does not plan on traveling.

He said, "No, I really don't like going places. I will be staying at home, God willing, healthy, with the in-ground swimming pool so that I can be there when the grandkids come over to visit."

While he has certainly earned a break from solving problems, Mr. Kleinman says that he will stay involved in the lives of the students here at PHS. He plans on helping students find and earn scholarships.

He wishes to leave the students at PHS with these words of wisdom, learned from his many years of work

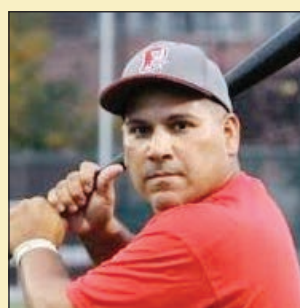


PHOTO BY JOSE PEREZ

After two full careers, Mr. Kleinman is looking forward to spending time with his family when he retires.

and success. "There are no restrictions and no boundaries that will stop you if you do your part."

We should definitely do our part in the spirit and memory of this great advocate for the students. Good luck in your well-deserved retirement!



PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Top: Tribute to Coach Diaz.

Bottom: Baseball team players Joan Santana, left, and JanCarlos Severino, right, are among the many student athletes who will miss Coach Diaz, center.

Retiring an Indian: Goodbye Coach Diaz

By Christopher Ochoa

After an exciting career coaching his passion, baseball, Coach Pete Diaz is retiring. While he stated that he still has a lot of gas in his tank, he feels that he has made his mark on the baseball team and also on the school culture here at PHS.

Coach Diaz attributes his success to his own experience as a student athlete at PHS. Yes he is an Indian at heart, graduating from this school years ago.

He has been playing baseball since 1976, and has taken the lessons learned here as a student to create the mission for his own young men, "to make you a better man: mind, body and spirit."

His explanation for the meaning and significance of this mission is best stated in his own words.

"I'm here to try and make you a better man, that means getting good grades by developing your mind, working hard to be strong by working hard and training, and most importantly, developing your spirit by learning and working towards being a better person," he said.

Speaking of his own secret to his long success here, he refers to a great quote from Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourself."

He certainly has put the needs of his students and his players above himself, helping them to

succeed, as he has.

Coaching baseball at PHS since 1996 and as head coach since 2009, Diaz has had the time needed to make a mark on the program. He has shaped the way students train and learn, and how they develop the skills needed to be better people.

"Coach makes you work for it. Nothing comes easy," said JanCarlos Severino, one of his graduating players.

Another senior player, Joan Santana said, "I like coach but you got to work. Coach won't let you slack off." Other players stated that the coach's favorite quote is from Roberto Clemente "Anytime you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth."

This quote definitely speaks to the idea that the team is here to build better players.

Coach Diaz is proud of all his players, but he points to former players, who continue to play, after they graduate from PHS. For example Nilo Rijo, class of 2015, signed with the Boston Red Sox. Class of 2017, Jose Ledesma is playing for Rowan College at Gloucester and 2018 graduate, Angel Cespedes is playing for Howard College in Texas.

Working hard, training hard, and playing hard at PHS can certainly open doors for students to succeed out in the world.

Thank you, Coach Diaz, and farewell!