



Gateway Gazette

Spring 2023 | Issue 23-01



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Scholars' Voice: STEM Trip to Tokyo • Upcoming: Summer, College, Career, and More

The Gateway Academy at Boonton High School:
Giving students a competitive edge today, tomorrow, and always.

From the Coordinators' Desk

*Shine bright.
You're doing more good than you realize.*

Up at 6:00 AM. Into the classroom for AP hours by 6:30 AM. A packed schedule. Lab day. Working lunches. Multiple club meetings. After-school practices and games. Homework. Internships. Helping at home. Connecting with family and friends. How do our scholars hold it all together? Reflecting on our past school year at Boonton High School, we see a trend surfacing for many of our Gateway Academy Scholars: Our students have *grit*, which author and academic Angela Duckworth describes as “passion and perseverance for long-term goals.”



Just a few short weeks ago, we watched the Senior Passion Project (SPP) presentations and listened to our Gateway Academy seniors describe a leader. Our seniors expressed many different characteristics that mirror the same qualities that Angela Duckworth notes as passion and perseverance:

- *Finds a solution despite going through obstacles*
- *Takes full responsibility*
- *Overcomes challenges*
- *Shows their imperfections*
- *Has drive*
- *Sees the bigger picture*

Grit is the key ingredient that propels us forward, even when pressures and responsibilities feel overwhelming. Several times throughout the year, our Gateway Scholars were met with challenges, faced them with poise, problem-solved their way through, and recognized that it was grit that helped them persevere, overcome those challenges, and achieve their goals.

As we close out this school year and look to an even brighter future, we want our scholars to recognize that, within them, is a strong, innate sense of grit. Some days it may feel elusive, but it exists in each of them.

Graduation is only a few short weeks away. In the quiet of July and August, we hope our scholars take a moment to reflect on how much they have accomplished and their potential to continue to do great things. We hope they are inspired to keep pushing and growing. We wish each of our scholars a successful and restorative summer, and hope that they can use your time, talent, and grit to continue to do great things.

Kind Regards,

Nupur Bahl
Gateway Academy Coordinator

Vicki Cornell
Gateway Academy Coordinator

Passion to Purpose

Earlier this Spring, Gateway Academy students got to hear from Ms. Elena Runfeldt, a graduate of Boonton High School and the Gateway Academy. She spoke to students and answered questions about careers in medical research and development, her journey from high school senior to National Fulbright scholar, and the importance of pursuing one's passions.



Fullbright Scholar Elena Runfeldt is currently completing an independent research project, "Assessing the effectiveness of a gym-based childhood obesity management program" at the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados in affiliation with The University of the West Indies. She also volunteers with the Childhood Obesity Prevention Programme to develop a National School Nutrition Policy for Barbados.

After graduating from Boonton High School in 2018 as valedictorian with Gateway Honors, Elena went on to study nutritional science at Cornell University. She shares, "I developed a passion for nutrition after discovering that a plant-based diet helped decrease the frequency and intensity of the chronic migraines I was experiencing. After learning more about the connections between diet and disease, I knew I wanted to pursue research in the field as a career".

At Cornell, Elena served as the Nutrition Chair for Cornell Vegan Society, a panel host for Cornell Future Food Summit, a member of a service fraternity and honor society, and interned as the Outreach Coordinator for Community HealthEd, a nonprofit organization that aims to make medical information more accessible to the public.

Elena also worked as a research assistant at Mehta Research Group (MRG) which focuses on reducing micronutrient deficiencies in mothers and infants in Ecuador and India through food fortification. At MRG, she conducted systematic reviews for the World Health Organization, most recently on the transmissibility of COVID-19 through breastmilk. Eventually, Elena hopes to complete a Ph.D. in International Nutrition within this lab.



Senior Spotlight

Tamara has earned the AP Capstone Diploma and recently curated an exhibit at the Boonton Historical Society as part of her Senior Passion Project. The best advice she received from her family was, if you do not like where you are, seek out better opportunities. She recommends reading The Cat Who Saved Books by Sôsukey Natsukawa because it emphasizes the importance of experiencing life to its fullest potential. She considers *drive* the most important quality in a leader: A person who can see the bigger picture, or understand the implications of their work, will be more successful in encouraging others to do the same. In twenty years, she is going to be living and working in a big city and have at least two published works.

Tamara Kyle

George Washington
University
History

Thomas Lundy

Washington College
Business

Thomas is proud to have earned both the AP Scholar with Honor and AP Capstone Certificate awards this year. Competing at the varsity level on the Cross Country team was an additional highlight of his four years at Boonton High School. A memory that he will never forget was the AP Research presentations with his Gateway class. The strangest advice Tommy has received from a parent or teacher that ended up being correct was being told to underline verb prompts before answering a question as a whole. He would recommend the book The Divine Comedy and considers *bravery* the most important quality in a leader. In twenty years, Tommy hopes he is still looking to improve and grow.

JR Perez

Lehigh University
*Mechanical
Engineering*

JR has completed eleven AP courses in his four years at Boonton High School, and is proud of his achievement. JR's most treasured memory is executing and presenting his Gateway Senior Passion Project, in which he successfully launched Startify and had the opportunity to present his journey in front of his peers, mentors, Gateway Coordinators, and district staff and administration. The strangest advice JR received from a parent or teacher that ended up being correct was, "Don't sweat the small stuff." He cites *compassion* as the most important quality in a successful leader. For Gateway Academy freshmen, JR Recommends the book The Four Agreements. In twenty years, JR plans to be compassionate, rich, and powerful.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Theodore Roosevelt

Senior Spotlight

Jessica Pollak

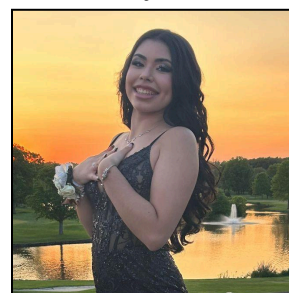


Rutgers University
Business

Jessica has maintained a high GPA while taking challenging courses all throughout high school. A proud personal achievement of Jessica's is earning the AP Capstone Certificate. She will never forget her freshman year Gateway presentation with the other students in her cohort. The best advice Jessica's parents gave her that continues to motivate her to this day is to never settle for less than her fullest potential. Jessica recommends the book The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change for Gateway freshmen, and she believes that most important qualities in a successful leader are *responsibility* and *dependability*.

Jesley has earned her AP Capstone Certificate and has completed nine AP courses throughout her high school career. Jesley's most treasured memory is the feeling of accomplishment after completing her Gateway Academy Senior Passion Project Presentation, knowing that, after all her hard work, she "nailed it." The best advice that Jesley was given is "be yourself," and she recommends reading different genres of literature often. Jesley tells us that the most important quality in a leader is that they are able to *find a solution* despite going through obstacles. In twenty years, Jesley hopes to be a successful neurologist with her own private practice.

Jesley Rua



Connecticut College
Neuroscience

Ariana Valente



Quinnipiac University
Nursing

Some of the best advice Ariana ever received was given to her by her parents: It is absolutely imperative to get out of your comfort zone, and the Gateway Academy provided the unique experiences to do so. Ariana will never forget being a freshman and the experience of "coming out of her shell," which paved the way for her to now graduate as a Gateway Scholar excited for future endeavors. Ariana notes that a successful leader *takes full responsibility* and is *dependable*; A true leader shows their imperfections and how they overcome challenges. She says it is also important to be a role model and use your skills to teach others how to be a successful leader.



*A heartfelt congratulations to our
Gateway Academy seniors.*

*May you continue to excel and change
the world for the better in all that you do*

Artificial Intelligence: Gamble or Guarantee?

Artificial Intelligence (AI), is arguably the most transformative technology of the twenty-first century, reshaping every industry and field, including education. Virtual assistants in classrooms help students and teachers with assignments and time management, while automated tutoring systems provide personalized learning experiences. For those new to the world of AI, ChatGPT (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) is an AI chatbot upgraded from its original version, which was released in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. A trained language model, ChatGPT responds to prompts through the use of natural language processing (NLP), which enables it to understand the context and the meaning behind questions from users and generate responses by using algorithms and gathering information from the data that it can access in real time. The response time is mere seconds and topics range from simple to complex in any desired language.

At a 2016 town hall event in San Francisco, Google CEO Sundar Pichai rightly predicted that “AI is one of the most important things humanity is working on. It is more profound than electricity or fire.” According to UNESCO, “AI has the potential to address inequalities in education around the world and improve access to knowledge globally.” However, it is important to ensure that the rollout of this highly controversial technology is done in a way that is fair and does not contribute to existing inequalities. UNESCO’s mandate calls for a human-centered approach to AI through the observation of four core values. The values in the Recommendation of Ethics of Artificial Intelligence adopted by acclamation by 193 Member States at UNESCO’s General Conference in November 2021 highlight:

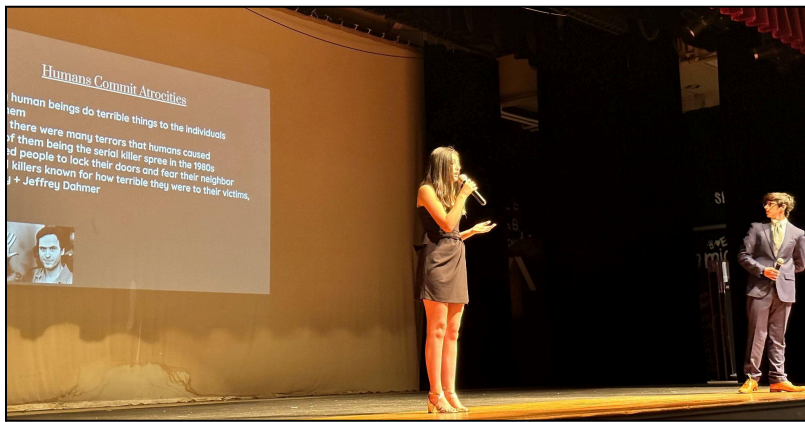
1. Respect, Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Fundamental Freedoms and Human Dignity
2. Living in Peaceful, Just, and Interconnected Societies
3. Ensuring Diversity and Inclusiveness
4. Environment and Ecosystem Flourishing

Whether we agree on the merits of AI or not, it is quickly becoming the landscape of the future where our graduates must learn, play, evolve and eventually leave their footprints. Our scholars have already forged a link between technology and service-oriented leadership as seen in their fall and spring semester achievements. Specifically, they have worked on the following College and Career Readiness competencies:

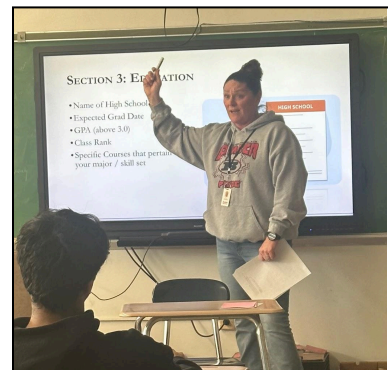
- Freshmen made their public speaking debut with group presentations that expanded their communication and collaboration skills.
- Sophomores crafted a résumé and identified areas of strength and improvement as they charted their courses for their final two years of high school.
- Juniors scripted an “elevator pitch” and practiced their interviewing skills with various faculty members.
- Seniors showcased their culminating Senior Passion Project, which is further detailed in our “Events” section.

The Gateway Academy prioritizes a balance between academic coursework, collaborative community experiences, and technical skills required of these leaders of tomorrow. Our scholars will go on to share collective responsibility for driving progress and innovation in an ethical manner that upholds global values.

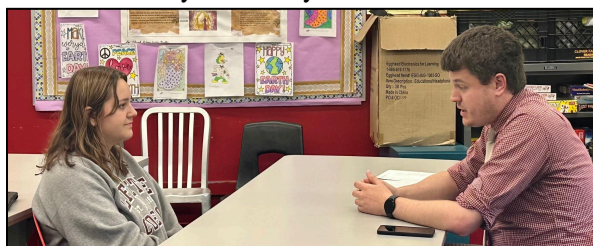
Freshmen Gateway Academy Scholars:



Sophomore Gateway Academy Scholars:



Junior Gateway Academy Scholars:



Senior Passion Project: A New Beginning

On Thursday, May 25, 2023, the Gateway Academy Class of 2023 became the first class to fully execute the Gateway Academy Senior Passion Projects. They presented to their peers, family, friends, faculty, staff, and administration from Boonton and Lincoln Park. This culminating project is a Gateway Academy graduation requirement designed to give our students a chance to demonstrate leadership, critical thinking, and problem solving skills by creating and completing a self-directed project that has a positive impact on the larger community. Topics included community engagement, health and wellness, entrepreneurship, along with a handful of others. A list of student presentations can be found below.

Boonton Historical Society: Engaging Community History
Tamara Kyle

Startify
JR Perez

ELL Community Engagement
Jesley Rua

Using Art to Improve Mental Health
Ariana Valente

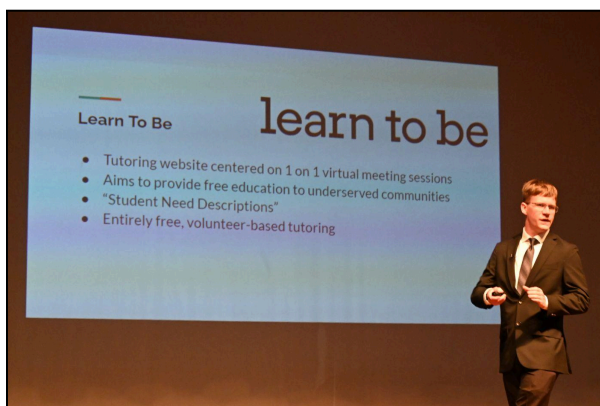
How Wellness Helps Ones Drive to Achieve & Inherit New Habits
Jessica Polak

Virtual Tutoring and Gaps in Student Needs
Thomas Lundy

Students' presentations were livestreamed for classmates, friends, families, and community members to view. A recording of student presentations can be accessed by scanning the QR Code below.



Senior Thesis Presentations



Thomas Lundy presents on virtual student needs.



Jesley Rua presents on supporting the local ELL community.

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison

On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, the Gateway Academy Classes of 2024, 2025, and 2026 visited Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham Park for its second college campus tour of the school year. The tour began in the visitor center with an information session that provided a general overview of Fairleigh Dickinson University presented by student representatives. It was followed by a walking tour of the Madison Campus where students learned about campus life, academic offerings, the university's rich history and architecture, and how to apply to the university and its study abroad program.



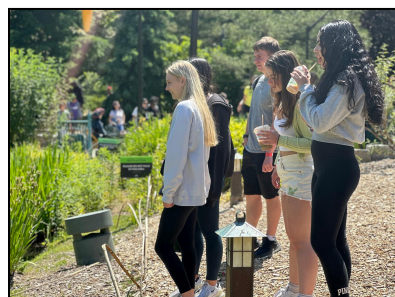
Students in the visitor center, waiting for the tour to begin.

Students also visited one of the dorms and learned that the architect of Central Park in New York City also designed the campus' impressive grounds, which include plant life that is over 150 years old. After the tour, Gateway Academy students enjoyed a lunch in the dining hall before heading back to Boonton High School.



Senior Trip: Grounds for Sculpture

On June 5, 2023, the Gateway Academy Class of 2023 celebrated four years of hard work and the successful delivery of their Senior Passion Projects with a class trip to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey. The venue spans forty-two acres of land and integrates innovative artwork, landscaping, and water features. Students took part in a self-guided tour of the grounds that were founded in 1992 by John Seward Johnson II. Scholars enjoyed exploring different paths that lead to the discovery of amazing, life-size sculptures. The tranquil scenery provided a reflective pause from their internships, as they discussed their final few weeks together. The day ended with a visit to the gift shop and lunch at the Van Gogh Cafe.



Board of Education Presentation



Gateway Academy Scholars presented at the March 27, 2023 Board of Education Meeting. Special thanks to our Gateway presenters Matthew Campos (Freshman), Kaylee Huguen (Sophomore), Prisha Shah (Junior), and JR Perez (Senior).



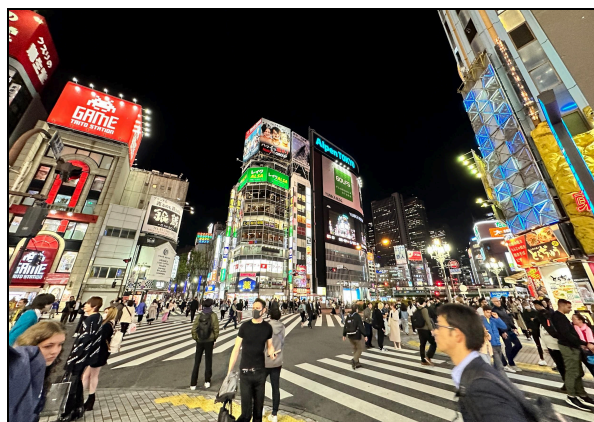
“Take a chance! All life is a chance. The man who goes furthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare.”

Dale Carnegie

Japan: A Gateway Perspective

By Peter Clear and Zachary Kyle

On April 9, 2023, Gateway scholars Carmella Campanelli, Peter Clear, Zachary Kyle, Ashley Suplicki, and Michael Zuercher traveled with a larger group of Boonton High School students to Tokyo, Japan on a tour that highlighted STEM-related attractions along with some of Tokyo's larger tourist attractions. Students described their experiences as "outstanding," with rising senior Micheal Zuercher describing the city as "singing beautifully." Below are first-hand accounts recounting the trip's events:



"On the first day of the tour we got to visit the Hamarikyu Gardens. These were a set of gardens used by the Tokugawa Shogunate. After, we traveled to Akihabara, a shopping area dedicated to anime and electronics. Our group then went to a Buddhist temple and a shopping street. We finished the day by participating in an authentic Japanese Tea ceremony."



"The second day focused on engineering. Our group first traveled to Shibuya Crossing where we got to explore the subway station and learn how it was designed. We then ascended the Tokyo Skytree and learned about the engineering behind it. We traveled to the Imperial Palace where we explored the grounds. We then split into two groups: One group went to TeamLab Planets, an interactive museum where you experience the exhibits with your senses, and the other group went to a Tokyo Giants baseball game."

"On the third day our group traveled an hour to Tsukuba and explored a geology museum where we learned about how the islands were formed. We finished the day at the Miraikan Science Museum."

"On the fourth day the group split into two for the entire day. One of the groups went to Tokyo DisneySea. Gateway scholar Ashley Suplicki noted that the amusement park was, "Surreal and fascinating; almost magical." The other group returned to Tsukuba where they explored the Science Square and learned about Japanese Innovations. After that the group went to JAXA, the headquarters of the Japanese space program. They then went to Cyberdyne studios to learn about how robots help people with limited mobility. The group finished up by going to the Meiji Jingu Shrine in Tokyo."

"On the fifth day, the group traveled to Rinkai Disaster Prevention Center where we learned about surviving the aftermath of an earthquake. We then went to Harajuku to shop."

Continued on the next page.

Japan: A Gateway Perspective

“On the final day we traveled to Yamanashi Prefecture. There we learned about maglev trains and got to see Mount Fuji. That night we had some fun and sang karaoke. The trip ended with an interview by the Japanese local evening news.”

This trip was a wonderful learning opportunity provided students with “once in a lifetime experiences.” They not only learned valuable STEM information in Japan, but also experienced a handful of invaluable, first-hand cultural lessons. Gateway Junior, Carmella Campanelli also expressed her gratitude to the chaperones on behalf of the Gateway Academy scholars sharing, “Thank you to all the chaperones for their sacrifice of time to watch us on this awesome trip.”



Upcoming

Summer, College, Career, and More

Summer Assignment



Scan the QR Code (left) to view the Gateway Academy's summer assignment for all enrolled Gateway Students. If you have not received a copy of “You're Not Listening: What You're Missing and Why it Matters” by Kate Murphy, please reach out to Ms. Bahl or Ms. Cornell as soon as possible.

Summer, College, Career, and More

Guidance Corner

The Guidance Department wishes everyone a healthy and happy summer!
Please remember to study for finals and use this time in the summer advantageously.

SAT Dates (collegeboard.com):

August 26, 2023
Registration Deadline August 15, 2023

ACT date (act.org):

July 15, 2023
Registration Deadline June 23, 2023

Upcoming Events

- August 2023 - Freshman Orientation (date to be determined)
- August 1, 2023 - Common Application Opens for Seniors
- Consider applying for a summer job or volunteering. Local volunteer opportunities are available at:
 - Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
 - New Jersey Special Olympics
 - Lincoln Park First Aid Squad
 - Montville Animal Shelter
- Take the time to visit some colleges, many local schools have open houses

School counselors recommend attending a college essay workshop and studying for the SAT!

Special thanks to Ms. Jody Oliveri and her students for their photographic and videographic contributions throughout the year.



In Gratitude

Mr. Thomas Valle, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Judy Sorochnyskyj, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Steven Gardberg, School Business Administrator
Mr. Rene Toledo, District Technology Coordinator
Mr. Ron DiGiacopo, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Louis Castano, STEM and Business Supervisor
Ms. Rebecca Kipp-Newbold, Humanities Supervisor

Mr. Jason Klebez, Principal, Boonton High School
Mr. Edward Forman, Vice Principal, Boonton High School
Mr. Alan Masters, Vice Principal, Boonton High School
Mr. David Hughen, Athletic Director, Boonton High School

Ms. Catherine O Shea, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Karen Bonanni, Administrative Assistant

The Boonton Public School Board of Education

The faculty, staff, and administration of the Lincoln Park School District for their support.

The custodial staff at Boonton High School.

The families of our Gateway Academy Scholars for their tireless support and encouragement.

On the Menu Speakers

Interested in being an
“On the Menu” speaker?



Scan the QR code above and
fill out the form for future
consideration.

Academy and AVID Clothing Sale

Apparel for students enrolled in Boonton High School's
academies and/or in the AVID program is available to order
through September 15, 2023 at which time orders will be
placed. Scan the QR Code below to access the website.

