

For Immediate Release:

June 8, 2016

Contact:

Paul Larrabee

518.689.7246

PLarrabee@comingplace.com

SCHOOLS SERVING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
CELEBRATE COMMENCEMENTS AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Cleary School
for the Deaf

Henry Viscardi
School

Lavelle School
for the Blind

Lexington School
for the Deaf

Mill Neck Manor School
for the Deaf

The New York Institute
for Special Education

New York School
for the Deaf

Rochester School
for the Deaf

St. Francis de Sales
School for the Deaf

St. Joseph's School
for the Deaf

St. Mary's School
for the Deaf

*Meeting the
educational needs
of New York's
blind, deaf and
physically disabled
children.*

During the month of June, students enrolled in the 11 schools serving blind, deaf, and severely physically disabled students will celebrate at graduation ceremonies while looking back on their many accomplishments throughout their educational careers – from pre-school through high school. The graduations will be held beginning June 15.

The 4201 Schools Association advocates on behalf of children with low-incidence disabilities and further supplies these students with educational options through its member schools. Dr. Bernadette Kappen, executive director of the New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE) in the Bronx, and chair of the 4201 Schools Association, is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of the students and wish them much happiness in the future.

“Our schools have records of success educating our students and preparing them for life after their schooling is over,” Kappen said. “They deserve our best efforts to provide pathways for them to succeed as independently as possible.”

Many of the schools invited guest speakers to motivate and congratulate the students on their success. NYISE’s commencement (6 p.m., June 22) will include Carl Augusto, president and CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB). Augusto is considered a leader to those living with disabilities, and is renowned in the blind community. Learn more about Augusto and AFB [here](#).

Rosellen Peek, an esteemed teacher at St. Mary’s School for the Deaf, will address students at SMD’s commencement (7 p.m., June 16). Peek has been an educator at St. Mary’s since 1991, teaching grades from pre-school to the fifth grade. She has also worked with students who are visually impaired and have cerebral palsy. Peek was awarded Teacher of the Year by Sorenson Video Relay Service (SVRS), an organization that empowers deaf communities. Learn more about Rosellen Peek and SVRS [here](#).

“The 4201 Schools Association is proud of our students’ outcomes and achievements,” said Tim Kelly, superintendent of St. Mary’s School for the Deaf. “Our school communities walked as a team ensuring that our graduates achieved their academic and social goals across all settings. We wish all of our graduates the best in their future endeavors.”

A schedule of upcoming events at each school, including its address, along with the dates and times for each ceremony follows:

Lexington School for the Deaf, 26-26 75th Street, East Elmhurst
7 p.m., June 15

St. Joseph’s School for the Deaf, 1000 Hutchinson River Pkwy, Bronx
10:30 a.m., June 16

St. Mary's School for the Deaf, 2253 Main St., Buffalo
7 p.m., June 16

Cleary School for the Deaf, 301 Smithtown Blvd, Nesconset (Suffolk)
1 p.m., June 21

St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn
1 p.m., June 21

New York Institute for Special Education, 999 Pelham Pkwy N, Bronx
6 p.m., June 22

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, 40 Frost Mill Rd, Mill Neck
11 a.m., June 23

Henry Viscardi School, 201 I.U. Willets Road, Albertson
7 p.m., June 23

Rochester School for the Deaf, 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester
7 p.m., June 23

New York School for the Deaf, 555 Knollwood Road, White Plains
10 a.m., June 24

Lavelle School for the Blind, 3830 Paulding Ave., Bronx
1:30 p.m., June 24

The 4201 Schools Association represents 11 private, state-supported schools that serve blind, deaf or severely physically disabled students. The "4201 schools" are so known because of the section of New York State Education Law (§4201) that grants their funding. Students in 4201 schools receive a quality education in a supportive and challenging setting from teachers and staff with specialized training and experience. Students develop emotional, social and cognitive abilities that are crucial to their success. The schools also provide extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities and mentoring.