

**Clarence Bee Article – June 2019**  
**Geoffrey Hicks, Ed.D. - Clarence Superintendent of Schools**

**Graduation**

The 147<sup>th</sup> commencement of Clarence High School took place on June 22. It is always the most emotional and exciting event in a school year, the culmination of 13 years of work by students. Their collective accomplishments, in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in the concert halls are impressive. Consider the numbers for the Class of 2019. One hundred fifty scholarships and awards were presented on Senior Awards night. Sixty-five percent of the senior class graduated with an Advanced Designation Regents Diploma, signifying additional rigor and coursework. Ninety-two percent of the senior class will seek to further their education by attending either a two- or four-year college. Eleven students were selected as 2018 National Merit Commended Students. Three graduates are enlisting for military service. Fifty-two students graduate with a certificate from our Academy of Business and Finance and forty-two graduate with PTLW pre-engineering certification. Fifty-two students qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy credential. Thirty varsity sports were designated as scholar athlete teams, meaning the team overall GPA was ninety percent or higher and twenty-four senior students were chosen as All-WNY Scholar Athletes. Clarence won nine league championships and five sectional titles.

Perhaps the most impressive number for the Class of 2019 is 22,040, which signifies the total number of community service hours worked over the past four years by CHS seniors. Our seniors worked 11,000 hours beyond the community service requirement and thirty-six seniors received the Distinguished Clarence Community Service Award, indicating at least 100 total hours of community service.

The Class of 2019 made the most of their opportunities at Clarence and their collective success is a compliment to the dedication and commitment of our faculty and the core programs that successfully prepared them for the next level.

In May, the Clarence community overwhelmingly passed the 2019-20 school budget. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the community for sending a clear communication of support for the students of the district. We recognize that with the support of the community comes the responsibility to provide the very best educational and extracurricular programs possible, and we work hard to earn that support every year. I don't believe you could find a better testament to fulfilling our promise than the collective success of the Class of 2019.