



New Canaan Public Schools
39 Locust Avenue
New Canaan, CT 06840

For Immediate Release:

Over 50 percent of NCHS Class of 2020 Honored with Seal of Biliteracy



New Canaan High School seniors pictured above are some of the 162 graduates who earned the Seal of Biliteracy this year.

New Canaan, CT (June 12, 2020). More than half of New Canaan High School's senior class will have the Seal of Biliteracy affixed on their high school diplomas and transcripts this year. 162 seniors, which makes up 54% of the graduating NCHS Class of 2020, have earned the Seal of Biliteracy, an award that recognizes a student's proficiency in English and one or more other language.

"This award validates the extremely hard work these students have put into the study of English and foreign languages," said Lizette D'Amico, New Canaan Public Schools K-12 World Language and English Language Learner Administrator. "It also identifies graduating seniors to colleges and universities and future employers as biliterate in at least one other language other than English, as it exemplifies how these future global leaders are preparing themselves for the world ahead."

Currently, 39 states and Washington D.C. have approved a statewide Seal of Biliteracy. The Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy was established in 2017 following the passage of a state law that provided specific guidelines and eligibility criteria needing to be met before the award could be presented. Students must complete all English language arts requirements for graduation and they must be proficient in a language other than English at a specific level of The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines. The award is based on the students' ability to use language rather than their knowledge about the language, and proficiency needs to be demonstrated in both social and academic settings and in all modes of communication.

The award recognizes both English speakers learning world languages along with English learners studying English or other world languages for their linguistic and cultural knowledge and the skills they acquire. The Seal of Biliteracy initiative also encourages students to explore the many cultures and languages represented in Connecticut communities and to appreciate the value of language diversity.

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