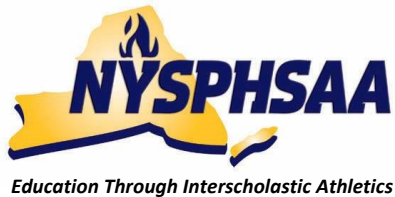


**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**



NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

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**NYSPHSAA Announces 2018-2019
Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Award Winners**

LATHAM, NY- The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) is proud to announce Columbia High School (Section 2) and Arlington High School (Section I) as its winners of the 2018-19 Sportsmanship Promotion program.

The award is presented to schools who have developed proactive approaches in keeping sportsmanship in the forefront with their students, coaches, spectators, and communities. A total of 243 schools submitted the Sportsmanship Promotion Survey to the NYSPHSAA to be considered for the banner award. From that, 45 schools were chosen by their Sections as plaque winners. This year marks the 22nd year that deserving schools have been recognized by the NYSPHSAA's Sportsmanship Promotion program, both of which will be honored at the NYSPHSAA's Central Committee Meeting Luncheon on July 30th at the Turning Stone Resort.

ABOUT THE WINNING SCHOOLS:

Columbia High School – Section 2 (7th consecutive year)

For the 7th consecutive year, Columbia High School has been honored for their sportsmanship work. The school participates in an Adopt-a-Family program, a Team Ribbon Run for ovarian cancer awareness and its PB&J games to benefit the East Greenbush Central School District backpack programs. After a rival school was the target of racially charged insults at a girl's soccer match, the Columbia girls soccer team greeted them with flowers and hugs as a response to the insults they faced just two nights later. This act of sportsmanship was featured in "High School Today", the monthly magazine published by the National Federation of High School Associations. Sportsmanship signs with expectations for players, coaches and fans are posted around the Columbia campus. The school also brings in guest speakers to talk to coaches and parents about the importance of positive sportsmanship. Columbia participates in more than 30 sportsmanship events, acts or activities each year.

"It's an honor to have been awarded the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award for seven years in a row.", said Mike Leonard, Columbia Athletic Director. "It speaks volumes about the great student-athletes, coaches and our school district. I am very proud of them and the many positive programs and activities they all participate in to promote sportsmanship."

Arlington High School – Section 1 (2nd time)

Arlington also engages in numerous initiatives to promote sportsmanship; in fact they were last honored in the 2001-02 school year. Each season a student-athlete from each varsity team is selected as a sportsmanship winner. In addition, teams participate in community service events throughout the year, while the athletic director holds a yearly meeting with all coaches. The focus this year was on hazing prevention. The Arlington Student Athletic Council, which is made up of one representative from each varsity team, promotes sportsmanship and provides suggestions to the athletic department on ways to improve sportsmanship throughout the school.

“On behalf of the Arlington Central School District, we are honored to receive this award,” said Michael Cring, Arlington Director of Athletics. “It is my feeling that this is one of the most prestigious awards a school can receive. As educators and communities, it is of the utmost importance to stress the values of sportsmanship as we teach children about what is essential as human beings. We will continue to work, review and improve sportsmanship as it is an integral part of what our community should demonstrate. I would like to thank our student-athletes and especially our coaches that help to create a program that instills the necessary values it takes to show respect.”

Recent Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Award Winners:

- 2018 – Columbia High School (Section 2)
Franklin High School (Section V)
Islip High School (Section XI)
West Genesee High School (Section III)
- 2017 – Columbia High School (Section 2)
West Genesee High School (Section III)
- 2016 – Byram Hills High School (Section I)
Columbia High School (Section 2)
Cooperstown High School (Section III)
- 2015 – Columbia High School (Section 2)
- 2014 – Columbia High School (Section 2)
Carthage High School (Section III)
- 2013 – Columbia High School (Section 2)

The complete list of previous Sportsmanship Promotion banner winners can be found here:
<http://nysphsaa.org/Portals/0/PDF/Sportsmanship/MASTER%20Sportsmanship%20Promotion.pdf>

About NYSPHSAA (Twitter: @NYSPHSAA | Facebook: NYSPHSAA | YouTube: NYSPHSAASports):

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc. is a non-profit, voluntary, educational service organization composed of public, parochial, and private schools dedicated to providing equitable and safe competition for the students of its member schools. The organization conducts 32 championship events and governs the rules and regulations of high school athletics in New York State. Membership is open to secondary schools providing interschool athletic activities for boys and girls in grades 7-12.

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