

# Rising Senior Update

NHREC Governor's School Class of 2023

## Congratulations on completing your 2021-22 Year



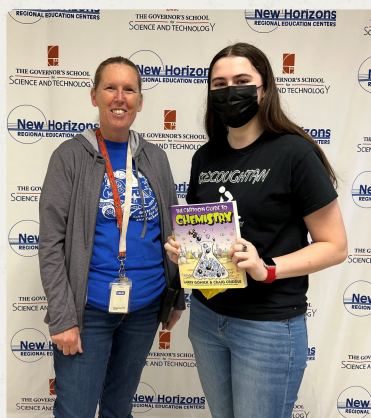
Congratulations to the GSST Class of 2023, on a successful completion of your junior year! You are one step closer to your STEM career goals!

We will feature some of the photos from our End of Year Rising Senior Celebration. Here, the suspense builds as Kate Lee (Poquoson HS) removes a Jenga piece.

## Rising Senior Awards for 2021-22, Presented at the Celebration



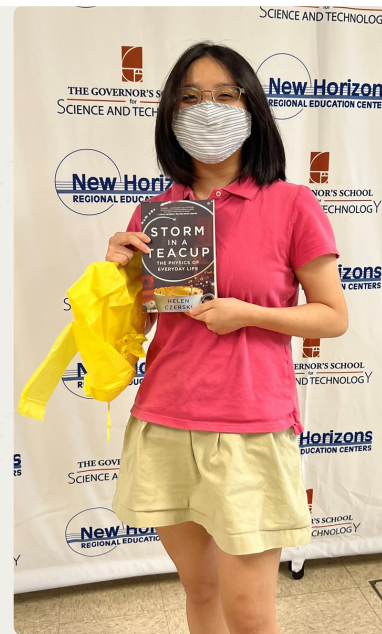
**Linear Algebra  
Academic Honors**



Awardee: Justin Babilino  
(York HS) pictured with Dr.  
Hou

## Advanced Chemical Analysis Academic Honors

Awardee: Hannah Bunting  
(Kecoughtan HS), with Mrs.  
Clarke



## Calculus-Based Engineering Physics I & II Academic Honors

Awardee: Lillian Lam  
(Grafton HS)



## Great Computer Challenge First Place Team in Integrated Applications

From left to right: Sagun  
Venuganti (Grafton HS),  
Kenneth Branch (Windsor  
HS), Sundeep Tripuraneni  
(Grafton HS)



## Great Computer Challenge First Place Team in Scientific/Non- business Programming

From left to right: Raafat  
Salib (Grafton HS), Dow  
Draper (Woodside HS)



## Xerox Award for Innovation

Kaden Emley (Tabb HS)

## William & Mary Leadership Award

Congratulations to Xavier Wills (Warhill HS)! Xavier was selected by the GSST faculty to receive the W & M Leadership Award because of his demonstration of inspirational leadership, outstanding scholarship, and unwavering loyal to his schools and community. This award was mailed to Xavier. Congratulations!



## Rising Senior Celebration Shenanigans





### Super-Sized Connect 4

Ian Howard (Lafayette HS) places a marker in a game with Paul Le Gouellec (Jamestown HS).



### AM Karaoke Fun

Alexia Jennings (Kecoughtan HS) & Arvin Picardo (Warhill HS)



### The Bounce House

It was sequentially fun, then hot, then water-logged...

## Getting Ready for Senior Year

### Mentorship Placement-Communication is Key!

Be sure to check your CANVAS announcements and GSST e-mail regularly during the summer. Ms. Vobrak, the mentorship coordinator, will communicate with students regarding mentorship placement. Students will be notified of weekly opportunities to meet virtually with Ms. Vobrak to talk about the status of their mentorship placement. Mentorship placement is a collaboration between each student and Ms. Vobrak. Students must be involved in the placement process in order to secure a mentorship.

### Multivariable Calculus vs. Differential Equations - the placement recommendations

The GSST offers two options:

1. Multivariable Calculus (4 college credit hours) during first semester and Linear Algebra (3 college credit hours) during second semester
2. Differential Equations (3 college credit hours)

While many universities require students to complete all three semesters of Calculus before enrolling into Differential Equations course, the GSST offers Differential Equations as the year long course, which allows for the deep review of Calculus I and II material, and provides students with ample amount of time to comprehend and master the rigorous material.

The recommendation for Sr Math Class based on the combination of the following criterias:

1. Calculus I and II grades
2. GPA at the GSST
3. Math pre-assessment score

Check the Research Methodology & Ethics Canvas Gradebook for an assignment called "Sr Math Class Recommendation." If you have an A for that assignment, we math teachers recommend you take Multivariable Calculus and Linear Algebra (MVLA). If you have a B, we recommend Differential Equations (DiffEq). If you have a C we recommend

Calculus. Those of you that wanted to take MVLA but are recommended to take DiffEq need to check your NHREC Gmail. We are waiting for your reply to discuss it further.

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## UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **Dr. Kuchina to leave the classroom, but continue sponsoring clubs**

Dr. Kuchina will not be teaching Physics in academic year 2022-23, but will still bring her unique flair to sponsoring physics and math clubs and competition teams. Thank you, Dr. Kuchina, for bringing your expertise and special brand of fun to the classroom. You will be missed.



### **Tentative Faculty Assignments for 2022-2023**

#### Research

- Junior: Dr Jiashi Hou & Prof Steven Walk
- Senior: Ms Laura Vobrak & Mr Gaelan Venturi

#### Math

- Ms Rimma Feygelson: Calculus & Differential Equations
- Dr Amy Schmidt: Calculus & MultiVariable Calculus and Linear Algebra
- Ms Kenya Whitney: PreCalculus & Calculus
- Mrs Deidre Yee (Jeter): Calculus

#### Science

- Biology: Dr Mary Patterson
- Chemistry: Mrs Jennifer Clarke
- Jr Computational Science: Dr Islam Bedir
- Sr Computational Science: Ms Elizabeth Jesseman
- Jr Engineering: Mr Dennis Weygand
- Sr Engineering: Dr Ibrahim Albayrak

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### **Introducing the New Faculty**





### **Computational Science Teacher: Elizabeth Jesseman**

Elizabeth Jesseman will be taking over the Senior Computational Science course, focusing on C++ programming and its application to modern problem solving and algorithm development.

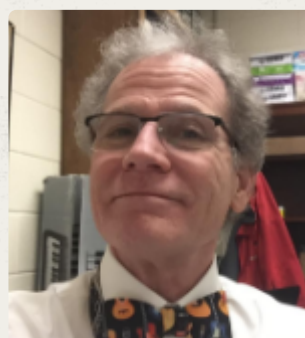


**Math Teacher: Kenya Whitney**

The math department is gaining a fourth teacher! Ms Whitney will be joining us for the upcoming school year. She has previously taught IB Math, PreCalculus, and AP Calculus at Hampton High School, TCC, and TNCC.

**Calculus-Based Physics I & II: Dennis Weygand**

Most recently at ODU and the Jefferson Labs, Dr. Weygand has conducted research at the Brookhaven National Labs and CERN. He earned his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics at Syracuse University. Dr. Weygand promises to engage and challenge our Junior Engineering Physics students with an experimentation-rich curriculum.



## Co-Instructor, Junior Research: Steven Walk

Out of retirement, Steven Walk will return to GSST as a co-teacher, with Dr. Hou, for the Junior Research Class. He earned his BS and MS in Electrical Engineering, and taught at ODU before joining the GSST faculty in 2013. Professor Walk will be introducing Principles of Engineering Design and Entrepreneurship, critical for all STEM professions.

## Introducing New Course

### Data Science

As part of the Senior Research Course, Mr. Venturi will be teaching a Data Science course piloted from Virginia Tech called "Data in Our Lives". The course will focus on the use of data in daily life, how it pertains to research, the ethics surrounding the use of data, and how to perform data analysis and create meaningful visualizations.



## Regional Calendar 2022-2023 [🔗](#)

### Event Information

#### First Day of School for GSST Students

#### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AUGUST 29, 2022

Students will attend their assigned AM or PM session, reporting to all three classes: Math, Research, and Science. Please be prepared with your planner, writing materials, and/or laptop/tablet.

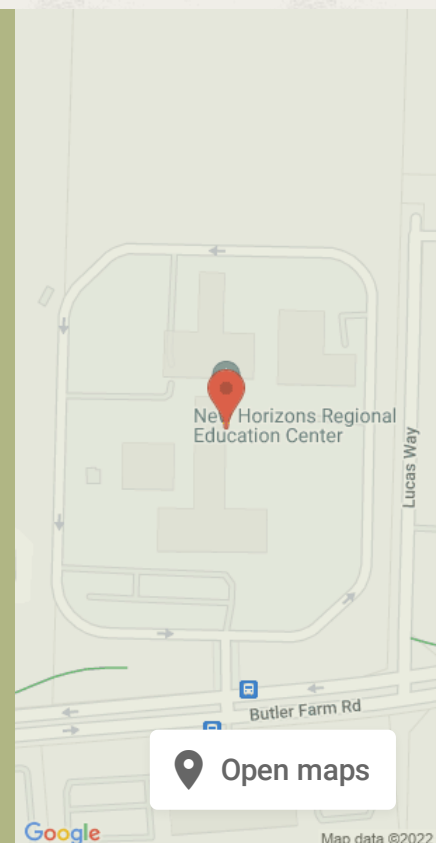
AM session begins at 7:10 a.m. PM session begins at 11:20 a.m.

When?

**Mon, Aug 29, 2022, 07:00 AM**

Where?

**New Horizons Regional Education Center, Butler Farm Road, Hampton, VA, USA**



**Mary Patterson**

Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

