

## Valedictorian: Catherine Kopp

College: Cornell University

**Major:** Applied Economics and Management

**Parents:** Carin and Bruce Kopp

**Advice for others:** Don't be afraid to try new things and explore all that is offered to you at Southern Cayuga; there is no better feeling than realizing how much you enjoy something you never imagined doing. Also, life is so good - just be kind, be happy, and appreciate all it has to offer!

**What will you miss most about high school?** The intimate community of Southern Cayuga is what I have treasured the most during my time in school. The student-to-teacher connection is so strong due to small class sizes. Having the opportunity to play three sports while still being involved in a myriad of activities is a unique experience SCCS students are fortunate to have. Emerging out of this small environment is the ability to seamlessly move between and within a variety of groups, from FFA to athletics to academics to leadership positions. The people of Southern Cayuga, both students and faculty alike, are some of the kindest and most genuine individuals I know; the environment that is fostered within SCCS is special and something I will miss greatly.

**What was your favorite class?** I loved most of my classes because the teachers made them engaging. However, my favorite subject was history, specifically SUPA US History. Learning about the connection that exists between the formation of our nation and the culture that continues to form today intrigues me. I am interested in continuing to study history through the lens of political science as a minor in college. Mrs. Casper was one of many incredible teachers at SCCS. She was truly dedicated to the curriculum she taught, sincerely passionate about history, and cared so much about her students.

**What do you think is the strength of the class of 2019?** The Class of 2019 has a unique way of welcoming people of all different backgrounds, passions, and future paths. We are a small but strong community of students who are able to find comradery and enjoyment in many different facets of school and life in general. We are goofy, adventurous, smart, sporty, nerdy, kind, and caring, creating an environment for any friend to find their home.



---

## Salutatorian: Alexandra deFerrante

College: University of Vermont

**Major:** Environmental Science

**Parents:** Diane and Robert deFerrante

**Advice for others:** Surround yourself by people who will push you to be your best self, even when you can't on your own. I found people like this and if you are lucky enough to find these people, don't ever let them go. They'll be the ones that keep you going.

**What will you miss most about high school?** I will miss my sports teams the most going into college. My coaches and teammates have made me who I am and I am so grateful for all the knowledge they have given me.

**What was your favorite class?** English, Mr. Mullarney is a great English teacher and has become a major role model for me and has greatly impacted my life. He works to better others and genuinely cares and wants success for every individual he meets and I strive to be even half the person he is.

**What do you think is the strength of the class of 2019?** Our strength is in our numbers, not that there's a lot of us, but we have been very successful with the little we have. Our small numbers have allowed us all to be great friends and celebrate each others' successes through our time together.

