

THOMAS S. KULASZEWSKI



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Thomas S. Kulaszewski, Class of '72 and long-time Board of Education Trustee, was a pillar of the Cleveland Hill Union Free School District who made it his mission to ensure that there was a strong connection between the school and community. He served as a Board of Education Trustee for eighteen years, ten of which as Vice President, and passionately advocated for the students and staff of Cleveland Hill. He was also an active member of the PTA, prior to joining the Board. In 2011, he was named the recipient of the Erie County Association of School Boards - Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award, presented to a current or former school board member who has provided outstanding service in advocacy for children, demonstrating leadership in the district and community with actions that clearly benefit children, and show a willingness to stand up for principles that “put kids first.”

As a School Board member, Mr. Kulaszewski cared deeply about providing services to the community. He played a pivotal role in the creation of the District’s Family Resource Center, which provides the community with direct support and resources, covering a wide array of community needs including individual and family counseling, parenting workshops, and family fiscal planning. Mr. Kulaszewski’s legacy at Cleveland Hill continues to live on, as the official naming of “The Thomas Kulaszewski Family Resource Center” occurred on the very night he was also inducted into the Cleveland Hill UFSD Hall of Fame.

It was said that Mr. Kulaszewski had two passions; his family and the Cleveland Hill community. Sadly, he passed away in September 2020, after a long battle with illness. He is survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, Dorene; their three children Katharine, Emmarie, and Andrew; grandchildren Clark, Georgia, and Edison; and countless other friends and family members. In an interview following his decision not to run for re-election due to health reasons, Mr. Kulaszewski shared a message for the trustee filling in that we all can benefit from taking note of. He said, “Cherish every moment and learn all you can. And listen more than you speak.”

“Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.”

SARAH SAPUTO, PhD



CLASS OF '04

Dr. Sarah Saputo is a distinguished alumna from the Class of 2004. The most fulfilling pursuits are those fueled by passion and curiosity—and Cleveland Hill sparked both for Dr. Sarah Saputo. It laid the foundation for the questions that still drive her today.

While attending Cleveland Hill from 1995 to 2004, Dr. Saputo was a National Honor Society member, consistent Honor Roll student, 2nd chair clarinet in the school band, varsity bowler, and pit orchestra performer. In 2002, she attended the Villanova Summer Research Institute, an international program for high school researchers. The following year, she joined the New Visions program, gaining year-long clinical and academic experience at the Buffalo VA Hospital.

After graduating in 2004, Dr. Saputo earned a B.S. in Biochemistry with a minor in Foreign Languages from St. John Fisher. As a first-generation college student, she navigated each step with determination and a deep love of learning—a drive that led to a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Rochester. Her passion for science and sharing knowledge has taken her to local, national, and international conferences and led to several peer-reviewed publications. She also received a postdoctoral fellowship from the NIH's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

Dr. Saputo is currently a faculty member at SUNY Brockport, where she was named a SUNY PRODiG Fellow and received the 2022 Academic Advisement Award, nominated by a student and presented by the university president. While she serves on multiple committees, mentoring brings her the most joy—helping students discover their passions and pursue their goals.

Just as Cleveland Hill sparked her curiosity, she now has the privilege of igniting that spark in others. She is deeply grateful to the teachers and mentors who helped her along the way.

Outside the lab, Dr. Saputo enjoys painting, hiking, gardening, and practicing karate.

“Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.”