

A Newsletter for Catholic High Schools
in the Archdiocese of New York



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the*
ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

Volume 19
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THE SCOOP

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in the Archdiocese of New York

The Office of Secondary Schools serves forty-two high schools with over 21,000 students within the Archdiocese of New York including The Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island, Westchester, and Upper Counties.

Linda Doughtry
Associate Superintendent
of Secondary Schools

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To learn more about Catholic
high schools in the Archdiocese of
New York, visit:

catholicschoolsnny.org/secondary

COVER PHOTO

Moore Catholic is thrilled to announce the launch of their new HEAL (Healthcare Education And Leadership) Program.

This initiative aims to inspire and educate students about the importance of healthcare and leadership in their community.

They kicked off the program with an insightful panel discussion featuring distinguished professionals: Dr. Bosso '77, Dr. Laura Vonfrolio '70, Dr. Charles Vonfrolio, and Dr. DeGennaro. Thankful to the panelists for sharing their time and knowledge.



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ATTENTION ALL 8TH GRADERS!!

- High School Admission's Notice Date:
ADNY Schools - Wednesday, January 22nd at 4PM
(DBQ/RVC Schools – Wednesday, January 15th at 3PM)
- TACHS Home Reports Available via www.tachsinfo.com on January 24th.
- ADNY Letters of intent to high schools due Friday, February 7th.
In-Person Registration Day for Class of 2029 – Wednesday, March 12th.
(Online registration opens soon after admission's release date.)

**"Intelligence plus character—that is
the goal of true education."**

Martin Luther King Jr.



Catholic High Schools Pray, Give, and Celebrate Achievements...

Catholic High Schools Spread Christmas Joy!

Notre Dame High School Christmas Tree

Every year the Senior Class of Notre Dame School construct a Christmas Tree out of their library books. This year's tree was the biggest yet!



St. Raymond Boy's High School

St. Raymond seniors helped to give out milk and cookies and collaborated with their younger Raven students on Christmas arts and crafts projects. To make the event even more special St. Raymond seniors dressed in Christmas costumes like elves, frosty the snowman and reindeers.

Maria Regina High School Operation Teddy Bear

In a special way, a group of 25 Maria Regina High School students helped bring smiles to the young patients at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital this holiday season. The students stuffed more than two hundred teddy bears to be delivered to some of the region's most ill and injured children who are being cared for at the top-ranked Maria Fareri in Valhalla.



Mount St. Michael Academy Toy Drive

Mount St. Michael Academy's Campus Ministry office collects toys and gifts for children at the Mercy Center in the South Bronx every year. Student volunteers played Santa and a few of his elves for the center's annual After School Program Christmas party.



Undefeated Salesian Varsity Soccer Wins the CHSSA Division B Intersectional Championship

The Salesian Varsity Soccer Team has achieved something special by winning the CHSSA Division B Intersectional Championship and finishing an undefeated season! This remarkable accomplishment followed a season filled with record-breaking high-scoring games, highlighting the team's offensive power and skill. Seniors Andrea Kola '24 and Christos Argyros '24 stood out as the team's top scorers, consistently leading the Eagles to victory.

In recognition of their outstanding performances, several players earned spots on the CHSSA Division B All-Player list, further solidifying the team's dominance. A special thank you goes to Coach Kevin Gray for his leadership and guidance, which played a crucial role in the team's success. The players' hard work, dedication, and teamwork reflect their character and the values of Salesian High School. **Congratulations Eagles!!**

Albertus Magnus Girl's Soccer Team State Champs!

The Albertus Magnus High School Girls Soccer team are 2024 Class AA New York State Champions with an undefeated record of 20-0-1. Head Coach Danny Samimi was also recognized as NY State Coach of the Year. Way to Go!!



FORDHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL
HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
SUMMER 2025

FORDHAM PREP
Rams

Open to
RISING 8TH GRADE BOYS ONLY

Applications open February 1

FP
1841

HAP at Fordham Prep

The Higher Achievement Program (HAP) at Fordham Prep is a unique summer program for boys entering eighth grade in Fall 2025. During the month-long program, students spend a full day at the Prep alongside faculty and current students, honing skills in math, writing and critical thinking, while also engaging in athletics, service, and creative enrichment activities that prepare participants for 8th grade, the high school application process, and beyond!



The Major Relics of St. Thomas Aquinas, OP visits St. Vincent Ferrer High School

The Major Relics of St. Thomas Aquinas visited left Europe and visited the United States for this first time in history this past December. In celebration of his legacy and his profound impact on the Dominican Order and on Catholic education, St. Vincent Ferrer High School was graced with the presence of this precious relic.

This was a great honor for the school, as any students, faculty, and parents were given the opportunity to venerate the skull of St. Thomas preserved from the 13th Century. It was a very prayerful and sacred time for the St. Vincent Ferrer school community.

This extraordinary occasion allowed them to venerate the Dominican saint and theologian in the intimacy of their school.

National Signing Day at Cardinal Hayes

On National Signing Day, December 4, 2024, four members of the Cardinal Hayes High School Varsity Football Team signed NCAA National Letters of Intent to play college football in the fall of 2025.

They are left to right Reid Jones, Yale University, Jayden Mann, Syracuse University, Richard Belin, Syracuse University, and Blake Belin, Georgia Tech.

Other members of the team will sign on the February Signing Day.



Cardinal Spellman “S” Award Recipients

Seventy-five Spellman Seniors received the Circle S Award, in honor of completing 120 hours of service during high school. In total this group has over 9,000 service hours.

St. Raymond HS for Boys E-Sports Takes the Fall CHSAA City Championship During Their Inaugural Year!

E-Sports at St. Raymond HS for Boys has kicked off its inaugural year in spectacular fashion – winning the Fall CHSAA City Championship! Team Overwatch has left quite an impression on the high school gaming community this season. Overwatch was placed in a field of eight local schools. Their typical win of 3-0 (best of five games) proved to be dominant victories. Currently, Overwatch is playing in the regional playoffs.

The regionals cover a good part of the northeast with over 30 schools. We wish them luck as they take on some of their toughest competition yet.



Cristo Rey NYC Celebrates Founder's Day

Cristo Rey New York High School commemorates Founder's Day on December 3rd, honoring the legacies of its five Spiritual Founders:

- St. Oscar Romero
- Ita Ford
- Maura Clarke
- Dorothy Kazel
- Jean Donovan

The day begins with an all-school Mass at St. Cecilia's Parish, celebrating the Founder's courage and dedication to justice.

Following Mass, Freshmen participate in a citywide Founder's Service Day.



Cathedral High School Welcomes Deans from the University of Notre Dame

CHS's Distinguished Speaker Series provides insights into the virtues necessary to lead a fulfilling professional and personal life. The November Series featured guests Dean G. Marcus Cole of the University of Notre Dame Law School and Dean Martijn Cremers of the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business! Students applauded as the Deans shared their stories of perseverance, emphasized the value of Catholic education, and implored each student "to recognize that God has a long plan for you, not a short one." Dean Cole inspired the audience with his concluding message: "Your two long term goals are to have a meaningful life here and an everlasting life in Heaven."





IONA PREP OPTIONS PROGRAM

FACULTY

KIMBERLY CINGUINA

Co-Director of Academic Support Services

DANIELLE MAZZARIELLO

Co-Director of Academic Support Services
and Options Program Teacher

MISSION

The primary focus at the Iona Preparatory School is to nurture and empower young men by teaching faith, building community, serving others, and pursuing excellence. Iona Prep accepts students with the academic potential to succeed in a rigorous college prep program, and who are willing to challenge themselves in a variety of academic and extracurricular pursuits.

The Options Program is designed with the belief that all young men, including those with mild to moderate disabilities should have the option of an Iona Preparatory education. Its purpose is to meet the needs of a unique set of learners in an effort to embrace the spirit of the Iona Prep man: heart, mind, body, and soul. The focus of the program is to provide academic, social, and spiritual growth for each student in order for them to be successful and independent adults in the future.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A challenging curriculum, a welcoming community, a caring and dedicated faculty, and the building of life-long friendships are hallmarks of Iona Prep.

The mission of the program is to prepare students for life after high school. There are many choices for students upon completion of the Options Program. Throughout the student's four years in the program, they will work on a Life Skills curriculum with the goal of becoming independent and productive members of our community.

We recognize the importance of setting students up for a successful transition into adulthood, including preparation for independent living and job training.

The curriculum of the Options Program is centered on developing the students' skills in English and Mathematics. Our faculty conducts these classes in a smaller setting where they use a variety of hands-on-activities, cooperative learning, and interactive technologies to meet each student's needs.



Maria Regina HS Earns College Board's Coveted "AP Gold with Access Honor Roll" Ranking

Maria Regina was among only 7% of eligible public and private high schools nationwide—and the only all-girls high school in Westchester and one of only two high schools in the entire Archdiocese of New York Secondary Schools System—to achieve the Gold level with Access.

The renowned all-girls Catholic high school also distinguished itself by achieving the “with access” award. Principal Maria Carozza-McCaffrey (Class of '99) said that the distinction “honors high schools that demonstrate a clear commitment to giving students equitable access to advanced coursework with no restrictions on who can enroll in an AP course.”



Scene from St. Jean Baptiste Senior Retreat

The Class of 2025 took a much-needed break from classes and college applications this month for prayer, reflection, and restoration at the Thomas Berry Place Retreat Center in Jamaica, Queens. Activities included scavenger hunts through the center’s gardens, a reflection on the biblical story of Martha and Mary, journaling, an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the celebration of Mass. The Senior Retreat is a memorable rite of passage for Jeanites during which they forge deeper bonds with each other and strengthen their relationship with God.



Service Learning at SCA becomes a New Signature Program in Academics

St. Catharine Academy has introduced Service Learning as a new signature program on the high school level. It teaches students about the complexities that exist in areas of social justice.

Supported by academic work in Theology classes, students are challenged to confront issues such as homelessness and hunger through advocacy, education, and direct engagement with the marginalized and vulnerable.





Burke Alumna, Christina Zick '22 Comes Home

John Douthit '86 and Burke Catholic President said, "It was so great to see Christina Zick BC '22 and member of the West Point Military Academy Corps of Cadets! Thank you for coming home to speak with our BC students! Non-Vox Sed Votum!"

Mike O'Donnell Steps Down as Varsity Head Football Coach After 38 Years; AJ Magee Named Successor

After 38 incredible years of exemplary service and unwavering dedication, Mike O'Donnell, Stepinac's esteemed Athletic Director and Head Football Coach, has decided to step down from his role as Head Football Coach. Thankfully, he will continue to serve the school as Athletic Director, ensuring his legacy of excellence continues to guide our athletic programs.

Coach O'Donnell's commitment to Stepinac has been nothing short of extraordinary. For four decades, he has been a steadfast leader, mentor, and role model, shaping the lives of thousands of students and players. His care, concern, and tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on our school community.

Stepinac is thrilled to welcome AJ Magee back to Stepinac as our new Varsity Head Football Coach," Rev. Thomas Collins '79 added. "AJ's passion for the game and his strong connection to our mission make him the ideal person to carry forward the legacy of excellence that Coach O'Donnell has established."



Iona Prep Launches New Options Program

The Options Program at Iona Prep. This is a modified inclusion, life skills program for high school students that will begin at Iona Prep in September 2025. The program will involve students studying English, math, and life skills in a small, self-contained setting as well as attending some general education classes with their peers from Iona Prep in a modified inclusion setting.

Some of the general education classes that the students may attend include theology, physical education, art, and music. The students in the Options Program will be accompanied to their general education classes by a peer mentor. The peer mentors are Iona Prep students in their junior and senior years of high school who will volunteer to attend general education classes with the students from the Options Program during their free periods.

See Full Description of program on page 7

St. Joseph Hill Academy Take the Polar Plunge

At St. Joseph Hill Academy High School, the season of giving reflects their mission to make God's love visible to all. The Hilltoppers have embraced service wholeheartedly – from collecting food donations and supporting Project Hospitality's Annual Poor People's Dinner, to raising over \$23,000 at Staten Island's Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics. Led by top fundraisers Francesca Scarso and Olivia Aversa, St. Joseph Hill students demonstrated extraordinary compassion. The spirit of giving continued as Hill's Harmonies for Happiness Club performed at community events, while student initiatives like the Winter Clothing and Coat Drive supported local outreach programs.



*Our high schools educate a diverse student body,
each student unique and special in their own way.*

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