

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 22  
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# THE SCOOP

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



The Office of Secondary Schools serves forty-one 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

**Carmen Leon**  
Secondary Schools Administrator

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

[catholicschoolsny.org/secondary](http://catholicschoolsny.org/secondary)

## Cover Photo:

Students gather for an assembly during a visit from Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, 10th Archbishop of New York, at Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx.



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**ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK**

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

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



## Honoring Service: Sacred Heart High School's Veteran's Day Panel

Sacred Heart High School was privileged to host our inaugural Veterans Day panel, "Lessons in Service and Courage: A Conversation with Veterans," on November 10th. The event brought together veterans from different branches of the armed forces, each offering powerful personal stories that highlighted the sacrifices, challenges, and triumphs of military life. Their reflections on commitment, teamwork, and integrity resonated deeply with our students, sparking thoughtful questions and meaningful dialogue. By the end of the panel, students walked away with a renewed appreciation for discipline, resilience, and the importance of serving others. These values extend far beyond the classroom and will continue to guide them in their lives and future endeavors.

## College Board Recognition at Cardinal Spellman High School

Cardinal Spellman High School is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of 23 students who have been honored by the College Board National Recognition Program.

The program, available through BigFuture, helps students stand out on college and scholarship applications. Each year, high-achieving students are selected based on their performance on College Board assessments, including the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and AP Exams.

We applaud these students for their hard work and dedication, and we invite you to join us in congratulating them on this remarkable accomplishment.



## Stepinac Senior Joel Kuadugah '26 Accepted to Columbia University Through QuestBridge National College Match



Archbishop Stepinac High School is proud to announce that Joel Kuadugah '26 of Yonkers has been accepted to The Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Science, Class of 2030, at Columbia University, through the highly competitive QuestBridge National College Match program.

Joel applied to Columbia University through QuestBridge, a nationally recognized organization that connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with top colleges and universities. QuestBridge is dedicated to expanding access to higher education regardless of race, geography, or academic interest. In 2025, the QuestBridge National College Match connected 2,550 high school seniors with full scholarships to leading colleges and universities across the country.

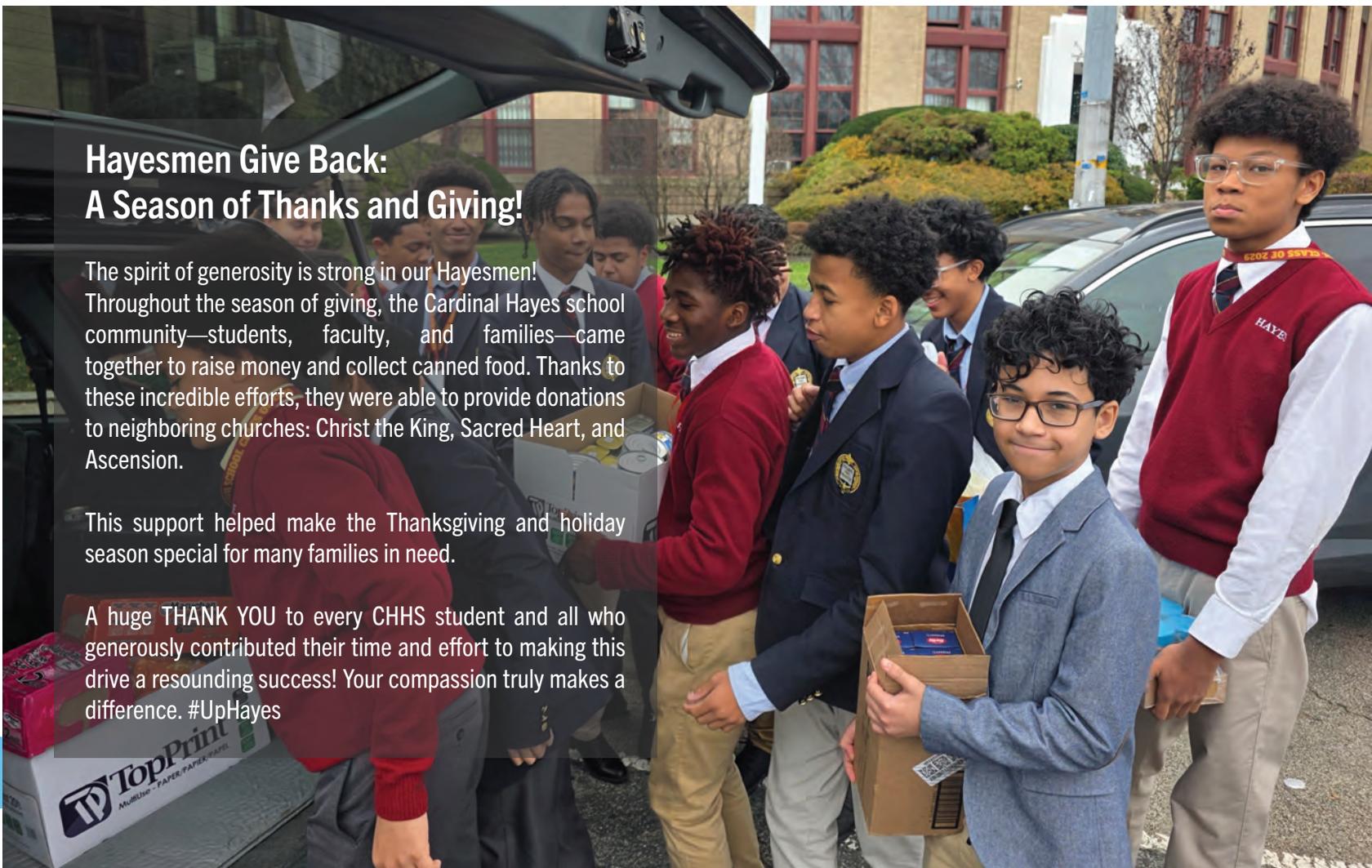
Through this match, Joel has earned a comprehensive four-year scholarship to Columbia University that covers tuition, housing, meals, books, and other educational expenses, ensuring he can fully focus on his academic pursuits in engineering without financial burden.

### Hayesmen Give Back: A Season of Thanks and Giving!

The spirit of generosity is strong in our Hayesmen! Throughout the season of giving, the Cardinal Hayes school community—students, faculty, and families—came together to raise money and collect canned food. Thanks to these incredible efforts, they were able to provide donations to neighboring churches: Christ the King, Sacred Heart, and Ascension.

This support helped make the Thanksgiving and holiday season special for many families in need.

A huge THANK YOU to every CHHS student and all who generously contributed their time and effort to making this drive a resounding success! Your compassion truly makes a difference. #UpHayes



## Notre Dame School of Manhattan selected by the Lii-Haybyrne institute for Asian Studies

Notre Dame School of Manhattan is the second school to be selected by the Lii-Haybyrne institute for Asian Studies, which has a very exciting program of study culminating a three-week trip to China! The students at Notre Dame have the awesome opportunity to be awarded Anthony S. Aracich, SJ Fellowships to support their studies and travel. Starting spring of 2025 and going through the 2025-2026 school year, those who are interested from the class of 2027 and 2028 will study various aspect of Chinese culture on a biweekly basis. Then, those 10 that end up selected, they will embark on a fully sponsored educational trip to China in the summer of 2026.

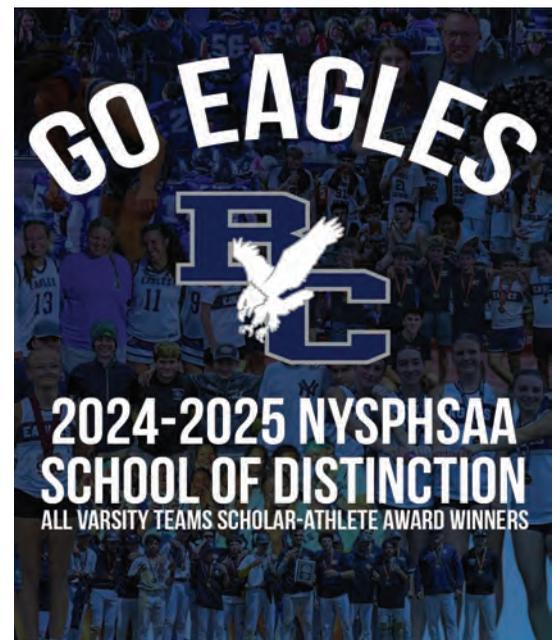


## Scholas – Communities in Motion USA From New York to LA to now Chicago, Youth Come together to Lead with Empathy and Understanding.

In New York, over 110 students from fifteen schools spent three days diving deeper into themes of vulnerability, respect, and mental health. Surveys showed that 94% of participants felt more confident and self-aware, 95% felt more compassionate toward others and over 90% joyful and peaceful. Across these cities, students of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, religions and worldviews found common ground in their emotions and aspirations. Communities in Motion has become a mirror where young people can see themselves and one another more clearly though the culture of encounter.

## Burke Catholic High School named NYSPHSAA School of Distinction

As the final achievement of a historic 2024–2025 athletic year, Burke Catholic High School has been named a NYSPHSAA School of Distinction. We are proud to be one of only seven schools in Section IX to earn this prestigious honor. To receive the distinction, a school must have 100% of its varsity teams to earn the Scholar-Athlete Team Award during their respective sports seasons. We extend our sincere thanks to our student athletes, coaches, and teachers for their commitment to excellence throughout the year. Our athletes continue to embody the core values of our Burke Catholic athletic program: Commitment, Integrity, and Pride.





## St. Peter's Boys Students Raise an Amazing \$12k to Send Kids with Cancer to Camp!

During the "Eagle for a Cause" service day that was held, the male students at St. Peter's Boys High School raised a whopping \$12,000 that will be used to send children who are fighting cancer to be able to attend Sunrise Day Camp in Staten Island. The money will be used to cover the cost of the camp for two campers to attend. The good deeds done by the boys are very inspirational and show strong compassion and care done by the youth.

## Preston HS Scholars Travel to Europe for the EF Global Leadership Summit

Twelve students from the Preston Scholars Program traveled to Brussels, Amsterdam, and Berlin. They attended workshops, visited museums, and learned how working together is a necessary skill for careers and life. At EF Tours' 2025 Global Leadership Summit: Future Readiness in a Changing World, participants were asked to create a prototype that would benefit users in an ever-changing world. Two PHS students made it to the final round of pitches, with rising senior Areti Veros' group delivering the winning pitch! Their prototype, an AI device to help people in the blind community perform everyday tasks, will be featured in the Nobel Prize Museum."



# MEN *for* OTHERS

In 1994, eight Fordham Prep students traveled to West Virginia as pioneers in what was then called the school's Appalachia Program. Since 2005, Fordham Prep students and the school community have fully sponsored and built 36 homes in Scott and Morgan Counties, Tennessee, in partnership with Appalachia Habitat for Humanity.

This summer, Fordham Prep ran five service trips to Tennessee, sending 110 Prep students, accompanied by 19 volunteer chaperones—alumni, staff, and faculty—to continue this proud tradition of building homes in partnership with the community.



## Montefiore Speaker Series for Academy of Mount St. Ursula Interns

Eight student interns from the Academy of Mount St. Ursula participated in a Speaker Series hosted by Montefiore Medical Center. These student interns from the Class of 2026, heard from accomplished professionals, working across healthcare and hospital administration, including our very own AMSU Alumna, Mariangela Midea, from the Class of 1998. Speakers such as Natasha Beyde, Associate Administrator of Radiology, and Samantha DeFrancesco, Assistant Vice President for Employee and Labor Relations, shared their journeys and encouraged students to pursue their goals with persistence and purpose. A special highlight was hearing from Midea '98, Senior Director of Special Projects in Human Resources, who shared how her time at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula shaped her confidence and leadership and reminded students to stay open to every opportunity that comes their way



## Salesian Alumni Spotlight: Nicholas Camacho '12 Successfully Defends Dissertation at Duke University

We are proud to celebrate Salesian alum Nicholas Camacho '12, who successfully defended his dissertation on July 9, 2025. Nicholas has just completed the first five years of his Ph.D. program at Duke University and is currently finishing his internship at the University of Pittsburgh, which runs through August 2026.

His dissertation, titled "Mapping Transdiagnostic Dimensions of Depressive Symptoms in Young Children: Psychometric Properties of the Preschool Feelings Checklist-Scale," represents a significant step in his journey toward becoming Dr. Nicholas Camacho.

The Salesian community is excited to follow Nicholas's continued achievements and wishes him the very best as he completes the final stages of his doctoral training.



## Lourdes Mock Trial Team Claims County Championship Title

In Spring 2025, the Our Lady of Lourdes High School Lourdes Mock Trial Team emerged victorious over Beacon in the Dutchess County Mock Trial Finals, held at Marist University and presided over by the Honorable Jonah Triebwasser of Red Hook.

Congratulations to the entire team for their hard work and dedication—and a special shout-out to Sarah Lindner, who was named Outstanding Student Attorney of the finals! Way to go, Warriors!

With heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Andrea DeMeo, Lourdes faculty member and Mock Trial Team Moderator, for her exceptional leadership and support



## An Iona Prep Education Pays for Itself



An Iona Preparatory education isn't just a springboard to the best colleges and universities in the nation; it's also a smart money-saving technique. The class of 2025 earned a whopping school-record of \$40 million in scholarships! Remarkably, 66 percent of the graduating class earned scholarships that were full for four-year Iona Prep tuition. 32% earned over a quarter million, 11% earned over half a million, and two Gaels earned more than \$1 million apiece! Overall, nearly 80% of the class received some form of scholarship.



## Expanding Higher Learning Opportunities

Sacred Heart High School proudly says how their College-Level and Advanced Placement course offerings have increased over 325% over the past three years! In September 2025, Sacred Heart strengthened the college partnership they had with Westchester Community College, St. John's University, and the University of Mount Saint Vincent. They established an SHHS CLEP Testing Center that had Modern States for free college-level examinations.

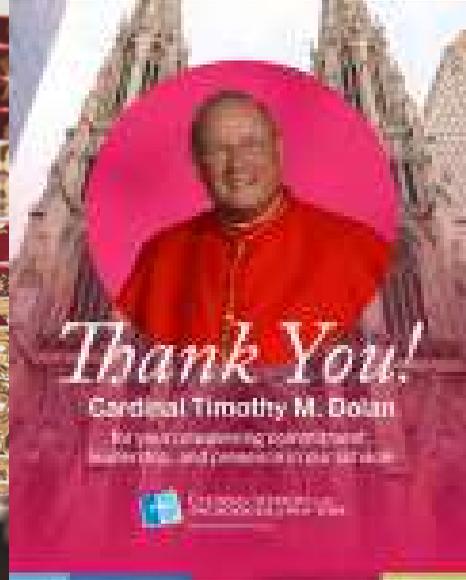
## Ursuline Business Students Win Big, Gain Real-World Skills

Camila Leon '26 and Allison Villareal '26, standout members of the Ursuline Business Program, have earned prestigious merit scholarships from the Museum of American Finance, with Camila taking the Grand Prize. The awards highlight Ursuline's commitment to real-world learning. With 20 students launching companies in the new Virtual Enterprises class and access to Bloomberg Terminal data, students aren't just studying business; they're doing it. The program combines rigorous classroom instruction with industry connections, making sure that students are graduating with certifications, portfolios, and the skills necessary to succeed in competitive business environments.



## Stepinac Launches Community Break Periods to Strengthen Social-Emotional Learning

Stepinac is excited to announce the Launch of Community Break Periods. This is to enhance social and emotional development and build a stronger community within the school. Beginning in the Fall, an all-school break of 15 minutes is going to start happening every day. Students, faculty, and staff will take this daily break from academics to be able to recharge, connect, and engage in different activities that promote well-being and belonging. "Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is essential for helping students thrive both academically and personally," said Principal, Paul Carty. "By creating intentional opportunities for connection, reflection, and skill-building, we aim to cultivate a positive and supportive environment where every member of our community feels valued and empowered." Vice Principal of Academics & Curriculum, Frank Portanova '93, added: "These Community Break Periods Give students and faculty a safe and supportive space to practice empathy, collaboration, and self-awareness. It's an opportunity for our school community to come together and strengthen the connections that make Stepinac such a special place. The Purpose of community break periods at Stepinac focuses on: Building community, practicing SEL Skills, Reducing Stress and Promoting Well-Being.



Archdiocesan high schools of New York express gratitude to His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, for his years of steadfast support of Catholic education, and joyfully welcome Archbishop Ronald Hicks as he begins his ministry in the Archdiocese of New York.

**New York State HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Lauds Maria Regina High School Students for Meeting the Challenge of Creating Personalized Holiday Thank You Cards for 57-Member Faculty and Staff.**



### **Albertus Magnus Musical Director wins Latin Grammy Award**

The formation of junior and senior students taking TCM I and II i Albertus Magnus Musical Director, Cesar Orozco, wins a Latin Grammy award for Best Arrangement for Camaleon, a song originally composed and performed by salsa legend Ruben Blades.

*Our high schools focus on  
ensuring the success of every child that  
walks through its hallways.*

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Archdiocese of New York

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