CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!

As they head off to these many great colleges and universities!
Dear Cathedral Family,

As this strange school year comes to a close, I am humbled and grateful for all we have achieved together. Since school began in September Cathedral’s doors have remained open to our 494 students, whether they chose remote or hybrid learning.

Our amazing faculty and staff valiantly met this moment, ensuring that our students continued to receive a stellar education. We enhanced the curriculum, increased our partnerships with outside organizations, and enriched our Academies through virtual workshops, conferences, and panel discussions.

The MEDICAL GATEWAYS ACADEMY partnered with Black Girls Smile and 500 Women Scientists and, for the second year in a row, four students will be participating in the Summer Enrichment Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

Our BUSINESS/LAW ACADEMY continued its partnership with Junior Achievement, embarked on a new collaboration with Girls Rule the Law, and three juniors have received prestigious summer internships at BlackRock. The STEM ACADEMY continued its affiliation with BEYA and partnered with Girls Develop It. We also expanded club activities and after-school offerings. On June 9th, all 114 seniors graduated at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. With acceptances to 185 colleges, and an impressive $27 million dollars in financial assistance their future is bright.

In a more “typical” year, over 85% of Cathedral families receive financial assistance. The pandemic resulted in a much greater need for our families and with your increased support we ensured that no student was turned away because of financial challenges.

We can not continue to do this, and certainly could not have done this without so many of you who stepped up and have become our true heroes.

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I look forward to a brighter September with laughter filling the hallways and a renewed sense of community and sisterhood. Enjoy your summer!

With gratitude,

Maria Spagnuolo
Principal
Graduation at St. Patrick’s Cathedral

Upholding our 112-year tradition on Wednesday June 9th the 114 members of the Class of 2021 and their families joyously celebrated their graduation at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Commencement speaker Dr. Alma Joseph ’66 addressed the Class of 2021 by video. Dr. Joseph urged graduates to continue to learn, listen, and practice critical thinking. She emphasized kindness to others, a willingness to help those in need and tenacity, stating: “You define greatness. Nothing is beyond your reach. The future is yours.”

Rosemary Eivers, Assistant Principal for Academics, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. The ceremony was filled with many special moments. ASL graduating seniors signed the National Anthem at St. Patrick’s and, carrying on a Cathedral tradition, four Cathedral alumnae, the mothers of graduating seniors, presented diplomas to their daughters.

Valedictorian Sharon Quinn and Salutatorian Skyla-Ariana Collado spoke of their Cathedral experience. Sharon is off to Rice University and Skyla will be attending University of Miami. They both offered inspirational messages to the graduating class. The Class of 2021 was recognized with over 100 awards & honors, with acceptances to 185 colleges and 422 scholarships exceeding $27 million.

Principal Maria Spagnuolo spoke of the Class of 2021’s strength, determination, and grace in this tumultuous time. “Whatever it is that drives you, let it, and do wonderful things with it. Be proud, be strong, and be loud, but graceful, when you need to be. Choose that one thing that drives you and go for it. Choose goodness, choose kindness, choose justice, and choose honesty. There is much that will need to be done and we are relying on you to do it”. 
Halfway to Graduation

On February 10th, the Student Council hosted a safe, socially-distanced breakfast for the Class of 2021 in celebration of their halfway mark to graduation.

Prom Night 2021

Unlike last year, the Class of 2021 was able to have a prom this Spring. On May 27th, seniors celebrated this milestone at Leonard’s of Great Neck.
THE MAKERS CLUB

The Makers Club, also known as the Cathedral Riveters, continues to innovatively apply education tools to practical design. Using 3D printers made possible through a grant from the Fund II Foundation and applying Material Science, the Makers Club created colorful bracelets. They soon discovered multiple uses, including headbands, scrunchies, and holding papers together. When the mother of a member realized the bracelets would be a perfect fidget toy for people with mental health issues, anxiety, and concentration problems, the Makers Club embarked on a community project, constructing and donating 55 bracelets to a disability services and support organization.

American Sign Language

Every year, during Black History Month, the work and legacy of prominent Black leaders who’ve paved a way for racial equity and inclusion in the United States is celebrated. In February, Ms. Perry’s ASL classes created documentaries to highlight the contributions of remarkable people in the Black Deaf community.

Her classes explored connecting with people in the community. Using social media, four ASL students contacted Derrick Coleman Jr., the first deaf/hard of hearing Super Bowl champion. Derrick graciously answered their questions in a zoom interview.
In a typical school year Cathedral High School hosts two Career Day panels, where alumnae and working professionals impart their wisdom and offer invaluable advice to students.

This year we increased the number of panels, holding four consecutive monthly online events.

Thirteen remarkable women shared stories of their educational and career trajectories. Despite vastly different personal and professional experiences similar messages were repeatedly communicated including the importance of being true to yourself, persistence, perseverance, networking, belief in one’s self, and never giving up.

Columbia University Medical Center, Amanda Clarke ‘08 Duke University student, Doctor of Physical Therapy

In January, speakers included Principal’s Council member and alumna Debra Vizzi ’81, Executive Director of Student Sponsors Partners, and alumna India Sneed ’04 an associate at Greenberg Trauig LLP.

February’s Black History Month panelists included Akaysha Palmer ‘18, Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship program, Princeton University, Dr. Alma Joseph ’66, retired Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources, State of New Jersey, Stephanie Barimah ’07 - COO Blacks on Wall Street, Senior HR Generalist at

In March, the Moxie Club hosted a Women’s History Month panel. Five women from diverse backgrounds and industries shared stories about their personal and professional careers as a credit risk executive, entrepreneur, educator, lawyer, and software developer. Our thanks to Ana Medrano Fernandez, Cynthia Magaletta, Jacqueline Barimah ’07, Amanda Erakky, and Lorraine Langdon, featured below.

The April panel featured Veronica Wulff ‘90 Senior Director of Media Operations at Sesame Workshops and Karen Kleppe Lembo, former lawyer & current Information Specialist for Cathedral’s library.
Like many Cathedral students today, the Murphy sisters were children of immigrants. They grew up in tenements on the East Side. The Murphys had seven children and were not able to pay tuition. Cathedral was tuition-free thanks, in part, to the dedication of the Sisters of Charity who made it their life’s work to educate the children of immigrants.

The Murphy sisters attended Cathedral High School during the difficult years of WWII when many young women had to drop out of school and get jobs to help support their families, without completing their education. But Mary, Nancy, and Ann’s Irish immigrant mother insisted they stay in school. She knew education was the best chance for a better life for her daughters.

A lot has changed since the 1940s, but the need for a good education is still the foundation for success. Ann wished to pay forward the gift of her Cathedral education by establishing this scholarship to remember her older sisters and help young women succeed.
On March 1st, Cathedral High School embarked on a campaign to raise $600,000 by August 31st, the end of our fiscal year. Building on our successful 100 day/$100,000 fall campaign, this initiative has been launched to meet our unprecedented financial needs in this challenging time. Funds are being raised to help provide Cathedral with additional resources necessary to accommodate our students and their families, who have been among the hardest hit over the past year. A robust series of events, contests, challenges and activities are designed to bring the Cathedral community together, celebrate, and support the school.

Virtual Happy Hour

We kicked off the 6-month campaign with a Virtual Wine Tasting on March 23rd in conjunction with Black Ankle Vineyards. Guests were invited to sip and swirl with Black Ankle’s wine-maker and proprietor Sarah O’Herron.

Participants from 16 states were sent, in advance, a Tasting Kit with two Black Ankle wines, a 2019 Gruner Vetliner and a 2018 Syrah and an aroma wheel to help identify the complex bouquets and flavors found in red and white wines. Happy Hour was fun, informative, and educational and the wines were delicious!

This event was underwritten by Sarah’s uncle, a dedicated wine drinker and former Trustee. Due to his generosity, 100% of the proceeds from this event supported Cathedral students. For more information about Black Ankle, visit www.blackankle.com.

And, please consider hosting a fundraising event for Cathedral High School. Contact development@cathedralhs.org.
Virtual Spring Benefit

“A wise person recently wrote a simple yet profound phrase: “The Future Is Women”. I submit that Cathedral High School is where the future of New York, America, and the world is currently being shaped. If that proves to be true then better days for the global community lie ahead.”

--Michael J. Deegan, Superintendent of Schools Archdiocese of New York in his welcome message

On May 19th the Cathedral Community came together for a fun participatory celebration of Cathedral - past, present, and future. Pictures and stories about our distinguished 116-year history were shared, as were remembrances from alumnae, observations from current students, and testimonials from trustees, donors, and friends. The evening highlighted Cathedral’s accomplishments over the past year. A vibrant chat box was live throughout the event enabling guests to connect and reminisce and participate in a Q&A with Principal Maria Spagnuolo. This critical spring fundraiser garnered much-needed support for students. We are very grateful to the following donors who so generously helped sponsor this event at the Educator level and above:

Donors

William Bautz
Teresa Comas ‘48
Jim and Sally Davis
Mary Dugan
Joan Fabio ‘60
Grace Giesecke
John R. Knight and Denise B. Knight
Ellen Lautturner ‘68
Yasmine R. Legendre

David and Jane Lehn
Karen Kleppe Lembo
Margaret Manganelli ‘60
David and Julie McCarthy
Mary and Roger Mulvihill
Steve Schiller and Elizabeth O’Brien
Mary Twomey-Spollen ‘64
Kristen and Sekou White
Philip Jay Wilker

THANK YOU!!!!
YOUR LEGACY IS OUR FUTURE
JOIN THE SR. RAYMOND LEGACY SOCIETY

Over the past year, it’s been increasingly apparent that Cathedral High School is a family and a family that takes care of one another.

One of the most meaningful ways you can show your commitment to Cathedral is by joining the Sr. Raymond Legacy Society. You will be providing lasting support for the enduring mission of Cathedral High School with a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime.

Please consider including Cathedral High School in your will or estate planning. For more information, please contact development@cathedralhs.org. If you’ve already designated a planned gift, thank you!

IN MEMORIAM

The Cathedral High School community extends its deepest sympathy to the loved ones of recently deceased alumnæ and friends. Please remember them in your prayers.

Sr. Catherine Smith, SC ’37
Mary Eileen Fitzgerald ’40
Patricia Crowley Englert ’41
Grace Galeazzi-Salvia ’41
Margaret Rogan Barrett ’42
Catherine Fowler ’44
Elsa Boos Stetter ’44
Lora Walz ’44
Patricia Smythe Maguire ’45
Catherine Favaro Maimone ’46
Mary Pryor ’46
Patricia Utxzchneider Edridge ’46
Margaret Cassidy ’47
Eileen Gallagher Curran ’47
Dorothy Higgins Koller ’47
Mary V. Horan ’47
Mary Kane Gillen ’48
Jean Heissler Moran ’49
Evelyn Farrell Aquila ’49
Patricia Burke Drummond ’49
Victoria Di Lucia ’49
Sr. Padraic Mary McGuinness, OP ’50
Ann Loftus Kelleher ’51
Lillian McAteer Bianchi ’52
Sr. Mary McGrory, SSND ’52
Eleanor O’Hagan Cummings ’52
Margaret Hayes Fenton ’52
Irene Reynolds ’52
Helen Garrahy McAuliffe ’54
Grace Kepler Murray ’56
Virginia Krauss Lafferty ’59
Dorothy Carrieri-Smith ’63
Mary Ann Piren Martin ’67
Linda Fasciani ’69
Frances Cressio ’71
Millicent Miskic ’72
Deborah Doval ’72
Isabel Cavada ’75
Sr. James Patrick Kavanagh, OP
Sr. Anne Miriam Connellan
Sr. Kathleen McKiernan
Sue Sandstrom
Nora Walsh Hetherington
Sr. Frances Devine, SC
Sr. Anita Maleski
SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW CATHEDRALITES

The steadfast support of the Cathedral community -- alumnae, trustees, donors, friends, faculty, and staff -- is a testament to the Cathedral experience. This community of dedicated individuals believe in the power of education. Together they demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Cathedral students and families, many of whom have been struggling over the past year, and are in need of increased financial assistance.

There are multiple ways you can contribute:

Join the Hughes sisters by sponsoring scholarships

Marion Hughes and her 4 sisters are ever grateful for the financial aid and the support they received from the Sisters of Charity, who educated each of them, from 1st grade until they graduated from Cathedral.

The Hughes sisters believe it is their responsibility to support scholarship students now as a “payback” for their good fortune. Marion and her husband Joe continue to be generous supporters of student scholarships at Cathedral.

Marion Hughes Gersitz often told Joe, “Our mother often went to the principal to ask for financial help for her young daughters.”

Please join our wonderful supporters, like the Hughes sisters, to ensure that we may continue to provide Cathedralites with an unparalleled education and endless opportunities.

Additional ways to give back

» -- Underwrite an event - a walkathon, cooking class, cycling event, art contest, wine tasting
» -- Do a Facebook campaign/challenge in tribute to your graduation class & year
» -- Make a donation in honor or memory of someone
» -- Join the Sr. Raymond Legacy Society

For more information contact development@cathedralhs.org.

We still need your support to reach our $600,000 goal by August 31st.

PLEASE VISIT https://cathedralhs.org/6-months-600k
Mail to:

KEEP US UPDATED!
We want to make sure we stay in touch with you. Please help us keep our records up-to-date by emailing development@cathedralhs.org with any changes to your address, email or phone. Thank you!