

# Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2023  
VOL. 39, NO. 1



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Many women in our community had a blast at our Bags and Brunch event in early March.



**Cover Shot:** Kara Ignacio '23, Isabella Falletta '24, Tara McCarthy '26, Katherine Ryan '25, Maeve Murray '24, Madeline Heinemann '24, and Mary Hahn '24 star in this year's musical production, *Xanadu*.

## Our Mission

Immaculate Heart Academy is a college preparatory high school in the Archdiocese of Newark which has as its purpose the complete education of young women. By both cultivating the traditional Christian values of the Roman Catholic Church and by upholding exceptional academic standards, IHA offers a unique educational experience for the young women in our community. Immaculate Heart Academy strives to develop every aspect of the individual by educating the mind, nurturing the spirit, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. By instilling in its students a sense of responsibility, confidence, justice, peace, and compassion, Immaculate Heart Academy prepares its students for life throughout the twenty-first century.



Freshmen sported their class color to cheer on their sisters at the Catholic Schools Week pep rally.

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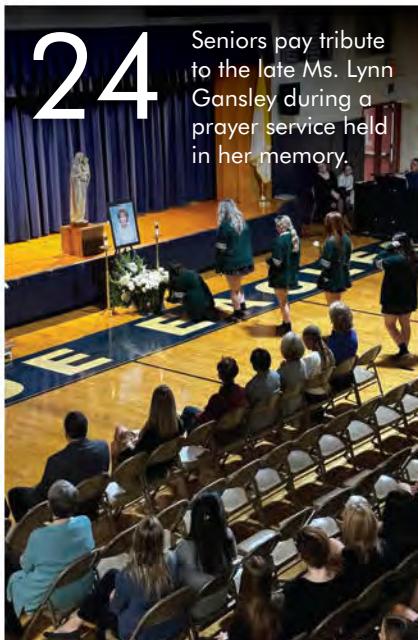
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Coach  
Maria Nolan P'08  
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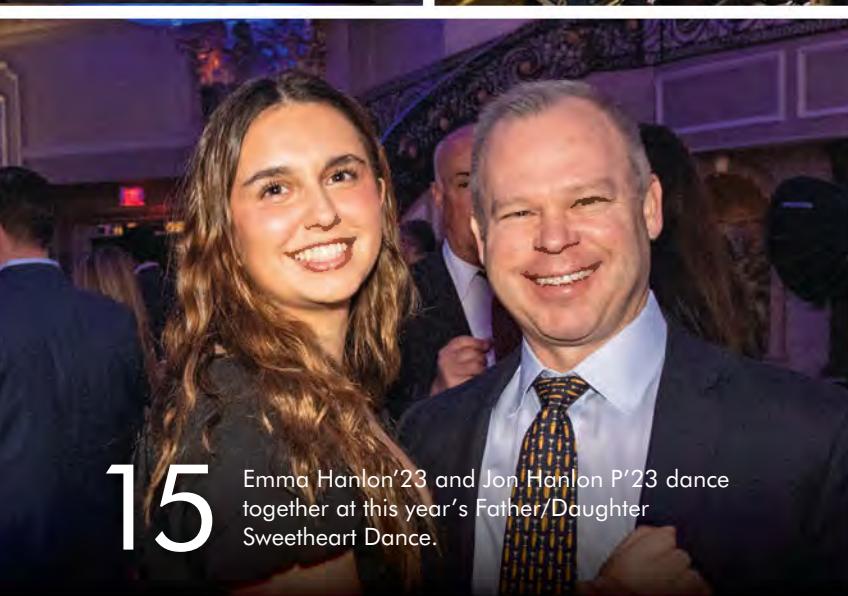
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Kiera Stevenson '24 presents at the Science  
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Ms. Lauren Rhein'09, director of admissions and IHA Golf coach, poses with Rosie the Blue Eagle during Accepted Students Night for IHA's Class of 2027.

# President's Corner



Dear IHA Community,

As the cold winter days ended and we welcomed spring, it was a truly wonderful time for our school family. Countless events from February through April gave us the sense of the routine business we have been craving, and there is a buzz in the air as the school year winds down and the graduating seniors approach their final days of high school.

Our February Registration Day for the Class of 2027 brought us the next generation of Blue Eagles—I am happy to share we are at full enrollment for our incoming class! The Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance served as an opportunity for students to enjoy a special IHA tradition with their favorite dates. February also brought an impressive Black History Month lobby display featuring Black female resistance, in addition to the induction of our newest members of IHA's chapter of National Honor Society and various

world language honor societies. Our winter sports teams had an incredible season, winning league, county, and state titles—special congratulations to the IHA Varsity Basketball team for claiming the state championship title by upsetting the #1 ranked team in New Jersey!

March highlighted Women's History Month, a time to proudly recognize our very own *Women of Valor Among Us*, featuring thirteen students who have contributed in a historic way to the IHA culture. On March 8, we celebrated both International Women's Day and IHA's Day of Giving; I am so incredibly grateful for the generous support our community displayed helping us to surpass our goal of five hundred donors. The month of March ended with more honor society inductions and the outstanding production of our spring musical, *Xanadu*. Congratulations to the cast, crew, and production team on another exceptional show!

Thank you to all the friends, family, parents, and alumnae who showed their support for Ms. Patricia Molloy, former IHA president, as we honored her in April. I am thrilled that we were finally able to properly celebrate Pat at a special luncheon to commemorate her forty-eight years at Immaculate Heart Academy.

May God continue to bless us all and give us a summer of peace and restoration before gearing up for the 2023-24 academic year.

Sincerely,

Jason Schlereth  
President



Samantha Tauber '25 and Christina-Ann Augustin '23 at this year's induction of new members for Tri-M, ITS, and NAHS.

# Honoring and Celebrating Ms. Patricia Molloy



Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president, and Ms. Patricia Molloy

**O**n the afternoon of April 2, 2023, the IHA community had the opportunity to properly honor and celebrate former IHA president and long-time supporter, colleague, and friend of Immaculate Heart Academy, Ms. Patricia Molloy. Close to two hundred people gathered at Seasons in Township of Washington to reflect on Ms. Molloy's forty-eight-year career at IHA and to wish her well as she continues to enjoy her retirement.

The afternoon began with a welcome by Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal, and an opening prayer led by Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation. Student Council Executive Board members, Lauren Grae'23 and Erin Shepler'23, then presented flowers to Ms. Molloy on behalf of the current student body.



Members of IHA's Class of 1976 pose with Ms. Molloy.



Jim Molloy, Diane Molloy'11, Carolyn Molloy'09, Patricia Molloy, Erin Molloy Borland, Mary Molloy'69, Eileen Burns Perez'77, and Kathy Molloy'65

Throughout the event, several speakers reflected on their relationships and memories with Ms. Molloy, celebrating and commemorating all her accomplishments at Immaculate Heart Academy.

Guests heard from Valerie Gradel Keenan'76 P'14, Consultative Board

president, who has known Ms. Molloy since she was her student at St. Anastasia's in Teaneck; Sue Kenney, current social studies teacher, who echoed memories of Ms. Molloy shared with her by her friends and colleagues; Eileen O'Connor Cox'79 P'09, '12, '16, former Consultative Board member, whose three daughters followed in her footsteps as



IHA students; and Mary E. Molloy'69 who spoke on behalf of the larger Molloy Family about their sister and aunt. Mr. Jason Schlereth, president, reflected on Ms. Molloy and gave her a beautiful crystal, and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips P'18, '21, '26 presented her with a resolution distribution. As Mr. Schlereth stated in his dedication, "It is known by not only the people in this room, but by thousands of others, that you are a person of great integrity, Catholic values, and a staunch belief that women can do anything," he said about Ms. Molloy. "You are IHA's original Woman of Valor."

Ms. Patricia Molloy then took the opportunity to thank not only those who came to celebrate her at the event, but also everyone who has supported her throughout her long, efficacious career. The afternoon concluded with select IHA vocalists leading guests in singing the *IHA Alma Mater*.

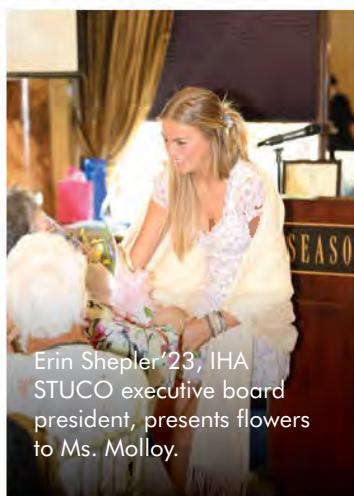
**“It is known by not only the people in this room, but by thousands of others, that you are a person of great integrity, Catholic values, and a staunch belief that women can do anything. You are IHA’s original Woman of Valor.”**

– Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president



Mary Molloy'69 speaks on behalf of the Molloy Family about her sister, Pat.

Thank you to the many guests and supporters of the memorable afternoon, especially our Silver Sponsors, Alfred Sanzari Enterprises (The Sanzari Family '99 and '02), Bergen Catholic High School, and Holy Name, and our Blue Sponsors, American Beauty Landscape Design and Daniel and Maureen Cooney Daniello'77 P'15. We are grateful for the people who made this celebration possible including the entire IHA administration; Sarah Hill Frasure'07, director of development; Tara Hopfenspirger, director of communications & marketing; Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18, development assistant; and Taryn Tonelli'09,



coordinator of the performing arts. We send our heartfelt gratitude to Seasons Catering & Special Events, River Dell Flowers, Mike Hamlett Photography, Barrington Press, the Molloy Family, and the IHA singers and accompanist who performed at the event.

*Upon Ms. Molloy's retirement in June 2021, the Patricia Molloy Scholarship Fund was established in her name to provide donors with the option to support students in need of financial assistance. To make a gift to the fund, please visit [ihanj.com](http://ihanj.com).*



# IHA Presents *Xanadu* as its Spring Musical

This spring, the IHA Performing Arts Department brought to life the satirical story of *Xanadu*. This one-of-a-kind musical adventure follows the journey of Clio: Muse of History on her quest of inspiring struggling artist, Sonny Malone, to fulfill his dreams of opening the first roller disco. Set in Venice Beach, California in 1980, Clio (disguised as the Australian roller-skating Kira) and her six sister muses come to life out of Sonny's chalk mural to begin their tasks. Through a trying yet hysterical story of jealousy, magic, pity, trickery, and true love, Kira is eventually granted the gift of Xanadu, which is to love and create art.

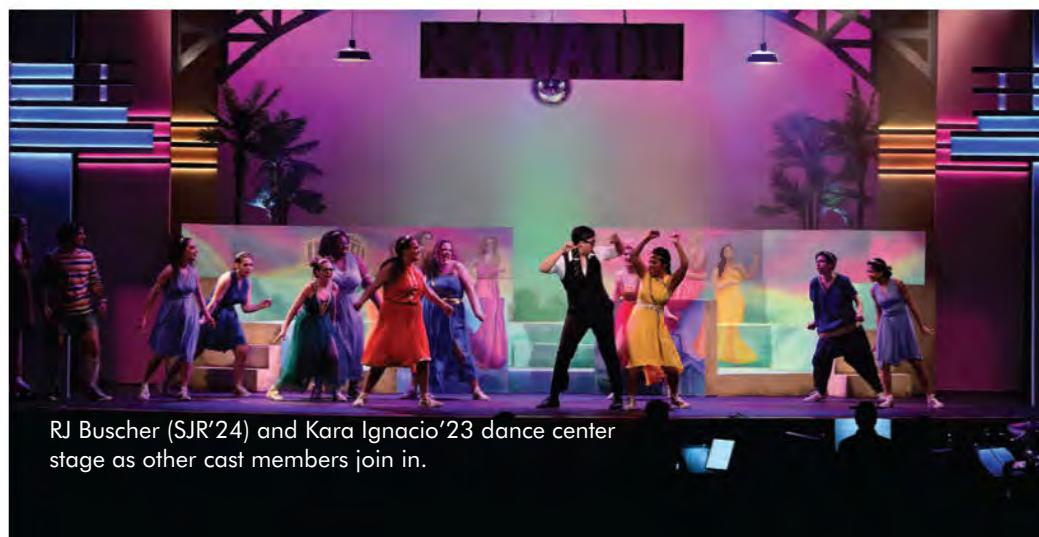
*Xanadu* was produced by Ms. Taryn Tonelli'09, coordinator of the performing arts; directed by Jodi Capeless P'22; choreographed by Kimberly Galberraith P'22; and music directed by Ed Ginter. Thank you to our scenic designer/technical director, Vincent Gunn; costume designer, Nancy Reynolds; lighting designer, Nikki Belenski; sound designer, Concert Audio Inc; and master electrician, Joey Messena. We are always blown away by our superb

student crew members including co-stage managers, Marisa Arone'24 and Samantha Andersen'24, and assistant stage manager, Kristen Ohmacht'25. Thank you to associate producers from the IHA Advanced Theatre Production course, Katelyn Coughlan'23, Arianna DeMarco'23, Kaitlyn DeMartini'23, Olivia Morrison'23, April Ramsey'23, Carolyn Sandt'23, and Madeline Sullivan'24. Special thanks to the many other crew members who managed the show behind-the-scenes including

Isabella Falletta'24,  
Liam Fahey (SJR'24),  
Madeline Heinemann'24,  
and Katherine Ryan'25



front of the house, run crew, spotlights and lighting, sound, hair, makeup, and costumes—IHA's productions simply wouldn't be as incredible without you.





Kaitlyn DeMartini'23, Mia Severino'26, Madeline Sullivan'24, and Anthony Koleser SJR'24



Katherine Ryan'25



The muses surround their sister, Kira, played by Katherine Ryan'25.



Maeve Murray'24 as Melpomene and Tara McCarthy'26 as Calliope

The cast of *Xanadu* performs the finale number.





Liam Fahey (SJR'24) as Sonny and Katherine Ryan'25 as Kira

Additionally, we send huge thanks to the orchestra members that brought *Xanadu*'s music to life! This year's musical production featured a large cast of young women and men that truly shined on stage. Katherine Ryan'25 was brilliant as Kira/Clio, Liam Fahey (SJR'24) played an amazing Sonny, RJ Buscher (SJR'24) was awesome as Danny, and Hayden Bernstein (WHS'24) played a great Young Danny/Cyclops. The sister muses were perfectly portrayed by the talented Maeve Murray'24 as Melpomene, Tara McCarthy'26 as Calliope, Madeline Heinimann'24 as Thalia, Kara Ignacio'23 as Euterpe, Mary Hahn'24 as Erato, and Isabella Falletta'24 as Terpsicore. The Sirens were played beautifully by Alyssa Torres'24, Shoshana Thompson'25, Ava Previzi'24, and Madeline Sullivan'24. Mia Severino'26 was Thetis/Andrews Sister, Megan McCarthy'25 was Medusa/Andrews Sister, Anthony Koleser (SJR'24) was Hermes/Zeus, Kaitlyn DeMartini'23 was Hera, and Madeline Sullivan'24 was Aphrodite. Tubes 1/Centaur was Daniel Globus (CSHS'23), Tubes 2 was Troy Greco (SJR'24), and Tubes 3 was Timothy O'Sullivan (SJR'24). Congratulations to the ensemble members on an outstanding run: Clara Byrnes'26, Madison Les'26, Catalina Martinez'26, Timothy O'Sullivan (SJR'24), Olivia Pantano'25, Lola Rose Projahn'25, Lily Rickli'26, Luke Rickli (SJR'25), Brooke Rodriguez'25, and Lucyann Tappan'25.

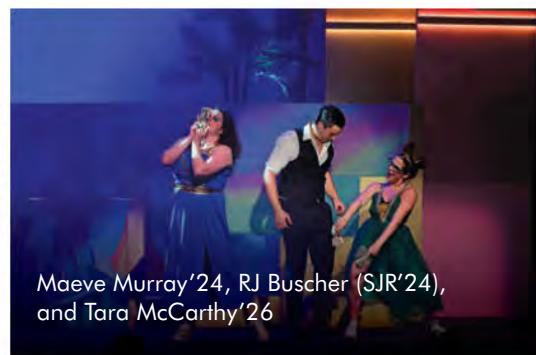
Finally, special thanks to the IHA administration and the many parent, faculty, staff, and student volunteers who dedicated their time and talent to make *Xanadu* yet another spectacular IHA musical production!



*Xanadu* cast members show off their roller skating skills.



Kira/Clio and her sister muses.



Maeve Murray'24, RJ Buscher (SJR'24), and Tara McCarthy'26



Liam Fahey (SJR'24)



The talented cast performs the final song of the show, *Xanadu*.

# Bags and Brunch 2023

IHA's Bags and Brunch event on March 5, 2023 proved to be a fun-filled afternoon for all attendees! Thank you to the IHA Parents' Club, all our dedicated parent volunteers, and everyone who generously donated items for the event.

Congratulations to the many tricky tray raffle and game winners! Special congratulations to the winner of the Louis Vuitton Neverfull MM tote, Jill Pro, and of the 50/50, Patti Melio Poole'70.

Additionally, thank you to the Pisani Family P'23 for their donation of cookie trays and favors; Inserra Supermarkets for their donation of brunch items; the IHA maintenance staff; our MC, Madeline Rizzo-Savas P'17, '24; bartender, Mike Powers; Mike Hamlett Photography; and the IHA Development team of Mrs. Sarah Hill Frasure'07 and Mrs. Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18.



Sarah Hill Frasure'07, director of development, and Jill Pro, winner of the Louis Vuitton Neverfull MM tote

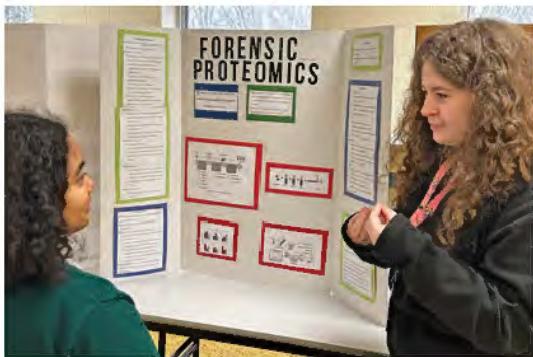
Patti Melio Poole'70, winner of the 50/50, and Sarah Hill Frasure'07, director of development



Helen DeMartini P'21, '23, Science Department chairperson, and Donna Sandt P'20, '23, '24, English teacher

# SNHS Poster Session 2023

The Science National Honor Society (SNHS) held its annual Scientific Research Poster Session on February 9, 2023. Members of SNHS, moderated by Mrs. Lauren Tereshko and Mrs. Angela Holuba Roberts'05, selected a recent advance in an area of science that is of interest to them and composed a poster of their findings. During the session, members made mini presentations on their research as they would at a scientific academic conference later in their academic and professional careers.



Elizabeth Ogden '24 presents to Layla Libanan '23.



Emily Caton '24



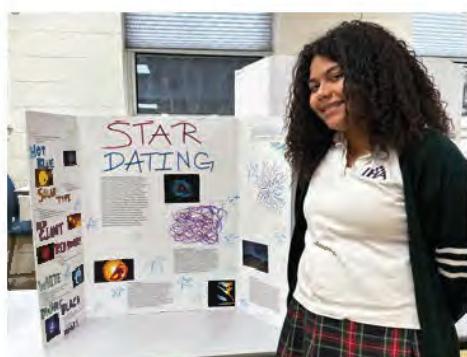
Lily Schwedhelm '24



Olivia Tacconi '23



Natalia Maglicic '23



Isabella Conde '23



Isabella Pizzi '24



Ellie Kim '24



Meghan Minogue '23

# Catholic Schools Week 2023



Fr. Frank Fano leads the Catholic Schools Week liturgy.

Catholic Schools Week 2023 boasted a beautiful opening Mass presided by Fr. Frank Fano, a pep rally featuring two amazing IHA Dance Team performances, a faculty vs. student volleyball game, karaoke contests, Faculty and Student Appreciation days, and more!



The IHA Varsity Dance team performs its Pom routine.



Members of the senior class cheer on their classmates during the Catholic Schools Week Pep Rally.



The IHA administrators distribute cookies on Student Appreciation Day.



The IHA Parents' Club gifted staff members a catered lunch and cacti on Faculty Appreciation Day.



Anais Aguero'23 and Kiera Vicini'23 sing their hearts out during Catholic Schools Week Karaoke.

# IHA Day of Giving

Celebrated on International Women's Day, March 8, 2023

IHA celebrated both International Women's Day and our Day of Giving on March 8, 2023. We were thrilled to host our annual Day of Giving Phone-a-Thon as we honored and recognized the many women who make up IHA's unique and unmatched sisterhood.

We are so very grateful for our generous community members who helped us surpass our goal of five hundred donors; we ended the day with a total of five hundred seventy-four! We send our sincerest thanks to our student callers who made the Phone-a-Thon so enjoyable.



Molly Casey '24



Isabella Galan '23



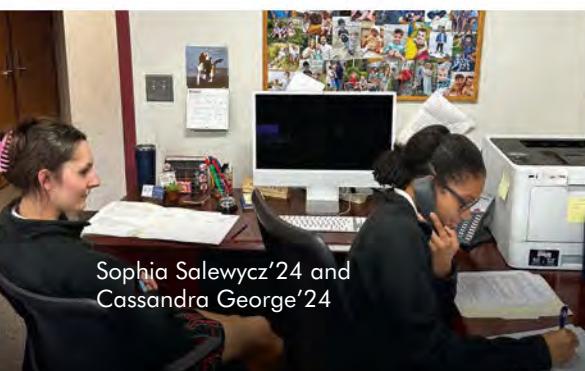
Brooke Rodriguez '25



Sydney Kearney '24 and Lauren Hroncich '24



Reagan Pace '24 and Gianna DiMeglio '24



Sophia Salewycz '24 and Cassandra George '24



Marisa Flores '24 and Victoria DellaCroce '24



Victoria DelJudice '25

# Quarter Two Distinguished Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who have been named Distinguished Scholars by earning an average of 95 or better for the second quarter of the 2022-23 academic year:

## FRESHMEN

Daniela Ayala  
Emma Bossbaly  
Kathleen Brancato  
Veronica Brenner  
Mariana Builes  
Riley Cannon  
Bernadette Grace Colonna  
Elliott Daniels  
Gabriella DellaVolpe  
Isabella Duca  
Christina Festa  
Alana Flores  
Sofia Ghomi  
Ashlyn Gillespie  
Angela Giuliano  
Kathleen Hahn  
Jaylene Hernandez  
Ella Kovalcik  
Sophia Kuzma  
Madison Les  
Danica Libanan  
Meghan Long  
Anna Lynch  
Catalina Maglicic  
Ella Matts  
Roisin McLaughlin  
Anne Moore  
Etain Moore  
Katelyn Negrete  
Camila Pineros  
Mary Quinn  
Isabella Ragona  
Aiva Reid  
Gabrielle Rivera  
Grace Sciortino  
Olivia Valente  
Kathryn Williamson  
Victoria Zalewski

## SOPHOMORES

Madison Assanah  
Isabelle Bertussi  
Elizabeth Burgess  
Paige Burgess  
Lauren DeLuccia  
Caitlin Donovan  
Allison Egan  
Lana Langevin  
Emma McElroy  
Katelyn Mikros  
Lauren Mulry  
Emma Neyland  
Olivia Nini  
Victoria Niziol  
Addison Olsen  
Rachel Paton  
Orietta Pisciotta  
Oliwia Piwowarski  
Kathleen Reck  
Zoe Sarno  
Sarah Schiller  
Rebecca Schutz  
Bergen Sollecito  
Lucyann Tappan  
Sierra Tofts

## SENIORS

Jordyn Allen  
Kristen Cali  
Rose Cultraro  
Katherine Deane  
Emma Dillane  
Caitlin Fritz  
Madeleine Gilson  
Noelle Haskell  
Madison Klak  
Natalia LoCurto  
Natalia Maglicic  
Chloe McLees  
Kate Menake  
Johanna Murphy  
Jessica Sundlin  
Mary-Kathryn Sweeney

## JUNIORS

Caitlin Carr  
Angelica Cece  
Meghan Deane  
Avangelia Emporellis  
Giana Fontanetta  
Angelina Fowler  
Julia Grzybowski  
Meaghan Keating  
Alexandra Kucharz  
Brooke Lugo  
Rose Martin  
Casey McGrath  
Bryana Saenz  
Kiera Stevenson  
Adrianna Uykan

# Father/Daughter Dance

**O**n February 5, 2023, IHA held its beloved annual Father/Daughter dance at the Venetian. This year, it was a sweetheart Dance in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Students and their dads, stepdads, granddads, uncles, or godfathers enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of dancing, eating, and making memories! Thank you to the Advancement Office and IHA Parents' Club Board members and volunteers for planning the special day, in addition to Mike Hamlett Photography for taking photos of our father-daughter couples; the Venetian; N.I.C. Entertainment, LLC; and River Dell Flowers.



Jenna Ghiosay '23 and Todd Ghiosay P'23



Amber Estevez '23 and Robin Estevez P'21, '23



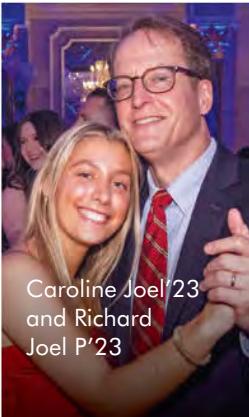
Jaylene Rondon '26 and Juan Rondon P'26



Gianna Sidoti '26 and Fred Sidoti P'26



Steven Napolitano P'24, '25 and Gabriella Napolitano '24



Caroline Joel '23 and Richard Joel P'23

# 2023 Quarter Two Soaring Eagle Award Recipients



Seated, from left to right, are Rose Cultraro'23 (English – Mrs. Renee Thunell), Natalie Coulter'23 (Mathematics – Mrs. Sue Dillane P'23), and Marissa Albert'23 (Theology – Ms. Lynn Gansley/Mrs. Beth Mueller Szydlik'84 P'13, '18). Standing, from left to right, are Kaitlyn Klaus'24 (Art – Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P'14), Katelyn Negrete'26 (Science – Mrs. Angela Holuba Roberts'05), Catalina Martinez'26 (Communications – Ms. Taryn Tonelli'09), Catherine Goldstein'23 (Technology – Mr. George Hotz), Madeline Sullivan'24 (World Language – Mrs. Eileen Ingoglia), Rylee Smith'25 (Physical Education – Mrs. Teresa Skjold P'11), and Victoria DelJuidice'25 (Social Studies – Ms. Caitlin Bonanno).

Immaculate Heart Academy Soaring Eagle Awards are presented quarterly to students who demonstrate excellence and work to the best of their ability in a particular subject area. Soaring Eagle Award recipients are more than students with an impressive GPA; they are students who have distinguished themselves by embodying the ideals of the IHA education. They are enthusiastic, compassionate, creative, and intelligent young women dedicated to personal and academic growth.

2023 Quarter Two Soaring Eagle Award recipients celebrated their achievement with their families, nominating teachers, and the IHA administration at a special reception held on February 2, 2023 in IHA's Information Commons. Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal, presented Soaring Eagle Awards to the students pictured above.

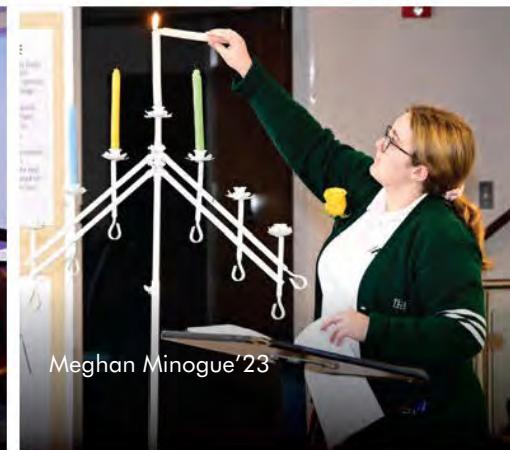


Miss Kerry Carroll'04, principal,  
and Kaitlyn Klaus'24

# Rho Kappa Honor Society Inducts Twelve New Members

Congratulations to the newest members of IHA's Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society Silent Sentinel Chapter, who were inducted on the afternoon of March 15, 2023:

Marie Baldwin'23  
Alexandra Barry'24  
Sinead Cook'24  
Grace Coughlin'23  
Sophia Cremona'24  
Meghan Deane'24 (2023-24 President)  
Alexandra Kucharz'24  
Layla Libanan'23  
Casey McGrath'24 (2023-24 Vice President/Communications)  
Reagan Pace'24  
Gracyn Pisa'23  
Kiera Stevenson'24 (2023-24 Treasurer)



# SCENE | Around IHA



**WHO DONE IT?!** AP Biology students were called to the scene of a burglary where the burglar left behind her DNA! Students resorted to DNA fingerprinting to determine which of the two apprehended suspects committed the crime. Students used gel electrophoresis to compare DNA samples from suspects to that from the crime scene. Thanks to our student scientists, this was a good day for suspect 1, but not such a good day for suspect 2.



Roz Thompson from AAA presented to the Sophomore Driver Education classes, taught by Mrs. Terry Skjold P'11, in March 2023. Her presentation was called *Marijuana: The Blunt Truth*.



More than seventy-five colleges and universities attended IHA's College Fair on March 30, 2023, hosted by IHA's College Counseling Department. IHA students and other interested high schoolers in the area attended the fair to learn more about the multitude of choices nationwide.



In early March, ten IHA seniors, divided into two teams, competed in the MathWorks Math Modeling (M3) Challenge. This rigorous, fourteen-hour competition is unlike any other in high school mathematics, pushing students to the limits of what they know about math, analyzing data, researching an unfamiliar topic, and formulating a mathematical solution. IHA's two independent teams were made up of gifted mathematicians, researchers, writers, critical thinkers, and problem-solvers including: **Team 16534**: Katherine Deane'23, Abigail Diehl'23, Lauren Grae'23, Ariana Chen'23, and Layla Libanan'23 and **Team 16535**: Meghan Minogue'23, Megan Anderson'23, Erin Erturan'23, Natalia Maglicic'23, and Madison Klak'23. The 2023 M3 problem was titled "Ride Like the Wind without Getting Winded: The Growth of the E-Bike Use."



IHA's Black Culture Club members created an inspiring and moving display in the main lobby in celebration of Black History Month this February 2023. "The display highlights Black female resistance," explained Brookelyn Talmadge'23, Black Culture Club co-president. "These women have all rebelled in different ways throughout their lives. This Black History Month theme coincides with the national Black History Month theme of Black resistance in America." Thank you to the club members who curated the lobby display, especially Black Culture Club executive board members: presidents, Christina-Ann Augustin'23 and Brookelyn Talmadge'23; secretary, Bella Conde'23; treasurer, Ariana Chen'23; Magdalyn Pierre-Louis'23; Kahlia Content'23; and club moderator, Ms. Shemayne Williams.



The underclassmen hosted IHA's first-ever Big Sister/Little Sister Spirit Competition on March 28, 2023. Students gathered in the gym with their sisters to participate in karaoke, musical chairs, and a free throw competition. The afternoon concluded with treats from Sprinklez and Cookie Connect enjoyed by all.



The Class of 2024 celebrated its Junior Retreat on March 31, 2023. The day, hosted by IHA Campus Ministry, included a Sisterhood Breakfast, Junior Class Trivia, talks on the Challenge of Leadership and the Gift of Community, and Stand Up for Your Sister and Thank You Note activities.

# Junior Prom for the Class of 2024



Jillian McCoy'24, Kiera Stevenson'24, Rose Martin'24, and Dylan Applin'24

IHA's Class of 2024 celebrated its Junior Prom on the evening of March 31, 2023 at the Hilton Pearl River. Thank you to junior class moderator, Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, and the IHA administration and faculty volunteers for making this wonderful night happen for our juniors!



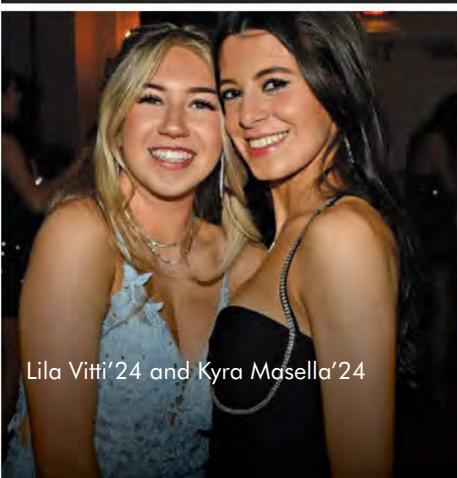
Gianna Sinocchi'24, Gabriella Moreno'24, Daniella Villafuerte'24, Nirvana Ramoutar'24, and Sinead Cook'24



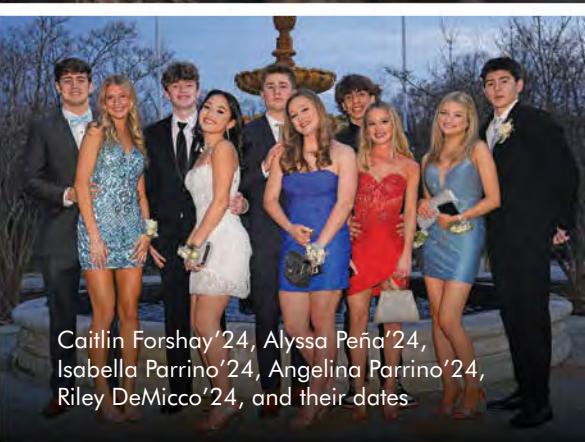
Abigail Hoffman'24, Abigail Shotmeyer'24, Caitlin Carr'24, Rose Zazzali'24, and Olivia Battifarano'24



Cassandra George'24, Adrianna Uykan'24, Ellie Kim'24, Ella Crane'24, Ella Bosse'24, Amandagrace Smith'24, Alexa Gentile'24, Anvi Batra'24, and Lily Schwedhelm'24



Lila Vitti'24 and Kyra Masella'24



Caitlin Forshay'24, Alyssa Peña'24, Isabella Parrino'24, Angelina Parrino'24, Riley DeMicco'24, and their dates



Alexandra Barry'24, Courtney Lynch'24, Anna Gallucci'24, Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, Sophie Morales'24, and Avangelia Emporellis'24



# DID YOU KNOW THAT...



**St. Brigid Society students** took their annual trip to Liberty Science Center for its renowned *Live from Meet the Surgeon: Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery* program on January 13, 2023. In addition to exploring the many LSC exhibits, the IHA group watched a surgery performed by Dr. Samara Friedman, who answered students' questions as they watched. Pediatric Orthopedics

specializes in all aspects of musculoskeletal care for infants, children, and adolescents. Chaperones in attendance included Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor and St. Brigid Society moderator; Ms. Allison Orlen, theology teacher; and Mrs. Alice Nudelman, information management specialist and engineering teacher.

On January 11, 2023, the **IHA Winter Track team** won the League Championship for the third year in a row, led by Columbia University-bound **Leanna Johnston '23**. Leanna broke the school record for 3000 and 3200 meters, records previously held by the great IHA legend, Sarah Pagano '09,

who was recently an Olympic Trials qualifier. Leanna's time of 10:34.72 is also the new all-time Bergen County 3200m record and currently the third fastest time in the entire country. Huge congratulations to Leanna and the entire IHA Winter Track team, 2023 League champs! See the full Track & Field report on page 43.



Congratulations to **Gianna Modica '25** for being chosen as the 2023 Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference attendee! Gianna was presented her certificate at our Catholic Schools Week liturgy. She was selected by faculty and staff to represent IHA at the conference this summer at Drew University. This annual seminar hosts high school sophomores from across the state for three days of inspiring speakers, skill-building activities, and community service.



**Kaitlyn LeSuer '24** was honored at the Archdiocese of Newark Youth Ministry Recognition Ceremony at the Basilica in Newark on December 4, 2022. At this ceremony, she received the Archdiocesan Parish Youth Discipleship Award, which is presented to youth who responded to the call to discipleship through service to their parish. She was recognized again at the Archdiocese of Newark's annual Cotillion with multiple youth groups on February 17, 2023 where she received a plaque for the award.

**Angelina Vinci '23** had an article published on differentbrains.org entitled *COVID's Effects on Teenage Anxiety: My Personal Struggle* on March 13, 2023. In the article, Angelina touched on how the pandemic has affected many people's mental health, how those who had a past history of struggling with anxiety may have gotten worse during COVID, and ways to help one's overall mental health during and post pandemic.



Immaculate Heart Academy earned the 2022 **College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award** for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A (CSA), taught by Mrs. Theresa Seymour Dolan '95 P'26. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP computer science courses. In 2022, IHA was one of two hundred nine recognized in the category of AP Computer Science A. Mrs. Dolan said the school community is honored by this recognition. "As a teacher, I could not be prouder of the commitment and enthusiasm our students have demonstrated in their study of AP Computer Science," she continued. "I can't wait to see their passions lead to lifelong success as computer science and STEM professionals."

# IHA Mourns the Loss of Ms. Lynn Gansley

## School Community Loses Long-time Theology Teacher



Ms. Lynn Gansley

**O**n January 18, 2023, the Immaculate Heart Academy community unexpectedly lost beloved teacher, colleague, and friend, Ms. Lynn Gansley. A veteran educator at IHA, she dedicated her life to teaching and championing young women, always leading by example. Teaching gave her such joy and she did so with an unwavering commitment to sharing her Catholic faith.

Ms. Gansley, who was sixty-seven when she passed away, was the oldest of four girls. She earned a bachelor's degree from William Paterson University and a master's degree from Seton Hall University. In total, she worked for the Archdiocese of Newark for forty-one years and was a Theology teacher at IHA for thirty-six of those years. During her time at IHA, Ms. Gansley was the former Theology Department chairperson; moderator for the Eucharistic Ministers;

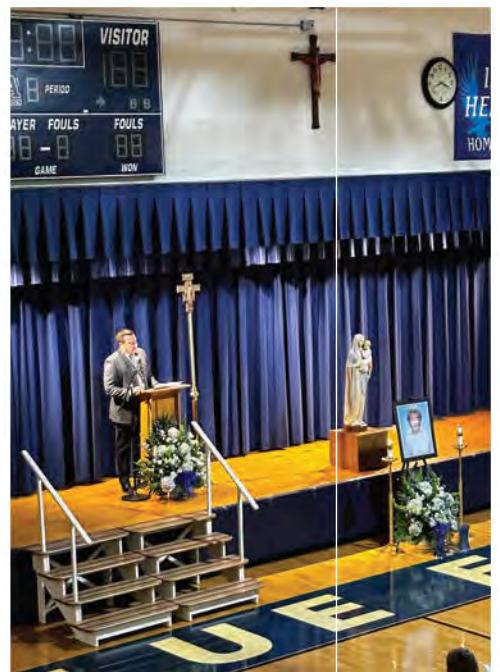


Ms. Gansley's seniors pay tribute to her by presenting white roses during a beautiful memorial prayer service.

the founder of IHA's senior retreat; and the former IHA Varsity Bowling coach, for which she was awarded numerous league, county, and state titles and was named Coach of the Year several times by *The Record*.

Ms. Gansley was a generous and devoted coworker to many during her more than three-decade tenure at Immaculate Heart. During a prayer service held in her memory, several colleagues reflected on her life and their relationships with her. Ms. Geri Braden, fellow Theology teacher, friend, and homeroom neighbor to Ms. Gansley for the last seventeen years, said there were so many things the IHA community can take from the life she lived so well including "her deep love for the Catholic Church, her devotedness

Mr. Jason Schlereth, president



Countless alumnae reached out after Ms. Gansley's passing to share their memories of her and send their best to her family and the IHA community.

“ I will never forget Ms. Gansley being so intuitive about us having other struggles going on in our teenage lives. After class one day as I was packing up, she said, 'Your light is dimmer today, what's going on?' When I told her it was usual boy trouble she simply said, 'Anyone who dims your light isn't worth your energy.' She had a wisdom about her I will never forget. She always made you feel heard, validated, and offered advice in such a simple manner. She is missed. ”

– Sarah Cerreto '11

“ I will always hold my fond memories of Ms. Gansley's class. I truly cherished all the life stories and advice she shared with us, as well as the daily journals we did in class. Ms. Gansley always had something thoughtful and inspiring to share with us. ”

– Bernadette Goratowski '19

“ Many teachers come and go in a lifetime, but those who leave a mark in your mind and your heart are to be cherished and remembered. Ms. Gansley had a big heart and an even bigger amount of patience. Her voice is what I remember most in her teaching. She spoke with conviction and commanded her classroom. It was easy to give her your full attention. She managed to keep many restless seniors engaged and her sense of humor made her loved by so many. I also feel blessed that I had been given the opportunity to forge a friendship with Ms. Gansley years later when I returned to IHA to teach Math and Business. I will miss her dearly but take comfort in knowing that her presence is in my memories and what she taught me about my faith. ”

– Christine Cabrera Capizzi '89 P'25, Mathematics and Business teacher

“ I had Ms. Gansley and I absolutely got a kick out of her sarcasm. Maybe that's why I'm extremely sarcastic myself—I learned from the best! The senior retreat was something I will never forget! ”

– Stephanie Dolce '94

“It’s March 2010, I’m a senior, in class with Ms. Gansley for Death & Resurrection when I’m called to the office and told to bring my belongings. My father is there, teary-eyed, informing me that my grandmother passed away. Knowing the logistics my parents would need to handle that day, and that I would be in my house alone, I chose to stay at school, and went back to Ms. Gansley’s class a blubbering mess, unable to really articulate a thought. She waited a minute, made the class remain silent, and when I was ready, gave me the floor to share about my grandmother with the room and be as vulnerable as I needed to be. She gave me the biggest hug after class concluded, letting me know my grandmother would always look after me for the rest of my life and that Ms. Gansley would be free to speak with me if and whenever I needed. She became my ‘first responder’ of sorts in one of my darkest hours, and I will never forget what she’s done for me for as long as I live.”

– Brianne Daniels’10



to the Eucharist, her commitment to family, and her passion for teaching.”

“I always admired her deep commitment to the church,” Ms. Braden said. “She knew the Church wasn’t perfect—it’s a human and divine institution—but she knew Jesus instituted it, is present in it, and our participation is essential to

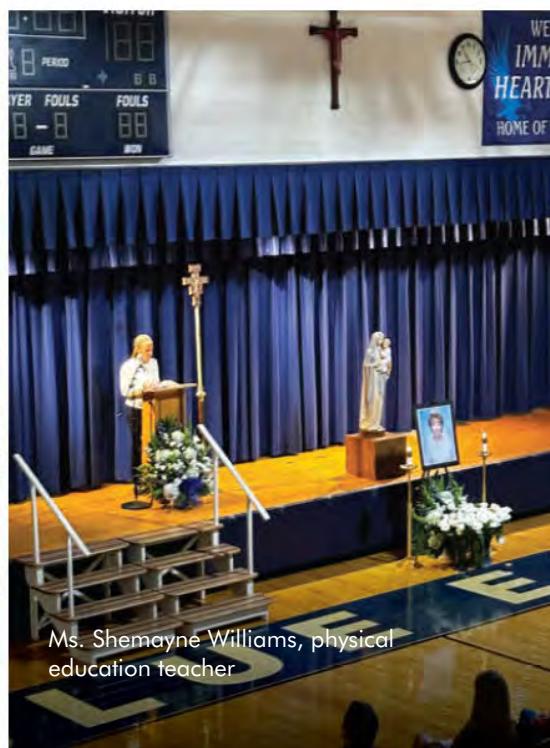
bringing Christ alive to this world. She had a particular fondness for the Adorno Fathers of Ramsey and helped at their carnival for years. Part of their mission statement is ‘everything must flow from the Eucharist and return to it.’”

She was a faithful parishioner of St. Joseph’s R.C. Church in Lodi where

she served as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the RCIA program and the Feast Committee. One of Ms. Gansley’s favorite tasks at IHA was to train the Eucharistic Ministers—she found meaning in teaching the students not only how to be ministers, but also how to witness a new connection of faith and purpose in this sacred role.



Ms. Lauren Rhein'09, director of admissions and IHA Golf coach



Ms. Shemayne Williams, physical education teacher



Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of formation



Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05,  
world language teacher



Ms. Geri Braden, theology teacher

In addition to her love and adoration for the Church and Eucharist, Ms. Gansley was also a lot of fun. An avid New York Giants fan, she loved all sports and would enthusiastically recap the game she watched the night before with her coworkers. “St. Patrick’s Day was a national holiday for her, bringing in her family’s Irish soda bread to IHA—and no she did not share the recipe,” Ms. Braden continued. “One of her favorite singers was Billy Joel and, on a very special birthday, she and her three sisters went to see him in concert. She very much enjoyed spending time with her family and sharing memories of her times with her sisters and their families, so proud of each one. And she had a deep love for the vulnerable, especially those with special needs.”

Ms. Lauren Rhein’09, director of admissions and IHA Golf coach, knew Ms. Gansley as a former student-athlete, fellow coach, and, most recently, a colleague. At the prayer service, Ms. Rhein said she was honored to speak about the great legacy Ms. Gansley leaves behind at a place she loved so much. She related to the current students, as she too lost a teacher when she was an IHA student—Morality teacher, Ms. Marie Sellers.

“I want to stress that I have sat in the same classrooms, walked the same hallways, had some of the very same teachers that you girls have, and I have also experienced the loss of a teacher,” she continued. “I remember attending Ms. Sellers’ Memorial Mass and sitting amongst hundreds of current and former IHA students, faculty, and staff, all of whom were touched by Ms. Sellers in some way. It was so moving and comforting to be surrounded by the unbreakable IHA community who were all experiencing many of the same emotions and feelings that I was.”

This past fall, Ms. Rhein was asked to write a letter to Ms. Gansley for her to receive at the Theology Department’s professional development day and retreat. She shared a portion of what she wrote in her letter with the IHA community at the prayer service:

*“Besides my parents, you have been one of my biggest supporters, and I can’t thank you enough. You believed in me, even on days when I didn’t believe in myself. You put your trust in me to captain the bowling team my junior and senior year, and you showed me the importance of being a good coach, a good leader, and a good person. I hope that I am able to impact the girls that I now coach in the same ways that you have impacted me.”*

*“I am so happy that you have remained in my life after high school and that I now get to see you on a fairly regular basis at IHA. Thank you for teaching me, inspiring me, believing in me, and being there for me. I will be forever grateful to have had you as a coach, a teacher, a mentor, and a friend.”*

Ms. Braden ended her prayer service reflection with advice to Ms. Gansley’s students and colleagues. She encouraged them to soar like the eagles they are and to live like the sign on Ms. Gansley’s wall in Room 233, which so powerfully reads, *“Don’t let anyone dull your sparkle.”*

# St. Brigid Alumnae Career Panel

## IHA Graduates Talk College, Jobs, and Life after IHA



Eight impressive IHA alumnae whose careers span a wide variety of fields visited their alma mater for an Alumnae Career Panel on February 7, 2023. After joining the IHA administration, directors and counselors, and Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor and St. Brigid Society moderator, for lunch, the panel of alumnae spoke to St. Brigid students. We were thrilled to welcome the following alumnae back home to IHA:

### **Jaclyn Scerbak de Nicola '15**

Jaclyn is a Radio City Rockette and professional dancer in NYC. She performs at Radio City Music Hall during the holiday season, spreading Christmas joy to thousands in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. She has performed live at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and has appeared on several other TV/local news outlets. Jaclyn holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Alvin Ailey/Fordham University at Lincoln Center and is currently signed with MSA, a top-tier talent agency in both New York and Los Angeles. She has trained and worked professionally with

Jaclyn Scerbak de Nicola '15, Maggie Horne '15, Julia Giannotta '17, Vanessa Cutler '02, Kate Revington Hlavacek '02, Daria Oller '02, Valerie Lombardo Anderson '02, and Kristen Rogers Bohling '09

world-renowned choreographers/directors and continues to audition and hone her craft during her off-season.

### **Maggie Horne '15**

Maggie is an assistant planner for the men's and young world outlets at Bloomingdale's. She aids in the development and execution of season plans by running weekly reporting, managing inventory regulation, and allocating orders nationwide. Additionally, Maggie assists in the bi-weekly development of in-season forecasting to predict sales, margin, and sales turn compared to the beginning-of-season plan.

### **Julia Giannotta '17**

Julia is a sixth grade English/language arts teacher at School #6 in Cliffside Park. She teaches fifty-eight 11-year-old students while balancing an accelerated master's program at Montclair State University.

Julia is studying for a master's in reading, where she will become a literacy specialist in August. Julie said she has a passion for teaching and loves learning as much from her students as they learn from her.

### **Vanessa Cutler '02, MD MPH MFA**

Vanessa is a physician who specializes in both adult and child psychiatry, the branch of medicine that encapsulates the diagnosis, prevention, study, and treatment of mental and emotional disorders. As a psychiatrist, her job involves seeing patients of all ages; doing assessments for mood disorders, anxiety disorders, ADHD, and other problems; and treating people for psychiatric illnesses using a combination of therapy, medication, and other interventions. Vanessa sees patients in all settings including emergency rooms, her private practice, and inpatient hospital floors across New York City and State.

### Kate Revington Hlavacek'02

Kate is the senior director of site merchandising for Macy's Apparel. She oversees a sixty-person team that executes all aspects of Macys.com for women's, men's, and kids' clothing. Kate and her team set up all new products on the website and the navigation to create the most seamless experience for customers.

### Daria Oller'02

Daria is a physical therapist at Pro-Activity, located in Lebanon, New Jersey. Pro-Activity contracts with employer-clients, providing on-site health promotion and prevention services. Daria works with a large construction company throughout New York City. Her job includes visiting construction job sites, leading group stretching and health education sessions, performing injury and wellness assessments, helping workers identify strategies to make positive health changes and to reduce risk for injury and illness, and developing strong relationships. She also helps at community events, such as road races, and sees patients in the clinic as needed. Daria is also a founding member and co-director of education for the international peer support, education, and advocacy association, Long COVID Physio.



### Valerie Lombardo Anderson'02

Valerie is the director of specialty fragrance marketing at MANE Fragrances. At MANE, Valerie develops concepts and fragrance direction with in-house perfumers and fragrance developers. She then presents market trends and concepts collaboratively with fragrance suggestions for specialty fragrance brands like Bath & Body Works and Victoria's Secret Beauty in hopes that they will purchase fragrances and launch them in their stores.



### Kristen Rogers Bohling'09

Kristen is the senior go to market manager at Reebok. She began her career as a product manager working on developing and creating children's shoes at Wolverine Worldwide. She worked on numerous brands during her time at Wolverine including Sperry, Keds, Merrell, and Saucony. Kristen traveled throughout the country to meet with buyers and ensure product was meeting consumer and customer needs. After five years, she moved over to Reebok where her focus changed from product to marketing. Kristen manages the entire go to market process including meeting management with international partners, setting up sell in photoshoots, planning events, and the creation of marketing sell in materials.



# IHA Celebrates Women's History Month

## Women of Valor Among Us: IHA Women Making History Today



Back row, left to right, are Brooklyn Talmadge'23, Carolyn Sandt'23, Lauren Grae'23, Rachel Paton'25, and Sophia Cremona'24. Front row, left to right, are Kiera Vicini'23, Kara Ignacio'23, Samantha Raia'24, April Ramsey'23, Leanna Johnston'23, Emily Magee'24, and Sophia Rowell'23.



### Women's History Month Women of Valor Among Us: IHA Women Making History Today

*We Love to See Women Who...*

*Raise the Bar for Character in Our  
Community – Sophia Cremona'24*

This Women's History Month, we honored students whom we consider "Women of Valor Among Us." In an impressive lobby display, we celebrated thirteen students who continuously use their unique gifts and talents to make history during their time at the heart. The following students were honored throughout the month of March and celebrated at a special reception with their families on March 13, 2023.



*Take Leadership to a New Level –  
Lauren Grae'23*



*Pursue Learning for Learning's Sake –  
Ariana Chen'23*



*Make Their Home at the Heart, Then  
Make the Heart a Better Home –  
Carolyn Sandt'23*



*Serve as Leaders on the Court and in the Classroom – Brookelyn Talmadge'23*



*Dream Up Solutions through Service –  
Samantha Raia'24*



*Pioneer a Culture of Blue Eagle Pride –  
Rachel Paton'25*

*Find Themselves in the Arts –  
Kara Ignacio'23*



*Build the Community They Wish They Had –  
Kiera Vicini'23*



*Make Kindness and Inclusivity their  
Highest Priority – April Ramsey'23*



*Shatter School Records and Glass Ceilings –  
Leanna Johnston'23*



*Aren't Afraid to Seek the Truth –  
Sophia Rowell'23*



*Mrs. Sarah Shutrop, director of  
formation, speaks about our 2023  
Women of Valor Among Us.*



*Face Resilience with Grit –  
Emily Magee'24*

# IHA Arts Department Induction Ceremonies Held



National Art Honor Society seniors

The National Art Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and International Thespian Society celebrated their newest inductees on Friday, March 10, 2023. Congratulations to:

**Tri-M Music Honor Society**  
*Moderator: Ms. Taryn Tonelli'09*

Marisa Arone'24  
Abigail Bennett'26  
Veronica Brenner'26  
Clara Byrnes'26  
Michaela DeCastro'24  
Kaitlyn DeMartini'23  
Evelina Drelich'24  
Isabella Falletta'24  
Jill Gonzalez'24  
Hannah Hart'24  
Mary Hahn'24  
Kara Ignacio'23  
Danica Libanan'26  
Megan McCarthy'25  
Tara McCarthy'26  
Amelia Meade'25





Tri-M Honor Society members

Olivia Morrison'23  
 Maeve Murray'24  
 Sophia Nemeth'26  
 Daniela Oliveri'26  
 Olivia Pantano'25  
 Ava Previzi'24  
 Lola Rose Projahn'25  
 Brooke Rodriguez'25  
 Katherine Ryan'25  
 Lily Schwedhelm'24  
 Mia Severino'26  
 Madeline Sullivan'24  
 Shoshana Thompson'25

**National Art Honor Society**  
*Moderator: Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20*

Jordyn Allen'23  
 Ileana Asencio'25  
 Isabella Bedoya'24  
 Isabella Bellantoni'25  
 Brooke Bjerke'24  
 Elizabeth Burgess'25  
 Paige Burgess'25  
 Juliana Capano'25  
 Caitlyn Capizzi'25  
 Grace Coughlin'23  
 Alexa Darienzo'25  
 Natalie Deegan'24  
 Stella DelSordo'24  
 Lauren DeLucia'25  
 Keira DeMicco'25

Gianna DiMeglio'24  
 Riley Dohrmann'25  
 Emerson Focht'25  
 Julia Foglia'25  
 Jillian Gaglioti'25  
 Alexandria Gallagher'23  
 Tess Gambale'24  
 Abigail Gessner'24  
 Jenna Ghiosay'23  
 Riley Grieco'24  
 Amanda Guanci'24  
 Lianna Held'23  
 Lauren Hroncich'24  
 Kara Ignacio'23  
 Chloe Kadien'25  
 Dylann Kammen'25  
 Ellie Kim'24  
 Bella Klouda'23  
 Dianne Grace LaMonte'25  
 Riley Longway'24  
 Hailey McGrath'25  
 Arden McLaughlin'25  
 Katelyn Mikros'25  
 Samantha Minnetian'25  
 Gianna Modica'25  
 Clodagh Moore'25  
 Alison Morris'25  
 Maeve Murray'24  
 Sarah Natal'25  
 Emma Neyland'25  
 Mikayla Nizza'23  
 Katherine Odierno'25



Livia Iuliano'24, Alyssa Torres'24, and Angelina Escobinas'24



Angelina Parrino'24  
 Julia Petrie'25  
 Orietta Pisciotta'25  
 Oliwia Piwowarski'25  
 Reese Polakowski'25  
 Grace Posillico'23  
 Sophia Prins'25  
 Eleanor Quinn'24  
 Antonina Randazzo'23  
 Casey Roberts'23  
 Carolyn Sandt'23  
 Zoe Sarno'25  
 Maeve Sayre'23  
 Lily Schwedhelm'24  
 Giavonna Scialpi'25  
 Reagan Scarpelli'25  
 Sarah Sedlak'25  
 Angelica Smith'25  
 Kelena Stavish'24  
 Kiera Stevenson'24  
 Samantha Tauber'25  
 Isabella Vidaic'24  
 Daniella Villafuerte'24



International Thespian Society members

**International Thespian Society**  
*Moderator: Ms. Taryn Tonelli'09*

Alayna Bellevue'24  
 Mary Hahn'24  
 Megan McCarthy'25  
 Brooke Rodriguez'25  
 Hannah Grace Sengul'24  
 Lucyann Tappan'25  
 Shoshana Thompson'25

# New Students Inducted into IHA National Honor Societies



**O**n the evening of February 1, 2023, IHA Induction Ceremonies were held for the school's chapters of the National Honor Society, the French National Honor Society, the Italian National Honor Society, and the Spanish National Honor Society.

Thank you to the IHA administration, in addition to the moderators and executive board members of the various prestigious honor societies including Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, director of college counseling and National Honor Society moderator; Mrs. Eileen Ingoglia, world language teacher and French Honor Society moderator; Mrs. Angie DeLima, world language teacher and Italian Honor Society moderator; and Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, world language teacher and Spanish Honor Society moderator.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

### National Honor Society Newly Inducted Members

Samantha Andersen'24  
Megan Anderson'23  
Dylan Applin'24  
Julia Arencibia'23  
Madyson Ayers'24  
Alexandra Barry'24  
Anvi Batra'24  
Ella Bosse'24  
Kristen Cali'23  
Caitlin Carr'24  
Emily Caton'24  
Mina Coccia'24  
Ella Crane'24  
Sophia Cremona'24  
Cathryn Cunningham'23  
Elizabeth Cuttita'23  
Natalie Deegan'24  
Victoria DellaCroce'24  
Gianna DiMeglio'24  
Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh'24

Madison McKay'23; Norah Homa'23; Mrs. Angie DeLima, world language teacher and Italian NHS moderator; Maria Byrnes'23; and Natalie Coulter'23

Shaye Disanza'23  
Evelina Drelich'24  
Avangelia Emporellis'24  
Marisa Flores'24  
Karina Folwarski'24  
Giana Fontanetta'24  
Katherine Grzybowski'24  
Hannah Hart'24  
Molly Hekemian'23  
Lauren Hroncich'24  
Livia Iuliano'24  
Caroline Joel'23  
Leanna Johnston'23  
Sydney Kearney'24  
Meaghan Keating'24  
Alexandra Kucharz'24  
Kaitlyn LeSuer'24  
Olivia Leyden'23  
Emily Magee'24  
Rose Martin'24  
Judith Mathew'23  
Maria Mathew'23  
Chloe Mazzola'24  
Jillian McCoy'24  
Samantha McGee'24  
Darcy Moore'24  
Sophie Morales'24  
Johanna Murphy'23  
Molly Nelson'23  
Reagan Pace'24  
Angelina Parrino'24  
Isabella Pizzi'24  
Lindsay Probst'24  
Eleanor Quinn'24  
Samantha Raia'24  
Abigail Romero'24  
Bryana Saenz'24  
Sophia Salewycz'24  
Madeleine Sandt'24  
Lily Schwedhelm'24  
Kiera Stevenson'24  
Alyssa Torres'24  
Alia Ureta'24  
Adrianna Uykan'24  
Marta Weglarz'24  
Eileen Wynne'24  
Rose Zazzali'24



### French National Honor Society Newly Inducted Members

Cathryn Cunningham'23  
Allison Lynch'23

### Italian National Honor Society Newly Inducted Members

Maria Byrnes'23  
Natalie Coulter'23  
Norah Homa'23  
Madison McKay'23  
Francesca Russo'23

### Spanish National Honor Society Newly Inducted Members

Elizabeth Bolado'23  
Elizabeth Cuttita'23  
Lauren Dunnigan'23  
Erin Erturan'23  
Amber Estevez'23  
Caitlin Fritz'23  
Isabella Galan'23  
Ava Ghomi'24  
Madeleine Gilson'23  
Lauren Grae'23  
Emma Hanlon'23  
Leanna Johnston'23  
Isabella Pizzi'24



Mrs. Ravneet Batra P'24, Anvi Batra'24,  
and Mr. Neeraj Batra P'24



Mrs. Caridad Gonzalez P'24,  
Sophie Morales'24, and  
Mr. Raymond Morales P'24



Julia Arencibia'23 and  
Cathryn Cunningham'23



Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh'24



Emily Caton'24 and  
Madyson Ayers'24



Isabella Galan'23,  
2022-23 NHS president



Johanna Murphy'23



Charlotte Farcy'23

# NHS Quarter Two Awards Presented

IHA's National Honor Society presents awards each quarter to students representing the four pillars of the society: leadership, service, character, and scholarship. For the second quarter of the 2022-23 academic year, congratulations are extended to:

## LEADERSHIP

**Grace Coughlin'23:** Grace is a natural leader within the IHA community. She helped to start IHA's Eagles Nest, the school's student section that encourages students to attend sporting events and helps to spread school spirit. Grace is also a member of Science National Honor Society and the IHA Varsity Volleyball team, of which she was a captain this year. Grace constantly inspires those around her to become involved in the school community and support the sisterhood!

## SERVICE

**Madison McKay'23:** Madison is dedicated to serving those around her, especially in the IHA community. She is the service president of Christian Service Board, of which she has been a dedicated member for three years. Madison also helps to coordinate Midnight Runs and organize various Campus Ministry events. Madison also gives her time to volunteer within her local community and she is selflessly always thinking of others.



Grace Coughlin'23, Madison McKay'23, Leanna Johnston'23, and Kate Menake'23

## CHARACTER

**Leanna Johnston'23:** Leanna is a talented, caring, dedicated, and hardworking individual who possesses the qualities of someone whose character should be recognized. She has many accomplishments both in school and on the track, but she continues to stay humble. Leanna never fails to brighten someone's day and always takes the time to recognize others' accomplishments. Her hard work has paid off and we know she will continue to bring these qualities with her as she continues her education at Columbia University in the fall.

## SCHOLARSHIP

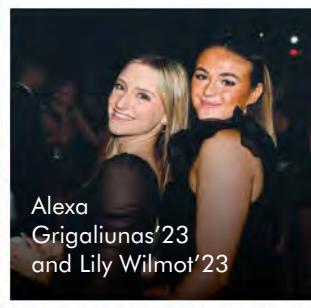
**Kate Menake'23:** As a member of the STEM program, Kate has truly excelled academically at IHA. Not only is she an important contributor to her AP classes, but she is a member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Social Studies National Honor Society, and Science National Honor Society. She is also a very talented gymnast who spends hours after school at practice, leading her to successful time management. Kate's dedication to her academics is an inspiration to the rest of the IHA community.

# Senior Dance for the Class of 2023

Our Class of 2023 danced the night away with their IHA sisters at their Senior Dance on January 27! Special thanks to the IHA administration; senior class moderator, Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11; faculty volunteers; the sophomore class for donating desserts to their big sisters; and Golden Note Entertainment for DJing the event. It was thanks to all of you that we were able to host a memorable night for our seniors!



Josephine Amerio '23 and Sophie Mendolia '23



Alexa Grigaliunas '23 and Lily Wilmot '23



Caitlyn Fritz '23 and Marie Baldwin '23 are all smiles with their dates.



Elizabeth Panayiotarakos '23, Allison Lynch '23, Madison McKay '23, and Charlotte Farcy '23



Noelle Haskell '23, Danielle Piscitelli '23, and Shaelyn Auer '23



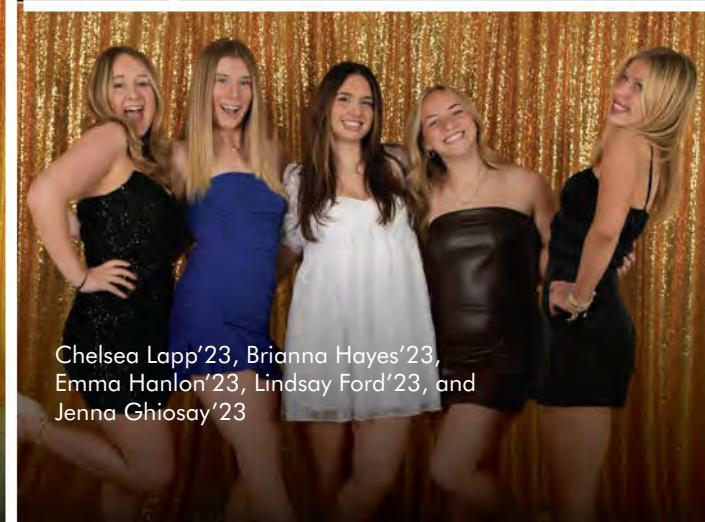
Faith Dalessandro '23, Jessica Sundlin '23, Isabella Galan '23, and Olivia Toohey '23



Keri Dahl '23, Antonina Randazzo '23, Rose Cultraro '23, Gracyn Pisa '23, Sophie Mendolia '23, and Veronica Jachts '23



Magdaly Pierre-Louis '23 and Christina-Ann Augustin '23



Chelsea Lapp '23, Brianna Hayes '23, Emma Hanlon '23, Lindsay Ford '23, and Jenna Ghiosay '23

# Mrs. Maria Nolan P'08 Announces Retirement

## IHA Volleyball Coach Bids Farewell after Nineteen Years



Mrs. Maria Nolan P'08

After nineteen record-breaking seasons coaching at Immaculate Heart Academy, Mrs. Maria Nolan P'08, has declared the 2022 volleyball season as her last. She officially announced her retirement in February 2023.

If you have ever followed New Jersey high school volleyball, you have heard Maria Nolan's name. Prior to working at IHA, Coach Nolan coached for twenty-seven years at Secaucus High School, where she led the program to sixteen New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) state titles, seventeen league titles, fifteen county titles, and eight undefeated seasons.

She began at IHA in 2004 and has coached hundreds of Blue Eagles over the last two decades. She also started Maria Nolan's Developmental Volleyball Camp for Girls at Immaculate Heart Academy in 2002. Coach Nolan ended her IHA coaching career with a 581-47 record,

a ninety-three winning percentage. She also holds the title of all-time wins leader in New Jersey volleyball history with a record of 1101-116. IHA's overall home record is 214-1 (a more than ninety-nine winning percentage), boasting only one at-home loss since Coach Nolan began.

"For the first ten years, I was fortunate enough to be a co-coach with Michael DeCastro," Coach Nolan reflected. "These years were pivotal in developing IHA into the premier volleyball program in New Jersey. When Mike left to work for the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland, Eddie Rossiter and Ed Jedziniak helped continue the legacy."

Under Coach Nolan's leadership, IHA has been New Jersey's #1 volleyball team twelve of the last fifteen seasons. She has coached more than seventy players who received county and state accolades

and has led IHA to fourteen NJSIAA Non-Public State titles, fifteen NJSIAA Sectional titles, seven Bergen County titles, and nineteen league titles. IHA also earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award seventeen out of the last possible eighteen years.

Coach Nolan holds several IHA NJSIAA records including Most Consecutive State Titles (13 from 2007-2019), Most Consecutive Final Appearances (16 from 2006-2022), Most Consecutive Tournament of Champion titles (4 from 2011-2014), Most Tournament of Champion titles (10), and Most Consecutive Tournament of Champion championship final appearances (9 from 2011-2019). Since she began at Immaculate Heart in 2004, IHA won 10 of a possible 17 Tournament of Champion titles.



**“Coach Nolan’s ability to develop, teach, and motivate along with her gift of inspiring young women with her life lessons is what I believe is her true IHA legacy.”**

– Mr. Steve Ferro, IHA director of athletics

Mrs. Maria Nolan P’08 and Brookelyn Talmadge’23



She has coached numerous athletes who continued to play collegiately at all levels. Many have become high school and college coaches and officials, and two who were All-Americans and NCAA Champions trained and played for the USA National Team. Under Coach Nolan’s leadership, IHA has yielded ten Gatorade Players of the Year including Ariel Scott’10 in 2008 and 2009; Nia Reed’14 in 2011, 2012, and 2013; Caitlyn Floyd’16 in 2014; Julia Morris’18 in 2017; Anna Morris’20 in 2018 and 2019; and Brookelyn Talmadge’23 in 2022.

Maria wasn’t the only Nolan to start her IHA career in 2004; her daughter, Andrea Nolan Boyd’08 entered as a freshman that same year. Andrea played volleyball under her mother, and they even shared the thrill of winning Maria’s first NJSIAA State and ToC titles at IHA during Andrea’s senior season. “After winning so

many at Secaucus High School,” Coach Nolan said, “I wanted to do the same for her. Little did I know that in the years to come, so many other IHA Volleyball players would experience the thrill of becoming state champions.”

Throughout her rewarding and lucrative career, Coach Nolan has served on various boards and committees for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), NJSIAA, and the New Jersey State Coaches Association (NJSCA). She was named *The Star-Ledger* Volleyball Coach of the Year in 1998 and 2009, the NFHS National Volleyball Coach of the Year in 1999, the NJSIAA Volleyball Legend’s Award recipient in 2004, the American Volleyball Coaches Association Region Coach of the Year in 2018 and 2022, #6 NJ.com Top New Jersey Coaches of All Time in 2019, and Coach of the Year in Hudson County, BCSL, and United Division over numerous years, in addition to receiving a number of other accolades and awards. Coach Nolan was also inducted into the Halls of Fame at the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (2003), New Jersey State Coaches Association (1989), Hudson County (2000), Secaucus High School (1996), and Immaculate Heart Academy (2019).

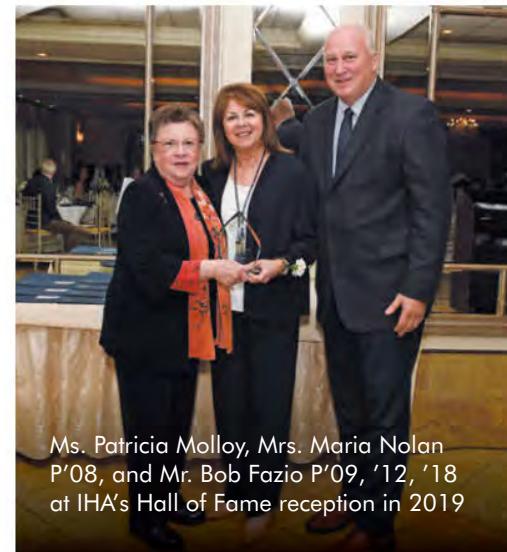
Mr. Steve Ferro, IHA director of athletics, wished Coach Nolan the very best in her retirement. “As probably one of the greatest high school volleyball coaches of all time, Maria Nolan’s wins and losses and the number of championships achieved will always be remembered in the record books,” he said. “But her ability to develop, teach, and motivate along with her gift of inspiring young

women with her life lessons is what I believe is her true IHA legacy.”

Coach Nolan said that one of her main joys of coaching has been to help girls develop into confident, competent young women and outstanding volleyball players. “The wins have been rewarding, but what I will miss the most is helping and watching the players progress,” she said. “The IHA student-athlete is focused, committed, and hard working. I am very grateful to have coached so many volleyball players who were diligent in the classroom, and then attacked the court with the same intensity.”

Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president, said that Coach Nolan has been “an exemplary coach at IHA both on and off the court. Her goal has always been the successful development of the complete student-athlete,” he continued. “Maria’s resume speaks for itself, but her passion for coaching young athletes and for the sport of volleyball is incomparable. On behalf of everyone here at Immaculate Heart Academy, we will miss her and congratulate her on her retirement.”

As Coach Nolan embarks on her next journey of retirement, she sends special thanks to the players, coaches, parents, and IHA administration who have all contributed to helping her achieve the many milestones of her career. “This chapter of my life has come to a close,” she continued, “but the memories will last forever.”



Ms. Patricia Molloy, Mrs. Maria Nolan P’08, and Mr. Bob Fazio P’09, ‘12, ‘18 at IHA’s Hall of Fame reception in 2019

# WINTER | sports wrap-up



IHA Varsity Basketball wins the sectional championship!



The Blue Eagles win the Non-Public A State championship!

## BASKETBALL

Entering the season with high expectations and challenged by an ambitious schedule, IHA Varsity Basketball proved once again worthy of all the hype. The team finished 6-0 in Division play and undefeated against Big North competition, winning the United Division crown. IHA also captured the highly competitive Non-Public A North Championship for the eleventh consecutive year, defeating Pope John in overtime. Other highlights of the team's 25-4 season include wins over Eastside, Ramapo, Teaneck, Pascack Valley, and a thrilling overtime win over state powerhouse, St. Rose. This season also brought coach Steve Silver's six-hundredth career win! Saving the best for last, IHA defeated previously undefeated #1 in New Jersey, nationally ranked St. John Vianney, 65-55 to win the Non-Public A State championship for the first time since 2014—arguably the biggest upset in state history! IHA Varsity Basketball ended the season ranked #1 in North Jersey and #5 in the state of New Jersey.

### Big North Conference All-League Honors

#### First-Team

Isabella Asencio'23,  
Ava Naszimento'23, Julia Schutz'23,  
Selena Cieszko'24, and Sofia Valente'25

#### Second-Team

Gianna Modica'25

#### Honorable Mention

Isabella Conde'23

#### Team of the Year

Immaculate Heart Academy

### BCWCA All-County Honors

#### First-Team

Isabella Asencio'23 and Julia Schutz'23

#### Third-Team

Ava Naszimento'23

#### Honorable Mention

Selena Cieszko'24 and Sofia Valente'25

### northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

#### First-Team

Isabella Asencio'23

#### Second-Team

Julia Schutz'23

### northjersey.com/The Record Athlete of the Week

Isabella Asencio'23

### NJ.com All-Non-Public Honors

#### Second-Team

Isabella Asencio'23

### NJ.com All-State Honors

#### Third-Team

Isabella Asencio'23

### North/South State Senior All-Star Game Selection

Isabella Asencio'23

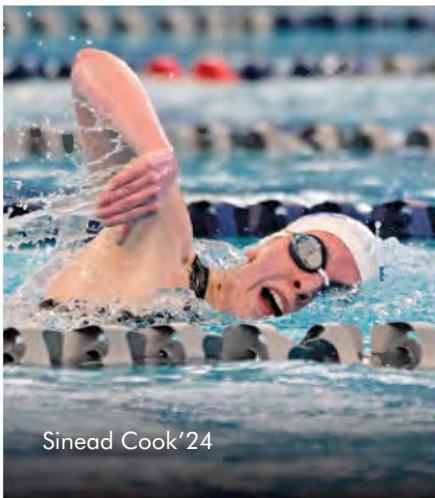
### All-Star County Classic Game Selection

Isabella Asencio'23 and Julia Schutz'23



The 2022-23 Swim Team

## SWIMMING



Sinead Cook '24

The IHA Swim Team had another successful season in 2022-2023, finishing with a 9-1 record. The team captured its thirty-second consecutive league title and its twenty-fourth consecutive Bergen County title. In the NJSIAA State Tournament, the team defeated Trinity Hall 97-73 in the semifinals and Pingry 94-76 in the finals to capture its twenty-sixth state title! The team finished #3 in the NJ.com Top 20 ranking of the 2022-23 season.



IHA Varsity Swim celebrates in the pool after the state finals.

### Big North Conference

#### All-League Honors

##### First-Team

Emma Dillane '23, Madison Klak '23, Sinead Cook '24, Madison Assanah '25, Isabella Piccinich '25, Kayla Rodriguez '25, Kathleen Turano '25, Elizabeth Vursta '25, AvaGrace Zettler '25, Mariana Builes '26, Isabelle Santos '26, and Kimberly Zhang '26

##### Second-Team

Megan Anderson '23, Ariana Chen '23, Abigail Diehl '23, Erin Erturan '23, Madison Klak '23, Siena McCue '23, Sinead Cook '24, Julia Haemmerle '24, Alia Ureta '24, Julia Sobilo '25, Elizabeth Vursta '25, AvaGrace Zettler '25, Isabella Kopp '26, Isabelle Santos '26, Mikayla Sticco '26, and Kimberly Zhang '26

##### Honorable Mention

Kathleen Brancato '26

### BCWCA All-County Honors

#### First-Team

Madison Assanah '25, Isabella Piccinich '25, Kayla Rodriguez '25, Kathleen Turano '25, and Kimberly Zhang '26

#### Second-Team

Madison Assanah '25, Isabella Piccinich '25, Kayla Rodriguez '25, Kathleen Turano '25, Elizabeth Vursta '25, Mariana Builes '26, and Isabelle Santos '26

#### Third-Team

Emma Dillane '23, Elizabeth Vursta '25, and Mariana Builes '26

#### Honorable Mention

Madison Klak '23, Sinead Cook '24, Mariana Builes '26, and Isabelle Santos '26

### northjersey.com

#### All-North Jersey Honors

##### First-Team

Madison Assanah '25, Isabella Piccinich '25, Kayla Rodriguez '25, Kathleen Turano '25, and Kimberly Zhang '26

##### Second-Team

Madison Assanah '25, Isabella Piccinich '25, Kathleen Turano '25, Elizabeth Vursta '25, Mariana Builes '26, and Isabelle Santos '26

### NJ.com All-State Honors

#### Third-Team

Kathleen Turano '25

### 2022-23 NISCA All-American Time Standard

Kayla Rodriguez '25  
(100 Breaststroke - 1:02.46)

### 2022-23 NISCA All-American Consideration Time

Kathleen Turano '25  
(500 Freestyle - 4:53.18)



Casey Roberts '23

## TRACK & FIELD

It was a phenomenal Winter Track & Field season for IHA as nine school records were broken, and the Blue Eagles won both the League and County Relay Championship for the third consecutive season. Leanna Johnston '23 broke six school records in the 1000m, 1600m, one-mile, 3000m, 3200m, and two-mile, and set the Bergen County Record in the 3200m, ranking fourteenth in the United States in addition to placing second in all of New Jersey. Abigail Romero '24 broke school records in both the long

and triple jumps. The 4x200 relay of Abigail Romero '24, Lauren Dunnigan '23, Olivia Tacconi '23, and Sophia Ditchfield-Agboh '24 shattered the school record. Olivia Tacconi '23 also took down the school record in the 60-meter dash. Finally, the shuttle hurdle relay team of Lauren Dunnigan '23, Olivia Battifarano '24, Sierra Tofts '25, and Anabella Martino '23 placed sixth in the entire country to earn All-American status!



Lauren Dunnigan '23



Leanna Johnston '23

### Big North Conference

#### All-League Honors

##### First-Team

Leanna Johnston '23, Casey Roberts '23, Olivia Tacconi '23, Maura Hesler '24, Meaghan Keating '24, Abigail Romero '24, Katelyn Mikros '25, Lauren Mulry '25, Anna Lynch '26, and Mary Mahoney '26

##### Second-Team

Noelle Haskell '23, Carson Bielen '24, Sophia Ditchfield-Agboh '24, Samantha Raia '24, Elizabeth Burgess '25, Paige Burgess '25, Sierra Tofts '25, and Emily Wunsch '25

##### Honorable Mention

Catherine Goldstein '23

##### Coach of the Year

Matt Joyce

### BCWCA All-County Honors

##### First-Team

Leanna Johnston '23

##### Second-Team

Olivia Tacconi '23 and Abigail Romero '24

### Northjersey.com All-North

#### Jersey Honors

##### First-Team

Leanna Johnston '23

##### Second-Team

Olivia Tacconi '24

### NJ.com All-Non-Public Honors

##### Second-Team

Leanna Johnston '23

### NJ.com All-State Honors

##### Second-Team

Leanna Johnston '23

### NJ.milesplit All-State Honors

##### Second-Team

Leanna Johnston '23



Catherine Goldstein '23



The 2022-23 Varsity Bowling Team

## BOWLING

It was another awesome year for the IHA Bowling team. With seventeen girls on the team, IHA was always competitive and the girls displayed outstanding sportsmanship. The team finished second in the United League and performed impressively during the State Sectional Competition in February, with Olivia Seitter'23 moving on to the State Finals—one of twenty-five girls chosen for this event. With several underclassmen on the team, IHA Bowling is looking forward to an even more successful season next year.



Jaylene Hernandez'26

### Big North Conference All-League Honors

#### First-Team

Olivia Seitter'23 and Lilé Pollicastro'25

#### Second-Team

Kristen Cali'23, Casey Urban'24, and Kaitlyn Klaus'24

#### Honorable Mention

Jaylene Hernandez'26

## SKI TEAM

IHA had its best season in years, ranked fifth in the state and finishing in fourth place in Giant Slalom and seventh place in Slalom at the State Championships. Five IHA racers qualified for the Race of Champions, which honors the top forty racers from the regular season. The team was led by Emily Magee'24 and Darcy Moore'24, who earned First-Team

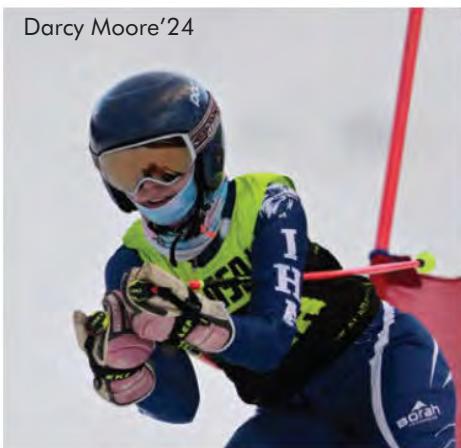
All-League Honors, in addition to Jessica Sundlin'23, Shelby Quiles'26, and Amelie Wilday'24, who earned Honorable Mention All-League Honors.

Additionally, Emily Magee'24 was the only IHA skier to qualify for the New Jersey State team and went to Eastern Regionals in New Hampshire, where she placed seventy-seventh out of more than two hundred racers. The IHA Ski team ended the season with an impressive record of 23-7.

Emily Magee'24



Darcy Moore'24



Amelie Wilday'24



### NJISRA Liberty All-League Honors

#### First-Team

Emily Magee'24 and Darcy Moore'24

#### Honorable Mention

Jessica Sundlin'23, Amelie Wilday'24, and Shelby Quiles'26

### NJISRI All-State Honors

#### Second-Team

Emily Magee'24

## ICE HOCKEY

IHA Blue Eagle Ice Hockey took a major step forward this season finishing Top 4 in the State Playoffs. An amazing team effort propelled IHA this season, led by underclass standouts, Claire Chanfrau'26 and Riley Stocker'26. The team is sad to say goodbye to two talented senior leaders, Natalia Petersen'23 and Brodie Augustensen'23, but looking forward to next season!



The 2022-23 Varsity Ice Hockey Team



Riley Stocker'26



Claire Chanfrau'26

**Cohen Division All-League Honors**  
**First-Team**  
 Claire Chanfrau'26 and  
 Riley Stocker'26

**Honorable Mention**  
 Sophia DeFalco'24 and  
 Elisabeth Tralongo'26



Natalia Petersen'23 and  
 Brodie Augustensen'23

## DANCE TEAM

This year, the IHA Dance Team not only had a strong varsity squad, but also welcomed a J.V. team. Led by captains Elizabeth Bolado '23, Julia DeVirgilio '23, and Carina Rios '23, IHA Dance fought hard through the entire season that led them to Nationals in Orlando, Florida for the first time in the program's history. At Nationals, Varsity placed fourth in Jazz and J.V. placed sixth in Hip Hop, eighth in Pom, and ninth in Jazz. Congratulations to both teams on a great season!



### Dance Team Union Regionals

#### Varsity Pom

2nd Place

#### Varsity Jazz

3rd Place

#### J.V. Jazz

1st Place

#### J.V. Hip Hop

1st Place

#### J.V. Pom

2nd Place

### Pascack Valley Sweetheart Invitational

#### Varsity Jazz

2nd Place

#### J.V. Jazz

1st Place

#### J.V. Hip Hop

2nd Place

#### J.V. Pom

3rd Place

### Dance Team Union Nationals

#### Varsity Jazz

4th Place

#### J.V. Hip Hop

6th Place

#### J.V. Pom

8th Place

#### J.V. Jazz

9th Place





# Brookelyn Talmadge '23

## Named Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year

In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade announced this past January that Brookelyn Talmadge '23 is the 2022-23 Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year. Brookelyn is the sixth Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Immaculate Heart Academy.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Brookelyn as New Jersey's best high school volleyball player. Brookelyn joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Lexi Sun (2016-17, Santa Fe Christian School, California), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Nebraska), Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Florida) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, California).

The six-foot senior middle hitter and right-side hitter led the Blue Eagles to a 29-1 record and the Non-Public Group A state title this past season. Brookelyn recorded 323 kills and 51 blocks, posting

a .619 kill percentage and a .567 hitting percentage. A MaxPreps.com First Team All-American selection and the NJ.com Player of the Year, she put down a career-high 19 kills in IHA's 2-1 win over Paul VI High in the state final.

Brookelyn has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and received IHA's National Honor Society Award for Character based upon the above-and-beyond execution of her peer-tutoring duties. The president of the IHA Black Student Union, she has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach. "Brookelyn simply dominated the competition," said Anthony McMichael, head coach of Roxbury High School. "She always performed her best in the biggest moments, when the lights were the brightest." Brookelyn has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Bryant College in Rhode Island this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the fifty states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball,

and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media, and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Brookelyn joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Volleyball Players of the Year JoAnna Andrews (2021-22, Williamstown High School), MacKenzie Wiggins (2020-21, Sparta High School), and Anna Morris (2019-20 & 2018-19, Immaculate Heart Academy), among the state's list of former award winners. Roughly 5.7 million kids play the Gatorade Player of the Year sports; only six hundred and eight are named as a Gatorade Player of the Year.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than thirteen hundred organizations. For nearly forty years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.



# CLASS notes

## '64 & '97

IHA alumnae sisters, **Jane Ann Sargia'64** and **Arlene Tieng'97**, attended the March for Life in D.C. in January 2023.



Arlene Tieng'97 and Jane Ann Sargia'64

## '68

After the Class of 1968 50th Reunion in 2018, six 1968 IHA friends reconnected and have shared vacations ever since! **Julie Prina Fornaci**, **Susan Cardascia White**, **Susan DeLorenzo Bertram**, **Mary-Ellen Ciali**, **Elaine Malillo Tormey**, and **Karen Ferrare** visit as often as they can. Susan White, Julie, and Elaine have been friends since grammar school. They recently added two additional members from 1968 on their summer vacations—**Jeanne Tozzini McCliment** and **Kathleen Kennedy McDonough**. The group spent time together in Ogunquit, Maine and Cape Cod and are planning a trip to Newburyport this upcoming June.

## '69

J. Anna Looney writes, "While a student at IHA, I was known as Jane Raring. Now, some fifty years out of high school, I go by J. Anna Looney. My partner and I relocated from New Jersey to Oregon in 2017, moving across country to be close to our only child, a physician married to a physician. Imagining we would be doing family support for grandkids, we made the transition from high-pressure east coast academic jobs (mine was at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) to that unexplored time of life, retirement, in the Pacific Northwest. It is a beautiful and gentler place to live. Finally having time, I invested in my passion for facilitating mind body medicine skills trainings. Certified by The Center for Mind Body Medicine in 2015, I was made faculty in 2021. So far, my work has blossomed; I am offering groups for people diagnosed with cancer, for caregivers, and for anyone interested in personal growth. I am grateful to have found 'my people' and my calling. Having seventy-one years of life under my belt, I relish what comes next. IHA was a launching pad for my life, and I am profoundly thankful for that great start to my education. It would be a joy to connect with classmates and anyone from IHA curious about mind body medicine."

## '71

**Kathryn Grant Madigan** writes, "After nearly forty-five years in practice, I transitioned from Partner to Of Counsel on January 1, 2023 at my law firm, Levene Gouldin & Thompson LLP in Vestal, New York. I also accepted a part time faculty position at Cornell Law School co-teaching an Estate Planning Practicum. It is an exciting new chapter in my life!"

## '74

**Lisa Frazza-Cortiula** retired from Television Studios and CBS TV City in Los Angeles on December 31, 2022. She was lead scenic artist for thirty years at the Hollywood TVC facility. Working both "on stage" and "in the shop," Lisa ran crews and painted on productions such as *The Bold and The Beautiful*, *The Young and The Restless*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *The Price is Right*, and *The Late Late Show*. Lisa's co-workers honored her with a festive celebration send-off on January 11, 2023. She also proudly served as scenic council secretary at The Art Director's IATSE Local 800 office for thirty years. In her retirement, Lisa plans on getting back into easel painting and volunteering.



Lisa Frazza-Cortiula'74

**'75**

**Maryann Wagner Phipps** was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). Election to the NAE

is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education. Maryann is president of Estructure, a structural engineering firm in Oakland, California. She was recognized "For leadership in structural engineering and contributions to assessment, mitigation, and design of building components for seismic effects." Maryann currently serves on several boards overseeing the seismic safety of thousands of buildings throughout California. She holds many "firsts," including serving as the first female president of the Structural Engineers Association of California. She has served as a role model for a new generation of female leaders in her field.

**'78**

Artist, **Serena Bocchino**, has several events happening this year including the launch of a collaboration with Imagery

Estates Winery in Sonoma for which she created her second wine label. In November, she will have a solo exhibition at the Ivy Brown Gallery in New York City, and her work will also be included at the Fort Collins Museum of Art in Colorado in its annual group exhibition called MASKS. To read more about Serena and her art, visit [www.serenabocchino.com](http://www.serenabocchino.com).



2021 WINEMAKER'S PALETTE  
peach, honeysuckle, grapefruit

**'95**

**Fara D'Angelo McNeil**

writes, "Since graduating from IHA, I have worked in marketing and product development for more than fifteen years for various companies like MTV Networks, WWE Entertainment, and Sherwin Williams. Most recently, about four years ago, I decided to step away from the corporate world and open my own franchise CKO Kickboxing studio in Allendale. It has been the best decision, and I am really enjoying helping people in the community with their health and fitness goals."

**'96**

**Lillian Montagnino**

**Aaronson** is a certified public accountant who worked with PricewaterhouseCoopers in San Francisco and went on to become a registered nurse working at UCLA Medical Center for twelve years. She is currently working in Thousand Oaks for a home health and hospice agency. Lillian is married with three children and has a small online jewelry business, [LulaLovely.Etsy.Com](https://LulaLovely.Etsy.Com). In addition, she is a certified sound healer and certified crystal and chakra healer.

**'99**

**Marian Montagnino's**

book, *Building Modern CLI Applications in Go*, is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon. She has spoken at technology conferences in Germany, Iceland, and Brazil and will be leading a workshop on building CLIs with Go in Berlin this summer.

**'02**

**Nicole Imbriale-Gioules**

writes, "I am currently living in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. My husband and I are anesthesiologists at UMass in Worcester. We celebrated the birth of our fourth and last baby in 2022. We are blessed with four beautiful children, Matthew, Daniel, Addison, and Cora! They definitely keep us busy in our free time!"

**'96**

**Lisa Beth Vettoso** and her

husband, Jay Goodwin, welcomed their son, Henry John Goodwin, on June 20, 2022. "He is our first child and such a beautiful gift in our lives!" she writes. Lisa is the Executive Director of Literature to Life and Artistic Director of Aspire Performing Arts Company. Her experience in the performing arts began her sophomore year at IHA in the show, *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



Henry John Goodwin

**'05**

**Alexandra Simone Modafferi** and her husband, Anthony, welcomed their second child, Anthony Nicholas Modaffer II, on November 17, 2022. Baby Anthony joins proud big sister, Hailey.



Anthony Nicholas Modaffer II

**'06**

**Katherine Elman'06** writes, "This year, in my lucky thirteenth year of teaching, I was chosen as Teacher of the Year at my school, Memorial Middle School in Woodland Park. I currently teach seventh grade special education math and science and have spent most of my career teaching students with autism and other disabilities. Additionally, I became board certified as a behavior analyst, BCBA, and work with school-aged children in their homes on functional life skills, self-regulation, and communication skills. I truly love what I do and want to thank IHA for all the support in my teenage years. Go Blue Eagles!"



From left to right are Michele Pillari, Katherine Elman'06, Krystina Reilly, and Stephen Scholtz.

**'06**

**Linda Van Leeuwen** writes, "I recently opened my own physical therapy practice, Stride Physical Therapy & Wellness.

It is a mobile practice, meaning I treat patients in the comfort of their own homes in the North Jersey area. I have been a physical therapist for more than ten years now, and I treat mostly orthopedics—anything from post-surgical to chronic low back pain, and more."

**'08**

**Cristina "Cha" Ramos** writes, "I got engaged this past fall to the incredible William Candler Owens and we are planning a Spring 2024 wedding in Hudson, New York. He proposed at a Renaissance Faire while I was performing with the Vixens En Garde, an all-female, sword-fighting, Shakespeare, comedy troupe! I earned my M.F.A. in theater arts (concentration in dramaturgy) from Columbia University School of the Arts and am regularly working in theatre (Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Regional), primarily as a fight and intimacy director. It may be cliche, but it really feels like just last week I was doing the IHA plays and musicals!"



William Candler Owens and Cristina "Cha" Ramos'08



**'09**

On July 3, 2022, **Keshia Jeantel** and her husband, Jon Charlot, were finally able to celebrate their marriage with family and friends at The Rockleigh in Rockleigh, New Jersey. The couple legally tied the

knot in late 2019, but COVID-19 delayed their original celebration plans. Keshia was blessed to have her IHA sisters in attendance. From left to right are **Sarah-Ann Beaubrun'11**; **Brittney Grant'12**; **Christel-Ann Augustin'11**, her IHA little sister who caught the bouquet;

**Bianca Pierre-Louis Jeune'08**; **Keshia Jeantel Charlot'09**; **Ilisse Gomez'09**, who serenaded the couple during the ceremony; **Virginia Farrell'09**; and **Wendeline DeMorin'11**.

**'12**

**Courtney Cali** became engaged on November 26, 2022 to her fiancé, Michael Abasto, in Cape May.



Courtney Cali'12 and Michael Abasto

**Regan Cronin** writes "I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master of Science in nursing. I passed my licensure exam in July and became a board-certified adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner. Shortly after, I began my job at Duke University Health in the Cancer Center. I work in medical oncology, where I strive to provide the best care for breast cancer patients. In the midst of all this, I also attained a black belt in a second martial art. I hold a second degree black belt in Japanese karate, and, at the end of the summer, earned my first degree black belt in To-Shin Do, another Japanese martial art. I received my black belt under a waterfall, which was so incredible. Finally, on December 24, 2022, I got engaged to my best friend. We are currently planning a November 2024 wedding. 2022 was an incredibly busy and exciting year for me, and I cannot wait to see what is to come in 2023."

**Would you like to be featured in IHA's Class Notes?**

**Please send your life update to Mrs. Tara Hopfenspirger, director of communications & marketing, at [thopfenspirger@ihanj.com](mailto:thopfenspirger@ihanj.com). Visit [ihanj.com](http://ihanj.com) to view our IHA Newsletter Content Guidelines.**

**'13**

**Caroline Morano Gaudreau** and Will Gaudreau welcomed their daughter, Jane Frances, on November 16, 2022.



Jane Frances Gaudreau

**'18**

**Caroline Frey** writes, "Throughout the months of February and March, I had the wonderful opportunity

to work at The 95th Academy Awards at The Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California. This was an absolute dream come true! I was employed to work for the production team/COVID Protocol team, responsible for coordinating testing amongst the production crew and assisting producers with briefings and rundowns. This job entails attention to detail, a strong work ethic, and, above all, a passion for production. I was fortunate enough to have gained my spark for production from Immaculate Heart Academy's morning news program and immense outreach in the communications world. I have gained knowledge and experience that grows my love for television and film production more than I could ever imagine. I am so excited to see where the future will take me!"

**'15**

**Stephanie Doheny** writes, "I'm excited to share that I accepted the job as Yale University's director of broadcast services. At Yale, we produce live ESPN Broadcasts for more than twenty of our varsity sports teams. I credit my start in broadcasting to IHA's morning TV news and how, ten years ago, I was lucky enough to find my passion!"

**'18**

**Reilly Medzadourian** is among twenty University of Scranton education majors serving as student teachers during the spring semester. Reilly, a graduate student, served at Evergreen Elementary School. She is majoring in special education at the Jesuit university.

**'19**

**Sofia Sabella** was among the University of Scranton students who studied abroad during the Fall 2022 semester. Sofia, majoring in international business, participated in the Council on International Educational Exchange Business and Culture Program in Barcelona, Spain.

**Katherine Posillico** was named to The University of Scranton's dean's list for the 2022 fall semester. Katherine is a senior occupational therapy major in the university's Panuska College of Professional Studies.

**Emily Primavera** was named to the College of the Holy Cross fall 2022 dean's list.



Caroline Frey '18

'19

**Alexandra Daugherty**

and Nathan Penner were engaged this past summer. Alexandra writes, "We are both cadets in University of California, Santa Barbara's Army ROTC program and met our freshman year. This past summer, we had ROTC training at Fort Knox and, after we got back, we went on a month-long road trip through the Midwest and visited six National Parks including Zion, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Glacier, Northern Cascades, and Crater Lake. The trip

was absolutely beautiful and such a great experience! We woke up early one morning while staying in Glacier



National Park to see the sunrise on Lake McDonald and go fishing. Every time Nate goes to the grocery store, he buys me orange Tic Tacs (and I buy him a Reese's). He handed me orange Tic Tacs; I opened them and there was a note that read, 'Will you marry me?' He also had my parents fly out from Texas to be there to take photos and videos, which was super special. We will be getting married in Austin, Texas on September 10 of this year and cannot wait!"

Nathan Penner and Alexandra Daugherty '19

'20

**Allison Sandt** was one of more than two hundred fifty SUNY Oneonta students who earned Provost's List honors for the fall 2022 semester. Allie is studying music industry. To qualify for the Provost's List, a student must earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while carrying a course load of twelve hours or more.

**Casie Burke** was named to the Muhlenberg College dean's list for the fall 2022 semester. She was also named to the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll for the fall 2022 season. To be named to the Academic Honor Roll, a student-athlete must be a sophomore or higher in class standing and carry at least a 3.4 cumulative grade-point average. Casie is a junior soccer player majoring in neuroscience.

**Elizabeth Murphy** and **Grace Whittam** were named to The University of Scranton's dean's list for the 2022 fall semester. Elizabeth is a junior social media strategies major and Grace is a junior advertising/public relations major,

both in the university's College of Arts and Sciences. Elizabeth and Grace were also among the one hundred twenty-four Scranton students who studied abroad during the Intersession 2023 semester in the American Institute for Foreign Studies in Paris, France.

**Melanie Harrigan** was named to the Fall 2022 dean's list at Stonehill College.

**Hayley Cummins** and **Sabrina Isabel Figueira**, members of Colgate University's Class of 2024, have earned the spring 2022 dean's award with distinction. Hayley is a political science major and Sabrina Isabel is a psychological science and art & art history major.

**Mary Patricia Sayre** was named to the College of the Holy Cross fall 2022 dean's list.

'21

**Melissa Pierpont** was named to the Muhlenberg College dean's list for the fall 2022 semester.

'22

**Nora-Lise Hamre** was a member of the cast and crew of the SUNY New Paltz spring 2023 staged production of *Everybody*.

**Emmy Mazzacano** was named to the College of the Holy Cross fall 2022 dean's list.

**Kate Nixon** was named to Montclair State University's fall 2022 dean's list. Kate is majoring in business administration.

**Taeva Parent** made the dean's list in her first semester at Sacred Heart University.

**Jessica Kielur** was named to the College of the Holy Cross fall 2022 dean's list.

**Emily Prussak** was named to the fall 2022 dean's list at The University of Rhode Island.

**Jocelyn Moody**, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester.

**Daniella Allen** was named to Montclair State University's fall 2022 dean's list. Daniella is majoring in psychology.



# IN MEMORIAM

Your prayers are requested for the following members of the Immaculate Heart Academy community who recently passed away:

**Margaret Cody Kuca,  
Class of 1965**  
November 17, 2022

**Patricia Doyle Vier, Class of 1972**  
November 19, 2022  
*Mother of Shannon Vier McKerr'02  
and Casey Vier'03*

**Margaret Metz, Class of 1970**  
December 27, 2022

**Elaine Herrick, Class of 1978**  
January 1, 2023  
*Sister of Adrienne Herrick Handley'68  
and Suzanne Herrick Dos Santos'73*

**Sheila Crawford Smith,  
Class of 1964**  
January 22, 2023

**Victoria Perrulli Healey,  
Class of 1965**  
March 16, 2023  
*Mother of Dominie Healey'95*

**Sharon Pavignano, Class of 1970**  
March 17, 2023  
*Sister of Debra Pavignano'72*

**John Vettoso**  
March 18, 2021  
*Father of Lisa Vettoso'96*

**Marguerite Schwab**  
January 29, 2022  
*Mother of Mary Schwab'86 and  
Patricia Schwab Bishop'88*

**Timothy O'Shea**  
October 18, 2022  
*Father of Maureen O'Shea Powell'80*

**Florence Beritelli**  
December 9, 2022  
*Mother of Lyn Beritelli Walsh'67*

**Alice Pachón**  
December 14, 2022  
*Mother of Lisa Vettoso'96*

**William Nieman**  
December 20, 2022  
*Father of Pamela Nieman Curtin'71*

**Richard L. Shamieh**  
December 27, 2022  
*Father of Jeanne Shamieh Miraglia'82*

**John Neubauer**  
January 12, 2023  
*Father of Deirdre Neubauer'07  
and uncle of Danielle Prisendorf'18*

**Jeannette Warhol**  
January 12, 2023  
*Mother of Laurie Warhol'72 and  
Therese Warhol'76*

**Lynn Gansley**  
January 18, 2023  
*Long-time faculty member*

**Erin Carroll Li**  
January 18, 2023  
*Sister of Kerry Carroll'04, IHA  
principal, and Caitlin Carroll'06,  
and niece of Mary Carroll-Dickon'78*

**Robert (Bobby) Re**  
February 15, 2023  
*Father of Pam Re-Mino'73 and  
Debbie Re Dehn'74*

**Joseph Parente**  
March 10, 2023  
*Father of Mari-Anne Parente  
Cafarelli'81 and Jennifer  
Parente Daly'83*

**Mary Keady**  
March 12, 2023  
*Mother of Claire Keady'73, Kathleen  
Keady'75, and Mary Carroll (MC)  
Keady Pfeiffer'86*

**Alicia Perez**  
April 7, 2023  
*Mother of Berta Roldan P'14,  
faculty member, and grandmother  
of Annette Roldan'14*

# WELCOME

## Class of 2027 Legacies!

Sisters of Past/Present Students and Daughters  
of Alumnae to Attend IHA

On **February 11, 2023**, IHA hosted Registration Day for the incoming **Class of 2027**. The extraordinary class members were selected from almost four hundred applicants.

The procedures for those seeking admission to Immaculate Heart Academy require more than simply completing an online application. In addition to taking the HSPT exam in November, prospective students also submit their grades from their last three years of elementary school.

The incoming Class of 2027 includes twenty-three sisters of past and/or present students, as well as nine daughters of alumnae, who will one day share the

title of “IHA alumna” with their moms! Additionally, this year we welcome the first-ever third-generation accepted student—Meredith Solimando’27, daughter of Amanda Griffiths Solimando’01, and granddaughter of Patricia Rainis Griffiths’72. We also welcome Brooke Bocchino’27, whose grandmother, Carole Wagenseil Harrison’64, was a member of IHA’s first graduating class!

We cannot wait to welcome our newest students and their families into our sisterhood.

The following members of the Class of 2027 are daughters of alumnae:

**Emily Abramson**, daughter of Sabrina Vanore Abramson, Class of 1996

**Gianna Butto**, daughter of Sandra Savino Butto, Class of 1986

**Olivia Buldo**, daughter of Elizabeth McMorrow Buldo, Class of 1995

**Peyton Connors**, daughter of Laura Bonner Connors, Class of 1994

**Grace McLoughlin**, daughter of Jacqueline Yurasek McLoughlin, Class of 1985

**Madeline Saoud**, daughter of Jude Dinice Saoud, Class of 1997

**Meredith Solimando**, daughter of Amanda Griffiths Solimando, Class of 2001

**Abigail Twomey**, daughter of Christine Skiba Twomey, Class of 1986

**Natalie Viggiano**, daughter of Angela King Viggiano, Class of 1988



500 Van Emburgh Avenue  
Township of Washington, NJ 07676  
Change Service Requested



If this is not you, or if your daughter no longer lives at home, please reach out to Sarah Hill Frasure'07, director of development, at 201.445.6800, ext. 185 or [sfrasure@ihanj.com](mailto:sfrasure@ihanj.com) with updated information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP  
23&24

**Class of 1973 50th Reunion**  
Luncheon at Ramsey Golf and Country Club on Saturday, Memorial Mass in IHA's Sisters' Chapel and Brunch on Sunday.

NOV  
11

**HSPT for Class of 2028**  
Class of 2028 prospective students are required to take the Archdiocesan high school entrance exam.

OCT  
03

**Blue Eagle Open**  
Forest Hill Field Club, Bloomfield  
Registration and lunch at 11 a.m., followed by 1 p.m. shotgun start.

DEC  
01

**Class of 2028 Application Deadline**  
Applications to be a member of IHA's Class of 2028 are due by December 1, 2023.

OCT  
15&19

**Fall Open Houses**  
Tour the impressive IHA campus and ask questions of faculty, staff, coaches, and our knowledgeable student Eagle Ambassadors.