

NEWS

from the



SUMMER 2024 VOL. 40, NO.2

SERVICE.
SPIRITUALITY.
SISTERHOOD.



IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY

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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.



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PRESIDENT Jason Schlereth P'27, '28
PRINCIPAL Kerry Carroll '04
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Important Note to the IHA Community:

In an effort to support our sustainability efforts and to decrease the expenses associated with the rising costs of printing and postage, IHA will reduce the number of newsletters it publishes to two per year starting in the 2024-25 school year. Rest assured we will continue to promote the amazing accomplishments of our students in each of the newsletters, as well as on ihanj.com and our social media platforms: [@attheheart](#) [ImmaculateHeartAcademy](#).

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President's Corner



Dear IHA Community,

As we begin the 2024-25 school year, we are thrilled to recognize and celebrate the 65th anniversary of Immaculate Heart Academy. Founded in 1960 as the first regional high school for girls in the Archdiocese of Newark, IHA has provided a quality Catholic education to young women throughout the past seven decades. With more than 11,000 alumnae, the administration, faculty, and staff throughout our 65-year history have had the privilege of witnessing the development, growth, and transformation of young girls into remarkable, successful, and empowered women.

The history of Immaculate Heart Academy is rich with fine educators, ambitious students, and supportive parents. We are looking forward to recognizing the people who have made this institution one that will continue to define excellence in education at our 65th Anniversary Gala on November 14, 2024. We hope to see many alumnae, former

and current faculty, parents, grandparents, and friends of IHA in attendance to celebrate and commemorate this significant anniversary together with us.

While our celebration on November 14 will be an incredible gathering of our community, we will also be commemorating this milestone throughout the 2024-25 school year. By welcoming the incoming freshmen, embarking on the seniors' final year, celebrating many Masses together, recognizing International Women's Day, and experiencing all of our school's traditions as one, the supportive community of IHA will indeed continue to joyfully honor our 65-year history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Schlereth".

Sincerely,
Jason Schlereth P'27, '28
President



Class of 2024 Commencement Exercises

Immaculate Heart Academy's 61st annual Commencement Exercises were held on June 1, 2024. One hundred sixty-six incredible young women received their diplomas from Mr. Jason Schlereth P'27, '28, president; Miss Kerry Carroll '04, principal; Mrs. Alice Rogers P'07, '09, '13, assistant principal of students; and Mrs. Maureen Layng, English and Theatre Arts teacher. Including the members of this year's graduating class, 11,188 young women now carry the title of IHA alumna.

Graduates processed into the gymnasium to Pomp and Circumstance played by the IHA Orchestra. After a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem sung by **Madeline Heinemann** (University of Scranton), the ceremony opened with **Alexandra Barry** (Princeton University), Student Council president, offering the invocation and **Ella Bosse**





(Tufts University), salutatorian, giving a thoughtful welcoming address. In speaking about the indelible bond of IHA sisterhood Ella said, "Reflecting on our time in these halls, I am reminded of the countless challenges we have overcome and the victories we have achieved together. Amidst moments of doubt and uncertainty, you refused to allow your sisters to fall behind. In those moments, we found strength within ourselves nurtured by unwavering support of those who believe in us. What you all have built here is something truly beautiful: A community that thrives on kindness, fosters growth, and cultivates belonging. One that not only strives for success but empowers its sisters to do the same."

Mrs. Jaclyn Scerbak de Nicola '15, professional dancer and Radio City Rockette, served as Commencement Speaker. She told graduates about her dream of being a Rockette when she was five years old and how she hoped she could inspire them to chase their own





wildest dreams, “Do yourself a favor and don’t hold yourself back. Don’t give in to the self-limiting belief that you are not enough. Embrace that calculus lesson a little more and know that your limits are boundless because God doesn’t give you a dream you can’t achieve. When you feel unsure, like I did, rely on your prayer life and trust in Him. Trust that you are worthy of your dreams well before you ever see them come to life.”

Diplomas and special awards were then distributed to members of the Class of 2024. We invited alumnae mothers to present diplomas to their graduating daughters, a tradition IHA

will continue for years to come. Mothers who distributed diplomas to their daughters included Eileen (Conrad) Stevenson '87 P'24

to **Kiera Stevenson** (Fairfield University);

Julie (Wilson) Caton '94 P'24 to **Emily Caton** (Clemson University);

Maura (O'Halloran) Deegan '86 P'19, '24 to **Natalie Deegan** (Providence College);

Pamela (McKenna) Arone '90 P'22, '24 to **Marisa Arone** (Rochester

Institute of Technology); Andrea (Pitot) Fasolo '93 P'24 to **Madison Fasolo** (George Washington University); Phyllis (Ventimiglia) Haemmerle '89 P'24 to

Julia Haemmerle (Fairfield University); Eileen (Barnes) Hahn '85 P'24, '26 to **Mary Hahn** (Purdue University);

Kerry (Finnegan) Reasoner '97 P'24 to **Maura Hesler** (Villanova University);

Jeannine (Boyajian) Barry '94 P'24, '26 to **Alexandra Barry** (Princeton University); Maria Christina (Ecal)

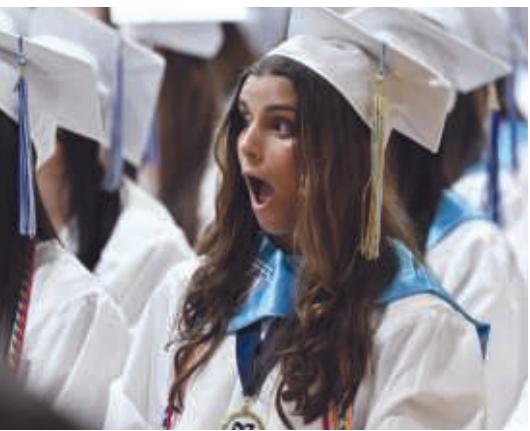
Mack '87 P'24 to **Alyssa Mack** (Quinnipiac University); Michele

Verrone '88 P'21, '24 to **Madeline Manning** (University of Scranton);

and Michelle (McMenamin) Gebhardt '91 P'24 to **Grace Gebhardt** (Seton Hall University).



After diplomas were presented to each graduate, several students were honored for a variety of accomplishments in and out of the classroom. We send heartfelt congratulations to the 2024 IHA Award winner, **Hannah Hart** (Vanderbilt University), and the many other award and scholarship recipients recognized at this year's Commencement Exercises.



Following the award presentation, Mr. Jason Schlereth, IHA president, addressed the graduates and guests by reflecting on the lyrics of the Taylor Swift song, "22," which includes the line, "We're happy, free, confused, and lonely at the same time. It's miserable and magical." Mr. Schlereth addressed how each of those words, including the meaning of "free," relates to our IHA graduates, "I hope the freedom you young women now hold allows you to witness the power you possess to change our world. Your freedom provides you with the time, energy, and dedication to face challenges and embrace your dreams. You are in control of your life, your future, your success. Take those changes and keep soaring!"



Class of 2024 valedictorian, **Meaghan Keating** (University of Notre Dame), delivered an inspirational farewell address and recognized the love and support she has received from the IHA community and her own family members, "Thank you for supporting our dreams and for all the sacrifices you have made to help us achieve them. To my own parents, thank you for your constant love and support and for showing me the importance of keeping Christ at the center of all that I do." Meaghan went on to say, "I am confident that Immaculate Heart Academy's graduating Class of 2024 will be a powerful force for good in the world; a class who redefines female empowerment and most importantly, a class who shows the world what it means to be a woman of valor. I am so grateful to have spent the last four years surrounded by my sisters and I cannot wait to see all that you will accomplish."





At the end of the graduation ceremony, **Angelina Escobinas** (College of Mount Saint Vincent), **Emily Keizer** (Lehigh University), **Maeve Murray** (University of Rhode Island), and **Alyssa Torres** (Seton Hall University), led their classmates in the school's Alma Mater before IHA's newest alumnae exited the gymnasium.

Members of the Class of 2024 received more than \$45 million in scholarship awards and will be continuing their education at some of the most esteemed colleges and universities in the country — from Princeton University, Boston College, Vanderbilt University, and Cornell University, to University of Notre Dame, Northeastern University, Tufts University, University of Michigan, and Villanova University.

Fifty-one students are attending Catholic institutions, 11 students are attending schools in New Jersey, and 38% are attending colleges and universities outside of the northeast, with Virginia, Indiana, and South Carolina among the most popular states in that region.

Ninety-one percent of this class was admitted to their first or second-choice college, and 100% will be attending four-year colleges. Some of the most popular choices this year include James Madison University with nine students attending, Fairfield University with eight, Fordham University with seven, and six students will be attending Boston College, Indiana University, Providence College, and Sacred Heart University. One student will be studying internationally at the University of West London.

Immaculate Heart Academy sends its heartfelt congratulations to this inspiring and impressive class!



Class of 2024 Graduation Awards

The following awards were presented at the 2024 Commencement Exercises:

Valedictorian

Salutatorian

The IHA Award

The Academic Excellence Award

The Sr. Beatrice Ryan Award

The Visitation Award

The Mary Ann Molinari Memorial Award

The KariAnn Dellapenta Memorial Award

The Marie Sellers and Dorothy Savarese Memorial Award

The Jeffrey E. Silver Memorial Award

The Catherine Larkin Award

The Caren Cavallo Memorial Scholarship

The Marian Award

The Marisa Suarez Memorial Award

The Denise Gartner Memorial Award

The Tammy Medzadourian Memorial Award

The Herb Oberle Memorial Award

The Michael Thomas Noone Memorial Award

The Amen Award

The Lynn Gansley Memorial Award

Meaghan Keating (University of Notre Dame)

Ella Angelina Bosse (Tufts University)

Hannah Hart (Vanderbilt University)

Rose Martin (Northeastern University)

Riley DeMicco (James Madison University)

Alexandra Barry (Princeton University)

Samantha Raia (Boston College)

Cassandra George (Marist College)

Angelina Escobinas (College of Mount Saint Vincent)

Selena Cieszko (University of Scranton)

Lauren Hroncich (Bucknell University)

Ella Crane (Northeastern University)

Darcy Moore (University of Wisconsin)

Samantha McGee (Davidson College)

Adrianna Uykan (Boston University)

Avangelia Emporellis (Penn State University)

Madeleine Sandt (DeSales University)

Julia Tumino (Fairfield University)

Anvi Batra (George Washington University)

Natalie Deegan (Providence College)



Baccalaureate Mass and Awards Ceremony



Members of the Class of 2024 were celebrated at the Baccalaureate Mass and Awards Ceremony on May 31, 2024. Congratulations to all of this year's graduates for their incredible contributions to IHA over the past four years!

On the evening of our inspirational Baccalaureate Mass, valedictorian, **Meaghan Keating '24** (University of

Notre Dame), and salutatorian, **Ella Bosse '24** (Tufts University), received medals to be worn on Graduation Day.

Honors students were also recognized at the ceremony — nine with Distinguished Honors by maintaining an average of 95 or better for the year and ninety-four with Honors by maintaining an average of 90 for the year.

IHA Family Awards were presented to six families this year who have their last daughter of three or more graduating. Congratulations to:

Jennifer Amerio and Steven Amerio, parents of Francesca '19, Simone '21, Josephine '23, and **Luciana '24** (San Diego State University)

Dawn Coleman and Michael Coleman, parents of Hailey '19, Madison '21, and **Olivia '24** (Sacred Heart University)







Luz Fernandez and Jaime Luna, parents of Kayla '21, **Amber '24** (Providence College) and **Alexa '24** (Providence College)

Johanna Martin and Seamus Martin, parents of Kathleen '17, Hanna '21, and **Rose '24** (Northeastern University)

Benita Raia and Samuel Raia, parents of Gabriella '19, Olivia '22, and **Samantha '24** (Boston College)

Donna Sandt and Robert Sandt, parents of Allison Anne '20, Carolyn '23, and **Madeline '24** (DeSales University)

IHA would also like to recognize the following seniors who received Subject Area Awards:

Bryana Leigh Saenz (Arcadia University) - *The Arts*

Lily Grace Schwedhelm (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) - *Communications*

Giana M. Fontanetta (Cornell University) - *English*

Elizabeth Grace Ogden (Binghamton University) - *French*



Ellie Y. Kim (Binghamton University) - *Mathematics*

Hannah Gabriella Hart (Vanderbilt University) - *Theology*

Katelyn Hilde Rader (Berry College) - *Physical Education*

Kiera Ryann Stevenson (Fairfield University) - *Science*

Emily Maya Gelewski (Lafayette College) - *Social Studies*

Giana M. Fontanetta (Cornell University) - *Spanish*

Rose Elizabeth Martin (Northeastern University) - *Technology*

Mina Isabella Coccia (Villanova University) - *Italian*

Additionally, congratulations to the following Scholarship Award recipients from the Class of 2024:

Meaghan Keating (University of Notre Dame) – *The Immaculate Heart Academy Scholar-Athlete Award*





Madyson Ayers (Fairfield University) –
The NJSIAA New Jersey Scholar Athlete Award

Kalena Stavish (Salve Regina University) –
Immaculate Heart Academy Athletic Achievement Award

Alexandra Barry (Princeton University) –
Immaculate Heart Academy Athlete of the Year Award

Abigail Romero (Bucknell University) –
Bergen County Women's Coaches Association Recognition for 10 or More Sports Seasons

Marisa Flores (Quinnipiac University) –
Bergen County Women's Coaches Association Scholarship for Outstanding Athletic Achievement

Layla Rajan (Lynn University) –
IHA Parents' Club Robert Ryan Memorial Scholarship

Maeve Murray (University of Rhode Island) – *The Virginia "Ginny" Panicucci Memorial Award*

Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh (Fairfield University) – *The Kim Montelaro Memorial Award*

Victoria DellaCroce (The College of New Jersey) – *The Dorothy and Jack McKenna Memorial Award*



Emily Keizer (Lehigh University) –
Kathleen Farley Memorial Award

Meghan Deane (Binghamton University) –
The Fine Arts Award

Sophie Morales (Indiana University – Bloomington) – *The Minerva Echeverría Memorial Award*

Madeline Manning (University of Scranton) – *The Carmella Cupo Wardell Award*

Anna Gallucci (Boston College) –
The Lakeland Bank Scholarship

Emily Gelewski – (Lafayette College) –
Bergen County Directors of Guidance Scholarship

Kaelie Mannon (Creighton University) –
The Ramsey Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Thank you to Monsignor Ron Rozniak and the IHA staff who planned and participated in the beautiful Mass, and to the IHA administration and Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator, for honoring our seniors in such a special way.

We would also like to honor the following members of the Class of 1964 for joining their fellow sisters at this special ceremony in celebration of their own 60th anniversary: JoAnn Andreano Stankard, Lynn Farraher Florance, Carole Wagenseil Harrison, and Marie Broom D'Amico.



Legacy Night

The Class of 2024 enjoyed an unforgettable evening with their parents at IHA's Legacy Night on May 20. The annual parent/student retreat enabled IHA seniors to have an incredible opportunity for reflection, conversation, and intentional time with their parents before graduation.

Approximately 110 seniors and their parents joined together at Biagios to celebrate and reflect on their time at IHA. Inspirational speakers included Ms. Emily Ash '19, service coordinator, and Miss Kerry Carroll '04, principal.

The parent/daughter groups participated in thought-provoking guided discussions and the evening concluded with parents praying over their daughters, asking for God's guidance as they leave IHA.

The evening was a beautiful occasion to celebrate family, sisterhood, and the incredible gifts and talents of the Class of 2024. Thank you to IHA Campus Ministry for hosting this memorable event.







Class of 2025 Junior Prom



Members of the Class of 2025 gathered together for their junior prom at the Hilton Pearl River on April 12, 2024. Thank you to the IHA administration; Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, junior class moderator; faculty chaperones; and the junior class officers for planning this fun-filled event!



Class of 2024 Senior Prom

Members of the Class of 2024 gathered together for a night of dancing and friendship at their senior prom held on May 3, 2024. Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator; the IHA administration; and faculty chaperones for making the beautiful evening a reality for our senior class!



Class of 2024 BBQ

On May 17, 2024, IHA seniors attended graduation practice, played games with their fellow sisters, and enjoyed the Class of 2024 BBQ. Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator, for making this a memorable day for our seniors.



Powderpuff Tournament

HA Campus Ministry hosted a Powderpuff Tournament on April 16, 2024.

Proceeds from the class vs. class flag football tournament will be used to purchase supplies for Midnight Runs in New York City, where students provide food, clothes, and conversations with individuals experiencing homelessness.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 for winning the tournament against the Class of 2026 in the final game!



Senior Talent Show

The Class of 2024 put on an entertaining talent show on the evening of Friday, April 19.

Audience members enjoyed amazing performances by students from all grade levels, and the senior class savored one of the last times they could gather together as a class at Immaculate Heart Academy.

Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator; Adrianna Uykan '24, senior class president; the senior class officers; IHA administration; and emcees, Julia Tumino '24 and Emily Sabino '24, for hosting the show.

A special shout out to all of our spectacular performers, including Emily Keizer '24, Angelica Cece '24, Hannah Hart '24, Natalie Deegan '24, Eleanor Quinn '24, Sydney Kearney '24, Gabrielle Rivera '26, Maeve Murray '24, Brooke Rodriguez '25, Clara Byrnes '26, Julia Valente '27, Leah English '27, Julia Costello '27, Meredith Solimando '27, Olivia Battifarano '24, Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh '24, Karina Folwarski '24, Mary Hahn '24, Riley Longway '24, Kaelie Mannion '24, Madeline Sullivan '24, Rosie Zazzali '24, Maddie Heinimann '24, members of the On The Fly Improv Troupe, and the Class of 2024 for the senior skit finale.





Sophomore Spirit Day

The Class of 2026 celebrated with their sisters on May 22, 2024, for a time-honored tradition at Immaculate Heart Academy.

Sophomore Spirit Day began with prayer and sisterhood bonding activities, as students enjoyed everything from Family Feud and Name That Tune to an inflatable obstacle course and tug of war.

The Class of 2026 showed their resounding school spirit throughout this special day, which ended with a sing-off and ice cream party. Congratulations to the green team for being named the day's winner with the most points from all the activities!

Thank you to Miss Allison Oblen, theology teacher and sophomore class moderator, and the dedicated class officers for planning this fun-filled day.





Spring Arts Festival

The IHA Arts Department proudly presented this year's Spring Arts Festival on April 24, 2024. The evening began with an art show hosted by the National Art Honor Society in the main lobby of the school. Exhibiting artists in the Art Show included students from Art I, Art II, 3D Art, 3D Art II, Design, Advanced Painting & Drawing, Honors Studio, and AP Studio Art, taught by Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, director of the arts, Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P'14, art teacher, and Mrs. Ana Sullivan, art teacher.

The art show was followed up by a concert featuring beautiful performances by the IHA Orchestra, led by Mr. Joseph Martorano P'09, and IHA Voices Choral Ensemble, led by Mrs. Stephanie Foti, choral music director and coordinator of special events.



At this year's IHA Spring Arts Festival, Megan McCarthy '25 was awarded the Mary Ellen "Molly" Offer '06 Memorial Scholarship Award. This award is presented in memory of Mary Ellen (Molly) Offer, a graduate of IHA's Class of 2006 and the youngest of five sisters who are all IHA graduates. This memorial scholarship was established by her parents and sisters. It is the intention of the family that this award be presented to a student who typifies the qualities so loved in Molly: A student who loves art, theater and design, has a deep love for family, and is willing to share compassion, spiritual values, and love of life with everyone she meets. Congratulations to Megan on receiving this special scholarship!

Thank you to the Tri-M Music Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, the International Thespian Society, the concert production team, and all of our artists and performing artists who shared their talent with the IHA community.



Take Your Child to Work Day



HA hosted Take Your Child to Work Day on April 25, 2024. Children of our faculty and staff were treated to a fun-filled day of activities and sweet treats. They learned how to speak Italian and make pasta, and even put on their own TV show in the WIHA studio! Other fun activities included painting in the art studio, storytime in the Information Commons, 3D printing, visiting with therapy dogs, and learning about social media.

Thank you to all the staff and faculty that helped make this day a success, and a special thank you to Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, director of college counseling, Mrs. Tara (Tashjian) Maka '02, director of guidance, and Mrs. Corinne Fritzky, college counselor, for coordinating the entire day.



Junior/Senior Luncheon

HA's beloved tradition, the Junior/Senior Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, was held on May 20, 2024.

Thank you to the Class of 2025 and junior class moderator, Ms. Ana Echeverría P '05, for hosting this lunch for seniors and IHA faculty. Everyone was also treated to a variety of delicious, sweet desserts made entirely by our junior class.

After the luncheon, students gathered in the PAC for the first awards ceremony for the graduating Class of 2024, in which club, honor society, and activity awards were presented.

The fun afternoon concluded with a photo slideshow of the seniors from their freshman year through present day. Thank you to Ms. Jessica Shaheen, Communications Department chairperson, and Adrianna Uykan '24, for all their hard work on this year's memorable slideshow.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 for their incredible contributions to IHA over the past four years!







Gold Award Winners

Students Recognized for Their Service

At our Service Awards Assembly on May 9, 2024, Immaculate Heart Academy proudly recognized and celebrated students who have served in substantial and creative ways over the last year.

Service at Immaculate Heart Academy is more than just something that is required; it's a central part of who we are. During the 2023-2024 school year, our students served more than 28,000 hours! IHA's young women go above and beyond what they are required to accomplish. In fact, on average, our students served double the amount of hours required of them. The highest achieving class was the Class of 2024, with a total of nearly 11,000 hours!

At the Service Awards ceremony, IHA celebrated more than 80 students for achieving the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Bronze level (100-



Silver Award Winners

174 hours per year), Silver level (175-249 hours per year), and Gold level (250 and more hours per year). Congratulations to the top three service hour earners: **Isabella Ragone '26** (570 hours); **Ellie May White '24** (566 hours); and **Keira DeMicco '25** (537 hours).

Ms. Emily Ash '19, theology teacher and service coordinator, welcomed the IHA community to the ceremony with a moving speech about how God calls each of us to serve wholeheartedly, "Authentic service involves putting yourself outside of your comfort zone. It involves time,



presence, love, and patience with those you are serving. It involves a wholehearted commitment to loving your neighbor because God tells you to. It involves taking yourself out of the center of the equation and putting someone else in that place. Authentic service, the kind that we're called to, is not about you. It's about God, who entered the messiness of our humanity in order to save us and bring us back to Him out of a deep and abundant love for us."

The President's Volunteer Service Award was founded in 2003 by the United States President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action too.

IHA honored the following students for achieving the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels:

Gold: 250+ hours in a calendar year

Kaitlyn Klaus '24
Ava Previzi '24
Samantha Raia '24
Rose Marie Shamoon '24
Ellie May White '24
Keira DeMicco '25
Chloe Kadien '25
Elliot Daniels '26
Zoe DePhillips '26
Isabella Ragone '26

Silver: 175-249 hours

Marisa Arone '24
Sofia Giannella '24

Emily Keizer '24
Emily Magee '24
Eileen Wynne '24
Jillian McCoy '24
Darcy Moore '24
Hannah Grace Sengul '24
Amelie Wilday '24
Avery Connors '25
Lana Langevin '25
Victoria Niziol '25
Tara Caputo '26
Mackenzie Handy '26
Lauren Henneberry '27
Lia Carballo '27

Bronze: 100-174 hours

Samantha Andersen '24
Brooke Bjerke '24
Madyson Ayers '24
Alayna Bellevue '24
Carson Bielen '24
Mina Cocca '24
Sophia Cremona '24
Riley DeMicco '24
Claire Donohoe '24
Hannah Hart '24
Abigail Hoffman '24
Lauren Hroncich '24
Kaitlyn LeSuer '24
Alyssa Mack '24
Payton Murphy '24
Reagan Pace '24
Isabella Pizzi '24
Bryana Saenz '24
Kiera Stevenson '24
Summer VanWyckhouse '24
Dylann Kammen '25
Grace Coster '25
Madeline Lively '25
Grace Guglielmetti '25
Ella Turnamian '25
Emerson Focht '25
Alexa Harding '25
Emma Neyland '25
Caitlin Donovan '25
Kathleen Reck '25



Bronze Award Winners



Clodagh Moore '25
Riley Ng-Knepper '25
Lauren Mulry '25
Nicolina Elisano '25
Lola Rose Projahn '25
Elizabeth Marino '25
Orietta Pisciotta '25
Riley Cannon '26
Chloe Coll '26
Jaylene Hernandez '26
Madelyn Hryniw '26
Ashley Lopez '26
Catalina Maglicic '26
Adrianna Rispoli '26
Gabrielle Rivera '26
Samantha Sundlin '26
Sydney Schoen '24
Marcelle Seckin '25
Isabella Kerio '26
Diya Moorjani '26
Aurelia Carolan '27
Kristina Ahn '27
Sarah Schiller '25
Nell Burczon '25
Kate Hujsa '26

Congratulations are extended to the following students who were recognized with awards for service in a particular area or with specific populations.

Kathy Krey Sova '78 Breast Cancer Awareness & Research Award
Hannah Hart '24 and
Summer VanWyckhouse '24

Exceptional Service to Parish Community
Lana Langevin '25 and
Grace Guglielmetti '25

Exceptional Service to the Homeless
Samantha Raia '24, Hannah Hart '24,
Kathleen Reck '25, Emily Magee '24,
and Isabelle Bertussi '25

Exceptional Service to the Hungry
Caitlin Donovan '25

Exceptional Service to Individuals With Special Needs
Kaelie Mannion '24

Exceptional Service in Education
Jaylene Hernandez '26

Exceptional Service to the Elderly
Darcy Moore '24 and Carson Bielen '24

Exceptional Service to the Sick
Samantha Tauber '25

Exceptional Service to the IHA Community
Lily Schwedhelm '24 and
Kaitlyn LeSuer '24

Exceptional Service to the Local Community
Kaitlyn Klaus '24

IHA Spirit of Sisterhood Award for Kindness & Inclusivity
Emma McElroy '25 and
Kathleen Brancato '26

Exceptional Service to Women: Given in Honor of Ms. Lynn Gansley
Natalie Deegan '24

Dedication to the Spiritual Growth of the Sisterhood
Lauren Hroncich '24 and
Eleanor Quinn '24

Spirit of Service Award
The Spirit of Service Award is presented annually to students from each grade level who demonstrate a dedication to authentic Christian Service. This award is not about the most hours, but is presented to a student who, by their very



attitude and spirit, actively seeks out how to serve others and inspires their sisters to do the same. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Class of 2027:

Gianna Valente, Lauren Henneberry, and Arianna George

Class of 2026:

Giara Gonzalez and Etain Moore

Class of 2025:

Marcelle Seckin and Isabelle Bertussi

Class of 2024:

Rose Zazzali and Amanda Guanci

Servant Leadership Award

The Servant Leadership Award is presented annually to a student whose commitment to service and spirit of leadership has radically transformed the culture of Immaculate Heart Academy. Congratulations to this year's recipient, **Samantha Raia '24**.



During the assembly, Samantha Raia '24, the service president for the Christian Service Board, reflected on what service truly means at IHA, "When we decided to come here, we committed to serving

something bigger than ourselves and truly working to make the world a better place. Over the past few years, I have learned that service has never, and will never be, about the feeling of accomplishment you get when you finish your required hours. But, about the people's lives you have touched along the way. Whether you completed 12 or 300 hours, you are serving a community and impacting the lives of more people than you think." Miss Kerry Carroll '04, principal, also addressed the IHA community at the Service Awards ceremony and spoke about how service at IHA is a testament to our values and our commitment to the teachings of Christ. "Each of these acts of service shares a common thread — they are rooted in the core values our school cherishes: compassion, respect, justice, and integrity." Miss Carroll continued, "You've shown that service is not just about helping others. It's about respecting their dignity, understanding their challenges, and committing to act toward a solution. Most profoundly, it is about love."



After the awards were presented, the IHA community viewed a video montage of service photos from the year created by Hannah Hart '24, and recipients and their families were invited to a celebratory reception afterward. Thank you to Ms. Emily Ash '19 for continually leading our young women in their passion to serve. Congratulations to all of IHA's compassionate and kind-hearted students!



SCENE | Around IHA



Endangered Species Day

In celebration of Endangered Species Day, AP Biology students put their creativity to work as they composed submissions for the Endangered Species Coalition's 4th Annual Endangered Species Chalk Art event.

The AP Bio students were in their final academic unit on Conservation Biology and Global Change, and were excited to feature a threatened or endangered species of their choosing in their chalk art to celebrate its beauty and to raise awareness for these organisms that are threatened with extinction. Thank you to AP Biology teacher Mrs. Angela Holuba Roberts '05 for coordinating this project.

AP Biology students that participated include Addison Olsen '25 (Black Rhino), Kristen Ohmacht '25 (Blue-throated Macaw), Zoe Sarno '25 (Rusty Patched Bumble Bee), Ella Feola '25 (Sumatran Elephant), Julia Sobilo '25 (Monarch Butterfly), Sierra Tofts '25 (Vaquita), Riley Ng-Knepper '25 (Hawksbill Turtle), Oliwia Piwowarski '25 (White Lion), Rachel Paton '25 (Sea Otter), Lauren Mulry '25 (Galapagos Sea Lion), Megan McCarthy '25 (Amur Leopard), Olivia Nini '25 (Black-footed Ferret), and Mrs. Angela Roberts '05, AP Bio teacher, (Blue Racer).



Parent Reception

Immaculate Heart Academy expressed our heartfelt appreciation to our wonderful parent volunteers at a reception on May 29, 2024.

The IHA administration and the Advancement Office would like to give a special thank you to the outgoing senior parent volunteers, particularly IHA Parents' Club board members, Madeline Rizzo Savas P'17, '24 and Salvatore Falletta P'24.

We are so appreciative of all the members of our Parents' Club board, including Stacy DeMicco P'21, '24, '25, president; Aneta Szczepanek Burczon P'25; Rachel Del Bosco P'25; Christina Guirland P'26; Jenn Lessieu '89 P'26; Gerri Minichetti P'26; and Carol Soranno P'26.

Each of our parent volunteers has given his or her time, talent, and treasure to IHA, and for that we are incredibly grateful!



Food Allergy Awareness Week

This year, IHA recognized Food Allergy Awareness Week on May 12-18 due to the efforts of Maeve Houston '27. Maeve initiated the week at IHA to help spread awareness to students. She created informational posters and an educational slideshow that aired on heartTV. According to Maeve, "I have numerous food allergies and I know that many other girls at IHA do too. We're lucky to be surrounded by such a supportive community, but food allergies are a topic we can always learn more about in order to help keep everyone safe!" Thank you Maeve for your hard work on this topic.

Service at the Heart

Campus Ministry and the National Honor Society sponsored a charity drive for Saint Joseph Care Corner at the end of May. Students collected several bags of personal care items for the organization due to the generosity of the IHA community. Saint Joseph Care Corner is committed to helping people have access to personal hygiene and household products that are not easily obtained through food pantries or food stamps.



Thank you to Ms. Emily Ash '19, service coordinator, and the following members of the Campus Ministry executive board: Isabella Ragone '26, Etain Moore '26, Emma McElroy '25, Kathleen Reck '25, Avery Connors '25, Isabelle Bertussi '25, Kathleen Hahn '26, and Grace Guglielmetti '25; and National Honor Society service coordinators Anne Marie Kelly '25 and Paige Burgess '25.

Mental Health Awareness Month

As part of Mental Health Awareness month, IHA students created encouraging cards for residents of West Bergen Mental Healthcare group homes. The cards were filled with inspiring messages of hope and caring for each of the residents. Thank you to the IHA Guidance Department for putting this important activity together with Barbara Hand and Chrissie Lijoi of West Bergen Mental Healthcare. Some of the other events during Mental Health Awareness month included nutritionist Carol Mateo discussing healthy eating habits and balanced nutrition, blowing bubbles and taking walks during study breaks and lunchtime, mindful meditations, a visit from members of Bergen County Department of Health's Stigma Free program, and of course our favorite, a visit from IHA Therapy Dogs!



Q3 and Q4 Soaring Eagle Awards Presented



Third quarter recipients (standing left to right in group photo): Malia Hamilton '27 (Social Studies - Mrs. Tanya Dwyer), Paula Sarango '24 (The Arts - Ms. Patrizia Tersigni), Giara Gonzalez '26 (Theology - Ms. Allison Oblen), Avery Connors '25 (English - Ms. Jessica Whelan), Lila Vitti '24 (Science - Mrs. Theresa Dolan), Cavan Clancy '26 (Communications - Ms. Jessica Shaheen), Elizabeth Cetina '27 (Physical Education - Ms. Jennifer Bednarek), Olivia Nini '25 (Mathematics - Mrs. Sue Dillane), Ava Ghomi '24 (World Languages - Ms. Ana Echeverría)

The Soaring Eagle Program recognizes the distinctive accomplishment of one student from each discipline at Immaculate Heart Academy four times a year. Teachers nominate students for achievements that are benchmarks in their academic career or for demonstrating classroom leadership, perseverance, or growth as a student.

Quarter Three and Quarter Four Soaring Eagle Award recipients celebrated their achievement with their families, nominating teachers, and IHA staff at special receptions held on April 18 and May 28, 2024.

Soaring Eagle Quarterly Award recipients are more than students with an impressive GPA; they are students who have

distinguished themselves by embodying the ideals of an IHA education. They are enthusiastic, compassionate, creative, and intelligent young women dedicated to personal and academic growth.

Congratulations to all of our Soaring Eagles pictured for demonstrating excellence in a particular subject area.



Fourth quarter recipients (standing left to right in group photo): Vivienne Ujhely '27 (English - Ms. Jessica Whelan '13), Lily Rickli '26 (The Arts - Ms. Patrizia Tersigni), Ella Vrtis '26 (Science - Ms. Regina Garvey '19), Penelope Voglino '27 (Theology - Ms. Anne Cerjak), Daniela Ayala '26 (World Languages - Mrs. Maria Daly-Valls), Emma McElroy '25 (Physical Education - Mr. John Downey), Kathleen Hahn '26 (Communications - Mr. David Lee), Allison Egan '25 (Social Studies - Dr. Sue Kenney), Gianna Valente '27 (Mathematics - Ms. Katharine Ross)



National Honor Society Q3 Awards



IHA's National Honor Society presents awards each quarter to students representing the four pillars of the society: service, leadership, scholarship, and character. For the third quarter of the 2023-24 academic year, congratulations are extended to the following seniors standing left to right in group photo:

Leadership: Alexandra Barry

Alex's ability to inspire her classmates makes her a true leader. Whether she is serving as president on the Student Council executive board, leading her Varsity Soccer Team as captain, or representing the school as an Eagle Ambassador, Alex consistently demonstrates a commitment to excellence. She goes above and beyond in the classroom, leading class discussions and uplifting her peers. Alex is also a member of the Science National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics

Honor Society, and the St. Brigid Society. Outside of school, Alex plays club soccer, and she continues to excel as the NJ High School Soccer Player of the Year, demonstrating unparalleled leadership both on and off the field. Alex's leadership helps to foster a sense of community among her IHA sisters and serves as an example for all to follow.

Scholarship: Karina Folwarski

Karina epitomizes IHA's value of scholarship, as she is a hardworking and diligent student. She is in the STEM program and is always eager to learn and participate in class to enhance her knowledge. Karina balances her challenging classes with a busy schedule of sports, as she is a member of both the Cross Country and Winter Track Teams at IHA. She is a role model for her peers, as she is disciplined and focused on performing well in and out of the classroom.

Service: Lauren Hroncich

Throughout her time at IHA, Lauren has been actively involved in service. She makes cards for hospital patients and volunteers at Camp Acorn. Lauren is on the executive board for IHA's Christian Service Board and attends the Christmas and Easter visits to Sacred Heart School. She is always eager to lend a helping hand to those in need and to also spread kindness. Lauren serves her sisters at IHA as a peer mentor, listening and helping out the freshmen. She is also an Eagle Ambassador and volunteers her time at many IHA events. Lauren serves as an example to others, as she is caring and selfless.

Character: Dylan Applin

Dylan's compassion is poured into all of her accomplishments at IHA and her character has left a lasting impact on all of her classmates. As a group leader for Big Sister/Little Sister for C.A.R.E, an ambassador for the IHA Mental Health Committee, and prominent member of the National Honor Society, Dylan has committed herself to promoting the wellbeing of her IHA sisters. She is also an anchor for heartTV, a crew member for IHA Theatre, and a former captain for the IHA junior varsity Volleyball Team. Dylan continues to show her love for her friends and community through her volunteer efforts at Several Sources, and also at Our Lady of Mercy Academy in their drama production, volleyball team, and kindergarten classrooms. Dylan has embodied the essence of a Woman of Valor as she radiates empathy, support, and unwavering dedication in all that she does.

National Honor Society Q4 Awards



The National Honor Society presented fourth quarter awards to the following seniors standing left to right in group photo:

Character: Eleanor Quinn

Nora is always open to helping her classmates and supporting those in need. Nora is active in the IHA community, as she is on the executive board for both the Christian Service Board and Bake-In Club. She is also co-president of Junior State of America; a Eucharistic Minister; and a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and National Art Honor Society. Nora lifts up her sisters and always chooses kindness.

Service: Katherine Grzybowski

Kate's steadfast dedication to service has made a profound impact on her community. Kate serves her IHA family through her roles as technical coordinator of heartTV, vice president of the Get Reel! Club, president of Junior State of America, and homeroom representative for Student Council. As a Peer Mentor, Kate works to foster engagement among her peers, inspiring them to enact positive change within their community and beyond. Outside of the classroom, she continues to exemplify the true spirit of service through her extensive volunteer work. She has spent time volunteering at the Helping Hands Food Pantry, Camp Acorn, IHA Midnight Runs, IHA Thanksgiving Dinners, Mission Smiles, and Open Gratitude. Through her tireless volunteer efforts, Kate portrays her profound commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others and calls on her IHA sisters to do the same.

Scholarship: Ella Crane

Through her academic journey, Ella Crane has distinguished herself as a top scholar and an avid learner. Ella seamlessly manages to balance a heavy course load, excelling in several AP and Honors classes while also participating in various clubs. She is the co-president and co-founder of the Psychology Club, and a dedicated member of the Philosophy Club and Math League. Ella embraces every opportunity to share her thirst for knowledge with her peers, serving as a Peer Tutor, as well as a board member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, and co-president of the Science National Honor Society. She is also a member of the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and St. Brigid Society. Ella continues to be a model of scholarship for her IHA peers and future underclassmen through her work as an Eagle Ambassador. Ella's passion for learning extends far beyond the confines of the classroom and she strives to use her talents to help her community.

Leadership: Madeline Heinimann

Maddie embodies leadership inside and outside of the classroom. She is involved extensively in The Arts at Immaculate Heart Academy and has produced several plays and musicals for our community to enjoy. Maddie is a member of Voices and ITS and performed in *And Then There Were None* and *Mamma Mia!* this year. She also is an Eagle Ambassador and member of the Student Council. Maddie is a natural leader in all that she pursues.

Q3 Distinguished Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who have been named Distinguished Scholars by earning an average of 95 or better for the third quarter of the 2023-24 academic year:

FRESHMEN

Kristina Ahn
 Elizabeth Cetina
 Elysia Chae
 Ana Chalfin
 Lily Chap
 Keira Collins
 Kimberly Marie Deyro
 Harper Eddy
 Madeline Edelson
 Ava Evans-Munoz
 Juliet Fisher
 Sophia Freire Lafuente
 Arianna George
 Ava Gershenhorn
 Carolina Guardascione
 Cayleigh Heffernan
 Ellie Higgins
 Alexandra Jacobsen
 Shayla Kaufman
 Anne Maciejewski
 Riley Marino
 Clare McCarthy
 Madison Nese
 Anna Marie Pascale
 Riley Piscitelli
 Madeline Schlereth
 Juliet Sok
 Meredith Solimando
 Abigail Twomey
 Vivienne Ujhely
 Addison Valdez
 Katarina Van Tassel
 Natalie Viggiano
 Luisa Vogel
 Charlotte Wilkinson

SOPHOMORES

Daniela Ayala
 Elyse Batmaz
 Kathleen Brancato
 Alliana Campana
 Riley Cannon
 Elliott Daniels
 Gabriella DellaVolpe
 Bridget Dooley
 Christina Festa
 Alana Flores
 Ashlyn Gillespie
 Angela Giuliano
 Samantha Grella
 Kathleen Hahn
 Jaylene Hernandez
 Samantha Kerrigan
 Sophia Kuzma
 Madison Les
 Danica Libanan
 Meghan Long
 Catalina Maglicic
 Ella Matts
 Roisin McLaughlin
 Etain Moore
 Diya Moorjani
 Katelyn Negrete
 Gianna Polino
 Mary Quinn
 Isabella Ragone
 Gabrielle Rivera

JUNIORS

Ileana Asencio
 Madison Assanah
 Nell Burczon
 Allison Egan
 Ella Feola
 Alexa Harding
 Lana Langevin
 Karina Linzan
 Emma McElroy
 Hailey McGrath
 Clodagh Moore
 Lauren Mulry
 Olivia Nini
 Victoria Niziol
 Rachel Paton

Isabela Pereira
 Piper Portacio
 Bergen Sollecito
 Lucyann Tappan
 Sierra Tofts

SENIORS

Samantha Andersen
 Alexandra Barry
 Carson Bielen
 Ella Bosse
 Molly Casey
 Angelica Cece
 Selena Cieszko
 Ella Crane
 Sophia Cremona
 Natalie Deegan
 Gianna DiMeglio
 Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh
 Marisa Flores
 Giana Fontanetta
 Emily Gelewski
 Ava Ghomi
 Julia Grzybowski
 Hannah Hart
 Meaghan Keating
 Sydney Kropiewnicki
 Alexandra Kucharz
 Brooke Lugo
 Rose Martin
 Chloe Mazzola
 Casey McGrath
 Elizabeth Ogden
 Reagan Pace
 Eleanor Quinn
 Bryana Saenz
 Lily Schwedhelm
 Kiera Stevenson

Q4 Distinguished Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who have been named Distinguished Scholars by earning an average of 95 or better for the fourth quarter of the 2023-24 academic year:

FRESHMEN

Kristina Ahn
 Livia Bevec
 Skylar Blake
 Elizabeth Cetina
 Elysia Chae
 Ana Chalfin
 Lily Chap
 Keira Collins
 Zaria Degenhardt
 Harper Eddy
 Ava Evans-Munoz
 Juliet Fisher
 Sophia Freire Lafuente
 Alexandra Gaglioti
 Arianna George
 Carolina Guardascione
 Cayleigh Heffernan
 Ellie Higgins
 Alexandra Jacobsen
 Shayla Kaufman
 Riley Marino
 Clare McCarthy
 Anna Marie Pascale
 Riley Piscitelli
 Madeline Schlereth
 Abigail Twomey
 Vivienne Ujhely
 Natalie Viggiano
 Luisa Vogel
 Charlotte Wilkinson

SOPHOMORES

Daniela Ayala
 Kathleen Brancato
 Alliana Campana
 Riley Cannon
 Elliott Daniels
 Gabriella DellaVolpe
 Bridget Dooley
 Christina Festa

Alana Flores
 Ashlyn Gillespie
 Angela Giuliano
 Giara Gonzalez
 Samantha Grella
 Kathleen Hahn
 Sophia Kuzma
 Madison Les
 Danica Libanan
 Meghan Long
 Catalina Maglicic
 Roisin McLaughlin
 Anne Moore
 Katelyn Negrete
 Gianna Polino
 Mary Quinn
 Isabella Ragone
 Aiva Reid
 Adrianna Rispoli
 Gabrielle Rivera
 Jaylene Rondon
 Grace Sciortino
 Clare Wenzke
 Victoria Zalewski

JUNIORS

Ileana Asencio
 Madison Assanah
 Nell Burczon
 Elizabeth Burgess
 Caitlin Donovan
 Allison Egan
 Ella Feola
 Alexa Harding
 Ariana Hernandez
 Lana Langevin
 Emma McElroy
 Hailey McGrath
 Lauren Mulry
 Victoria Niziol
 Rachel Paton
 Isabella Piccinich
 Estefania Pogue
 Piper Portacio
 Isabella Sarlo
 Angelica Smith
 Bergen Sollecito

SENIORS

Samantha Andersen
 Dylan Rose Applin
 Alexandra Barry
 Carson Bielen
 Ella Bosse
 Caitlin Carr
 Sophia Cremona
 Isabella Falletta
 Marisa Flores
 Giana Fontanetta
 Emily Gelewski
 Ava Ghomi
 Julia Grzybowski
 Hannah Hart
 Madeline Heinimann
 Meaghan Keating
 Sydney Kropiewnicki
 Brooke Lugo
 Amber Luna
 Alyssa Mack
 Rose Martin
 Chloe Mazzola
 Samantha McGee
 Casey McGrath
 Gabriella Napolitano
 Elizabeth Ogden
 Reagan Pace
 Isabella Pizzi
 Lindsay Probst
 Katelyn Rader
 Abigail Romero
 Bryana Saenz
 Lily Schwedhelm
 Kiera Stevenson
 Adrianna Uykan

IHA Students Visit England, Wales, and Ireland

By Emma McElroy '25



IHA students and teachers had the opportunity to travel to Great Britain June 20-29, 2024. Twenty-five students and four chaperones traveled across the island for a once-in-a-lifetime experience that we will never forget. Our chaperones included Miss Kerry Carroll '04, principal; Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor; and Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05 and Mrs. Maria Daly-Valls, world language teachers.

After a long week of finals, we were all ready for a vacation with our fellow sisters to make memories that will last a lifetime! When we first arrived in London, we met our tour guide, Julia, whose Welsh accent made us realize we were not in New Jersey anymore. We then traveled to Kensington Palace, where we saw the monuments of Queen Victoria and King Albert. Victoria, out of pure love for Albert, built him a beautiful monument in a place now lovingly known as

“Albertopolis.” While we explored London, we saw street performers and the luxury department store Harrods. That night, we went to a London pub to enjoy

a true British meal of fish and chips. The dinner was an interesting experience and enabled all of us to bond and enjoy fun conversations. Afterwards, our group





visited some of the most notable sights in London: Big Ben and the London Eye.

On our second day in London, we explored the beautiful Tower of London. We learned about the legend of keeping seven crows in the tower at all times to stop London from falling and about Traitors' Gate, where many famous prisoners were last seen. We continued our day by crossing the River Thames over the Tower Bridge and traveled to Borough Market, a hub for creativity and fresh food. It has tons of stalls where people can sell a wide variety of different food options. Brenna Auguste '25, Keira DeMicco '25, Carla Tobin '25, and I visited Turnips, the stall known for its famous chocolate-covered strawberry cups! Next, we walked around South Bank, and passed a recreation of Shakespeare's Globe Theater, a preview for our later experience at Shakespeare's childhood home. Our next destination was Buckingham Palace, where we watched the King's Guard. At the end of this busy day, we attended the musical *Wicked* on the West End!

We started the next day with a Sunday morning Mass before loading the bus and heading to Stonehenge, a bonding experience like no other as we tried to use perception to put our hands on the stones. We then traveled to Bath where there were so many different types of street performers. Some played the guitar or piano, others balanced bowling balls on their heads, and another was covered in paint and acted like a statue. There was so much culture and just as many ice cream shops! We also visited the remains of the actual Roman Baths, where men and women relaxed in spas and exercised.



We then had our own spa experience, where we all had to lock our phones away and go into the sauna for some rest and relaxation!

On day four, we traveled to Stratford-upon-Avon, where we saw Shakespeare's childhood home, the Church where he was buried, and the Royal Shakespeare Company theater. We witnessed incredible views on the road to Caefernion, Wales, and got to bond with our sisters on the four-hour bus ride. The next day we truly explored Caefernion, starting with a tour of Caefernion Castle. We learned the castle's rich history and its purpose, and we also had a Welsh language lesson. We learned how to say "Good Morning" (Bore Da), "Thank You" (Diolch), and the name of the longest town in the U.K., which I still can't pronounce. Next, we went five hundred feet underground to explore Welsh slate mines. My favorite experience of the entire trip was when we split into small groups and went to Welsh family homes to experience a traditional Welsh dinner. My group went to our host, Judith's house, where we met Judith, her daughter Neli, and Neli's friend Anni. We spent the night talking to them about the differences between growing up in Wales and the U.S., and I met two people I plan to keep in touch with for a long time.

The next day was another day of



traveling, as we traveled with our favorite bus driver, Chris, toward a ferry that would take us to Ireland. But first, we made an unexpected stop at the beach! None of us knew that this would be happening, and we relished the opportunity to see the ocean. Finally, we departed from Wales and headed toward Ireland by taking a three-hour ferry. During the ferry ride, many of us played Headbands, which was a great way to connect with each other while in the middle of the ocean.

Once in Ireland, we walked around briefly to preview our next couple of days. In the morning, we started off by visiting Phoenix Park, where the wind was heavy enough to almost knock your socks off. We then visited Saint Patrick's Cathedral, a gorgeous Church with extensive history. Our next experience was on the opposite end of the spectrum, as we underwent a "Gaelic Games experience." We had instructors who taught us the basics of two Irish sports, hurling and Gaelic football. These sports seemed to be a combination of every sport offered at IHA.

Later, we had a wonderful dinner and a show. We went to an "Irish Night" where we ate delicious food and also saw a live Irish Band and traditional Irish dancers. We also got to see Carla Tobin '25 and Alyssa Bolado '25 get on stage and dance their hearts out. Sadly, this was our last day, as we headed to the airport the next morning. I will never forget this incredible experience!



End-of-the-Year Luncheon and Retirement Celebration

IHA faculty and staff ended the school year with a special reception at Bacari Grill on June 5, 2024. We were thrilled to recognize faculty members celebrating milestone work anniversaries, in addition to one outstanding retiree.

25 year anniversary

Mrs. Terry Skjold P'11

20 year anniversary

Mrs. Cindy Sopelsa P'07, '08, '14

Mrs. Cori Tucker

Mrs. Rocio Vera P'14

10 year anniversary

Mrs. Rosemary Cali P'12, '15, '19, '23

Mr. Paul McGinnis

With twenty-five years of dedication to Immaculate Heart Academy, we said goodbye to Mrs. Terry Skjold P'11, IHA Physical Education Department chairperson, teacher, and Traffic Safety Squad moderator. Thank you Mrs. Skjold for the time, love, and energy you have shown to the IHA family!

When asked about her time here, Mrs. Skjold said, "Being part of the IHA community for 25 years allowed me to practice the profession I was trained for in an environment filled with Catholic values. The combination of a professional and supportive staff mixed with young women of quality has given me great joy. I will miss my time at Immaculate Heart Academy, but I'm very excited for retirement and plan to turn off my alarm clock, spend more time with family, reconnect with friends, and eat a cannoli in Italy!"

Ms. Shemayne Williams, physical education teacher, spoke at the retirement luncheon about Mrs. Skjold's dedication, leadership, passion, and enthusiasm teaching physical education at IHA, particularly in the dance unit. Mrs. Williams also highlighted how Mrs. Skjold has also been a "driving" force



beyond the gymnasium, "As a driver education teacher, you not only taught the rules of the road but also instilled a sense of responsibility and safety in countless young drivers. Your role as the moderator for the Traffic Safety Squad Club further exemplified your dedication to ensuring your students are well-prepared and safe on and off the road. Under your leadership, the club raised over \$75,000 – an awesome achievement that has made a significant impact on our community."

At the luncheon, we also congratulated and sent our deepest appreciation to Mrs. Cindy Sopelsa P'07, '08, '14, information commons specialist, Mrs. Cori Tucker, mathematics teacher, and Mrs. Rocio Vera P'14, World Language Department chairperson and teacher, who have worked at IHA for twenty years; and guidance counselors, Mrs. Rosemary Cali P'12, '15, '19, '23 and Mr. Paul McGinnis, who have spent ten years at IHA.

Congratulations and thank you for the many years each one of you has devoted to Immaculate Heart Academy!





Class of 2024 College Signing Day

On May 1, 2024, seniors at Immaculate Heart Academy participated in National College Signing Day and wore college spirit wear from the school they plan to attend in the fall. Thank you to IHA's College Counseling Department for making the day a memorable one for all of our seniors. We are so proud of the Class of 2024 and their acceptances to outstanding colleges and universities!



Spring 2024 Sports Signing

Congratulations to two IHA senior athletes who officially signed to their colleges on the afternoon of Monday, May 13, 2024. Sinead Cook '24 signed with Lafayette College for swimming and Alia Ureta '24 signed with Worcester Polytechnic Institute for swimming. Both girls attended the college signing ceremony with their coaches and parents. Congratulations to our talented Blue Eagles and best of luck at college!





Spring 2024
SPORTS REPORT



SOFTBALL

Immaculate Heart Academy Varsity Softball finished the season 28-3, winning both the league and its third Bergen County Championship in three years. The team's offense had 28 home runs on the season, with 11 triples, and 57 doubles. The IHA pitching staff had a combined ERA of 1 and 15 shutouts. The team outscored opponents by 200 runs, 238-38. Gabriella Shadek '25 and Gianna DiMeglio '24 both achieved 100 career hits this year, and Coach Diana Fasano '00 reached a milestone with 200 wins! Additionally, Gabriella Shadek '25 was named North Jersey Softball Player of the Year by northjersey.com. The season ended with IHA Softball ranked #7 in the state by NJ Athletics, #12 in the state by NJ.com, and named Team of the Year in NJ.com's Big North Conference Awards. Notable this year, the Softball Team also raised more than \$20,000 for Tackle Kids Cancer in the name of the late Coach Anthony LaRezza. IHA softball is looking forward to another great season next year.



Big North United Conference / All-League Honors

First-Team:

Arianna Barrett '24
Gabriella Shadek '25
Gianna DiMeglio '24
Leah English '27
Katelyn Mikros '25

Second-Team

Gabriella DellaVolpe '26
Brielle Bakker '26
Gianna Muliero '25

Honorable Mention

Breonna Guirland '26
Natalie Bonsignore '26

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team:

Arianna Barrett '24
Gabriella Shadek '25
Gianna DiMeglio '24
Leah English '27

Second-Team:

Katelyn Mikros '25

northjersey.com Honors

First-Team

Arianna Barrett '24
Gabriella Shadek '25
Gianna DiMeglio '24
Leah English '27

Nj.com All-State Honors

First-Team

Gabriella Shadek '25

NJ.com All-State Non-Public Honors

First-Team

Gabriella Shadek '25

Second Team

Gianna DiMeglio '24
Leah English '27

Third Team

Gabriella Dellavolpe '26

Nj.com Big North Conference Awards

Player of the Year

Gabriella Shadek '25

NJ.com Super 36 All-Star Game

Gianna DiMeglio '24

Brian Piccolo Award

Gianna DiMeglio '24

NFCA All-Region Honors

First-Team

Leah English '27

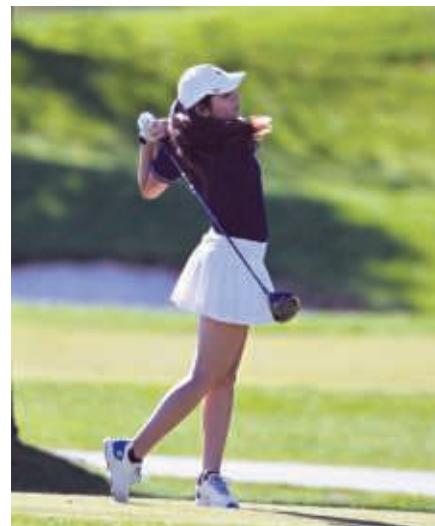
Second Team

Gabriella Shadek '25



GOLF

The IHA Golf Team completed their successful season with an overall regular season record of 10-3. They were named the Big North Central Division League Champions for the 2024 season. The team earned a low match score of 159, averaging a score of 39.75 per golfer. The IHA Golf Team placed fourth at the Red Devil Invitational; third at the Big North League Tournament, Bergen County Tournament, and the North State Sectional Tournament; and ranked seventh at the State Tournament of Champions.



Big North Conference Central Division All-League Honors

First-Team

Isabella Del Bosco '25
Alana Flores '26
Marisa Flores '24

Second-Team

Madisyn Falto '25

Honorable Mention

Peyton Connors '27

Coach of the Year

Lauren Rhein '09

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Marisa Flores '24

NJ.com All-State Honors

Second Team

Marisa Flores '24





LACROSSE

IHA Varsity Lacrosse had a historic season, winning the county championship and dethroning Ridgewood's 18-year reign! IHA won the Bergen County Girls Lacrosse Championship in dramatic fashion, defeating Ridgewood 12-11. Congratulations to the entire varsity team on an exciting year! For its part, the J.V. Lacrosse Team embodied the acronym JVS (JV Strong) by never giving up on the field no matter the score. The team supported and encouraged each other throughout the season and was great on defense against tough competitors in the Stars and Stripes Division.



Big North Conference/ All-League Honors

First-Team

Madeline Lively '25
Alexandra Kucharz '24
Olivia Valente '26
Liliana Betz '27

Second-Team

Molly Casey '24
Emma Neyland '25
Riley Ng-Knepper '25

Honorable Mention

Reagan Larson '26

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Alexandra Kucharz '24
Madeline Lively '25
Riley Ng-Knepper '25
Olivia Valente '26
Liliana Betz '27

Second-Team

Emma Neyland '25

Honorable Mention

Molly Casey '24

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-team

Molly Casey '24
Madeline Lively '25

Second-Team

Alexandra Kucharz '24
Olivia Valente '26

NJ.com All-State- Non-Public Honors

Second-Team

Alexandra Kucharz '24
Madeline Lively '25
Molly Casey '24





SPRING TRACK & FIELD

The IHA Spring Track and Field Team had another remarkable season, culminating in an undefeated dual meet record of 3-0 and winning the League, County Relay, and County Group Championship for the fourth consecutive year. In addition, the team produced several school records. Julia Sobilo '25 won the Non Public A State Championship and set the IHA record in the discus. Abby Romero '24 broke her own school record in the triple jump and the foursome of Piper Portacio '25, Elizabeth Burgess '25, Veronica Costello '25, and Paige Burgess '25 broke a 14-year school record in the 4x400 relay. Evelyn Roman '25 placed tenth at the New Balance Nationals in the Javelin with the farthest throw in Bergen County for 2024 and the second farthest throw in IHA History. The Spring Track and Field Team ended this impressive season ranked #1 in Bergen County and #10 in the State by NJ.com!



Big North Conference/ All-League Honors

First-Team

Elizabeth Burgess '25
Marcelle Seckin '25
Sierra Tofts '25
Piper Portacio '25
Emily Wunsch '25
Veronica Costello '25
Paige Burgess '25
Evelyn Roman '25
Julia Sobilo '25
Mary Quinn '26
Abby Romero '24

Second-Team

Sophia Reina Ditchfield-Agboh '24
Veronica Costello '25
Kate Shepler '24
Sophia Bertino '26
Reagan Scarpelli '25
Angelica Cece '24
Elizabeth Macejka '25

Honorable Mention

Kaitlyn McCormick '27

Coach Of The Year

Matt Joyce

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Abby Romero '24

Second-Team

Evelyn Roman '25
Piper Portacio '25
Elizabeth Burgess '25
Veronica Costello '25
Paige Burgess '25

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Julia Sobilo '25

Second-Team

Abby Romero '24
Evelyn Roman '25
Piper Portacio '25
Elizabeth Burgess '25
Veronica Costello '25
Paige Burgess '25

NJ.com All-State Non-Public Honors

First-Team

Julia Sobilo '25
Evelyn Roman '25

Second-Team

Abby Romero '24

Third-Team

Piper Portacio '25



Beefsteak Dinner

More than 450 guests attended Immaculate Heart Academy's annual Beefsteak Dinner on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The event was a huge success and truly an incredible display of support for Immaculate Heart Academy and our athletic teams. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful community to celebrate our students!

Thank you to event corporate sponsor, Bergen Catholic High School; blue & white sponsor, Saint Joseph Regional High School; the IHA administration; Beefsteak co-chairs, Stacy DeMicco P'21, '24, '25, Rachel Del Bosco P'25,

and Madeline Rizzo Savas P'17, '24; the Beefsteak Committee members and additional parent/faculty volunteers; Mr. Steve Ferro, director of athletics; Mrs. Sarah Frasure '07, director of advancement & alumnae relations; Mrs. Stephanie Foti, coordinator of special events; and Mrs. Paula Horne P'13, '15, '18, development associate.

A special thank you also to George Kuzma P'26 and Fischbach Catering LLC, Mike Hamlett Photography, N.I.C. Entertainment, Stephanie Clark '03 and Born to Rum, and our numerous generous vendors and donors.



Did You Know...

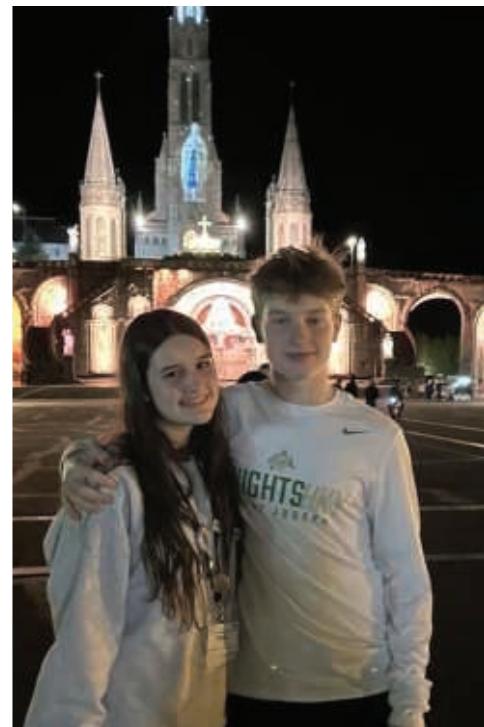
Mission Trip to Lourdes

Meaghan Keating '24, Darcy Moore '24, and Tara Caputo '26 participated in an inspiring Easter week mission trip to Lourdes, France. The Immaculate Heart Academy students participated in this Easter week pilgrimage through the American Special Children's Pilgrimage Group (ASCPG). Founded in 1995, ASCPG brings individuals with special needs to Lourdes every year during Easter week. This trip is unique for many reasons including the fact that pilgrims (individuals with special needs) do not travel with their parents; instead, trained and caring helpers care for them during the week in Lourdes. Additionally, a group of teenagers, which included our three incredible IHA students, traveled with the group as companions for the special pilgrims.



According to Meaghan Keating '24, "Experiencing Lourdes at Easter and witnessing the joy and community of those who wanted to make the week as memorable as possible for the special needs individuals was inspiring and unforgettable." This trip was filled with many special memories including daily trips to the Grotto where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette eighteen times, candlelight processions, and masses with other groups from different countries including Ireland, Scotland, Croatia, Romania, Belgium, and more. The students also participated in fundraising efforts throughout the year leading up to the trip so that the pilgrims could travel for free.

Darcy Moore '24 said, "I am so grateful for this trip because it introduced me to a beautiful place where everyone around you is celebrating Faith. It is a place you cannot go to only once." Tara Caputo '26 agrees with that sentiment as she has experienced this inspiring mission trip more than once, "I had the incredible opportunity to experience Lourdes twice at Easter time. Each time, it was a life changing experience for me as I was able to witness the joy it brought to all of the individuals with special needs." Immaculate Heart Academy is tremendously proud of Meaghan, Darcy, and Tara for participating in this trip!





Girl Scout Gold Award

Congratulations to Emily Keizer '24 on earning her Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouts. Her project, Grace's Upper Room, helped address a storage issue at her church, Grace Church of Ridgewood. The attics in her church were being used by many members for quick storage which caused the room to be cluttered and disorganized. Emily researched the issue and implemented a system of organization that would be easy and effective for everyone to use. She removed all the contents in the storage areas, sorted everything, installed shelving and storage containers, discarded non-valuable items, donated other items, and reorganized and reshelfed the remaining contents. Emily organized a volunteer staff of nearly 40 people to help with her project and make a big impact at her church. Emily officially received her Gold Award at a ceremony held on June 12, 2024.



Girl Scout Silver Award

Three IHA students recently received their Girl Scout Silver Award. Congratulations to Arianna George '27, Abigail Garofalow '27, and Anais Esdailes '27. The three students are all members of Girl Scout Troop 21194 and alumnae of St. Cassian School. As middle schoolers, the three girls established the Sprouts Service Project, which involved starting and maintaining a sustainable organic community garden. The harvest from that garden was then distributed to those in need. The students also created a hands-on workshop and online presence to teach others about food insecurity and gardening as a solution. Arianna, Abigail, and Anais were presented their Silver Award by fellow IHA sister and girl scout, Cassandra George '24.

Carmella Madlinger '25 Continues Her Efforts to Raise Funds for New Hope

On May 19, Carmella Madlinger hosted a fundraiser for the New Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. The event brought in substantial donations to support young mothers and their children. During the fundraiser, Carmella collected \$500 in monetary donations, \$1,000 worth of diapers, \$300 worth of baby wipes, and \$3,000 in various baby items, including bottles, bath products, food, and clothing. In addition to volunteering at the New Hope office and organizing this fundraising event, Carmella manages an Amazon Wish list, which continues to receive thousands of dollars in donations for essential baby supplies.



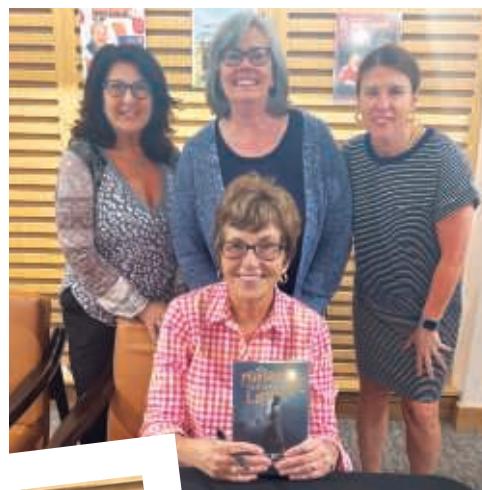


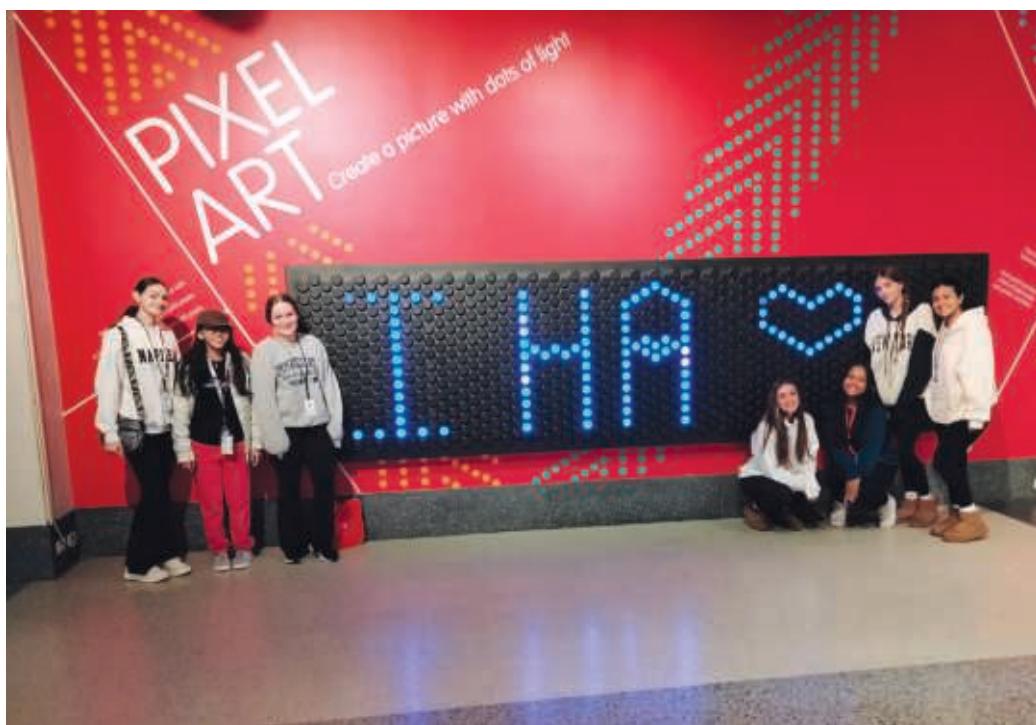
Italian Class Field Trip

IHA Italian classes attended a cooking school called Healthy Italia in Madison, NJ, on April 29. Students learned how to make Pici pasta, a Tuscan pasta shape, and homemade chocolate pear cake. The class was conducted entirely in Italian!

Book signing by Patrice McDonough

Former IHA teacher, Ms. Patrice McDonough, attended IHA's Summer Reading Bookfair on June 12, at Barnes & Noble in Paramus to sign her new book, *Murder by Lamplight*. IHA faculty, staff, current students, alumnae, and former faculty attended the event to show their support. Fellow alumna and best-selling mystery writer, Mary Jane Clark '72 (pictured below with Patrice) was also in attendance! Congratulations Ms. McDonough on your book and we look forward to the next installment of this historically rich murder mystery. Thank you to Mrs. Cindy Sopelsa, information common specialist at IHA, for coordinating this successful event.





Liberty Science Center Trip

On April 12, fifteen students visited Liberty Science Center on a trip sponsored by the St. Brigid Society. In addition to viewing a live open heart surgery from Morristown Medical center, students also enjoyed various other exhibitions at Liberty Science Center, including the Pixel Art wall. Thank you to Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor and St. Brigid Society moderator and Ms. Marnie McGuirk, science teacher, for chaperoning this exciting trip.



Traffic Safety Squad Award

The IHA Traffic Safety Squad (TSS) was once again recognized for their efforts in promoting traffic safety to teenage drivers. Earlier this year, TSS received Honorable Mention 1st Place in the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey Champion School Program. We are so proud of the accomplishments of TSS each year.



Driver Education Award

The 2024 AAA Northeast Driver Education Student of the Year Award was given to Kathleen Brancato '26. The recognition was announced at the conclusion of IHA's End-of-the-Year Liturgy on June 7, 2024. Kathleen was presented the award by Olivia Nini '25, last year's winner, and Mrs. Terry Skjold P'11, Traffic Safety Squad moderator. Congratulations Kathleen on this well-deserved award!



Two IHA Students Attend American Legion Girls State

On June 23 through June 27, Emerson Focht '25 and Avery Connors '25 attended the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls State, a program that teaches responsible citizenship, leadership, and love for the ALA's mission of serving veterans, military, and their families. High school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by ALA units for the program that took place this year at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ. As graduated delegates, Emerson and Avery will now work to spread all they learned to IHA and their local communities. Both girls received 120 service hours and three college credits for attending the program.

According to Avery, "Our experience was not only life changing but it was also extremely challenging. Each day we participated in army training from the National Guard, and mock government campaigns and elections. Both Emerson



and I ran for multiple positions and finished the program as the city chair woman (Emerson) and county registrar of deans (Avery). In taking on these positions, we played crucial roles within Girls State and also gained experience in public speaking and the government. We were faced with issues like homeless veterans and repairing main roads, and with our boards and delegates we came up with solutions for each of these issues. Overall, the experience taught us that we are the future of not only the government, but also our world! Girls State was like nothing we have ever done before and we are so blessed to have had the opportunity."

Mock Trial Competition

Earlier this year, the IHA Mock Trial team competed at the Bergen County Justice Center in a real courtroom. The IHA Prosecution Team put in a strong performance against the Bergen County Academies and our Defense Team competed and secured a win against Fort Lee High School.



IHA Prosecution Team

Kaitlyn McCormick '27
Skylar Blake '27
Juliet Fisher '27
Sophia Nemeth '26
Victoria Deljuidice '25
Madison Les '26
Madeline Sullivan '24
Kathryn Williamson '26

IHA Defense Team

Back Row:
Adrianna Uykan '24
Madison Fasolo '24
Kathleen Brancato '26
Anne Moore '26
Emma Bossbaly '26
Juliet Fisher '27
Sienna Barbiere '25
Maureen Hennelly '26

Front Row:

Skylar Blake '27
Anvi Batra '24
Sophie Morales '24



CLASS notes

'69

Joanne Stato just released a new CD of original songs. *On Lake Linganore* is available for purchase as either a digital download or a physical CD at joannestato.bandcamp.com. Joanne currently lives in the Florida Tampa Bay area, and has been a performing songwriter ever since graduating from IHA!



'90

Jennifer Baker Kamienski was recently named to the Class of 2024 Top Women in the Industry Awards by PRNEWS. Jennifer, an executive vice president at Coyne Public Relations (PR), was recognized in the Industry Champions category which honors women who have had an exceptional impact on the direction and advancement of the public relations and communications industry beyond



their impact at their own companies. According to Coyne PR, the Consumer Lifestyle Division under Jennifer's leadership has seen remarkable growth, driven by her innovative approach and strategic vision. She has spearheaded groundbreaking campaigns for top-tier clients, significantly enhancing their market presence and setting new standards in engagement and storytelling.

'84

Megan (Minchak) Bowdish was recently highlighted by North Country Public Radio and *Thousand Islands Life* for her greenhouse business, Never Tire Farm in Lisbon, NY. The wholesale plant and flower supplier has been owned by Megan and her husband Ray Bowdish since 1997. Never Tire Farm is the only wholesale greenhouse operator in St. Lawrence County, and it is committed to not using pesticides on any of their plants. Megan and Ray have decided instead to use biological pest control which involves introducing the pests' natural predators before they have a chance to harm the plants.



"Jennifer embodies the spirit of innovation and leadership that this award celebrates. Her commitment to excellence and her profound impact on our industry set a benchmark for future leaders. We are incredibly proud to see her achievements recognized on such a distinguished platform," said John Gogarty, president of Coyne PR. Jennifer received her award at a luncheon held on June 4, 2024.

'88

Gemma (Azzolini) Doster and **Elaine (Minnick) Brophy** are still celebrating their sisterhood! When both of their boys were toddlers they ran into each other at a church event and had no idea they lived in the same town or had sons the same age. Since that meeting, their boys have grown up together and played little league, travel baseball, and now varsity baseball together. They currently both attend St. Rose High School in Belmar, NJ, and went to their junior prom on April 21 at The Breakers in Spring Lake. Pictured below left to right are Chris Doster, **Gemma Doster**, **Elaine Brophy**, and Brendan Brophy.

**'02**

Shelly Choo was recently honored as a Community Champion by the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association. She was also previously honored in 40 under 40 in Public Health by the de Beaumont Foundation, which recognizes leaders whose creativity and innovation are strengthening communities across the country. Shelly has been working in the field of public health at both the local and state level and said she is grateful to all her teachers and supporters at IHA for providing such a strong high school foundation.

**'09**

Kate (Thompson) Cassidy '09 and her husband Brian Cassidy of Marlboro, New Jersey, welcomed their second baby boy, Kevin Timothy, on February 28, 2024. Kevin is adored by his proud big brother, Shane Brian.

'12

Nina Buonarota is now an onboarding manager at Chief, the largest networking group for senior executive women in the United States, representing more than 10,000 companies and 77% of the Fortune 100. Chief gives members a vetted network and leadership insights to help support women in corporate leadership and maximize their impact. Nina said, "I am so proud to be a part of a company that strives to uplift women every single day and I would like to thank IHA for instilling those same values in me from day one."

**'13**

Emily (Horne) Peterson and her husband Connor Peterson are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Oliver Michael Peterson. Ollie was born on March 24, 2024. The couple is through the moon as their family grows!

'15

Danielle Morris married SJR alumnus Daniel Mackle on June 29, 2024, at the Ballyowen Golf Club at Crystal Springs Resort in Sussex County, NJ. In attendance at both the wedding and the bridal shower on April 20, were fellow IHA sisters from the Class of 2015 and **Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan**, director of college counseling. Pictured left to right are **Grace Martin**, **Melissa O'Sullivan**, **Danielle Morris**, and **Gianna DeSantis**.



’17

Valeria Oshepkova
earned a doctor of physical therapy degree from the University of Scranton.

’19

Katherine Posillico
earned a master of science degree in occupational therapy from the University of Scranton.

’20

Angeline Jacob was inducted into the Siena College Alpha Kappa Alpha Honor Society. Members are students who have achieved academic excellence throughout their college years. They have also demonstrated an awareness of the problems facing society and a sincere concern for others. Honor society members have contributed in a special way to Siena and to the broader community by active participation in extracurricular activities. They embody the Franciscan traditions that are the foundation of every Siena graduate's education, and are selected upon the recommendation of a committee of faculty, students, and administrators.

Emma Zabransky graduated with a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education from the College of Charleston.

Stephanie Smith graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the College of Charleston.

Giovanna Baquerizo graduated with a bachelor of science degree in physiology from the University of Scranton.

Megan E. Cavlov graduated with a bachelor of science degree in physiology from the University of Scranton.

Aimee Mockler graduated with a bachelor of science degree in occupational therapy from the University of Scranton.

Elizabeth Murphy graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in advertising/public relations and social media strategies from the University of Scranton.

Grace Whittam graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in advertising/public relations and journalism and electronic media from the University of Scranton.

Mary Patricia Sayre received a bachelor of arts degree, cum laude, from College of the Holy Cross.

Kylie Waskas graduated from the University of Richmond with a double major in biology and health care studies and a minor in data science. She completed her studies a semester early, received straight A's and dean's list every semester, and was also accepted into the University of Richmond's chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Kylie has accepted a business analyst position from Otsuka Pharmaceutical.

’20

Adrianna Kearney recently showcased her artwork at the Senior Art Show in the Mason Gross Galleries at Rutgers University. In attendance at the show were **Mrs. Kerri Sheehan P’20, ’24**, Adrianna's mom and IHA English Department chairperson, and **Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P’14**, IHA art teacher (pictured below). Adrianna earned a degree in fine arts from Rutgers in 2024 with a double concentration in painting and drawing, and a minor in creative writing. She is now pursuing a career in illustration and is creating commissioned work for clients through her Instagram platform @adrianna_kearney_art.



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

Please send your life update to AnneMarie Vaughn P'22, director of communications and marketing, at avaughn@ihanj.com. Visit ihanj.com to view our IHA Newsletter Content Guidelines.

Grace Mendolia graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College. She was an environmental/earth science major and will be working at GuideHouse, an environmental and energy consulting firm in Boston.





Memorial Mass and Plaque Dedication in Memory of Ms. Lynn Gansley



On Wednesday, May 22, 2024, IHA held a Memorial Mass and plaque dedication in memory of former teacher, Ms. Lynn Gansley.

Ms. Gansley 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; and the founder of IHA's senior retreat. She was also IHA's Varsity Bowling coach, for which she was named Coach of the Year several times by *The Record*.



Ms. Gansley dedicated her life to sharing her Catholic faith to the young women at IHA and also to those outside of the school. She was a faithful parishioner and volunteer of St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Lodi and also dedicated a large portion of her time at Adorno Fathers in Ramsey, NJ, where she developed a strong friendship with Father Nony.

Father Nony presided over the Memorial Mass on May 22 in IHA's Chapel and spoke fondly of his friendship with Ms. Gansley. After the Mass, he also dedicated the plaque that now adorns the door to Ms. Gansley's former classroom, Room 233. The plaque reads:

In Memory of
Ms. Lynn Gansley
Beloved IHA Teacher: 1987-2023
"Girls with big dreams become women of vision."

Ms. Gansley's three younger sisters, Gail VanHouten, Jennifer Adams, and Caryn Jordan, were present for this moving Mass and dedication ceremony.

IN MEMORIAM

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

**Andrea MacEnery Tokarik,
Class of 1970**

June 24, 2023

**Margaret Mary Dinan,
Class of 1969**

May 1, 2024

Sister of former IHA faculty member William Dinan and sister-in-law of former IHA faculty member Kathlyn Zahn

**Suzanne (Duetsch) May,
Class of 1971**

June 17, 2024

Sister of Diane (Duetsch) Lamb '77

**Maureen Connelly Russell,
Class of 1972**

June 28, 2024

Sister of Jane Connelly Sweeney '77 and cousin of Bridget Schaetzle Schindo '74, Kathleen Bradley Martucci '67, Mary Ellen Sivalls '81, and Patricia Sivalls '64

Michael R. Cavallo

April 1, 2024

Father of Kelly Cavallo Corra '81

Leonard Pursiano

April 20, 2024

Father-in-law of Jeanne Erdman Pursiano '90 and grandfather of Jillian Pursiano '20

James Donlin

April 22, 2024

Grandfather of Cassandra Mitsinikos '18 and father of former IHA Parents' Club president Mary Mitsinikos P'18

Paul Roberge

May 14, 2024

Father of Marissa Roberge '22

Alvaro Antonio Barrios

June 6, 2024

Father of Leslie Barrios '11

Kenneth F. Hourigan

June 15, 2024

Husband of former IHA faculty member Patricia Hourigan

Josephine Margaret Minchak

June 18, 2024

Mother of Megan (Minchak) Bowdish '84 and former IHA faculty member



SAVE THE DATE

FOR A CELEBRATION OF
IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY'S

65th Anniversary
(1960 - 2025)

NOVEMBER 14, 2024
6:30 - 10:30 PM

- SEASONS -

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY



500 Van Emburgh Avenue
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Change Service Requested

If this is not you, or if your daughter no longer lives at home, please reach out to Sarah Frasure '07, director of advancement & alumnae relations, at 201.445.6800, ext. 185 or sfrasure@ihanj.com with updated information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP
23

Blue Eagle Open

Registration and brunch at 10 a.m., followed by 12 p.m. shotgun start at Edgewood Country Club in River Vale.

NOV
14

Immaculate Heart Academy Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Gala

The IHA community is invited to Seasons in Township of Washington as we celebrate our sixty-fifth year at Immaculate Heart Academy during the 2024-25 school year.

OCT
20&24

Fall Open Houses

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

NOV
22-24

Fall Drama

Productions will be November 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and November 24 at 2 p.m.

NOV
02-03

Class of 1974 50th Reunion

Luncheon at Madeleine's Petit Paris in Northvale on Saturday, November 2, followed by a Memorial Mass in IHA's Sisters' Chapel and Brunch on Sunday, November 3.

DEC
01

Class of 2029 Application Deadline

Applications to be a member of IHA's Class of 2029 are due by December 1, 2024.

NOV
08

HSPT for Class of 2029

Class of 2029 prospective students are required to take the Archdiocesan high school entrance exam.