

NEWS *from the*

SUMMER 2025 VOL. 41, NO. 2

SERVICE.
SCHOLARSHIP.
SPIRITUALITY.
SISTERHOOD.



IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY

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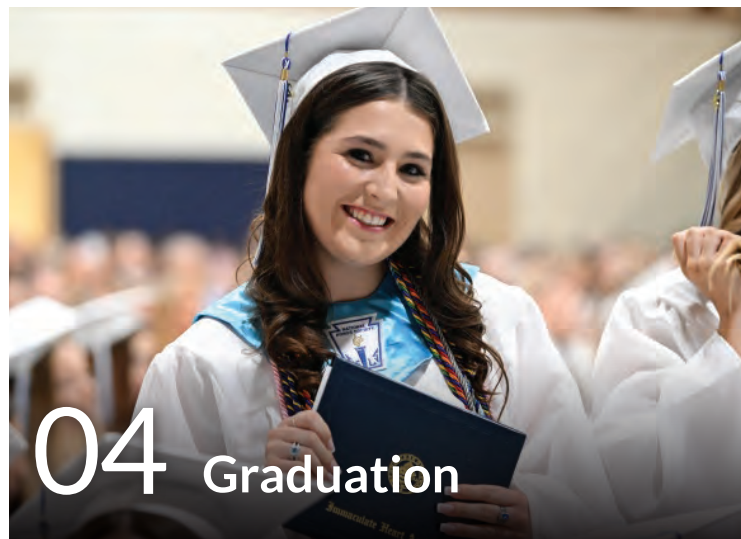
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Europe Trip

Cover Shot: Class of 2025 Graduation

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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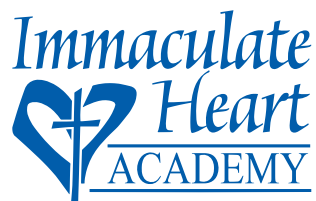


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Mission@theheart

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President's Corner



Dear IHA Community,

As we embark into the autumn, I am looking forward to a season filled with new beginnings, dynamic changes, and a sense of renewal. While the color of the leaves begins to change, we here at IHA also observe transformations occurring at the start of a new year of school. New students, new courses, new spaces, new friends.

We welcome our Class of 2029 — 176 young women from 64 towns across New Jersey and New York, ready to embrace the sisterhood that is Immaculate Heart Academy.

After a summer of refreshment, our students are well-prepared to tackle their studies, while our committed faculty and staff members are ready to encourage, inspire, and motivate our future leaders to be the best version of themselves.

Thanks to our successful Fund-a-Need at the 65th Anniversary Gala last November, we are thrilled to share that the renovation of our Guidance and College Counseling departments is complete. We are so excited to utilize this common area for students, and we are happy to provide our counselors with upgraded offices and shared spaces.

Additionally, students were surprised to discover a summer renovation of the IHA cafeteria. The newly upgraded kitchen better serves the community with regard to lunchtime offerings, crowd control, and a new grab-and-go

selection. Lunchtime is a treasured time of day for students as it allows for time with friends, unwinding, and a refresh to the day, and I know this upgraded space will benefit all. Finally, the summer break allowed us to complete the much-needed paving of our school parking lot. We invite you to stop by to see all the wonderful changes on our campus!

As our students embrace another year of hard work, vigorous studies, and wholesome memories, we are delighted to have each student back in the building. As president, I remind myself each year that it is a true privilege to witness the sisterhood in action — young women embracing one another and proving that we are always stronger together.

Sincerely,

Jason Schlereth P'27, '28
President





Class of 2025 Graduation

IHA's 62nd annual Commencement Exercises were held on May 31, 2025. Congratulations to this inspiring and impressive class!

One hundred forty-five 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. Amy Baskin, assistant principal of academics. Including the members of this year's graduating class, 11,333 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 Megan McCarthy (Villanova University), the ceremony opened with





Anne Marie Kelly (Bucknell University), Student Council president, offering the invocation and Allison Egan (Columbia University), salutatorian, giving a thoughtful welcoming address. In speaking about the incredible sisterhood and support system at IHA, Allison said, "I now know the community we have built here will never fade. Sisterhood isn't confined to the four walls of IHA. It exists within each of us, in our bonds with each other and in the support we continue to give to each other, even though we won't see each other in class every day. By continuing to be ourselves and share our unique gifts with the world, this community only grows. I have been and continue to be impressed with everything my classmates have accomplished. You are each uniquely beautiful human beings, with kind hearts, inquisitive minds, and abundant talent."





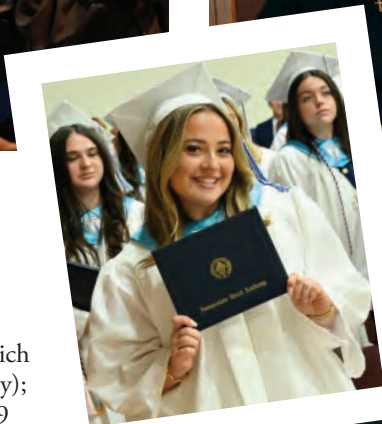
Mrs. Aileen (Daniels) Weese '08, vice president at J.P. Morgan, served as Commencement Speaker. Aileen received a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University, where she played Division I basketball and later earned a Master's in Business Administration from the Wharton School of Business. Aileen told graduates, "I know you've been told, just like I was, that 'you are the future.' Yes, that's true, but that implies your power and value lie in some nebulous and distant future state; that the value you bring to the world has yet to be determined.

But, in this climate in particular — educated, engaged, and vocal women are a political, economic, and religious necessity — and you all fit that bill. So we need you today, and while it may not feel like it to you, everyone in this room knows you're up to the task!"



Diplomas and special awards were then distributed to members of the Class of 2025. 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 Bridget (Daul) Kelly '90 to Anne Marie Kelly (Bucknell University); Mary Beth (Coyne) Mulry '91 to Lauren Mulry (Boston College); Stefania Gasparro '93 to Alessandra Nazor (University of Michigan); Mariann (Smith) Odierno '93 to Katherine Odierno (Indiana University Bloomington); Elizabeth (McDonald)





Ryan '84 to Katherine Ryan (Rice University); Christina (Houghton) Sollecito '90 to Bergen Sollecito (Clemson University); Kourtney (Gallo) Zorovich '96 to Scarlett Zorovich (Ramapo College of New Jersey); Christine (Cabrera) Capizzi '89 to Caitlyn Capizzi (Clemson University); Laura (Bonner) Connors '94 to Avery Connors (Bucknell University); Allison (Stapienski) Dalessandro '87 to Grace Dalessandro (Seton Hall University); Selene (Maugeri) DelJuidice '90 to Victoria DelJuidice (University of South Florida); Gena (Caputo) DeVirgilio '94 to Victoria DeVirgilio (Loyola University Maryland); Catherine (Mondare) Donovan '91 to Caitlin Donovan (Northeastern University); and Sheri (Saingas) Malenda '92 to Zoe Giacomini (Catholic University of America).





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 2025 IHA Award winner, Isabelle Bertussi (Villanova University), and the many other award and scholarship recipients recognized at this year's Commencement Exercises. Following the award presentation, Mr. Jason Schlereth addressed the graduates and guests by encouraging students to stay true to who they are, "Be unapologetically you. There is no one

else on this earth who is you. Be who you are and don't apologize for it. Be kind to yourself and embrace what makes you different from others, and in doing so, surround yourself with the people who love you, who cheer for you, who celebrate you, and who believe in you. Live the life you wish, the way you wish to live it; not how others tell you to live it."

Class of 2025 valedictorian, Lana Langevin (Rutgers University), delivered an inspirational farewell address and offered advice to her fellow classmates as they embark on a new journey: "It may seem cliché to say that there are limitless opportunities, but it's the truth. Going off to college means a slew of new experiences and new chances to take. Just as we've learned to be fearless amongst our support system here, that fearlessness does not have to be diminished in the new world we are about to take on. Instead, as our brave sisters before us have demonstrated: change your major, go abroad, join a club, say yes to a new friend, say no to something that doesn't serve you, change your major again. Use all that we've learned at this moment, but

allow ourselves to grow, make mistakes, and then grow again. We don't have to be perfect, we just have to be."

At the end of the graduation ceremony, Katherine Ryan (Rice University) led her classmates in the school's Alma Mater before IHA's newest alumnae exited the gymnasium.

Members of the Class of 2025 received more than \$38 million in scholarship awards and will be continuing their education at some of the most esteemed colleges and universities in the country, including Villanova University, Georgetown University, New York University, Tulane University, University of Virginia, Boston College, and Columbia University.

Forty-five students are attending Catholic institutions, 16 students are attending schools in New Jersey, and 40% are attending colleges and universities outside of the northeast, with Virginia and Florida among the most popular states in that region.

Ninety-four percent of the students in this class were admitted to their first or second-choice college, and 100% were accepted to a four-year college. Some of the most popular choices this year include Fairfield University, James Madison University, Seton Hall University, Sacred Heart University, Bucknell University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute of Technology, and Villanova University. One student will be studying internationally at Constructor University in Germany.

Class of 2025 Graduation Awards

The following awards were presented at the 2025 Commencement Exercises:

Valedictorian

Salutatorian

The IHA Award

The Academic Excellence Award

The Sister Beatrice Ryan Award

The Dorothy and Jack McKenna Memorial 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 Amen Award

The Lynn Gansley Memorial Award

The Michael Thomas Noone Memorial Award

Lana Langevin (Rutgers University)

Allison Egan (Columbia University)

Isabelle Bertussi (Villanova University)

Lauren Mulry (Boston College)

Keira DeMicco (Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University)

Anne Marie Kelly (Bucknell University)

Avery Connors (Bucknell University)

Kathleen Reck (Northeastern University)

Grace Guglielmetti (Indiana University - Bloomington)

Lola Rose Projahn (Constructor University - Germany)

Sofia Valente (Lafayette College)

Bergen Sollecito (Clemson University)

Lauren DeLuccia (University of Florida)

Megan McCarthy (Villanova University)

Madeline Hayes (Wagner College)

Victoria Niziol (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

Shoshana Thompson (Coastal Carolina University)

Katherine Odierno (Indiana University - Bloomington)

Madisyn Falto (University of Maryland - College Park)

Lana Langevin (Rutgers University)

Emma McElroy (Boston College)



A Cherished Tradition for Silver and Suarez Memorial Award Winners

Memories continued to be made several days after graduation when Basketball Coach Steve Silver and his wife, Michele, welcomed to their home the recipient of the Jeffrey E. Silver Memorial Award, Sofia Valente '25, and the recipient of the Marisa A. Suarez Memorial Award, Madeline Hayes '25. This annual tradition has allowed the Suarez and Silver families, sponsors of both awards, to meet the recipients and their families.

The Marisa A. Suarez Memorial Award, established by the Suarez Family and IHA Soccer alumnae, honors Marisa — a loving daughter, granddaughter, sister, aunt, and godmother who died suddenly in December 2016. Marisa was an extremely talented athlete with an engaging and caring personality. She had a zest for life and found great joy in the camaraderie and friendships of her teammates. This memorial award is presented annually at graduation to the student who has demonstrated characteristics much like Marisa.



The Jeffrey E. Silver Memorial Award was established in 2011 by the Silver Family in honor of Jeffrey, a loving father, son, and brother, who died suddenly in April 2010. Jeffrey was generous with his gifts of time and talent, loved sports, and always demonstrated outstanding citizenship, sportsmanship, and loyalty to his family and friends. This award is presented annually at graduation to the student who has demonstrated characteristics much like Jeffrey.

At the gathering, the Silvers and Suarezes were happy to share memories of Jeffrey, Steve's late brother, and Marisa '02, daughter of Lucia and David, for whom these awards are given in remembrance. Former IHA soccer stars Erin (Engelhardt) Meccia '00 and Gloria (Fontanetta) Stak '00 attended, along with IHA Varsity Soccer Coach Eric Pfeifer and his family, and Coach Fuchs.



Baccalaureate Mass & Awards Ceremony

Members of the Class of 2025 were celebrated at the Baccalaureate Mass and Awards Ceremony on May 30, 2025 at Church of the Presentation in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. On the evening of this inspirational Baccalaureate Mass, valedictorian, Lana Langevin (Rutgers University), and salutatorian, Allison Egan (Columbia University), received medals to be worn on Graduation Day. Honors students were also recognized at the ceremony — eleven students with Distinguished Honors by maintaining an average of 95 or better for the year and eighty students with Honors by maintaining an average of 90 for the year. IHA Family Awards were presented to five families this year who have their last daughter of three or more graduating.



Congratulations to:

Joan Bertussi and Thomas Bertussi, parents of Julia '18, Victoria '19, and Isabelle '25 (Villanova University)

Jennifer and Eric Burgess, parents of Emma '23, Elizabeth '25 (Providence College), and Paige '25 (Providence College)

Miguelina and Ricardo Bolado, parents of Isabel '20, Elizabeth '23, and Alyssa '25 (University of Scranton)

Stacy and David DeMicco, parents of Kaitlyn '21, Riley '24, and Keira '25 (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Maureen and Douglas Coughlin, parents of Olivia '21, Grace '23, and Paige '25 (Providence College)





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

Estefanía Pogue (Montclair State University) - *The Arts*

Leah Finley (James Madison University) - *Communications*

Lana Langevin (Rutgers University) - *English*

Katelyn Mikros (Middlebury College) - *French*

Emma McElroy (Boston College) - *Mathematics*

Kathleen Reck (Northeastern University) - *Theology*

Jillian Gaglioti (James Madison University) - *Physical Education*

Ileana Asencio (North Carolina State University) - *Science*

Alison Morris (Fordham University) - *Social Studies*

Rachel Paton (Rutgers University) - *Spanish*

Samantha Baldomir (Saint John Fisher University) - *Technology*

Grace Guglielmetti (Indiana University Bloomington) - *Italian*

Ella Turnamian (Fairfield University) - *Business*

Katherine Ryan (Rice University) - *Performing Arts*



Additionally, congratulations to the following Scholarship Award recipients from the Class of 2025:

The Immaculate Heart Academy Scholar-Athlete Award – Madison Assanah (Carnegie Mellon University)

The NJSIAA New Jersey Scholar Athlete Award – Rachel Paton (Rutgers University)

Immaculate Heart Academy Athletic Achievement Award – Piper Portacio (Bucknell University) and Sofia Valente (Lafayette College)



Bergen County Women's Coaches Association Recognition for Athletes Who Participate in 10 or More Sports Seasons – Julia Sobilo (Bucknell University) and Evelyn Roman (Binghamton University)

Additional Athletes Who Participated in 10 or More Sports Seasons: Grace Coster (College of the Holy Cross), Paige Coughlin (Providence College), Megan Mahoney (University of Delaware), Lauren Mulry (Boston College), Reagan Scarpelli (Auburn University), and Emily Wunsch (James Madison University)

Bergen County Women's Coaches Association Scholarship for Outstanding Athletic Achievement – Kayla Rodriguez (Northwestern University)

Immaculate Heart Academy Athlete of the Year Award – Gabriella Shadek (Duke University)

IHA Parents' Club Robert Ryan Memorial Scholarship – Michelle Camano (Caldwell University)

The Virginia "Ginny" Panicucci Memorial Award – Chloe Kadien (Ramapo College of New Jersey)

The Kim Montelaro Memorial Award – Hailey McGrath (University of South Carolina)

Kathleen Farley Memorial Award – Amelia Meade (Seton Hall University)

The Fine Arts Award – Evelyn Roman (Binghamton University)

The Minerva Echeverría Memorial Award – Olivia Pantano (Nova Southeastern University)

The Carmella Cupo Wardell Award – Zoe Giacomini (Catholic University of America)

Bergen County Directors of Guidance Scholarship – Shoshana Thompson (Coastal Carolina University)

Provident Bank Scholarship – Michelle Camano (Caldwell University)

Thank you to Father Bob Stagg 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.

Congratulations to all of this year's graduates for their incredible contributions to IHA over the past four years!



Class of 2025 College Decision Day



On May 1, 2025, seniors at Immaculate Heart Academy participated in National College Decision 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 2025 and their acceptances to outstanding colleges and universities.



Junior/Senior Luncheon & Awards Ceremony



HA's beloved tradition, the Junior/Senior Luncheon & Awards Ceremony, was held on Monday, May 19, 2025.

Thank you to the Class of 2026 and junior class moderator, Ms. Ana Echeverría P '05, for hosting this lunch for the members of the Class of 2025 and IHA faculty. The juniors also made a variety of delicious, sweet treats for dessert.

After the luncheon, students gathered in the PAC for the first of three awards ceremonies for the graduating Class of 2025, 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, for her hard work on this year's memorable slideshow.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 for their incredible contributions to IHA over the past four years.



Legacy Night

The Class of 2025 enjoyed an unforgettable evening with their parents at IHA's Legacy Night. Seniors and their parents joined together at Biagios on May 19, 2025, to celebrate and reflect on their time at IHA. The annual parent/student retreat enabled the Class of 2025 to have an incredible opportunity for reflection, conversation, and intentional time with their parents before graduation.

Inspirational speakers included Ms. Lauren Foote '17; Ms. Emily Ash '19, director of Campus Ministry; 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 2025. Thank you to IHA Campus Ministry for hosting this memorable event.





Service Awards Ceremony

Service at Immaculate Heart Academy is more than just something that is required; it's a central part of who we are. Students regularly put their Faith into action by serving their community and ministering to people in need through a wide variety of service opportunities. To recognize their efforts, IHA held its annual Service Awards Ceremony on May 6, 2025, and celebrated 103 students and two faculty members for their inspiring commitment to service.

Ms. Emily Ash '19, theology teacher and director of Campus Ministry, discussed why IHA is proud to recognize their service, "We celebrate because in a world that defines accomplishment by Instagram likes, TikTok views, and going 'viral' — you girls live as the complete antithesis of that through your service. You don't strive to be cool in the way the world wants you to be, you strive to be cool in the way that Jesus wants you to be. You don't strive to make yourselves known; rather, you strive to make God's presence known in the lives of others, and ensure that every person you serve knows they are seen, known, and loved by God, but also by you."

IHA is proud to announce that our students served more than 31,000 hours during the 2024-2025 school year! 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 2026, with a total of nearly 11,000 hours.

At the awards ceremony, IHA celebrated more than 70 students for achieving the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Bronze level (100-174 hours per year), 15 students at the Silver level (175-249 hours per year), and 15 students at the Gold level (250 and more hours per year). Congratulations to the top three service hour earners: Chloe Kadien '25 (825 hours), Isabella Ragone '26 (668 hours), and Lana Langevin '25 (358 hours).





IHA also recognized the following students with awards for service in a particular area or with specific populations:

Kathy Krey Sova '78 Breast Cancer Awareness & Research Award
Ellie Higgins '27

Exceptional Service to Parish Community

Zoe DePhillips '26 and Amelia Meade '25

Exceptional Service to the Homeless
Isabelle Bertussi '25, Kathleen Reck '25,
Emma McElroy '25, Lana Langevin '25,
and Etain Moore '26

Exceptional Service to the Elderly
Elysia Chae '27

Exceptional Service to Individuals With Special Needs
Lola Rose Projahn '25

Exceptional Service to the Sick
Diya Moorjani '26 and Catalina Maglicic '26



Exceptional Service to the IHA Community

Brenna Auguste '25 and Zoe Giacomini '25

IHA Spirit of Sisterhood Award for Kindness & Inclusivity

Elliott Daniels '26, Veronica Brenner '26,
Chloe Caruso '28, and Ryann Cenicola '28



Exceptional Service to Women: Given in Honor of Ms. Lynn Gansley

Gabrielle Rivera '26, Carmella Madlinger '25, and Olivia Gilligan-Ollert '27



Dedication to the Spiritual Growth of the Sisterhood

Avery Connors '25, Grace Guglielmetti '25, and Tara Caputo '26

Exceptional Service to the Arts

Megan McCarthy '25 and Tara McCarthy '26



St. Therese of Lisieux Award for Everyday Acts of Kindness

Samantha Sundlin '26, Kathleen Hahn '26, and Hayden Edwards '26

FIAT Award for Saying "Yes" to God Through Acts of Service

Isabella Ragone '26 and Erin Sullivan '26

Innovative Service Project Award

Brooke Rodriguez '25 and Ashley Lopez '26



Spirit of Service Award

The Spirit of Service Award is presented annually to students who demonstrate a dedication to authentic Christian Service. This award is not about the most hours, but is presented to students who, by their very attitude and spirit, actively seek out how to serve others and inspire their sisters to do the same. Congratulations to Emily Schlereth '28, Peyton Connors '27, Madison Les '26, and Lana Langevin '25.



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, Isabelle Bertussi '25.



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



Gold: 250+ hours in a calendar year

Samantha Baldomir '25
Avery Connors '25
Keira DeMicco '25
Katherine Spizzo '25
Lana Langevin '25
Chloe Kadien '25
Lauren Mulry '25

Abigail Bennett '26
Riley Cannon '26
Elliott Daniels '26
Ashley Lopez '26
Isabella Ragone '26
Diya Moorjani '26
Aurelia Carolan '27
Lauren Henneberry '27

Silver: 175-249 hours

Dylann Kammen '25
Grace Coster '25
Lola Rose Projahn '25
Brenna Auguste '25
Mackenzie Handy '26
Dahlia Iuliano '26
Gabrielle Rivera '26

Ella Vrtis '26
Kiana Mahbobi '26
Isabella Kerio '26
Kianna Sadati '28
Kailyn Rejent '26
Lia Carballo '27
Kelsey Brooks '27
Kate Hujsa '26





Bronze: 100-174 hours

Brooke Rodriguez '25
Megan McCarthy '25
Emma McElroy '25
Grace Guglielmetti '25
Isabelle Bertussi '25
Ella Turnamian '25
Emerson Focht '25
Caitlin Donovan '25
Kathleen Reck '25
Sarah Schiller '25
Victoria DelJuidice '25
Maggie Polchin '25
Victoria Niziol '25
Karina Linzan '25
Angely Medina '25
Elizabeth Marino '25
Marcelle Seckin '25
Adrienna Arocho-Bautista '26
Elyse Batmaz '26
Kathleen Brancato '26
Cavan Clancy '26
Chloe Coffey '26
Chloe Coll '26
Gabriella DellaVolpe '26
Zoe DePhillips '26
Isabella Duca '26
Yasmine Ego '26
Laila Fenyo '26,
Breonna Guirland '26
Izabella Hoxholli '26
Sarah Komninos '26
Ella Kovalcik '26
Anna Kuchar '26
Catalina Maglicic '26
Vanessa Marian '26
Tara McCarthy '26

Anne Moore '26
Etain Moore '26
Madeline Murphy '26
Molly Neafsey '26
Riley Nightingale '26
Adrianna Rispoli '26
Elisabeth Tralongo '26
Clare Wenzke '26
Kimberly Zhang '26
Katelyn Liga '26
Morgan Connell '26
Angelica Ferreira '27
Clare McCarthy '27
Elizabeth Doolan '27
Elysia Chae '27
Gina Ha '27
Juliet Sok '27
Kaitlyn McCormick '27
Kristina Ahn '27
Madeline Saoud '27
Madeline Edelson '27
Madeline Schlereth '27
Malia Hamilton '27
Marley Digby '27
Peyton Connors '27
Rachel Mathew '27
Samantha Vaz '27
Skylar Blake '27
Sofia Bussanich '27
Vasilia Rodas '27
Peyton Einwohner '27
Nina Cardella '28
Ryann Cenicola '28
Grace Handy '28
Abigail Novack '28
Lara Piccitto '27
Jules Robertson '28

This year, we also recognized two faculty members for their hours of service they have given to the community:

Mr. Gregory McDonald,
mathematics teacher - Gold
Presidential Service Award

Ms. Megan Olsen, social studies
teacher - Bronze Presidential
Service Award

During the Service Award Assembly, Isabelle Bertussi '25, the service president for the Christian Service Board, reflected on what service truly means to her, "Service is so much more than numbers and deadlines, and although it may be a tough pill to swallow, it is not necessarily about us either. It is simply about how we can act as closely to Christ as possible in order to spread his love and learn from the people we serve."

Students also heard inspiring speeches from Kathleen Reck '25, spirituality president for the Christian Service Board, and Miss Kerry Carroll '04, IHA principal. After the awards were presented, the IHA community viewed a video montage of service photos from the year created by Emma McElroy '25, sisterhood president for the Christian Service Board. Recipients and their families were invited to a celebratory reception afterward. Thank you to everyone in Campus Ministry for continually inspiring the IHA community with their passion to serve others.





SPOTLIGHT On... BELIEVE. Conference

Each newsletter, we plan to spotlight one of the many incredible programs or events offered at Immaculate Heart Academy. The profile in this newsletter is on our inspiring Catholic Women's Leadership Conference.

Students of IHA recently attended our BELIEVE. Conference at Crystal Springs Resort in Hamburg, NJ on August 6-8, 2025. This year's theme was, "Beloved, you belong." As part of this theme of being rooted in the identity of being a daughter of God, students were reminded that they belong where God has placed them, and that IHA continues to make our school a place where everyone knows they belong to our amazing community of sisterhood.

At this year's conference, students celebrated this sisterhood and participated in prayerful reflection, inspiring discussions, and so much more! Over the course of three days, students strengthened their relationship with God through prayer and thought-provoking workshops. They attended Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, listened to touching guest speakers, and of course, took advantage of the beautiful facilities at Crystal Springs Resort.



Part of the BELIEVE. Conference included a special dinner that focused on the gifts of community and sisterhood. Students decorated a gift bag with their name on it so that their fellow sisters could write a note describing the amazing gifts and talents they see in their sister. By the end of the weekend, everyone had a bag full of affirmations! Another favorite activity was teaming up with prayer partners. Each student received a prayer partner to keep in mind and pray for throughout the weekend in private. The students also made a friendship bracelet





with a word that described a gift they saw in their prayer partner. At the end of the weekend, all the students traded bracelets with their partners as a way to reveal who they had been praying for and to celebrate the ways in which they each share their gifts with the IHA community.

Another favorite activity at the conference was the Sisterhood Circle, which is meant to provide the students with a space to verbally affirm each other. Students volunteer to enter the center of a circle to call out the good that they see in a specific sister.

According to Emily Ash '19, theology teacher and service coordinator at IHA, "It is so beautiful to witness our students embrace the theme of BELIEVE, and be so eager to carry all that they have experienced back to IHA. By embracing this message and their identity as beloved daughters, our students continue to create a culture of belonging at IHA. Whether it is praying for their friends, making friendship bracelets, or just encouraging each other — students not only know they belong, but strive to ensure their sisters know the same."

Another captivating part of the conference was the keynote speeches from Emily Ash '19; Veronica Marrinan, co-founder and creative director of Litany NYC, a Catholic fashion company; Ms. Nicole Clermont, theology teacher at IHA; and Mrs. Lauren Meyers, theology chair and teacher at Marian High School in Indiana and former teacher at IHA.

Mrs. Meyers spoke to students about this year's BELIEVE. Conference theme, "Your identity as beloved is not a prize that you win by your own righteousness. It's not a status that you achieve. It is a



gift of the Father who delights in you, who even in your failures is not just patient with you, but is pleased with you."

Thank you to the IHA administration and Ms. Emily Ash '19 for this inspiring Gospel-centered weekend! We are also grateful for the many chaperones and keynote speakers who devoted their time to help foster this amazing community of sisters.



Campus Ministry Service to Those in Need



On March 21, 2025, IHA students attended their fourth Midnight Run of the 2024-25 school year. Students traveled to New York City to provide food, clothes, and conversations with individuals experiencing homelessness.





In addition to these Midnight Runs, Campus Ministry also held its annual Easter drive and visit to Sacred Heart School in Jersey City. On April 8, 2025, students spread Easter joy to Sacred Heart students and delivered more than 160 goody bags filled with special treats. Due to the many generous Easter Drive donations, students were able to fill each bag with picture books, puzzle books, chocolates, bracelets, and other fun items for each grade level.

A special thank you to Ms. Emily Ash '19, director of Campus Ministry, and

students from the Campus Ministry executive board for coordinating all of these heartwarming events. We are also grateful for our chaperones, Ms. Nicole Clermont and Ms. Jillian Hynes; Ms. Lauren Foote '17 and her father, Mr. James Foote, who was our very own Easter bunny for the visit.

Our students truly embrace IHA's commitment to service. We are so proud of all that our students have accomplished as they continue to use their amazing gifts in service to others.



Mission@theheart 2025



Nearly 75 students at Immaculate Heart Academy gathered on the weekend of February 28 through March 2, to attend IHA's inspiring mission trip. The main goal of Mission@theheart is to expose students to different vulnerable populations in the hope of encouraging students to use their gifts in service to others. The homebase for this flagship IHA service event was at



Camp Shiloh in Hewitt, New Jersey, but students traveled to different parts of New Jersey and New York to put their mission trip into action.

On the first night of this three-day trip, students focused on furthering their relationship with God through a prayer service and Eucharistic Adoration, followed by group meetings and bonding activities. On Saturday, our young women began the day by creating Mother's Day cards for the mothers supported by Several Sources Shelters in Ramsey. Later in the day, students visited New Hope Pregnancy Center in Westwood to help assemble care



packages for pregnant women and single moms. Ms. Emily Ash '19, director of campus ministry, said, "each of these service opportunities were in support of mothers who have made the courageous and beautiful choice of life and love for their children." Ms. Ash went on to say, "It didn't matter which task our students were working on, as long as it was done with love, they were authentically serving a neighbor in need."

Also on Saturday, students visited Camp Acorn in Mahwah to help with the social enrichment programs the camp offers for individuals with developmental disabilities. Later in the evening, they all prepared for a Midnight Run in New York City where the students provided food, clothes, and conversations with individuals experiencing homelessness.

According to Lana Langevin '25, vice president of the Campus Ministry executive board, "I attended Mission@theheart 2025 because there is no better way to serve God than to serve those most vulnerable in the community, and getting to serve with my IHA sisters made the whole experience just that much better. From the Midnight Run to Camp Acorn, I experienced a multitude of service opportunities alongside girls from every grade, getting to know my sisters better while seeing God's light pour through each and every one of them."

On Sunday, students assembled care packages that were distributed to patients at Hackensack University Medical Center and made cards for hospice patients at Villa Marie Claire in Saddle River. The weekend ended with a Mass and reflection time for key take-aways from this year's Mission Trip.





Abigail Bennett '26, one of the many students that attended Mission@theheart, summed up this weekend perfectly, "I went on Mission@theheart because serving God's people is a call that we all must answer in one way or another. Serving with my friends has been a vital part of my life at IHA and I could not be more grateful for the experience."

We are truly Blessed for all of the students that followed God's call to serve others on this Mission Trip and thankful to Ms. Emily Ash '19 and our many chaperones, including IHA teachers Ms. Jessica Giglio, Ms. Katharine Ross, Mr. Gregory McDonald, Miss Claire Burke, Ms. Nicole Clermont, Mrs. Renee Thunell, Ms. Megan Olsen; IHA principal, Miss Kerry Carroll '04; and Ms. Lauren Foote '17 and her father Mr. James Foote.



This year's theme of Mission@theheart

*"Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he
blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours ..."*

- St. Teresa of Avila



Did You Know...

IHA Wins Theatre Arts Awards

We are proud to announce that IHA's productions of *Matilda the Musical*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Mamma Mia!* won several Metro and Foxy awards this year! We are inspired by the dedication of all of the members of IHA's Theatre Arts program and are thankful you share your amazing talent with our entire community.



Metro Awards

Katherine Ryan '25 won a Metro Award for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Female Role for her role as Miss Honey in IHA's production of *Matilda the Musical*. Katherine received her award at a ceremony at Purchase College in June of 2025.

Foxy Awards

Congratulations to the following cast members and production team who received their Foxy awards at the Montclair State Theatre Night Awards in May 2025:



Mamma Mia!

Madeline Heinimann '24 (Donna):
Outstanding Performance by an Actress
in a Broadway Musical From 1991-2006

Jodi Capeless (Director): Outstanding
Production of a Broadway Musical From
1991-2006



Sense and Sensibility

Lily Yezdanian '27 (Elinor Dashwood):
Outstanding Performance by an Actress
in a Period Comedy



Elizabeth Scully '15 (Director/Producer/
Coordinator for the Performing Arts):
Outstanding Acting Ensemble in a
Period Comedy

Derek Bedell '26 Saint Joseph Regional
High School (Edward/Robert Ferrars):
Outstanding Performance by an Actor in
a Period Comedy

New Jersey Softball Player of the Year and Home Run Record



Immaculate Heart Academy's Gabriella Shadek '25 has been named New Jersey's Best High School Softball Player! In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade named Gabriella Shadek as the 2024-25 Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year. The award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field. The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in each state across 12 different high school sports.

Gabriella joins an impressive group of award winners that spans CEOs, coaches, and star athletes. IHA's 5-foot-8 senior catcher batted .517 with 13 home runs and 34 RBI this past season, leading the Blue Eagles (24-2) to the Non-Public North Jersey, Group A Tournament championship game.

Gabriella hit three home runs in a 12-0 win over Pingry School in the tournament semifinals and made New Jersey softball history in the process, breaking the all-time career record for home runs with 49! She also walked 38 times this spring and connected for nine doubles, compiling a .704 on-base percentage and a 2.021 OPS. Defensively, the 2024 North Jersey Softball Player of the Year neutralized opposing running games, throwing out 6-of-15 would-be base stealers and picking off five runners at first base.



Gabriella has maintained a 3.82 GPA at IHA and is headed to Duke University this fall to play softball. She has volunteered locally with the CHD Coalition, a group founded by her parents that benefits children born with congenital heart defects. She has also donated her time on behalf of Tackle Kids Cancer and as a youth softball coach.

Additionally, for the second year in a row, Gabriella was also named the 2025 Softball Player of the Year at the North Jersey High School Sports Awards in July. Congratulations Gabriella. IHA is so proud of all of your achievements!

1,000 Points Milestone

Sofia Valente '25 reached an impressive milestone this past basketball season. The IHA shooting guard scored an impressive 1,000th point at a game against Morristown Beard School on February 28, 2025. Sofia has been playing basketball since first grade and is headed to Lafayette College to study Economics and, of course, play basketball! We are so proud of Sofia for her academic and athletic achievements.



9th Annual Anthony LaRezza Invitational Tournament

The IHA Softball Team once again hosted its annual Anthony LaRezza Invitational Tournament on April 13, 2025. In total this past season, the team raised over \$19,000 in honor of the late IHA coach Anthony LaRezza, who passed away due to cancer. Over the last ten years, IHA Softball has raised over \$100,000 to support Tackle Kids Cancer and Hackensack Meridian Health Children's Cancer Institute, funding critical research and innovative patient



care programs. We are so proud of the IHA Softball Team's commitment to honoring Coach LaRezza! According to Rylee Smith '25, "We feel this event is so important because it honors the memory of a beloved coach, brings the IHA community together in support of a noble cause, and raises awareness and funding for the fight against childhood cancer."

Raising Awareness About Hunger

Clare Wenzke '26 is raising awareness and support for those facing hunger in the local community by developing the Fill, Feed, Feel (F.F.F.) Pantry Project. As part of her efforts, Clare worked with St. Anthony's Parish and School to collect cans of food for the Parish's food pantry. In just over one week, she was able to collect over 1,000 canned goods to help those in need. According to Clare, "I began this project as a way to bring awareness to the support needed by those facing hardship. I wanted to draw attention to the issue of hunger and provide a convenient way for people to help during the Easter season. This is so important to me because I want to make sure that all people are given adequate access to food and the things they need to survive." Clare hopes to complete this drive again next year and then pass it on to her younger sister, Grace Wenzke '28. We are so proud of Clare and her dedication to her very own F.F.F. Pantry Project!



IHA Named Best Private School

Immaculate Heart Academy is proud to have won the Best of Bergen 2025 Readers' Poll in the category: Best Private School (K-12). IHA received this award at the 19th annual Best of Bergen Gala hosted by *(201) magazine* on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at the Marriott in Teaneck, New Jersey.

According to *(201)*, the Best of Bergen awards began with the Bergen County community voting and nominating its favorite organizations and companies in more than 140 categories. The top seven nominations in each category then moved on to round two, with voters allowed to cast one vote per category.



Immaculate Heart Academy is honored to be named the top choice for Private Schools in Bergen County, as we continue our mission of empowering our impressive young women and challenging them to develop their God-given talents for a future filled with endless possibilities and positive contributions to society.

Thank you to the entire IHA community for your support in helping us to achieve this award from *(201) magazine*.



New IHA Records in Track and Field

The IHA Winter and Spring Track Teams racked up some impressive wins this season and, in the process, broke several school records! Check out the Sports Report section of this newsletter for all the details.

A special congratulations to Zoey Orlando '28, who is the National Champion in the 100 meters! In June, she competed at the New Balance Nationals Outdoors meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and won the Freshman Girls 100 Meters National Title in 11.89. Her time of 11.88 in the preliminary heat is a new school record and the second fastest time in Bergen County history! Zoey also recently posted a freshman class record in the outdoor 200m, running it in 24.73.



13th Annual Autism Awareness Day

The IHA Lacrosse Team hosted its annual playing for a cause day in support of autism awareness on April 8, 2025. The team raised nearly \$1,000 at the event with all proceeds benefiting the Epic School — A non-profit school in Paramus for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The annual day sponsored by IHA Lacrosse was started in 2013 by Samantha Marmo '15 to honor her younger sister Madison. The day started out as a game of awareness and over the years grew into an inspiring fundraising event for the EPIC School, where Madison attended before she passed away in 2023. We are so proud of

IHA Lacrosse for continuing to spread autism awareness through this important day every year in Madison's honor.



Visit to Montclair State University

The St. Clare of Assisi Communications Schola visited Montclair State University on March 26, 2025. Students got an in depth tour of the School of Communication and Media and then participated in an upper level college class titled Multi Narrative TV Production. Thank you to schola moderator and Communications Department chairperson, Ms. Jessica Shaheen, for coordinating this trip, and Melissa O'Sullivan, director of college counseling, for helping to chaperone.



Black Culture Club Field Trip

On March 19, 2025, the Black Culture Club (BCC) went on a field trip to the Staatsburgh State Historic Site. Historian, Zach Veith, gave students a one-hour lecture on Black families who built lives for themselves during the Gilded Age in the Staatsburgh area despite efforts to push them to the margins of society. Afterward, the students went on a tour of the 65-rooms and 14 bathrooms of

the Beaux-Arts mansion at this historic site. The mansion is set on 192 acres overlooking the Hudson River. The weather was perfect for the BCC's first outing and everyone really enjoyed the day! Thank you to Dr. Sue Kenney, social studies teacher and moderator of the BCC for coordinating this trip, and Ms. Megan Olsen, social studies teacher, for helping to chaperone.



Military Awareness Club

The IHA Military Awareness Club continued its mission of helping educate, support, and honor the sacrifices of military personnel, veterans, and their families. On March 29, 2025, the club

volunteered at the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6192 in the Township of Washington. Our IHA students volunteered at the event by handing out

pamphlets, speaking at the ceremony, and giving out gifts to the war veterans. Thank you to all the students who participated at the event and Ms. Caitlin Bonanno, club moderator and social studies teacher.





"Miss VFW"

Maeve Dorfler '27, president of IHA's Military Awareness Club, was invited to be "Miss VFW" at the Washington Township Memorial Day Parade. Maeve walked in the parade to help honor and remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. Pictured above is Maeve standing with Mr. Steve Kalish of VFW Post 6192 and Mr. Peter Calamari, mayor of Township of Washington.

Girl Scout Silver Award

Megan Rollauer '27 received her Girl Scout Silver Award during a ceremony at County College of Morris on May 7, 2025. As part of her project, "Valuables for Valley," Megan worked with the head of pediatric donations at Valley Hospital to understand what pediatric patients need most to feel comfortable during their treatment in order to bring them some hope and happiness during this difficult time in their lives. Megan then held a fundraiser and solicited donations from her local community and also created posters to spread awareness of her project throughout her hometown of Ho-Ho-Kus. As a result of her inspiring efforts, Megan was able to create and donate 25 care packages for sick children at Valley Hospital.



Girl Scout Gold Award

Kathleen Brancato '26 received her Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouts! For her project, Kathleen organized a car maintenance and safety workshop for teen girls to help break the stigma of the automotive industry as a male-dominated



field. With over 50 girls in attendance, the event featured hands-on sessions led by NJM Insurance, Liberty Subaru, and the Washington Township Police Department. Kathleen helped equip participants with crucial skills to feel confident and empowered behind the wheel.



USA Fencing Championship

Since taking up fencing in 2019, Lyra Duta '28 has shown dedication and growth in the sport. At the 2025 USA Fencing National Championships and July Challenge, she earned a commendable third-place finish in Division III Women's Sabre while representing Cobra Fencing Club. In a memorable moment that is a testament

to her perseverance and focus, Lyra staged an inspiring comeback during her match and overcame a 4-12 deficit to win 15-13, advancing her to the semifinal round. Congratulations Lyra on this impressive achievement!





IHA Softball Spring Training

The IHA Softball team headed to Orlando, Florida for spring training in March 2025. The students bonded as a team as they practiced during the day, attended Mass together, and then of course enjoyed some quality sister time in the evening. The trip was a great way for the team to prepare for this year's softball season. Thank you to Head Coach Diana Fasano '00 for coordinating the trip and to her assistant coaches Alison Bryan, Lisa Graff, and Jackie Forte for helping to chaperone.



Students Attend DECA International Conference



Six DECA students represented IHA at the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in April. Caitlyn Capizzi '25, Grace Guglielmetti '25, Ella Turnamian '25, Dylann Kammen '25, and Zoe DePhillips '26

earned their spot at the International Conference by achieving the highest level, Thrive Status, in the membership, promotional, and community service campaigns during the 2024-25 school year.

Additionally, Clare Wenzke '26 earned a coveted spot to compete in the Principles of Business Management role-play event at the International Conference after competing at the NJ State Career Development Conference in March in Atlantic City. This is a tremendous accomplishment for Clare as only the top competitors reach this stage of the competition.

With over 20,000 students from each state and multiple countries in attendance, this conference was an incredible opportunity for networking, growth, and global engagement. Outside of the competition and workshops, the students also had the chance to unwind with a fun-filled day at Disney World.



Congratulations also to our talented group of 39 students who competed in a variety of events at the Atlantic City conference, showcasing their skills in marketing, finance, management, and hospitality. Thank you to DECA chapter advisor and teacher, Mrs. Christine (Cabrera) Capizzi '89 P'25 for her support and guidance in preparing our students for these competitions.

Sophomore Dance



HA's first-ever sophomore dance was a blast for the Class of 2027! On the evening of March 21, 2025, students had a fabulous time dancing and enjoying delicious treats with their sisters. Thank you to the sophomore class moderator, Ms. Jessica Whelan '13, and all the volunteers who helped to make this night memorable for the Class of 2027.



Junior Prom

The Class of 2026 celebrated their junior prom together at the Hilton Pearl River on March 28, 2025.

Thank you to Ms. Ana Echeverría P '05, junior class moderator, faculty chaperones, junior class officers, and the IHA administration for planning this fun-filled event!



Senior Prom



The senior class of Immaculate Heart Academy celebrated their senior prom on the evening of May 2, 2025. Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator; the IHA administration; faculty chaperones; and the Park Ridge Marriott for making the beautiful evening a reality for our senior class!



End-of-the-Year Luncheon and Retirement Celebration

HA faculty and staff ended the school year with a special reception at Seasons on June 12, 2025.

We were thrilled to recognize faculty members celebrating milestone work anniversaries, in addition to two outstanding retirees: Mrs. Alice Rogers P'07, '09, '13, assistant principal of students and moderator of the Student Council; and Mrs. Berta Roldan P'14, IHA Spanish teacher and moderator of the Spanish Club. We send our heartfelt well wishes to Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Roldan for their time, love, and dedication to Immaculate Heart Academy!

We also wish to congratulate and send our deepest appreciation to the following faculty and staff who celebrated milestone work anniversaries:

35 year anniversary

Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, director of the arts

25 year anniversary

Ms. Darla Addabbo P'07, '07, science teacher

Mr. Andy Caudilla, mathematics teacher

Mrs. Kelly (Oberle) Tweed '93, assistant director of admissions

20 year anniversary

Mrs. Beth (Mueller) Szydluk '84 P'13, '18, theology teacher

10 year anniversary

Ms. Brenda Meyer P'09, comptroller

Ms. Jessica Shaheen, chairperson of the Communications Department





With 13 years of dedication to Immaculate Heart Academy and more than three decades working in the Archdiocese of Newark, we said goodbye to Mrs. Alice Rogers. In order to pay tribute for her dedication to the school, Mr. Jason Schlereth P'27, '28 reflected on her role as assistant principal of students, "We will all miss her deep sense of love for IHA, as well as her sense of humor and calming presence. But what we will carry with us most, is the legacy that Alice leaves behind — the values, the kindness, and her passion for the best interests of our students that have defined her time here."

With 22 years of dedication to IHA, we also said goodbye to Mrs. Berta Roldan. During her tribute, friend and colleague Mrs. Beth Szydluk reminded everyone of Mrs. Roldan's service to the school, not just in the classroom as a Spanish teacher, but on midnight runs, Europe trips, and countless proms, "I have continually been inspired by your dedication to your craft. You have looked for new ways to engage your students and expand their worldview, while infusing joy in the process! You are an exceptional teacher with a love for your subject matter and world culture: always offering compassion and respect, along with honesty, and challenging students where they need to be challenged so that they are encouraged to grow as students but also as women of integrity, compassion, and faith. These are the same standards to which you always hold yourself, and standards which you have always surpassed!"

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



Class of 2025 BBQ

On May 15, 2025, IHA seniors attended graduation practice and then enjoyed the beloved IHA Senior BBQ with their fellow sisters.

Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator, for making this a memorable day for our seniors.



Senior Talent Show



The Class of 2025 put on an entertaining talent show on the evening of Friday, February 7. Audience members enjoyed amazing performances by students from all grade levels, and the senior class savored one of the many cherished times they could share together as a class at Immaculate Heart Academy.

Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator; the senior class officers; IHA administration; and emcees, Anne Marie Kelly '25 and Isabelle Bertussi '25, for hosting the show!

A special shout out to all of our spectacular performers, including Zoe DePhillips '26, Erin Sullivan '26, Meredith Solimando '27, Victoria DeVirgilio '25, Gianna Modica '25, Zoe Giacomini '25, Gabrielle Rivera '26, Alessandra Nazor '25, Paige Coughlin '25, Maggie Polchin '25, Keira DeMicco



'25, Rachel Paton '25, Grace Coster '25, Katherine Odierno '25, Leah Finley '25, Brooke Rodriguez '25, Emma Neyland '25, Riley Ng-Knepper '25, Joslyn Lessieu '26, Ashlee Hart '28, Carolina Guardascione '27, Morgan Connell '26, Victoria Rizzotti '28, Kathleen Sciabica '25, Dylann Kammen '25, Lila Manuelian '25, Elizabeth Macejka '25, Lauren DeLuccia '25, Jillian Gaglioti '25, Victoria Niziol '25, Avery Connors '25, Veronica Costello '25, Chloe Kadien '25, Megan McCarthy '25, and Tara McCarthy '26.





Senior Send-Off

On May 9, 2025, Immaculate Heart Academy celebrated the Class of 2025 with its annual Senior Send-Off. The day began with a prayer service and breakfast for the seniors, followed by a locker break dance party and an ice cream truck at lunchtime. The seniors then processed through the hallways at the end of the day so fellow students, teachers, and faculty could clap out the Class of 2025 and share this emotional and memorable tradition with these amazing seniors.





Women of Valor

As part of our celebration of Women's History Month in March 2025, Immaculate Heart Academy recognized a group of impressive students in a lobby display entitled "Women of Valor Among Us: IHA Women Making History Today."

IHA celebrated 13 students who continuously use their unique gifts and talents to make history during their time at The Heart. Each featured student was displayed on a poster highlighting their special characteristics and achievements.



These young women were honored throughout the month of March and were celebrated at a special reception with their families on March 13, 2025.

Thank you to each of these students who continue to strengthen their Catholic values and grow into empowered, confident young women prepared to embrace the world beyond Immaculate Heart.

Women of Valor Among Us: IHA Women Making History Today

We Love to See Women Who...

Raise the Bar for Character in Our Community – Emma McElroy '25



Take Leadership to a New Level – Anne Marie Kelly '25



Make Their Home at The Heart, Then Make The Heart a Better Home – Samantha Sundlin '26



Make Excellence a Way of Life – Piper Portacio '25



Dream Up Solutions Through Service –
Etain Moore '26



Pioneer a Culture of Blue Eagle Pride –
Erin Sullivan '26



Confidently Command the Stage –
Katherine Ryan '25



Face Challenges With Grit –
Meghan Long '26



Are Bold Enough to Seek the Truth –
Gabriella Tarinelli '27



Make Friendship an Art Form –
Carla Tobin '25



Make Kindness and Inclusivity Their
Highest Priority –
Malia Hamilton '27



Build the Community They Wish They Had –
Mia Severino '26



Are Committed to Sharing Their Passions –
Riley Cannon '26



International Women's Day and IHA's Day of Giving



IHA was proud to honor and recognize the many women who make up IHA's unmatched sisterhood as we celebrated both International Women's Day and our Day of Giving on March 10, 2025.

The morning started with an inspiring assembly for students and staff as Anne Marie Kelly '25, STUCO president, began with a message to her fellow sisters about how they are all making positive contributions to society.



The IHA community was thrilled to also welcome back alumna Wendy Plaut '94 on this uplifting day to speak to the student body about the importance of empowering women. Wendy, who is currently senior vice president of Music & Celebrity Talent for Paramount Media Networks and MTV Entertainment Studios, stayed after the assembly to talk with students at a breakfast provided by the IHA administration, office of Advancement, and Parents' Club.



Later in the afternoon of International Women's Day, IHA also hosted our annual Day of Giving Phone-a-Thon. We are incredibly appreciative of all our student callers who did such an impressive job calling the IHA community. We are also grateful for our generous alumnae, current families, parents of alumnae, faculty, staff, board members, and friends who donated to support our amazing students.





SCENE | Around IHA

Wellness at The Heart



The IHA Guidance Department continued its ongoing commitment to support the mental health of our students. Through its Wellness Wednesday program and other activities, students learned about the importance of self-care and ways the entire IHA community could foster our Stigma-Free philosophy as it relates to mental health. Monthly activities included creating liquid glitter jars as a powerful tool for managing anxiety and creating yogurt parfaits to take a mindful break during the day and enjoy something nutritious.



Students also painted Serenity Stones at lunchtime as the stones are believed to promote calmness, peace, and emotional balance, offering a sense of well-being and tranquility. Once a month, therapy dogs also visited IHA to help give students time to ease stress and uplift their mood. Additionally, various mindful activities were planned for students each day during the month of May in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. Thank you to the entire IHA Guidance Department for all of these efforts to help support our students.





College Week at IHA

The IHA College Counseling Department is dedicated to ensuring our students have all the information they need to make the important decision on which college to attend after graduating from IHA. In April 2025, the department kicked off its annual College Week with a presentation for business majors and how those majors can lead to a variety of career opportunities by Mr. Kevin O'Sullivan and Dean Rosemary Rubbo of Iona University. All students were

then treated to a mini college fair of various Jesuit institutions during the school day and then a full college fair at night with more than 50 schools from across the nation. Junior students were also able to sign up for mock interviews to help prepare them for this important part of the admissions process. Later in the week, the College Counseling Department and Mrs. Amy Baskin, assistant principal of academics, took several students on a tour of Providence College, Stonehill College, and Bentley University; they also visited Boston College where they met up with IHA alumna, Emily Magee '24! The week concluded with a panel of current seniors who shared real life scenarios and advice about what they went through during the college application process. Thank you to Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, director of College Counseling, Mrs. Corinne Fritzky, college counselor, and Mrs. Alison Anderson, Guidance and College Counseling secretary, for putting this important week together for students and their parents.

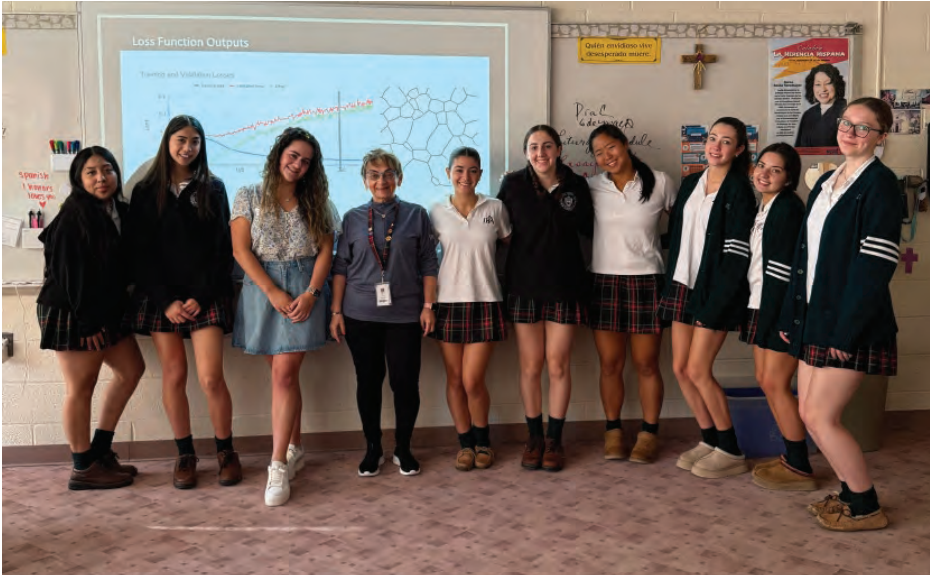


Movie Night for Cancer

The IHA Chick-fil-A Leader Academy hosted a movie night on April 11, 2025, in the PAC. Students and guests were treated to the movie *Legally Blonde* while also supporting a worthy cause! Viewers were asked to bring a donation of blankets, coloring books, peppermint tea, sour candy, fuzzy socks, ginger mints,

and chapstick for patients battling cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Thank you to Ms. Caitlin Bonanno, teacher and club moderator, as well as all the students who helped coordinate this inspiring event. Donations and money raised at movie night were used to assemble 50 care packages that were delivered to Memorial Sloan Kettering.





Alumna Visit

IHA recently welcomed back Lauren Grae '23 to discuss the significance of research she is conducting at Columbia University. Lauren visited our Spanish IV Honors Art History class and spoke about the use of Artificial Intelligence to analyze

and generate art in Impressionist, Fauvist, and Cubist styles. Lauren is working on achieving a B.S. in materials science and engineering, and a B.A. in visual arts and art history from Columbia University. Thank you to world language teacher, Ms. Ana Echeverría, for coordinating this informative presentation for our students!

Endangered Species Day

In celebration of Endangered Species Day 2025, AP Biology students put their creativity to work and highlighted a threatened or endangered species through chalk art. Through this project, the students were able to celebrate the beauty of their chosen species and 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.



Engineering Projects

As part of their Engineering Design 2 class, students designed and built a creative project called an automata, which is a mechanical system that automates the motion of objects. The students designed the automatas as a toy for children aged 5-12 years old. Part of the project included designing and 3D printing a cam to transform rotary motion into linear motion. Separately, students in their Engineering Design 1 class designed and created beautiful keepsake boxes using 3D printers. One of the students even designed a box to hold treats for her dog, Kincaid! Thank you to Mrs. Theresa Dolan '95 for these fun & engaging class projects.



Future Doctors of America

The Hillsdale Ambulance Corps visited IHA at the end of the school year to speak with the Future Doctors of America Club. Two highly-skilled Emergency Medical Technicians spoke with students and showed them several aspects of their job as well as the inner workings of an ambulance. Thank you to Lauren Mulry '25, who volunteers for the Hillsdale Ambulance Corp, for coordinating this informative event with Dr. Sue Kenney, social studies teacher and moderator of the Future Doctors of America Club.



Driver Education Award

The 2025 AAA Northeast Driver Education Student of the Year award was given to Arianna George '27 for dedication and leadership in promoting road safety as a student in driver education and as a member of IHA's Traffic Safety Squad. The recognition was presented to Arianna by Mr. John Downey and Ms. Lia Kunnapas '09, teachers and moderators of the Traffic Safety Squad. Congratulations Arianna on this well-deserved award!



Sisterhood Sneak Peak

Immaculate Heart Academy welcomed members of the Class of 2030 to our first-ever Sisterhood Sneak Peak. Meghan Long '26 started the day off with some advice for our 7th grade visitors. Students were then split into groups where they learned about the incredible sisterhood at IHA from Emma McElroy '25, and our inspiring service and Campus Ministry activities from Isabelle Bertussi '25. The day would not be complete without a special cookie at locker break, followed by classes in the art room, TV studio, gymnasium, and Performing Arts Center. The 7th graders were then treated to lunch at the end of the day. We are so excited to welcome the next generation of Blue Eagles to Immaculate Heart in 2030. Thank you to Ms. Lauren Rhein

'09, director of admissions, and Mrs. Kelly Tweed '93, assistant director of admissions, and all of our student and faculty volunteers for this fun-filled day at IHA!



Yearbook Signing

Members of the Class of 2025 enjoyed the annual tradition of signing each other's yearbooks before graduation day. The students returned to school to enjoy pizza and some quality time reminiscing about all of their incredible memories. Thank you to the *Halcyon* Yearbook committee and Mrs. Jeannine Woolley P'20, moderator and director of studies, for all their hard work putting this yearbook together!



Parent Volunteer Reception

Immaculate Heart Academy expressed our heartfelt appreciation to our wonderful parent volunteers at a reception on May 28, 2025.

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, Stacy DeMicco P'21, '24, '25, president; Aneta

Szczepanek Burczon P'25, hospitality chair; and Rachel Del Bosco P'25.

We are so appreciative of all the members of our Parents' Club board, including Daniela Nizza P'23, '28, vice president; Christina Guirland P'26, secretary; 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!

Stock Market Game

IHA's St. Zelig Martin Business Schola participated in a simulated five-year stock market challenge, with each student starting with \$100,000 to invest in stocks, mutual funds, and bonds. Congratulations to the top three students who more than doubled their investments! Thank you to Mrs. Christine Capizzi '89 P'25, teacher and academic coordinator for the St. Zelig schola, for supervising this challenge.

Malia Hamilton '27 – \$229,241



Madelyn Hryniw '26 – \$217,031



Anjeelee Marte '27 – \$209,889





Living Stations of the Cross

Before students left for Easter Break, IHA Campus Ministry and members of the Christian Service Board put together an inspiring Living Stations of the Cross ceremony for staff and students. This touching ceremony served as a perfect reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us and strengthened our Faith in his unending love and mercy. A special thank you to Ms. Emily Ash '19, director of Campus Ministry, Isabelle Bertussi '25, and Keira DeMicco '25 for coordinating this ceremony; and to the IHA Praise Choir and Emma McElroy '25, Rylee Smith '25, Marcelle Seckin '25, Megan McCarthy '25, Amelia Meade '25, Lana Langevin '25, Grace Guglielmetti '25, and Kathleen Reck '25 for their beautiful performance and narration.



Latest Edition of ORB Literary Magazine

Congratulations to the writers, artists, and staff members of IHA's 2025 *ORB* Literary Magazine on a job well done! We are so incredibly proud of all your hard work putting together another inspiring collection of student writing, artwork, and photography. A special thank you goes out to moderator and teacher, Mrs. Donna Sandt P'20, '23, '24. Pictured left are some of the *ORB* editors and staff members at a release party in May 2025 for the new magazine.

Matilda the Musical

On the weekend of April 4-6, 2025, Immaculate Heart Academy proudly presented the stage adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's novel, *Matilda*.

Congratulations to all the students involved in this spectacular production. Your artistic abilities, both on stage and behind the scenes, are truly remarkable. IHA is so fortunate that you continue to share your God-given gifts with our community.

A special thank you to IHA's coordinator for the performing arts and artistic director, Ms. Elizabeth Scully '15; the rest of the production team and stage crew; parent, student, and staff volunteers; faculty moderators; and the IHA administration.

The Cast of *Matilda the Musical*:

Matilda Wormwood —
Tara McCarthy '26

Miss Agatha Trunchbull —
Mia Severino '26

Miss Honey — Katherine Ryan '25

Mr. Wormwood —
Nicholas Pantano (SJR '25)

Mrs. Wormwood —
Lily Yezdanian '27

Michael Wormwood/Children's Entertainer —
Owen Baskin (PHHS '28)

Mrs. Phelps — Megan McCarthy '25



Bruce — Lara Piccitto '27

Lavender — Kaitlyn Higgins '28

Amanda — Leila Holland '26

Nigel — Jenna Circelli '27

Alice — Alicia Eldridge '28

Erica — Kianna Sadati '28

Hortensia — Kaylie O'Connell '27

Tommy — Elliott Daniels '26

Scary Big Kid — Olivia Pantano '25

The Escapologist — Aidan Fox (SJR '27)

The Acrobat/Doctor — Luisa Vogel '27

Rudolpho — Ryan Ayala-Toro (SJR '26)

Sergei — Brooke Rodriguez '25

Cook — Catalina Maglicic '26





Teen Ensemble — Lillian Hasenfus '27,
Madison Les '26, Olivia Pantano '25,
Emilia Reilly '28, Stella Tineo '28,
Shoshana Thompson '25, Sophia Thompson
'28, Ryan Ayala-Toro (SJR '26)

Parent Ensemble — Gianna Ippolito '27,
Lola Rose Projahn '25, Melina Rambadt '28,
Brooke Rodriguez '25, Julianna Valenti '28

Ensemble — Jillian Griglio '28, Grace
Higgins '28, Gianna Kokotas '28, Siobhan
Murphy '28



Sophomore Spirit Day



The Class of 2027 celebrated IHA's annual Sophomore Spirit Day on May 21, 2025. The day began with prayer and sisterhood bonding activities, as the sophomores enjoyed everything from Jeopardy and a Hula-Hoop contest to an inflatable obstacle course and tug of war. The Class of 2027 showed their resounding school spirit throughout the 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 Ms. Jessica Whelan '13, English teacher and sophomore class moderator, and the dedicated class officers for planning this fun-filled day.



Hearts in Harmony Cabaret

HA's International Thespian Honor Society (ITS) hosted Hearts in Harmony Cabaret on February 11, 2025. Students from St. Joseph Regional High School and Pascack Hills High School joined ITS.

Congratulations to the cast and crew for this amazing performance! Thank you to Ms. Elizabeth Scully '15, artistic director and ITS moderator for coordinating this event; and to Gonzalo Valencia Pena, music director, for accompanying our students on piano.



Children's Theatre Performance

HA's Performing Arts Department was pleased to produce and perform Rainbow Fish as this year's Children's Theatre show for area elementary school students on May 12, 2025. The beautiful performance showed the children that it's better to be admired for being kind than for being beautiful.

Members of the Theatre Arts class and their teacher, Mrs. Maureen Layng, produced and directed this special performance for our grammar school friends from Academy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Visitation Academy, St. Margaret of Antioch, Academy of Saint Paul, and Our Lady of Mercy Academy.

After the show, IHA students signed autographs for the children. Thank you to all the students and teachers for joining us. We loved sharing our performance with you!

Cast

Rainbow Fish – Katherine Ryan '25
Little Fish – Samantha Vaz '27
Starfish – Kaylie O'Connell '27
Ms. Minnow/Pufferfish – Jenna Circelli '27
Octopus/Hermit Crab – Olivia Daniel '27
Sardine – Delilah Leichtnam '27
Clownfish – Anais Esdailes '27

Crew

Sound: Elizabeth Cetina '27 and Lucia Willi '28
Lighting: Abigail Garofalow '27 and Genesis Dagdayan '27
Backstage: Tara McCarthy '26
Set Design: Mrs. Maureen Layng, Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P'14, Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, and the IHA Design Class



Spring Arts Festival

The IHA Arts Department proudly presented this year's Spring Arts Festival on May 7, 2025. 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, 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 P'29, 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; the Voices Choral Ensemble and the Immaculate Harmonies, led by Ms. Olivia Lionetti; and several solos by the Class of 2025.

At this year's IHA Spring Arts Festival, Bridget Dooley '26 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 Bridget 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!



National Honor Society Awards

IHA's National Honor Society presents awards to students representing the four pillars of the society: scholarship, character, leadership, and service. For the third quarter of the 2024-25 academic year, congratulations are extended to the following seniors:

Scholarship: Caitlin Donovan

Caitlin is the embodiment of an Immaculate Heart Academy scholar. She has shown a great deal of dedication and commitment to her academics, as seen through her membership in the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Math League. Caitlin is also an Eagle Ambassador at IHA, a member of the Christian Service Board and Go Green Club, and played on the Freshman Soccer Team. Caitlin's passion for learning shines through the IHA community and she is a role model to her fellow classmates.

Service: Victoria DelJuidice

Victoria is dedicated to compassionately helping those around her. She is always looking for solutions and ways to best tackle the situation at hand. Her role as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is a testament to her dedication to serving others in times of need. Additionally, her participation in the Future Doctors of America Club, Model UN Club, Mock Trial Club, and National Honor Society highlights Victoria's passion for making a meaningful impact on the world around her.



Left to right in group photo: Caitlin Donovan, Victoria DelJuidice, Madisyn Falto, and Julia Sobilo

Leadership: Madisyn Falto

Madisyn is a true leader at IHA as she shares her vibrant personality and warm smile throughout the school. Madisyn demonstrates outstanding leadership skills both in and out of the classroom. Her commitment to leading IHA is seen through her involvement as captain of the IHA Varsity Golf Team, editor of the ORB literary magazine, co-editor of the yearbook, peer mentor, and member of the National Honor Society. Madisyn is an inspiration to the IHA sisterhood.

Character: Julia Sobilo

Julia's bubbly personality makes everyone feel welcome. Her kindness shines through her dedication in the classroom as well as in her involvement in many activities. Whether she is cheering on sports teams through Eagles Nest, competing on the Varsity Volleyball and Track Teams, or participating in Polish Club and Ping Pong Club, Julia embodies school spirit and inclusivity. She is always ready to brighten your day, share a joke, and spread positivity.

The Arts Induction Ceremony

Immaculate Heart Academy was proud to recognize the artistic and musical talents of our exceptional students at an induction ceremony held on March 19, 2025, for the newest members of the National Art Honor Society, International Thespian Society, and the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

At the induction ceremony, students were addressed by Miss Kerry Carroll '04, principal of Immaculate Heart Academy, and Mrs. Amy Baskin, assistant principal of academics. The following executive board officers from all three honor societies then addressed the audience before the new members were inducted: Keira DeMicco '25 and Jillian Gaglioti '25, co-presidents of the National Art



National Art Honor Society Executive Board

Honor Society; Megan McCarthy '25 and Katherine Ryan '25, co-presidents of the International Thespian Society; and Brooke Rodriguez '25 and Shoshana Thompson '25, co-presidents of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Thank you to moderators, Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, director of the arts; Ms. Elizabeth Sculy '15, coordinator of the performing arts; and Ms. Olivia Lionetti, choral director for coordinating this special event for our students.

Congratulations to all of our inductees listed below:

New National Art Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Madison Frassetto
Angely Medina
Anabel Seeley

Grade 11

Laila Albardak
Sophia Bertino
Emma Bossbaly
Riley Cannon
Miranda Dougherty

Kenda El Feshawi
Christina Festa
Angela Giuliano
Izabella Hoxholli
Madelyn Hryniw
Samantha Kerrigan
Sophia Kuzma
Meghan Long
Riley Nightingale
Mary Quinn
Lily Rickli
Erin Sullivan
Ella Vrtis
Sophia Wilson

Grade 10

Peyton Connors
Ava Evans-Munoz
Angelica Ferreira
Sophia Freire Lafuente
Reese Lauricella
Anne Maciejewski
Riley Marino
Grace McLoughlin
Ava Schulman
Giada Scialpi
Giulianna Scialpi
Jamie Stead
Vivienne Ujhely
Luisa Vogel



National Art Honor Society Inductees



Tri-M Music Honor Society Executive Board

New Tri-M Music Honor Society Members

Grade 11

Gianna Polino

Grade 10

Rachel Mathew
Arianna George
Shelby Quiles
Samantha Vaz
Madeline Schlereth
Gianna Valente



Tri-M Music Honor Society Inductees

New International Thespian Society Members

Grade 12

Brenna Auguste
Nell Burczon
Avery Connors
Angely Medina
Lola Rose Projahn

Grade 11

Eva Bayersdorfer
Clara Byrnes
Morgan Connell
Catalina Maglicic
Gianna Sidoti
Sophia Sigrist

Grade 10

Genesis Dagdayan
Carolina Guardascione
Gianna Ippolito
Clare McCarthy
Kaylie O'Connell
Samantha Vaz
Luisa Vogel
Lily Yezdanian

Grade 9

Alicia Eldridge
Grace Higgins
Kaitlyn Higgins
Gianna Kokotas
Gia Murphy
Stella Tineo



International Thespian Society Executive Board



International Thespian Society Inductees

Quarter Three 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 2024-25 academic year:

FRESHMEN

Savannah Callea
Lyra Duta
Katie Eckes
Alicia Eldridge
Isabella Fusaro
Caroline Geisler
Autumn Giglio
Mia Goldfarb
Marla Haddad
Margaret Hahn
Paige Hesler
Kaitlyn Higgins
Natalie Joung
Colette Karg
Ashley Kim
Olivia Kim
Giada Laiolo
Marly Larkin
Brooke Lefever
Alyssa Lo
Antonella Malone
Audrey Mattessich
Taylor McGuire
Riley Mitchell
Katherine Montesano
Lyla Murphy
Madilyn Olenick
Robyn Francesca Paras
Pavni Patel
Addison Porod
Juliana Rambadt
Emilia Reilly
Victoria Rizzotti
Vivian Sango
Emily Schlereth
Mia Tirabassi
Althea Villareal
Amara Villareal
Quinn Villaruel

SOPHOMORES

Kristina Ahn
Elysia Chae
Lily Chap
Juliet Fisher
Abigail Gulczynski
Ellie Higgins
Riley Marino
Clare McCarthy
Anna Marie Pascale
Lucie Schell
Madeline Schlereth
Juliet Sok
Meredith Solimando
Gabriella Tarinelli
Abigail Twomey
Katarina Van Tassel
Samantha Vaz
Ania Winger

JUNIORS

Daniela Ayala
Kathleen Brancato
Alliana Campana
Riley Cannon
Gabriella DellaVolpe
Christina Festa
Alana Flores
Ashlyn Gillespie
Angela Giuliano
Paige Haemmerle
Kathleen Hahn
Jaylene Hernandez
Sophia Kuzma
Madison Les
Danica Libanan
Meghan Long
Catalina Maglicic
Katelyn Negrete
Isabella Ragone
Gabrielle Rivera
Clare Wenzke

SENIORS

Ileana Asencio
Madison Assanah
Elizabeth Burgess
Paige Burgess
Allison Egan
Leah Finley
Madeline Garbett
Dylann Kammen
Lana Langevin
Emma McElroy
Alessandra Nazor
Olivia Nini
Victoria Niziol
Rachel Paton
Piper Portacio
Kathleen Reck
Brooke Rodriguez
Marcelle Seckin

Quarter Four 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 2024-25 academic year:

FRESHMEN

Savannah Callea
Emma Arevalo
Lyra Duta
Katie Eckes
Alicia Eldridge
Isabella Fusaro
Caroline Geisler
Autumn Giglio
Mia Goldfarb
Marla Haddad
Margaret Hahn
Kaitlyn Higgins
Alexandria Cococcia
Natalie Joung
Colette Karg
Ashley Kim
Olivia Kim
Giada Laiolo
Mia Fanelli
Marly Larkin
Alyssa Lo
Antonella Malone
Sabrina Freda
Taylor McGuire
Riley Mitchell
Katherine Montesano
Lyla Murphy
Madilyn Olenick
Robyn Francesca Paras
Pavni Patel
Addison Porod
Juliana Rambadt
Emilia Reilly
Victoria Rizzotti
Vivian Sango
Emily Schlereth
Mia Tirabassi
Althea Villareal
Amara Villareal
Quinn Villaruel
Kristen Lee
Mia McNeil
Siobhan Murphy

SOPHOMORES

Livia Bevec
Elizabeth Cetina
Jenna Circelli
Zaria Degenhardt
Harper Eddy
Madeline Edelson
Sophia Freire Lafuente
Carolina Guardascione
Gina Ha
Cayleigh Heffernan
Alexandra Jacobsen
Kristina Ahn
Elysia Chae
Lily Chap
Juliet Fisher
Ellie Higgins
Riley Marino
Clare McCarthy
Anna Marie Pascale
Lucie Schell
Madeline Schlereth
Juliet Sok
Meredith Solimando
Gabriella Tarinelli
Abigail Twomey
Katarina Van Tassel
Samantha Vaz
Ania Winger
Gabriella Morillo
Madison Nese
Riley Piscitelli
Vivienne Ujhely

JUNIORS

Elliott Daniels
Sofia Ghomi
Giara Gonzalez
Madelyn Hryniw
Samantha Kerrigan
Ella Matts
Tara McCarthy
Daniela Ayala
Roisin McLaughlin
Kathleen Brancato
Alliana Campana
Anne Moore
Etain Moore
Riley Cannon
Gabriella DellaVolpe
Christina Festa

Alana Flores
Ashlyn Gillespie
Angela Giuliano
Paige Haemmerle
Kathleen Hahn
Jaylene Hernandez
Sophia Kuzma
Madison Les
Danica Libanan
Mary Quinn
Meghan Long
Catalina Maglicic
Katelyn Negrete
Isabella Ragone
Adrianna Rispoli
Gabrielle Rivera
Clare Wenzke
Jaylene Rondon
Mikayla Sticco
Victoria Zalewski

SENIORS

Isabelle Bertussi
Lauren DeLuccia
Caitlin Donovan
Madisyn Falto
Zoe Giacomini
Alexa Harding
Hailey McGrath
Katelyn Mikros
Katherine Odierno
Ileana Asencio
Madison Assanah
Elizabeth Burgess
Paige Burgess
Allison Egan
Leah Finley
Angelica Smith
Madeline Garbett
Dylann Kammen
Bergen Sollecito
Lana Langevin
Emma McElroy
Sierra Tofts
Alessandra Nazor
Olivia Nini
Victoria Niziol
Rachel Paton
Piper Portacio
Kathleen Reck
Brooke Rodriguez

Mu Alpha Theta and Science National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Inductees of Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society



Mathematics and science are just two of the numerous subjects in which students excel at IHA. To honor their hard work and dedication, the school hosted an induction ceremony on February 13, 2025, for the Science National Honor Society (SNHS) and Mu Alpha Theta, National Mathematics Honor Society.

At the induction assembly, students were addressed by Miss Kerry Carroll '04, principal of Immaculate Heart Academy, and Mrs. Amy Baskin, assistant principal of academics. Emma McElroy '25, president of Mu Alpha Theta; and Ileana Asencio '25 and Caitlin Donovan '25, co-presidents of SNHS, led the ceremony, which also included the installation of new executive board officers for both honor societies.

Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, mathematics department chairperson and moderator for Mu Alpha Theta; and Mrs. Angela Holuba Roberts '05 and Mrs. Lauren Tereshko, science

teachers and moderators of SNHS, for coordinating this special event.

IHA is proud of the achievements of the following 61 new inductees:

New Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Zoe Sarno

Grade 11

Riley Cannon
Elliott Daniels
Gabriella DellaVolpe
Christina Festa
Alana Flores
Ashlyn Gillespie
Jaylene Hernandez
Madelyn Hryniw
Ella Kovalcik
Madison Les
Danica Libanan
Meghan Long
Catalina Maglicic



Inductees of Science National Honor Society

Etain Moore
 Mary Quinn
 Isabella Ragone
 Adrianna Rispoli
 Gabrielle Rivera
 Grace Sciortino
 Olivia Valente
 Victoria Zalewski

New Science National Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Grace Guglielmetti
 Alexa Harding
 Riley Ng-Knepper
 Isabela Pereira

Grade 11

Daniela Ayala
 Emma Bossbaly
 Kathleen Brancato
 Veronica Brenner
 Alliana Campana
 Riley Cannon
 Elliott Daniels
 Gabriella DellaVolpe
 Isabella Duca
 Christina Festa
 Alana Flores
 Ashlyn Gillespie
 Angela Giuliano
 Samantha Grella
 Kathleen Hahn

Ella Kovalcik
 Madison Les
 Danica Libanan
 Meghan Long
 Catalina Maglicic
 Roisin McLaughlin
 Anne Moore
 Etain Moore
 Madeline Murphy
 Katelyn Negrete
 Gianna Polino
 Mary Quinn
 Isabella Ragone
 Aiva Reid
 Gabrielle Rivera
 Grace Sciortino
 Alexandra Sosa
 Kylie Sullivan
 Olivia Valente
 Victoria Zalewski



Induction Ceremony for World Languages Honor Societies



Inductees of Spanish Honor Society

On February 28, 2025, Immaculate Heart Academy recognized students for exceptional academic achievement in French, Italian, and Spanish. The school hosted a World Languages Induction Ceremony for the French Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society in the IHA gymnasium.

The induction began with a candlelit procession of the inductees and opening remarks by Miss Kerry Carroll '04, principal of IHA. The following executive board officers from all three honor societies then addressed the audience and inducted new members: Caroline Boufford '25, president, and Katelyn Mikros '25, secretary, of the French Honor Society; Lana Langevin '25, president, and Grace Guglielmetti '25, vice president, of the Italian Honor Society; and Gabrielle Rivera '26, president, and Estefania



Pogue '25, vice president, of the Spanish Honor Society.

Thank you to Mrs. Eileen Ingoglia, teacher and moderator of the French Honor Society; Mrs. Maria Daly-Valls, teacher and moderator of the Italian Honor Society; and Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, teacher and moderator of the Spanish Honor Society, for coordinating this special event.



Inductees of French Honor Society



Congratulations to the 32 inductees listed below on their well-deserved honor:

New French Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Katelyn Mikros
Alison Morris
Isabella Piccinich

New Italian Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Victoria DelJuidice
Zoe Giacomini
Grace Guglielmetti
Lana Langevin
Marina Scalcione
Lucyann Tappan
Ella Turnamian
Francesca Velardo



Inductees of Italian Honor Society

New Spanish Honor Society Members

Grade 11

Emma Bossbaly
Kathleen Brancato
Olivia Delgado
Jaylene Hernandez
Catalina Maglicic
Gabrielle Rivera

Grade 12

Ileana Asencio
Madison Assanah
Allison Egan
Grace Coster
Nicolina Elisano
Ariana Hernandez
Karina Linzan
Gianna Muliero
Lauren Mulry
Christina Napolitano
Riley Ng-Knepper
Olivia Pantano
Rachel Paton
Oliwia Piwowarski
Bergen Sollecito



Q3 and Q4 Soaring Eagle Awards



Quarter Three Recipients (standing left to right in group photo): Meredith Solimando '27 (Communications: Ms. Jessica Shaheen), Grace Higgins '28 (Social Studies: Ms. Megan Olsen), Chloe Velez '28 (Physical Education: Ms. Jen Bednarek), Olivia Pantano '25 (Science: Ms. Marnie McGuirk), Sarah Natal '25 (The Arts: Ms. Patrizia Tersigni), Michelle LaFace '27 (Theology: Mrs. Beth Szydluk '84), Zoe DePhillips '26 (English: Ms. Jessica Whelan '13), Jennifer Park '25 (World Languages: Ms. Ana Echeverría), Hadassah Vilsaint '27 (Mathematics: Miss Claire Burke)

The Soaring Eagle Program recognizes the distinctive accomplishments 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 9, 2025, and May 29, 2025.

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.





Quarter Four Recipients (standing left to right in group photo): Morgan Connell '26 (Communications: Mr. David Lee), Ashley Lopez '26 (Social Studies: Dr. Sue Kenney), Christina Festa '26 (Physical Education: Mr. John Downey), Brielle Burnett '27 (Science: Mrs. Helen DeMartini), Alexis Ramagnano '27 (The Arts: Ms. Patrizia Tersigni), Katherine Montesano '28 (Theology: Ms. Nicole Clermont) Leah Hooper '28 (English: Ms. Jessica Whelan '13), Vivienne Ujhely '27 (World Languages: Mrs. Eileen Ingoglia), Taylor McGuire '28 (Mathematics: Mrs. Cori Tucker)



SPRING | sports wrap-up





SOFTBALL

Immaculate Heart Academy finished the 2025 season with a 24-2 record, winning both the League and its fourth Bergen County Championship in four years, making Bergen County history. The team finished fifth in the state with its two losses occurring during the state championship programs. IHA's offense had 37 home runs on the season, with 14 triples and 37 doubles. The IHA pitching staff had a combined ERA of 1.67 and 10 shutouts. The team outscored their opponents by over 150 runs, 215- 57. Katelyn Mikros and Gianna Muliero both achieved 100 career hits this year. Gabriella Shadek broke NJ state history in home runs with 49. Additionally, Gabriella was named the fourth IHA softball player to earn the Gatorade Player of the Year honors. Also notable this year, the Softball Team raised \$19,000 for Tackle Kids Cancer in the name of the late Coach Anthony LaRezza. Over the last ten years, IHA Softball has raised more than \$100,000! Congratulations IHA softball, we are looking forward to another great season next year.



Big North United Conference/ All-League Honors

First-Team

Gabriella DellaVolpe '26
Leah English '27
Katelyn Mikros '25
Jennifer Park '25
Gabriella Shadek '25

Second-Team

Brielle Bakker '26
Breonna Guirland '26
Rylee Smith '25

Honorable Mention

Gianna Muliero '25
Sofia Valente '25

League Sportsmanship Award

IHA Softball Team

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Gabriella DellaVolpe '26
Leah English '27
Katelyn Mikros '25
Gabriella Shadek '25

Second-Team

Jennifer Park '25

NJ.com All-State- All-Groups Honors

First-Team

Gabriella Shadek '25

NJ.com All-State- Non-Public Honors

First-Team

Gabriella Shadek '25

Third-Team

Gabriella DellaVolpe '26
Leah English '27

NFCA All-Region Honors

First-Team

Gabriella Shadek '25

Second-Team

Leah English '27
Katelyn Mikros '25

NJ Senior All-Star Match - Super 36 Game

Katelyn Mikros, '25
Gabriella Shadek '25



LACROSSE

The 2025 IHA Varsity Lacrosse season was about more than what showed up on a scoreboard. It was about the grit, heart, and relentless effort the team brought every single day. Ranked third in Bergen County, IHA Lacrosse players did not just wear the IHA jersey — they honored it. The team played for each other, not for recognition, and that made their bond of sisterhood grow even stronger. We are incredibly proud of IHA Lacrosse for a season full of pride, toughness, and unforgettable moments! For its part, the JV Lacrosse Team also developed long-lasting friendships as the team supported and encouraged each other throughout

the season. The JV team was great on defense and played tough against some of the top teams in New Jersey. The team was led by a strong group of four sophomores who supported younger players to embrace the confusing zone defense process, complete the dreaded buddy sprints, learn the fun conditioning game of Log Tag, and embody the heart of IHA by never giving up on the field, no matter the score.



Big North Conference/ All-League Honors

First-Team

Madeline Lively '25
Olivia Valente '26

Second-Team

Emma Neyland '25
Riley Ng- Knepper '25
Juliette Kaye '28
Meryl Lawson '27

Honorable Mention

Kylie Bryan '26

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Madeline Lively '25
Olivia Valente '26

Second-Team

Riley Ng- Knepper '25
Juliette Kaye '28
Meryl Lawson '27

Third-Team

Emma Neyland '25
Katarina Van Tassel '27
Kylie Bryan '26

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Madeline Lively '25
Olivia Valente '26

Second-Team

Meryl Lawson '27
Juliette Kaye '28
Riley Ng- Knepper '25

Third-Team

Kylie Bryan '26
Emma Neyland '25
Katarina Van Tassel '27

NJ.com All-State-Non-Public Honors:

Second-Team

Madeline Lively '25

Third-Team

Olivia Valente '26





GOLF

The IHA Golf Team completed the 2025 season with an overall regular season record of 7-5. The team shot a low match score of 165 and averaged a score of 41.25 per golfer. The IHA Golf Team placed sixth at the Big North League Tournament, fifth at the Bergen County Tournament, and third at the State Tournament of Champions, non-public division. Congratulations to the entire IHA Golf team. We are excited for next season!



Big North Conference Central Division All-League Honors

First-Team

Alana Flores '26
Madisyn Falto '25

Second-Team

Isabella Del Bosco '25
Elysia Chae '27
Peyton Connors '27
Alexa Saracino '27

Honorable Mention

Madeline Saoud '27

BCWCA All-County Honors

Second-Team

Alana Flores '26

Honorable Mention

Madisyn Falto '25



SPRING TRACK

The 2025 Spring Track and Field Season was a historic one for the Blue Eagles as numerous championships were won and eight school records were set. Once again, for the fifth consecutive year, IHA took home the League, County Relay, and County Group Championships. The 4x100 Relay of Piper Portacio '25, Paige Burgess '25, Veronica Costello '25, and Zoey Orlando '28 ran 47.87, breaking the school record and recording the fourth fastest time in Bergen County history. Paige Burgess '25, Elizabeth Burgess '25, and Veronica Costello '25 set a new school record in the 3x400 meter hurdles. Piper, Veronica, and Paige teamed up with Elizabeth to also shatter the school record in the 4x400, posting the fifth fastest time in Bergen County history with a 3:53.05 to place seventh at the State Meet Of Champions. Layla Graddy '28 combined with Zoey, Veronica, and Piper to establish a new school mark and post the fourth fastest 4x200 in Bergen County history. Piper set the school record at 400 meters, and Zoey set new school records in the 100 and 200 meter dashes. Additionally, Piper and Zoey placed seventh and eighth in the 100 meters at the NJ State Meet of Champions. Senior Julia Soblo established a new school mark in the discus and placed fifth at the New Jersey State Meet of Champions. At the New Balance Nationals in June, Zoey Orlando won the National Title in the Freshman 100 meters, posting the second fastest time in Bergen County history in 11.88. Congratulations IHA Track on another successful season!



Big North Conference/ All-League Honors

First-Team

Piper Portacio '25
Antonella Malone '28
Abigail Silvera '28
Zoey Orlando '28
Mary Roberts '28
Layla Graddy '28
Evelyn Roman '25
Julia Sobilo '25
Joslyn Lessieu '26
Kayla Rodriguez '26

Second-Team

Veronica Brenner '26
Kaitlyn McCormick '27
Anna Kuchar '26
Sophia Bertino '26
Lauren Henneberry '27
Lilith Roman '26
Sierra Tofts '25
Katherine Montesano '28

Honorable Mention

Ella Heinimann '27

Coch Of The Year

Matt Joyce

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Piper Portacio '25
Zoey Orlando '28
Veronica Costello '25
Paige Burgess '25
Elizabeth Burgess '25
Julia Sobilo '25

Second-Team

Evelyn Roman '25

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Piper Portacio '25
Zoey Orlando '28
Paige Burgess '25
Veronica Costello '25
Julia Sobilo '25

Second-Team

Elizabeth Burgess '25

NJ.com All-State Non-Public Honors

First-Team

Julia Sobilo '25

Second-Team

Evelyn Roman '25

4x100 Relay

Piper Portacio '25
Paige Burgess '25
Veronica Costello '25
Zoey Orlando '28

Third-Team

Piper Portacio '25
Zoey Orlando '28
Paige Burgess '25
Elizabeth Burgess '25
Veronica Costello '25



Julia Sobilo (Bucknell University, Track & Field), **Evelyn Roman** (Binghamton University, Volleyball), **AvaGrace Zettler** (Roger Williams University, Swimming), **Kathleen Turano** (North Carolina State University, Swimming)

On May 29, 2025, four impressive IHA student-athletes officially signed to their universities. The athletes who signed their National Letter of Intent are seated left to right in group photo.

Congratulations! We are so proud of everything you have accomplished during your time at Immaculate Heart Academy.



WINTER | sports wrap-up





BASKETBALL

Entering the 2024-25 season with high expectations and challenged by arguably the toughest schedule in the state, the IHA Varsity Basketball Team proved worthy of all the hype. The girls were once again crowned League Champs in the Big North United Division, finishing undefeated (6-0) against Big North competition. Other highlights of the IHA Varsity Basketball team included two exciting wins over DePaul; impressive wins over Eastside, Ramapo, and Pingry; and a thrilling overtime win over Chatham. The team's season ended with a tough but thrilling overtime loss to Pope John in the state tournament. Congratulations to all of our players for another outstanding season!



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Sofia Valente '25
Samantha Grella '26
Gianna Modica '25
Lucie Schell '27

Second-Team

Olivia Valente '26
Addison Valdez '27
Casey McCauley '28
Nassiah Cole-Haricha '27

Honorable Mention:

Stella Broderick '27

BCWCA All-County Honors:

First-Team

Sofia Valente '25

Second-Team

Samantha Grella '26

Third-Team

Lucie Schell '27

Honorable Mention

Gianna Modica '25

North/South All Star Game

Sofia Valente '25

**Sofia Valente also joined the 1,000 points scored club.*





SWIMMING

The IHA Swim Team had another impressive season, finishing with a 9-1 record. The team captured its thirty-fourth consecutive League title and its twenty-sixth consecutive Bergen County title. In the NJSIAA State Tournament, the team defeated Pingry 92-78 to win the Non-Public North Sectional Title. The team finished #3 in the NJ.Com Top 20 ranking of New Jersey schools for the 2024-25 season. According to NJ.com, "... Immaculate Heart remains the gold standard in both the Big North Conference and Bergen County." Congratulations to all of our swimmers. We look forward to another successful season!

Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Alyssa Lo '28
Madeline Schlereth '27
Kathleen Brancato '26
AvaGrace Zettler '25
Kimberly Zhang '26
Harper Eddy '27
Stella Chan '28
Niamh Hall '27

Second-Team

Natalie Joung '28
Lily Filippazzo '26
Robyn Paras '28
Anna Zurlini '27
Kate Hujsa '26
Catalina Maglicic '26
Kate Dolan '26

Honorable Mention:

Catalina Maglicic '26



BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Madeline Schlereth '27
Kayla Rodriguez '25
Madison Assanah '25
Isabella Piccinich '25

Third-Team:

Kathleen Brancato '26
Isabella Piccinich '25
Emily Schlereth '28
AvaGrace Zettler '25
Madison Assanah '25
Mariana Builes '26

Honorable Mention:

Emily Schlereth '28
Madeline Schlereth '27
Mariana Builes '26
Emma Arevalo '28
Kayla Rodriguez '25
AvaGrace Zettler '25

NJ.com

Big North Conference

All-Conference Team

Kayla Rodriguez '25
Kathleen Turano '25
Madison Assanah '25



WINTER TRACK & FIELD

The IHA Winter Track and Field Team had another spectacular season, filled with new school records and championships. For the fifth consecutive season, the team won the League Championship and County Relay Championships. In addition, Piper Portacio '25 set school records in the 55, 60, 200, and 400 meter dashes. Zoey Orlando '28 set freshman school records in the 55, 60, and 200 meter dashes. The 4x200 relay of Piper Portacio '25, Paige Burgess '25, Veronica Costello '25, and Zoey Orlando '28 broke the school record in the 4x200 relay, posting the third fastest time in Bergen County history. Piper Portacio '25, Veronica Costello '25, Paige Burgess '25, and Elizabeth Burgess '25 broke the school record in the 4x400 relay, running the 6th fastest time in Bergen County history at the New Balance Nationals.



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Piper Portacio '25
 Marcelle Seckin '25
 Abigail Silvera '28
 Zoey Orlando '28
 Mary Roberts '28
 Sofia Barrera '27
 Nicole Petrie '26
 Addison Porod '28
 Julia Sobilo '25
 Evelyn Roman '25
 Sierra Tofts '25
 Mary Quinn '26

Second-Team

Kaitlyn McCormick '27
 Isabella Fungaroli '27
 Emily Wunsch '25
 Antonella Malone '28
 Kasey Tofts '27
 Zoe DePhillips '26
 Katelyn Mikros '25
 Joslyn Lessieu '26

Honorable Mention

Paige Burgess '25
 Veronica Costello '25

Coach of the Year

Matt Joyce



BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Piper Portacio '25

Second-Team:

Zoey Orlando '28

Third-Team 4x400 Relay

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

Bergen County Non-Public Team Of The Year

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Piper Portacio '25

All State All-Groups Second-Team

Piper Portacio '25

All State Non-Public Second-Team

Piper Portacio '25





BOWLING

Once again, the Varsity Bowling Team had an amazing season. Our record was 49-28, placing second in the League. This has been the best record for IHA Varsity Bowling in the past nine years. Additionally, the Bowling Team reached another milestone by placing sixth in the County Tournament before moving into the second round of the State Sectionals. With an awesome group of seniors and juniors, this team made an impact at the lanes and among the many teams we played during the season.



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Jaylene Hernandez '26

Second-Team

Meghan Long '26

Madison Hawryluk '26

Lilé Policastro '25

Honorable Mention

Madelyn Hryniw '26

BCWCA All-County Honors

Honorable Mention

Jaylene Hernandez '26

**Jaylene Hernandez '26 was also chosen to play in the Big North Singles Tournament with her average ranking in the top 32 in the Big North Conference.*





ICE HOCKEY

The Ice Hockey Team had another strong season, with an overall record of 11-3 and a 7-0 start. Our senior athletes did a great job not only contributing on the ice but did so off the ice as well encouraging their fellow teammates to finish a solid regular season with an impressive playoff run.

IHA Hockey started the state tournament with a dominant 9-2 win over Oak Knoll and then advanced to the semifinals with a nail-biting 1-0 victory over Trinity Hall. For the second year in a row, the team made it all the way to the state final game at the Prudential Center! Unfortunately, the big game ended with a tough loss against Princeton Day, but we are proud of the team's effort throughout the season and are looking forward to another year of IHA Ice Hockey.



All-League Honors

First-Team

Gabriella Shadek '25 and Carla Tobin '25

Second-Team

Gabriella Capano '25

Honorable Mention

Julia Foglia '25 and Madison Graves '28

NJ.com All-State Honors

Second-Team

Gabriella Capano '25

Honorable Mention

Gabriella Shadek '25 and Carla Tobin '25





SKI TEAM

The Ski Team carved out a strong and memorable season, laying the groundwork for a bright future. The team wrapped up the 2024-25 season in fifth place overall in the state for Non-Public New Jersey Girls Schools. At the heart of it all were our captains, Samantha Sundlin '26 & Shelby Quiles '26, who served as the anchors and mentors of the team. Their leadership, positivity, and example set the tone for a great season. Although the majority of the team was young, their determination, steady progress, and unwavering support of each other made this year something special.



From practices to race days filled with adrenaline and teamwork, every skier showed growth — not just as athletes, but as teammates. What truly defined this



season was the bond these Blue Eagles built. Whether celebrating a personal best or helping a teammate bounce back after a tough run, their support of each other was inspiring.

The team's commitment, sportsmanship, and passion for the sport were remarkable. We are eagerly looking forward to next season; winter can't come fast enough for this team!



DANCE

The IHA Dance Team experienced tremendous success in the 2024-25 season, competing both locally and nationally. Even with a very young squad, the Dance Team consistently placed in every Invitational they attended. The team saved the best for last by making it to the finals at the Dance Team Union Nationals in Orlando, Florida! A heartfelt congratulations to all of our talented dancers for an exceptional season.



Ramapo College Dance Team Invitational

Varsity Jazz 3rd place
Varsity Pom 6th place

DTU Regionals

Varsity Jazz 3rd place
Varsity Pom 1st place

Montclair State University Dance Team Invitational

Varsity Jazz 5th place
Varsity Pom 5th place

Hillsborough High School Dance Team Invitational

Varsity Jazz 5th place
Varsity Pom 4th place

Dance Team Union Nationals in Orlando, Florida

Varsity Jazz Semi-Finalists
Varsity Pom 9th place (out of 36)



IHA Beefsteak Dinner 2025



More than 400 guests attended Immaculate Heart Academy's annual Beefsteak Dinner on Saturday, April 12, 2025, to celebrate our outstanding athletics program. 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 sponsor, ACME Industrial/The Martucci Family; IHA administration; Beefsteak co-chairs, Stacy DeMicco P'21, '24, '25, Rachel Del Bosco P'25, and Daniela Nizza P'23, '28; Lia Kunnapas '09, sports basket coordinator; Beefsteak committee members and additional parent/faculty volunteers; Mr. Steve Ferro, director of athletics; Mrs. Sarah Frasure '07, director of advancement & alumnae relations; and Ms. Michele Verrone '88, P'21, '24, coordinator of special events.

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





IHA Students Visit Spain and France

By Arianna George '27 and Madeline Schlereth '27

After completing finals and kicking off summer vacation, 38 IHA students embarked on the annual IHA Europe Trip from June 18-27, taking an unforgettable journey to Spain and France. The trip, which we had looked forward to for a whole year, proved to be everything that we could have hoped for and more! Our journey was organized by world language teacher Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05 and chaperoned by Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance

counselor; Mrs. Maria Daly-Valls, world language teacher; Mrs. Jeannine Woolley P'20, director of studies; and Mrs. Donna Sandt P'20, '23, '24, English teacher.

We started our adventure in Madrid and met our witty and knowledgeable tour guide who shared what to expect throughout the trip before jumping right into a sightseeing tour. Our first two days were spent exploring the streets of Madrid, including visits to iconic





landmarks such as the Plaza Mayor, Retiro Park Lake, and Royal Palace of Madrid, as well as the Prado and Reina Sofia Museums. Our group also had the chance to enjoy some authentic Spanish paella, the nation's unofficial dish, before taking a walk to the historic Chocolatería San Ginés to sample the famous chocolate and churros.

We next visited the city of Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where narrow roads with a charming atmosphere made us feel like we had traveled back in time. Our local guide walked us through many of Toledo's most noteworthy sites, including a Gothic Cathedral, the Church of Santo Tomás, and a historic Medieval Synagogue,



highlighting the city's significant connection to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. To wrap up our time in Toledo, we put our chef hats on for lunch and participated in a professional Spanish cooking class, which turned out to be a highlight of the trip.

The next leg of our trip brought us to the city of Bilbao, where we had the chance to practice speaking the unique Basque language. While there, we visited the Guggenheim Museum, which was full of unique modern art pieces, before continuing on to the coastal city of San Sebastián, also called Donostia in Basque, for a group dinner at our hotel. The next morning, we met up with a pair of local guides who first brought us to the Miramar Palace, the former summer residence of the Spanish monarchy, to enjoy breathtaking views of the coast before continuing on a sightseeing tour of the city. To end our time in Spain, we enjoyed the picturesque coastal streets on our own and sampled some of the Basque's regions renowned pintxos, which are akin to Spanish tapas and a staple at many local bars and restaurants.

We then crossed over the French border and made our way to the coastal city of Biarritz, where we enjoyed a dip in the Bay of Biscay and a stroll down the scenic boardwalk. That night, we enjoyed our first taste of French cuisine at a local restaurant. Though Biarritz was truly breathtaking, we were all incredibly excited to board the high speed train that would take us to Paris the next morning!





Upon our arrival to Paris, we began our sightseeing immediately with a visit to the Opera district to enjoy lunch, a stunning view of the city from the rooftop of the Galeries Lafayette department store, and a unique tour of the Fragonard Perfume Museum. We then returned to the hotel to get ready for a night that was sure to be a highlight of the trip as we visited Paris' most iconic landmark. Making our way to the Eiffel Tower, and seeing Paris in all its glory, the excitement in the air was truly palpable. After a quick elevator ride to the tower's top floor, we enjoyed an unparalleled view of Paris at night as the buildings around us seemed to glow. On the ground again, we gathered together to watch the Eiffel Tower glow, a

truly magical moment that will define the trip in our memories forever.

The next morning, we met up with a local guide and toured the beautiful Luxembourg Gardens, home of the seat of the French Senate. From there, we visited many of Paris' most iconic landmarks, including the Arc de Triomphe, the Luxor Obelisk, and Les Invalides. We then made our way to the Musée d'Orsay, where our guides introduced us to a variety of works by such famous artists as Monet, van Gogh, and Manet. We closed off a busy Parisian day with a visit to the banks of the Seine for a relaxing, hour-long sightseeing river cruise.



We began our final day with an excursion to Versailles, which was just as grandiose and awe-inspiring as we had learned in history class. The sheer splendor of the palace's exterior was enough to give us a hint of just how extravagant the interior would be. Our group had the chance to stroll through Versailles and explore the famed Hall of Mirrors, expansive grounds, and intricate gardens, including Marie Antoinette's Hamlet. The highlight of our visit to Versailles was our hour-long bike ride through the gardens, ending with a fun visit to the gelato cart.

Back in Paris, we had the chance to visit the newly renovated Notre Dame during Mass and light votive candles for our own special intentions. Afterwards, we took the Métro to Montmartre, passing by the famous Sacré-Cœur Basilica on our way to our final meal together, which included French staples such as escargot and chocolate mousse.

On our way to the airport the next morning, everyone was feeling somewhat bittersweet, upset that our trip had come to an end but also excited to go home to share our stories and memories with our loved ones. Our European journey had been packed to the brim with once-in-a-lifetime experiences, cultural immersion, and bonding experiences, and there was no denying that we had done and seen everything we could have hoped for during our ten days abroad. So, though the trip itself has come to a close, it has also sparked a new desire within us all to continue traveling, exploring, and learning, setting us up for a lifetime of continued discovery.



Immaculate Heart ACADEMY

CLASS notes

'65 **Diane Wald** has published her latest novel titled, *The Bayrose Files*. Diane is an award-winning poet and novelist who has published five chapbooks, four full-length poetry collections, two novels, and more than 250 poems in literary magazines. Her most recent books are *The Warhol Pillows* (poetry), *Gillyflower* (novella), and *My Famous Brain* (novel). Her new novel, *The Bayrose Files*, is published by Regal House Publishing. For more information visit dianewald.org.



'74 **Lisa (Frazza) Cortiula** was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 29th annual Art Directors Guild Excellence in Production Design Ceremony. Lisa was presented with the award for Scenic Art and Service to the



guild at the gala ceremony in February 2025 in Los Angeles. Lisa worked at CBS television studios for the last 31 years as lead scenic artist on shows such as *The Price is Right*, *Dancing With The Stars*, *Jeopardy*, and *The Bold and The Beautiful*. Lisa also volunteered at the guild as recording secretary and chair of the Scholarship Committee before retiring in December of 2022.

'76 **Eileen (Ronner) Kulha** recently ran into a sister from the class of 1999 and wanted to share this note reflecting on the amazing sisterhood at IHA. "Dear alumnae, I've been thinking a lot recently about my days at IHA which were long before the days of cell phones and social media. I made friends there that are still close to me and will be forever. But there is one other thing that has had me reflecting on those years and that is running into fellow IHA graduate **Tiffany Franzone '99**. I've been working a part-time retirement job at the YMCA Welcome Desk in Red Bank. I talk to so many people but one day there was a woman at the desk talking to my coworker and I heard her mention Bergen Catholic, and, of course, it caught my ear. We started talking and then realized we were both graduates of IHA. Since that day, I feel a connection to her that only a woman that has walked the halls of IHA could feel. There is a special bond built in those four years that is so much more than we realize at that time and I will forever be grateful! As we begin to plan our 50th reunion for next year, I would only hope that our past alumnae as well as our future alumnae feel the same way on their own path of life."

'78 The vibrant artwork of **Serena Bocchino** was prominently displayed in the heart of New York City on November 21, 2024, as her abstract artwork was showcased on one of the world's most famous digital billboards. For the entire day, three of her dynamic paintings were digitally featured above the Pelé Soccer storefront at 1560 Broadway in Times Square. Her bold and colorful works of art are titled, *Star Power*, *Move Forward*, and *Rivers of Living Water*. Serena and fellow 1978 classmate, **Mary Rose Sansevero**, visited Times Square together to see the display. The photo to the right includes Nicole Conca, **Serena Bocchino**, **Mary Rose Sansevero**, and Rachel Keough, daughter of Serena. Serena's paintings were also recently exhibited at Gallery AP Space in the Chelsea neighborhood, alongside the film



Rhythm Pulse, which explores Serena's studio practice. The film, directed by award-winning filmmaker Richard Cooperman, was recently honored with the Best Documentary Short Film award at the East Village New York Film Festival. Attending Serena's exhibition,

Between Movement and Stillness, were fellow Class of 1978 alumnae **Margaret (Smith) Buck**, **Mary Rose Sansevero**, and **Leslie (Simpson) Hille**.



'99 In October 2022, **Michelle (Spadaro) Radice** welcomed twins Jaxson and Gianna to their family, which includes older siblings Michael (17), Ava (16), and John (12). According to Michelle, "The twins have brought so much joy and happiness to our lives. Unfortunately, we discovered that Gianna has a rare genetic mutation and complete brain malformation requiring intensive

therapies and out-of-the-box treatments not covered by health insurance. Although her future is unknown and the past three years have been filled with challenges and lessons, we continue to rely on our faith and our community to hold us up and light the way in our time of need. We ask that you consider reading more about our journey. All prayers and support for our family are greatly appreciated at our GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/f2ad3381>."



'10 Congratulations to **Dr. Danielle Nogoy** on becoming chief resident at Montefiore Einstein Anesthesiology. Prior to this assignment, Dr. Nogoy spent two years in internal medicine after graduating from Rutgers Medical School.





'13 **Maeve Ward** and Riley Leder were engaged on June 15, 2024. The couple plan to marry in September 2025 at Saint Elizabeth's Church in Avon, NJ. Along with planning a wedding, Maeve and Riley purchased their first home in Middletown, NJ. They are looking forward to many gatherings hosting family and friends — including her IHA sisters.

Christina Sollitto recently spent time with the women of Carolina's Weaving Cooperative in San Antonio Aguas Calientes, Guatemala. During her stay, she learned about the weaving process that has been passed down by the Maya peoples through generations, as well as the significance of traditional dress including los huipiles (intricately woven blouses) and los tzutes (intricately woven shawls given by a married woman to their mother-in-law as a sign of honor and respect). Visiting the cooperative and learning how Guatemalan women have supported their families through weaving was a highlight of Christina's trip to Guatemala. She said, "I will never forget the kindness of the women of the cooperative in dressing me in traditional attire. I have the utmost respect for their craft, their talent, and their culture."



IHA is excited to announce that Christina joined the school in September as a Spanish teacher. Welcome back, Christina!

'15 **Erika Fleming** graduated from medical school on June 5, 2025 and is now in Washington, D.C. to perform her residency in internal medicine at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Erika entered Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine in 2021 and while in medical school, she acted as a peer mentor and peer tutor to many fellow medical students. She was selected as a student representative for the Board of Governors of the medical school and also served as chair of wellness for the Student Government. Erika was also selected as a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. She is excited to begin her career in medicine where she intends to practice in the field of oncology.



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

Please send your life update to AnneMarie Vaughn P'22, '29, director of communications and marketing, at avaughn@ihanj.com. Visit ihanj.com to view our IHA Newsletter Content Guidelines.

'15 & '19

Kailey Medzadourian '15 and **Joni Medzadourian '19**, founding member, captain, and former head coach of the IHA Dance Team, are proud to announce the launch of their new dance studio, Flex Dance Experience! As sisters, performers, and educators, Kailey and Joni said, "We have always dreamed of building a space that inspires confidence, creativity, and community. At Flex Dance Experience, dancers of all ages are encouraged to find their passion and flex their potential through top-tier training and a supportive, empowering environment." The new dance studio opened this summer close to their alma mater in Township of Washington, NJ! Both sisters credit their time at IHA, both on and off the stage, for playing a meaningful role in shaping who they are as leaders and artists and said, "We're excited to carry that spirit forward and share it with the next generation!"



'21

Samantha Manning graduated cum laude from Sacred Heart University with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and criminology. Samantha is excited to see what the next chapter brings!

'18

Heather (Farrell) Buschman was married in 2024 to Joseph Buschman at Heather's alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, where she also received a Bachelor of Science in 2022 and a Master of Science in 2023. In attendance were two of Heather's IHA sisters, **Cassandra Mitsinikos '18** and **Emily Ash '19**. On March 25, 2025, Heather and Joseph welcomed their first child, Philomena Clare. Heather, Joseph, and their beautiful daughter live outside of Atlanta, Georgia, with their two dogs, Asbury Maine and Milly Mac.



IN MEMORIAM

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

Cathy Ann (Dugan) Brandt
Class of 1967

April 17, 2024

Patricia Farrell
Class of 1964

September 2024

Ann Marie
(Hausmann) Esteve
Class of 1968

September 27, 2024

Sister of the late Catherine
Hausman '69

Margaret Mary (Montes) Benz
Class of 1968

October 6, 2024

Carolyn Marie
(Dlugos) Hexter
Class of 1980

February 17, 2025

Kathleen (Elder) Bonner
Class of 1985

February 18, 2025

Sister-in-law of Elizabeth (Bonner)
Epstein '87 and Laura (Bonner)
Connors '94; and aunt of Avery
Connors '25 and Peyton
Connors '27

Joan (Donegan) Alsa
Class of 1965

March 7, 2025

Marita (Faletti) Crum
Class of 1971

March 14, 2025

Nancy (Hohman) Bruggeman
Class of 1966

April 2, 2025

Laurie (Passaro) Trowbridge
Class of 1979

April 10, 2025

Sister of Diane (Passaro) Lane '81

Kathleen (Loughlin) Barone
Class of 1976

April 30, 2025

Justine Kelaher
Class of 1972

May 20, 2025

Kathryne Badura
Class of 2004

June 24, 2025

Lorraine (Bussman) Tracy
Class of 1965

June 27, 2025

Elizabeth Pinero Havelka
Class of 1975

June 29, 2025

Sandra Hines
Class of 1995

June 30, 2025

Sister of Irene Hines '88

Andrew DeGeorge

February 9, 2025

Father of Lauren DeGeorge '04

Anthony Williams

February 9, 2025

Father of Martina (Williams)
Wilson '01

Stephen H. "Chip" Orr Jr.

February 18, 2025

Husband of Dr. Vanessa Cutler '02

Margaret Theresa Sansevero

February 23, 2025

Mother of Mary Rose Sansevero '78,
Barbara (Sansevero) Patton '70, and
Deborah (Sansevero) Schmidt '68

Martin (Marty) Bacola

February 27, 2025

Husband of Cecile Varda Bacola '75
and brother-in-law of Carol Varda
Hill '87 and the late Susan Varda
Fitzgerald '76

Patricia Rizzo

March 1, 2025

Mother of Maryellen (Rizzo)
Gabay '81; grandmother of Victoria
(DellaPeruta) Gabay '09, Katherine
(Gabay) Quinn '10, and Nicole
Gysin '20

IN MEMORIAM

Lorraine P. O'Connell

March 7, 2025

Mother of Kathleen (O'Connell) Martin '89 and grandmother of Grace Martin '22

Anamarie Vidaic

March 25, 2025

Mother of Isabella Vidaic '24, sister-in-law of Eva (Vidaic) Signore '88, and aunt of Olivia Morrison '23

Robert Glenn Burch

March 31, 2025

Husband of Jane (Murphy) Burch '65

Michael Grabler

April 20, 2025

Father of Suzanne Dillane, former faculty member, and grandfather of Emma Dillane '23

Steve Odierno

April 21, 2025

Father of Katherine Odierno '25 and Steven Odierno (SJR '23); and husband of Mariann (Smith) Odierno '93

Gerald J. "Jerry" Sabbers

April 30, 2025

Father of Gina (Sabbers) Tabbachino '87; grandfather of Giavanna Tabbachino '17 and Geri Tabbachino '21; and donor of The Carmella Cupo Wardell Graduation Award

George Webster

June 6, 2025

Father of Linda (Webster) Cennerazzo '79

Ann Viegas

June 8, 2025

Mother of Diane L. Viegas Vescera '75 and Lauren Adams DiCampli '77

Dolores Policastro

July 26, 2025

Mother of Donna Sandt P'20, '23, '24, current faculty member; and grandmother of Allison Anne Sandt '20, Carolyn Sandt '23, Madeleine Sandt '24, and Lile Policastro '25

Gloria Buonarota

August 5, 2025

Mother of Cindy Sopelsa P'07, '08, '14, current staff member; and grandmother of Lara Sopelsa '07, Tori Sopelsa Steeves '08, and Stef Sopelsa '14

Jerome Pawloski

August 12, 2025

Father of Rosemary Pawloski '16



DAY OF GIVING

MARCH 9, 2026

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, REACH OUT TO SARAH FRASURE '07,
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNAE RELATIONS,
AT SFRASURE@IHANJ.COM.



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 Frasure '07, director of advancement & alumnae relations, at 201.445.6800, ext. 185 or sfrasure@ihanj.com with updated information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP
22

Blue Eagle Open

Registration and brunch at 10 AM, followed by 12 PM shotgun start at Edgewood Country Club in River Vale.

NOV
14

Junior Ring Day

The Class of 2027 will celebrate this beloved day with a Liturgy and ring ceremony. Afterward, a reception will be held in the cafeteria for juniors and their families.

OCT
19 & 23

Fall Open Houses

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

NOV
21-23

Fall Drama

Join us for IHA's production of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. Productions will be on November 21, 22, and 23.

OCT
24

Trunk or Treat

Campus Ministry hosts this annual event to welcome young trick-or-treaters to visit the many decorated trunks in IHA's parking lot for candy and a spook-tacular time!

DEC
01

Class of 2030 Application Deadline

Applications to be a member of IHA's Class of 2030 are due by December 1, 2025.

NOV
07

HSPT Test for Class of 2030

Class of 2030 prospective students are required to take the Archdiocesan high school entrance exam.

DEC
18

Christmas Concert & Art Show

Families and friends are invited to view the work of our student-artists and enjoy performances by our vocal ensembles and orchestra in the IHA main lobby and PAC.