

NEWS *from the*

SUMMER 2026 VOL. 42, NO.2

SERVICE.
SCHOLARSHIP.
SPIRITUALITY.
SISTERHOOD.



IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY

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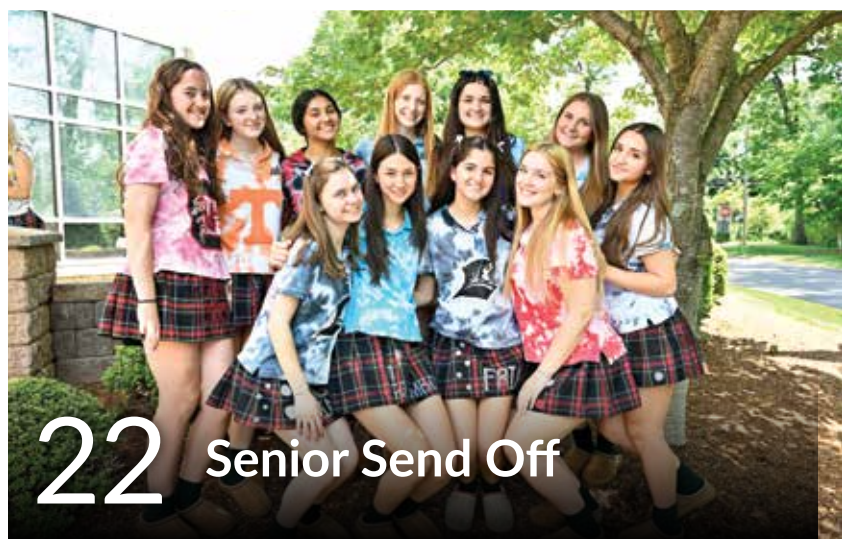
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Our Mission

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





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President's Corner



Dear IHA Community,

As we look ahead to the 2026-27 school year, I am filled with optimism about the opportunities we will offer to our students and how our incredible young women will embrace every challenge with the grit and determination that has become the hallmark of what it means to be an IHA student.

The beginning of a new school year brings a renewed sense of purpose for our dedicated staff and faculty, who are ready to inspire our young women to find their voices, discover their interests, and empower them to lead. The new year also brings new friendships as we welcome our incoming Class of 2030 — 160 freshmen from 65 towns across New Jersey and New York, ready to join the sisterhood that is Immaculate Heart Academy.

We are delighted to have all of our students back in the building as we know they are ready to commit to their rigorous studies and create new memories with their fellow classmates. The fall at IHA showcases some of the most memorable traditions we share each year, including Big Sister/Little Sister Day and the Junior Ring Ceremony. I am excited for these events as well as witnessing our impressive students excelling in the classroom, dominating on the athletic field, immersing themselves in the arts, and devoting their gifts in service to others.

As president, I am also truly honored to witness the undeniable IHA sisterhood in action — young women who embrace each other with kindness, compassion, and an overwhelming belief in uplifting the community around them.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary continue to guide us in all that we set out to accomplish during the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Jason Schlereth P'27, '28
President



Class of 2026 Graduation

IHA's 63rd annual Commencement Exercises were held on June 6, 2026. Congratulations to this inspiring and impressive class!

One hundred forty-seven incredible young women received their diplomas from Ms. Kerry Carroll '04, principal; Mrs. Maureen Layng, assistant principal of students; and Mrs. Amy Baskin, assistant principal of academics. Including the members of this year's graduating class, 11,480 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 Tara McCarthy (Providence College), the ceremony opened with Zoe DePhillips (Providence College),





Student Council president, offering the invocation and Madison Les (Barnard College), salutatorian, giving a thoughtful welcoming address. In speaking about her incredible classmates, Madison said, "I am so in awe of the heart and soul you pour into your talents. You uplift each other by leading with your own examples, and you do so with grace, humility, and compassion."

Ms. Caitlin Carroll '06, vice president at Deutsche Bank, served as Commencement Speaker. Caitlin received a Bachelor of Science from Fairfield University, where she played four years of Division I softball and later earned her J.D. from Seton Hall Law School in 2013. Caitlin offered graduates an important reminder that they do not need to have their future already planned out. "God usually does not hand you the entire blueprint at once. Instead,





He asks you to take the next step. And then the next one. And somewhere along the way, if you keep showing up with courage, humility, Faith, and generosity, you slowly become the person you were meant to be.”

Diplomas and special awards were then distributed to members of the Class of 2026. 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 Jeannine (Boyajian) Barry '94 to Katherine Barry (Boston College); Danielle (Latona) Bundrick '99 to Gianna Bundrick (Rutgers University); Dolores (Martinez) Byrnes '90 to Clara Byrnes (Boston College); Lisa Belulovich '85 to Alliana Campana (Bucknell University); Marianne (Kasney) Clancy '88 to Cavan Clancy (Villanova University); Bernadette Marie (Klein) Colonna '96 to Bernadette Grace Colonna (Villanova University); Theresa (Seymour) Dolan '95 to Kate Dolan (University of South Carolina); Antoinette (Joyce) Gillespie '92 to Ashlyn Gillespie (Quinnipiac University); Christine (Sifford) Haemmerle '89 to Paige Haemmerle (Syracuse University); Eileen (Barnes) Hahn '85 to Kathleen Ann Hahn (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); Jean (DeMayo) Hennelly '85 to Maureen Hennelly (Ramapo College of New Jersey); Patricia Ann Grego '93 to Leila Holland (Marist University); Jennifer (Ferro) Lessieu '89 to Joslyn Lessieu (Fairfield University);



Marguerite McCrimlisk '78 to Hope McCrimlisk (Providence College); and Kristin (DeCrescenzi) Rejent '99 to Kalyn Rejent (Sacred Heart University).

After diplomas were presented to each graduate, several students were honored for a variety of accomplishments in and out of the classroom. We send heartfelt congratulations to the 2026 IHA Award winner, Kathleen Hahn (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and the many other award and scholarship recipients recognized at this year's Commencement Exercises.

Following the award presentation, Class of 2026 valedictorian, Isabella Ragone (New Jersey Institute of Technology), delivered an inspirational farewell address and reflected on what the enduring

IHA sisterhood means to her: “No matter where we go, what we study, or who we become, we will always share this sisterhood. So continue building community. Continue leading with kindness. Continue making room for others. Continue asking questions, trying new things, and embracing every part of who you are. And if there is one thing I hope we remember as we leave here today, it's this: we do not have to choose between being ourselves and being part of something bigger than ourselves. We can do both.”

At the end of the graduation ceremony, Mia Severino (University of Delaware) and Danica Libanan (Purdue University) led their classmates in the school's Alma Mater before IHA's newest alumnae exited the gymnasium.



Members of the Class of 2026 received more than \$50 million in scholarship awards and will be continuing their education at some of the most esteemed colleges and universities in the country, including the United States Military Academy at West Point, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Johns Hopkins University, University of Notre Dame, Boston College, Villanova University, Tufts University, and University of Michigan.

Fifty-one students are attending Catholic institutions, 13 students are attending schools in New Jersey, and 37% are attending colleges and universities outside of the Northeast, with the South being the most popular. Among the most popular states in that region are Florida and South Carolina (7 each); and Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee (4 each).





Ninety-three percent of the students were admitted to their first or second-choice college, and members of this class had a 100% four-year college acceptance rate. Some of the most popular choices this year include Providence College (9 students); Boston College and Villanova University (7 students each); Rutgers University (6 students); Sacred Heart University (5 students); and University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee, Fairfield University, and University of Mississippi (4 students each).

Three IHA students will be studying at very selective, accelerated medical school programs for B.S./M.D. and B.S./D.O. degrees. Congratulations to all of this year's graduates for their incredible contributions to IHA over the past four years!



Class of 2026 Graduation Awards

The following awards were presented at the 2026 Commencement Exercises:

Valedictorian

Salutatorian

The IHA Award

The Academic Excellence Award

The Sister Beatrice Ryan Award

The Visitation Award

The Mary Ann Molinari Memorial Award

The KariAnn Dellapenta Memorial Award

The Marie Sellers and Dorothy Savarese Memorial Award

The Jeffrey E. Silver Memorial Award

The Catherine Larkin Award

The Caren Cavallo Memorial Scholarship

The Marian Award

The Marisa Suarez Memorial Award

The Denise Gartner Memorial Award

The Tammy Medzadourian Memorial Award

The Michael Thomas Noone Memorial Award

The Amen Award

The Herb Oberle Memorial Award

The Lynn Gansley Memorial Award

Isabella Ragone (New Jersey Institute of Technology)

Madison Les (Barnard College)

Kathleen Hahn (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Catalina Maglicic (University of Michigan)

Riley Cannon (Wake Forest University)

Etain Moore (Boston University)

Zoe DePhillips (Providence College)

Paige Haemmerle (Syracuse University)

Danica Libanan (Purdue University)

Giara Gonzalez (Villanova University)

Kathleen Brancato (United States Military Academy at West Point)

Diya Moorjani (Seton Hall University)

Jaylene Hernandez (Boston College)

Alliana Campana (Bucknell University)

Gabrielle Rivera (Johns Hopkins University)

Miranda Dougherty (Providence College)

Elliott Daniels (University of Tennessee)

Anne Moore (Boston College)

Bernadette Grace Colonna (Villanova University)

Julia MacEwen (Villanova University)



Senior Awards Night



Members of the senior class attended the first-ever Senior Awards Night on May 20, 2026. The night was created to recognize the extraordinary involvement of our



graduating seniors in the life of the IHA community. Awards were given out to celebrate the impressive achievements and commitment of the Class of 2026 in the classroom, on the athletic field, and

in extracurricular endeavors. IHA's valedictorian, **Isabella Ragone**, and salutatorian, **Madison Les**, were also presented with their medals to be worn on graduation day. Thank you to Mrs. Kelly Tweed '93 P'30, assistant director of admissions, for coordinating this special evening.



Congratulations to all of our award winners listed below:

Subject Area Medals

Sofia Ghomi (Savannah College of Art and Design) — The Arts

Morgan Connell (Ithaca College) — Communications

Gabriella DellaVolpe (University of Notre Dame) — English

Daniela Ayala (Boston University) — French

Alana Flores (University of Notre Dame) — Mathematics

Mariana Builes Garcia (College of the Holy Cross) — Theology

Hayden Edwards (George Washington University) — Physical Education

Gabrielle Rivera (Johns Hopkins University) — Science

Grace Masterson (University of Washington) — Social Studies

Katelyn Negrete (Quinnipiac University) — Spanish

Danica Libanan (Purdue University) — Technology

Clara Byrnes (Boston College) — Italian

Clare Wenzke (Providence College) — Business

Tara McCarthy (Providence College) — Performing Arts

Athletic Award Recipients

The IHA Scholar Athlete Award
Sophia Kuzma (Marist University)

The NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Award
Alana Flores (University of Notre Dame)

The IHA Athletic Achievement Award
Erin Sullivan (Providence College)

Bergen County Women's Coaches Association (BCWCA) Award

(for athletes who participate in 10 or more seasons)

Lilith Roman (Dickinson College)
Olivia Valente (Colgate University)

BCWCA Outstanding Athletic Achievement Scholarship Award

Gabriella DellaVolpe (University of Notre Dame)

IHA Multi-Sport Award

(for outstanding performance in 10 or more seasons)

Laila Albardak (Bucknell University)
Gianna Bundrick (Rutgers University)
Zoe DePhillips (Providence College)
Bridget Dooley (College of the Holy Cross)

Mackenzie Handy (University of South Carolina)

Joslyn Lessieu (Fairfield University)
Natalie Lovaglio (University of Florida)
Hope McCrimlisk (Providence College)
Nicole Petrie (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University: Daytona Beach)

Mary Quinn (Villanova University)
Lilith Roman (Dickinson College)
Erin Sullivan (Providence College)
Olivia Valente (Colgate University)

Immaculate Heart Academy Career Athletic Award

Olivia Valente (Colgate University)



Scholarship Award Recipients

IHA Parents' Club Robert Ryan Memorial Scholarship

Alexis Buffong (Loyola University Maryland)

The Virginia "Ginny" Panicucci Memorial Award

Veronica Brenner (Fairfield University)

The Kim Montelaro Memorial Award

Cavan Clancy (Villanova University)

The Kathleen Farley Memorial Award

Mia Severino (University of Delaware)

The Fine Arts Award

Leila Holland (Marist University)

The Dorothy and Jack McKenna Memorial Award

Erin Sullivan (Providence College)

The Carmella Cupo Wardell Award

Meghan Long (University of Florida)



The Bergen County Directors of Guidance Scholarship

Breonna Guirland (Salve Regina University)

The Minerva Echeverría Memorial Award

Kathleen Brancato (United States Military Academy at West Point)
Giara Gonzalez (Villanova University)

Several other awards were given out at the event for those students who have dedicated their time and talent to IHA in various extracurricular activities. Congratulations to all of the winners of the Toni-Marie Hals Award, The Marilyn Rich Award, The Patricia Molloy Award, and the Blue and White Award.



Baccalaureate Mass



Members of the Class of 2026 were celebrated at a Baccalaureate Mass on June 5, 2026, at Church of the Presentation in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

At this inspirational Mass, IHA Family Awards were presented to three families this year who have their last daughter of three or more graduating.

Congratulations to:

- Lisa and Anthony Costello, parents of Arianna '20, Giuliana '22, and Alisiana '26 (Sacred Heart University)
- Patricia and Christopher DePhillips, parents of Caroline '18, Elizabeth '21, and Zoe '26 (Providence College)
- Kelly and Christopher Mahoney, parents of Katherine '22, Aileen '25, Megan '25, and Mary '26 (Providence College)





At the conclusion of the Mass, there was a touching presentation for IHA senior Kathleen Brancato, who was formally presented with her Certificate of Appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

In addition, honors students were recognized at the ceremony for

Distinguished Honors students who maintained an average of 95 or better each marking period and Honors students who maintained an average of 90 each marking period.

Thank you to Father Anthony Randazzo and all the IHA staff who planned and participated in the beautiful Mass to honor our seniors in such a special way.



Legacy Night



The Class of 2026 enjoyed an unforgettable evening with their parents at IHA's Legacy Night. Seniors and their parents joined together at Biagios on May 18, 2026, to celebrate and reflect on their time at IHA. The annual parent/student retreat enabled the Class of 2026 to have an incredible opportunity for reflection, conversation, and intentional time with their parents before graduation.

Inspirational speakers included Isabella Haines '19; Ms. Emily Ash '19, director of Campus Ministry; and Ms. 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 2026. Thank you to IHA Campus Ministry for hosting this memorable event.





IHA Students Visit Italy

By Skylar Blake '27

This year's unforgettable IHA trip to Europe brought 31 Blue Eagles to the beautiful country of Italy from June 22-30. Our moderators were Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, world language teacher, Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor, and Mrs. Jeannine Woolley P'20, director of studies.

After arriving in Rome and quickly stopping at our hotel, we took a bus ride down to the Via di Condotti to stretch our legs and explore the city. Even during the intense heat wave that hit Europe just as we arrived, there was indeed no shortage of water as we stopped at two major fountains on our first day: the Fountain of Four Rivers and, of course, the Trevi Fountain. Our tour guide informed us that throwing in one coin means you will return to Rome one day, two coins means you will find love, and three means you will get married in Rome. What great odds! We also had to make sure we tossed it over our left shoulder with our right hand. Superstitions had nothing on the Blue Eagles.



Our next day started bright and early in Vatican City, where we attended a papal audience with Pope Leo. We took our seats in St. Peter's Square and were honored when IHA received a shout-out from the Vatican officials for attending the papal audience, which was spoken in a multitude of different languages. Next stop was the Colosseum! Our guided tour taught us the history of the Colosseum, what it was originally used for, and how only the skeleton of the structure remains. We took pictures and soaked in the glory of the Romans.



Afterward, we attended a pizza-making dinner where we made our own pizzas using only the best and freshest local ingredients. It was safe to say that we were so happy and well fed by the end of the night!

Our last day in Rome included tours of the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica, where we received firsthand art history lessons. We were in awe seeing these famous and beautiful sights, and seeing the Sistine Chapel in person was a moment we will always remember.

Next up, we visited Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, where we toured the fascinating Basilica. While there, we did not just learn about St. Francis, but also the recently canonized St. Carlos Acutis. What stood out to us was that St. Carlos dressed in ordinary clothes rather than traditional religious garments. In his glass casket, he wore his jeans, regular sneakers, and a plain sweatshirt. As teenagers, we deeply appreciated this. Leaving the church where he rested, we strolled the quiet streets of the medieval town, which was both eye-opening and deeply moving.

We traveled on to Florence, where we learned that the powerful Medici family helped Florence become the center of the Renaissance, allowing art and culture to flourish. While visiting, we were able to see the Ponte Vecchio, a famous bridge that dates back to 1345 and was the only one spared from destruction during World War II. As we entered further into the city, we explored the Piazza della Signoria and admired remarkable sculptures, visited leather shops, and browsed the famous gold jewelry stores along the way. Later on, we visited the Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's David as well as his Prisoners of War sculptures. We were especially moved by Michelangelo's unfinished Prisoners sculptures because they seemed to symbolize people struggling to break free from the stone. After the museum, we explored the exterior of the beautiful Duomo, Florence's Cathedral. It was an especially hot day in Florence, so we ended a perfect day with a generous helping of gelato!

After Florence, we had a quick stopover in the beautiful Tuscan town of

Montecatini, famous for its rich thermal springs. Here we had a chance to unwind: some of us went to a spa known for its hydrotherapy muscle relief, while others chose to use the hotel pool and lounge in the sun. Either way, we relaxed and enjoyed spending quality time with each other.



Our next stop was Bologna, where we walked underneath the famous porticos and discovered why Bologna is the food capital of Italy! Before exploring the city, we attended Sunday Mass at a local church where the Mass was celebrated in Italian — truly beautiful to hear. Some of our students studying Italian even practiced their language skills throughout the service. Afterward, we treated ourselves to a delicious lunch and enjoyed the hot Italian sun.

Our final destination was the seaside city of Venice. Once we settled in our hotel, we made our way onto the Vaporetto and toward the piazzas of Venice. We dined on Venetian cuisine and visited the Rialto Bridge, where everyone took fantastic pictures of the Italian landscape. We then strolled to St. Mark's Square, listening to live Italian music and soaking in the allure and romance of Venice. No trip to Venice would be complete without a gondola ride through the city, which was a treat on our final morning in Italy.



Seeing Venice through this perspective on a quiet morning ride was an experience our group will remember forever. After shopping in the Piazza San Marco, we learned how glass was made at the Murano Glass factory and why it is so special compared to other countries. We wrapped up our final day celebrating over dinner with our chaperones and IHA sisters.

This once-in-a-lifetime trip allowed us to experience Italian culture while immersing ourselves in the beautiful language. We enjoyed all Italy has to offer, and while we will absolutely miss the late-night gelato runs and Spaghetti Carbonara for lunch, the opportunity to experience it with our IHA sisters encouraged us to travel more and appreciate the different cultures of the world.





Mission@theheart 2026



experiences we get to witness students participate in. The weekend provides a beautiful opportunity to see firsthand the love in the eyes of our students when they give their all in service to others. They continuously learn and live out the truth that anything done with love leaves a profound impact on others and on themselves. Every action, big and small, has the potential to show God's presence in this world in the lives of others, and often, students find His presence through encountering His people."

Forty students gathered on the weekend of July 17-19, 2026, to put their Faith into action by serving their community and ministering to people in need. 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 home base

for this flagship IHA service event was at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny, New Jersey, but students traveled to different parts of New Jersey and New York to put their mission trip into action.

According to Ms. Emily Ash '19, director of campus ministry, "Mission@theheart is truly one of the most profound





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. Students also began their work of helping others by creating decorations for Several Sources Shelter, a non-profit that provides free housing and support services to women facing unplanned pregnancies and experiencing homelessness.

On Saturday, our young women traveled to visit Several Sources Shelter to learn about its mission and create cards and bracelets for its residents. Other students visited Villa Marie Claire, a residential hospice in Bergen County, to help prepare materials for a grief counseling summer camp the hospice provides for children and teens.

Also on Saturday, students worked on Blessing Bags for St. Joseph's Church Street Outreach. The bags, filled with toiletries, personalized notes, and socks, will be given out in New York City to individuals the church encounters. Later in the evening, the students also prepared items for a Midnight Run in New York City on Sunday. This outreach was one of many Midnight Runs IHA students will participate in this year, bringing food, clothes, and companionship to individuals experiencing homelessness.

According to Clare McCarthy '27, sisterhood president of the Campus Ministry executive board, "The mission trip was an incredible opportunity to grow in faith and become Christ's hands and feet in the world. Throughout the trip, we learned that even the smallest acts, when done with great love, can reveal Christ's presence in our lives and



in the lives of others. Not only were we able to serve those we encountered, but they also served us by giving us the opportunity to live more fully as Christ's children and to witness Christ's love through the relationships we formed with our sisters."

The weekend ended with a Mass attended by students and their families, as well as reflection time for key takeaways



Theme of Mission@theheart 2026

*"Do small things with great love."
- St. Teresa of Calcutta*

from this year's Mission Trip. We are truly Blessed for all of the students who followed God's call to serve others on this Mission Trip and thankful to Ms. Emily Ash '19 and our many teachers and staff who chaperoned the trip, including Ms. Jessica Giglio, Mr. Gregory McDonald, Mrs. Amy Baskin, Mrs. Kerri Sheehan P'20, '24, Ms. Isabella DeVito, Ms. Jillian Hynes, and Mr. Michael Hamlett.





Class of 2026 College Decision Day

To celebrate National College Decision Day on May 1, 2026, seniors at Immaculate Heart Academy 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 2026 and their acceptances to numerous outstanding colleges and universities!



Junior/Senior Luncheon

HA's beloved tradition, the Junior/Senior Luncheon, was held on May 19, 2026.

Thank you to the junior class officers and moderator, Ms. Ana Echeverría P '05, for hosting this lunch for seniors and IHA faculty, and to all the juniors for making a variety of delicious, sweet treats! Before the luncheon, members of the Class of 2026 gathered in the gym for graduation practice and to collect their cherished sports banners.

Also on this fun-filled day, the entire school gathered in the PAC in the afternoon to view a photo slideshow of the seniors from their freshman year through present day. Thank you to Ms. Jessica Shaheen, Communications Department chairperson; Mr. David Lee, journalism teacher; and Meredith Solimando '27 and Arianna George '27 for their hard work on this year's memorable slideshow!

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 for their incredible contributions to IHA over the past four years.





Senior Send-Off

On May 18, 2026, IHA celebrated the Class of 2026 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. 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 2026 and share this emotional and memorable tradition with these amazing seniors.





Service Awards

Service at Immaculate Heart Academy is more than just something that is required; it is 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 April 28, 2026, and celebrated all of our students for their inspiring commitment to service.

IHA is proud to announce that our students served more than 33,000 hours during the 2025-2026 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 number of hours required of them. The highest-achieving class was the Class of 2026, with a total of nearly 12,000 hours.

Ms. Emily Ash '19, theology teacher and director of Campus Ministry, discussed why IHA is proud to recognize their service, "Through your service to our community, you bring so much light to the world and make the Love of God Himself present and real in the lives of others. In a world that says, TikTok and Instagram likes determine your worth and that a perfectly curated Instagram feed with a catchy caption is what you have to do to be known in the world, we are going to celebrate all of our young women who say we know differently — we know that the one who truly knows us is God, and He asks us go out and love His people through our actions. And the loving actions you take to care for His people are all the ways you say your own 'yes' to service."

At the awards ceremony, IHA celebrated 20 students for achieving the Lux Mundi Award (250 or more hours per year), 17 students for the Cor Ministerium Award (175-249 hours per year), and 74 students for the Virtus Award (100-174 hours per year). Congratulations to the top three service-hour earners: Isabella Ragone '26 (922 hours); Isabella Kerio '26 (512 hours), and Elliott Daniels '26 (441 hours).

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

Kathy Krey Sovia '78 Breast Cancer Awareness Award

Angelica Ferreira '27

Exceptional Service to the Elderly

Anne Moore '26

Exceptional Service to Parish Community

Alana Flores '26

Riley McKay '27

Mayme Puccio '64 Humanitarian Award

Kaitlyn McCormick '27



Exceptional Service to the Homeless

Peyton Connors '27

Grace Sciortino '26



Exceptional Service to Veterans

Maeve Dorfler '27

Aurelia Carolan '27

Exceptional Service in STEM Education

Abigail Bennett '26

Veronica Brenner '26

Exceptional Service to Individuals With Disabilities

Margaret Hahn '28

Mackenzie Handy '26

Grace Handy '28

Exceptional Service to the IHA Community

Meredith Solimando '27

Mary Mahoney '26

Morgan Connell '26



IHA Spirit of Sisterhood Award for Kindness & Inclusivity

Riley Espaillat '28
Julia MacEwen '26
Elizabeth Kellogg '29

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

Abigail Novack '28

Dedication to the Spiritual Growth of the Sisterhood

Ashlee Waldron '28
Rachel Mathew '27
Isabella Ragone '26
Samantha Sundlin '26



St. Therese of Lisieux Award for Everyday Acts of Kindness

Mary Giancristofaro '27
Paige Meitrott '27



St. Veronica Encounter Award

Tara Caputo '26
Clare McCarthy '27
Laila Albardak '26



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

Zoe DePhillips '26
Madeline Schlereth '27
Holland Haftek '28

Exceptional Service to the Hungry

Ashley Lopez '26
Hadassah Vilsaint '27

Spirit of Service Award

Lily Angioletti '29
Emilia Reilly '28
Peyton Einwohner '27
Mariana Builes Garcia '26



Servant Leadership Award

Etain Moore '26
Kathleen Hahn '26
Madison Les '26





IHA also honored the following students for achieving The Lux Mundi Award, The Cor Ministerium Award, and The Virtus Award:



The Lux Mundi Award (Light of the World Service Award): 250+ hours

Adrienna Arocho-Bautista '26
Abigail Bennett '26
Kathleen Brancato '26
Riley Cannon '26
Alisiana Costello '26
Elliott Daniels '26
Zoe DePhillips '26
Dahlia Iuliano '26
Isabella Ragone '26

Gabrielle Rivera '26
Isabella Kerio '26
Ella Vrtis '26
Aurelia Carolan '27
Kristina Ahn '27
Lia Carballo '27
Malia Hamilton '27
Marley Digby '27
Katie Eckes '28
Margaret Hahn '28
Isabella Antigua '29



The Cor Ministerium Award (Heart of Service Award): 175-249 hours

Kathleen Hahn '26
Laila Albardak '26
Etain Moore '26
Kailyn Rejent '26
Lilith Roman '26
Elisabeth Tralongo '26
Diya Moorjani '26
Kate Hujsa '26

Angelica Ferreira '27
Clare McCarthy '27
Jenna Circelli '27
Grace Handy '28
Alyssa Lo '28
Abigail Novack '28
Pavni Patel '28
Kianna Sadati '28
Jules Robertson '28



The Virtus Award (Valor Service Award): 100-174 hours

Kimberly Zhang '26
Sophia Wilson '26
Clare Wenzke '26
Sofia Soranno '26
Riley Nightingale '26
Molly Neafsey '26
Tara McCarthy '26
Ella Matts '26
Izabella Hoxholli '26
Mackenzie Handy '26
Yasmine Ego '26
Isabella Duca '26
Sarah Komninos '26
Sophia Bertino '26
Olivia Valente '26
Madison Hawryluk '26
Lillian Hasenfus '27
Peyton Einwohner '27
Vasilias Rodas '27
Skylar Blake '27
Riley McKay '27
Reese Lauricella '27
Paige Meitrott '27
Michelle LaFace '27
Mia Souhlakis '27
Katarina Van Tassel '27
Kaitlyn McCormick '27
Juliet Sok '27
Juliet Fisher '27
Harper Eddy '27
Grace McLoughlin '27
Gina Ha '27
Gabriella Morillo '27
Emma Fowler '27
Elizabeth Doolan '27
Cayleigh Heffernan '27

Grace Wenzke '28
Emilia Reilly '28
Zoey Orlando '28
Gabriella Nizza '28
Kristen Lee '28
Valentina Mendoza '28
Charlotte McQuade '28
Molly McDermott '28
Charlotte Kipp '28
Colette Karg '28
Natalie Joung '28
Reagan Jareck '28
Gabrielle Hoxholli '28
Emmeline Masterson '28
Grace Higgins '28
Ashlee Hart '28
Molly Hardin '28
Cristiana Hanna '28
Autumn Giglio '28
Soraya Gershenhorn '28
Isabella Fitzsimmons '28
Olivia Cirello '28
Ryann Cenicola '28
Nina Cardella '28
Holland Haftek '28
Brynn Corcoran McPartland '28
Alexis Lee '28
Keira Joan O'Neill '29
Sophia Carolyn Townsend '29
Portia Sara Goett '29
Madeline Rose Lorentzen '29
Lily Grace Angioletti '29
Katherine Marie Karg '29
Georgia Marie Beeman '29
Elizabeth Grace Kellogg '29
Camryn Martucci '29
Brooke Walker Whitman '29
Abigail Helen Dougall '29



During the Service Award Assembly, Etain Moore '26, service president of the Christian Service Board, also spoke to students about a popular quote from St. Teresa of Avila, which reminds students that their mission is to act as Christ's hands and feet on this earth: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world."

Madison Les '26, sisterhood president of the Christian Service Board, also addressed students with a reflection on a recent midnight run. "On one of our stops, I met an unhoused man named Tony, and we bonded over having the same taste in music. This moment reminded me that service goes beyond giving physical things — it is about truly meeting people. It allows you to form authentic connections with all of God's people that are difficult to replicate anywhere else."

After the awards were presented, the IHA community viewed a video montage and slideshow of the IHA service program created by Ms. Jessica Shaheen, Communications Department chairperson, and Kathleen Hahn '26, spirituality president of 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 your passion to serve others.



Campus Ministry Service to Those in Need



Campus Ministry once again held its annual Easter drive to support the children of Sacred Heart School in Jersey City. Then, on March 25, 2026, members of Campus Ministry spread Easter joy to the students of Sacred Heart by visiting the school and delivering more than 150 goody bags filled with special treats. Due to the many generous Easter Drive donations from the IHA Community, students were able to fill each bag with books, chocolate bunnies, specialty pencils, fidget toys, 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 this heartwarming event. We are also grateful for our chaperones, Ms. Riley Talbot, theology teacher; Ms. Jillian Hynes,





social media coordinator; and Mr. James Foote P'17, who was our very own Easter bunny for the visit.

Throughout the school year, Campus Ministry also hosted several Midnight Runs. Students traveled to New York City to provide food, clothes, and conversations with individuals experiencing homelessness. Before they leave for the run, students participate in a prayer service to remind them that Christ calls each one of us to serve others with love and compassion. Our students truly embrace IHA's commitment to service, and we are so proud of all they have accomplished as they continue to use their amazing gifts in service to others. IHA is also grateful for all of our chaperones on these trips, as well as the donations from our extremely generous community.



Sophomore Spirit Day

The Class of 2028 celebrated IHA's annual Sophomore Spirit Day on May 27, 2026. The day began with prayer and sisterhood bonding activities, as the sophomores enjoyed everything from a game of Family Feud and Tug of War to an inflatable obstacle course and Hula-Hoop contest. The Class of 2028 showed their resounding school spirit throughout the day, which ended with a sing-off and ice cream party.

Congratulations to the red 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.



Sophomore Class Dance

Members of the Class of 2028 danced the night away on the evening of March 6, 2026. The sophomore class had a fabulous time dancing and enjoying delicious treats with their sisters and dates.

Thank you to the sophomore class moderator, Ms. Jessica Whelan '13, and all the volunteers who helped to make this night memorable for the nearly 250 students who attended.

A special thank you to Lisa and Thomas Whelan, owners of Mamafrio Balloon Designs and parents of Ms. Whelan, for donating a beautiful backdrop so our sophomores could pose for photos and capture this memorable evening.



Junior Prom

The Class of 2027 celebrated their junior prom together at the Hilton Pearl River on March 20, 2026.

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

Members of the Class of 2026 celebrated their senior prom on the evening of May 1, 2026, at The Legacy Castle in Pompton Plains. Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator, and all of our faculty chaperones for making this beautiful evening a night to remember for our senior class!





Class of 2026 BBQ



On May 20, 2026, members of the Class of 2026 gathered for the annual Senior BBQ to bond over delicious food and friendship. The seniors also received their yearbooks and enjoyed reading over the beautifully designed book and reminiscing about all of the incredible memories they shared this past school year.

Thank you to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator, for making this a memorable day for our seniors. Also, a special shoutout to Diya Moorjani '26 and Nicole Petrie '26, yearbook editors; Mrs. Jeannine Woolley P'20 and Ms. Jillian Hynes, yearbook moderators; and the entire yearbook staff for all of their hard work!





Senior Talent Show



The Class of 2026 put on an entertaining talent show on the evening of Friday, April 17. 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 as a class at Immaculate Heart Academy.

Thank you to the senior class officers for coordinating this annual event and to Mrs. Liz Kearns P'05, '08, '11, senior class moderator, who announced a comedic proposal to fellow IHA teacher, Mr. Frank Kearns; and emcees, Zoe DePhillips '26 and Erin Sullivan '26, for hosting the show!

A special shout-out to all of our spectacular performers, including Emily Minichetti '26, Brielle Burnett '27, Charlotte Solimando '29, Meredith Solimando '27, Joslyn Lessieu '26, Tara Caputo '26, Gabrielle Rivera '26, Katherine Barry '26, Giana Catalano '26, Kylie Bryan '26, Brynn Eitner '26, Morgan Murray '26, Mary Mahoney '26, Alana Flores '26, Giara Gonzalez '26, Morgan Connell '26, Carolina Guardascione '27, Ashlee Hart '28, Olivia Ashmen '28, Victoria Rizzotti '28, Madeline Murphy '26, Kathleen Hahn '26, Colleen Woods '26, Lily LaMorte '26, Cavan Clancy '26, Etain Moore '26, Isabelle Santos '26, Elliott Daniels '26, Isabella Ragone '26, and Tara McCarthy '26.

Women of Valor

As part of the celebration of Women's History Month, Immaculate Heart Academy recognized a group of impressive students who were each nominated by teachers, faculty, and fellow classmates to be recognized as Women of Valor. IHA was proud to celebrate these eleven young women who continuously use their unique gifts and talents to serve others, lead with integrity, and build up their community.

Each of these students was displayed on a poster in the school's main lobby, highlighting their special characteristics and achievements. From excellence in academics and advocating for women's sports to serving faithfully and making inclusivity their highest priority, these eleven young women truly demonstrate what it means to be a Woman of Valor at IHA.



The students were also celebrated at a special reception with their families on March 4, 2026. Thank you to each of these Women of Valor who continue to

strengthen their Catholic values and grow into empowered, confident young women prepared to embrace the world beyond Immaculate Heart Academy.



**Women of
Valor Among Us –
We Love to See
Women Who...**



Dream Up Solutions Through Service —
Maeve Dorfler '27



Make Excellence a Way of Life —
Madeline Schlereth '27



Take Leadership to a New Level —
Zoe DePhillips '26

Pioneer a Culture of Blue Eagle Pride —
Giara Gonzalez '26



*Seek Deeply, Serve Faithfully,
and Lead Generously —*
Gianna Valente '27



Face Challenges With Grit —
Mariana Builes Garcia '26

*Are Committed to Sharing
Their Passions —*
Morgan Connell '26



*Make Kindness and Inclusivity
Their Highest Priority —*
Kathleen Hahn '26



*Build the Community They Wish
They Had —*
Paige Haemmerle '26

Live Their Love For IHA Out Loud —
Joslyn Lessieu '26



*Raise the Bar for Character in Our
Community —*
Elliott Daniels '26





International Women's Day & Day of Giving

IHA celebrated both International Women's Day and our Day of Giving on March 9, 2026, in order to honor and recognize the many women who make up IHA's unique and unmatched sisterhood. Students were greeted when they first arrived at the school with signs reminding them that at IHA, every day is women's day!

The morning started with an inspiring assembly for students and staff as Zoe DePhillips '26, STUCO president, began with a message to fellow students about the power of this uplifting community, "One of the things I love most about IHA is the way our teachers, coaches, and classmates support each other. They remind us that our words matter and our voices deserve to be heard. Being a part of this community helps us build confidence in ways we may not even realize; whether it's sharing our thoughts





At the assembly, we were also thrilled to welcome back alumna Niki Lattarulo '15 to speak to the student body about the importance of believing in themselves and pursuing goals despite any obstacles that may stand in their way. Niki, who is currently a sports anchor, host, and reporter at SNY, stayed after the assembly to talk with students at a breakfast provided by the Office of Advancement and Parents' Club.

world needs more of: she was kind, considerate, full of life, adventurous, and funny. This year's Marita Faletti Crum Memorial Award and a check for \$1,000 was presented to Ashlee Hart '28. Congratulations Ashlee on this well-deserved award!

Ms. Kerry Carroll '04, principal of IHA, also announced a new scholarship that will be awarded annually at our International Women's Day assembly to a sophomore or junior in honor of Marita Faletti Crum '71. A group of alumnae from the Class of 1971 set up the scholarship in honor of their dear friend who passed away in 2025. The alumnae established the Marita Faletti Crum Memorial Award for a student who best demonstrates the characteristics much like Marita, including her passion for IHA, her immeasurable school spirit, and her ability to stand up and cheer for her many sisters. The alumnae emphasized that Marita's personality was one the



in class, performing on stage, competing on the field, or simply encouraging a friend, we are constantly working to lift each other up."



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.





High School Musical

On the weekend of March 27-29, 2026, Immaculate Heart Academy proudly presented the theatrical adaptation of Disney's *High School Musical*. Congratulations to all the students involved in this captivating, high-energy production. Your artistic abilities, both on stage and behind the scenes, are truly inspiring and brought the spirit of East High to life on stage for our audience.





A special thank you to Mrs. Juliet Montalbano '01, coordinator for the performing arts and IHA teacher; Jodi Capeless P'22, director; Kimberly Galbraith P'22, choreographer; and Gabe Valle, musical director and IHA music minister. This wonderful production would not be possible without the entire production team and stage crew; our parent, student, and staff volunteers; faculty moderators; and the IHA administration. We are also grateful for our incredible orchestra, which was joined by Danica Libanan '26 on violin, and all the students who joined us from St. Joseph Regional High School, Bergen Catholic, Saddle River Day School, Seton Hall Prep, and Pascack Hills High School.

The Cast of High School Musical

Gabriella Montez - Tara McCarthy '26
Troy Bolton - Jack Governale '26
Sharpay Evans - Kaylie O'Connell '27
Ryan Evans - Henry Myers '29
Ms. Darbus - Alicia Eldridge '28
Coach Bolton - Olivia Gagliardo '29
Jack Scott - Aidan Fox '27
Chad Danforth - Shane Denino '27
Zeke Baylor - Fritz Beauvais '27
Jason - Albert Zazzali '27
Taylor McKessie - Kaitlyn Higgins '28
Martha Cox - Mia Severino '26
Kelsi Neilson - Jenna Circelli '27
Ms. Tenny - Lillian Hasenfus '27
Moderator/Ripper - Jillian Griglio '28
Susan - Gianna Ippolito '27
James - Ryan Ayala-Toro '27
Cathy - Gianna Kokotas '28
Alan - PJ Mores '27
Cyndra - Luisa Vogel '27
Dance Captain - Elliott Daniels '26
Wildcat Cheerleaders - Brielle Burnett '27, Elliott Daniels '26, Marley Digby '27,

Arianna George '27, Grace Higgins '28, Gianna Kokotas '28, Peyton Lefever '29, Melina Rambadt '28, Kianna Sadati '28, Stella Tineo '28, Lily Yezdanian '27
Ensemble - Joanna Abramopaulos '29, Ryan Ayala-Toro '26, Reagan Caufield '29, Genesis Dagdayan '27, Anais Esdailes '27, Jillian Griglio '28, Lillian Hasenfus '27, Gianna Ippolito '27, Katherine Karg '29, Elizabeth Kellogg '29, Madison Les '26, Camryn Les '29, Siobhan Murphy '28, Gia Murphy '28, Emilia Reilly '28, Elliana Rose '29, Charlotte Solimando '29, Alexandra Sosa '26, Gianna Valente '27, Julianna Valenti '28, Luisa Vogel '27, Olivia Wallace '29, Sarah Wey '29, Sophia Wey '29



Children's Theatre Performance

IHA's Performing Arts Department was pleased to produce and perform *The Wizard of Oz* as this year's Children's Theatre show on May 21, 2026. Members of the Children's Theatre Arts class and their teacher, Mrs. Juliet Montalbano '01,

produced and directed this special performance for elementary school friends from the local area. After the show, IHA students signed autographs for the children. Thank you to the cast and crew for another incredible production

at IHA. A special shout-out to Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, members of the National Art Honor Society, and students from Advanced Painting & Drawing for help with set design.



Spring Cabaret



The International Thespian Honor Society (ITS) and the Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted IHA's *Miscast Cabaret* on April 28, 2026. Students from St. Joseph Regional High School joined members of ITS and Tri-M for an entertaining performance! Thank you to all the students involved for sharing their talent with the IHA community; and to Mrs. Juliet Montalbano '01, moderator of ITS; and Mr. Gabe Valle, moderator of Tri-M, for coordinating this event.





Spring Arts Festival

The IHA Arts Department proudly presented this year's Spring Arts Festival on April 23, 2026. 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, Advanced Painting & Drawing, 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, led by Mr. Gabe Valle; and solos by members of the Class of 2026.



At this year's IHA Spring Arts Festival, Luisa Vogel '27 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 Luisa on receiving this special scholarship!

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



End-of-the-Year Luncheon and Retirement Celebration



IHA faculty and staff ended the school year with a special reception on June 11 to recognize faculty members celebrating work anniversaries and two outstanding retirees: Ms. Geri Braden, theology teacher; and Mrs. Christine Capizzi '89 P'25, business and mathematics teacher.

With 23 years of dedication to IHA, we said goodbye to Ms. Geri Braden. Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor, spoke about Ms. Braden's dedication to her students and friends. "You are a woman of Faith, character, class, and kindness... Other-centered in a world when so many are self-centered. The wisdom you have shared, the relationships you have built, and the Faith you have modeled have left a lasting mark on our community. While your retirement may mark the end of a chapter at IHA, the impact you have made will continue to be felt for years to come."

With 13 years of dedication to IHA, we also said goodbye to Mrs. Christine Capizzi '89 P'25. During her tribute, Mrs. Elizabeth Kearns P'05, '08, '11, chairperson of the Mathematics Department, reminded everyone of Mrs. Capizzi's vital role in the Math Department to her students and colleagues: "We all know that in statistics, the mean is just an average. But in our department, Christine is the absolute above-average exception to that rule. She brings an infinite amount of patience, a fantastic energy, and a sharp wit to our department every single day."

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. Ana Echeverría P'05,
world language teacher

25-year anniversary

Mrs. Elizabeth Kearns P'05, '08, '11,
chairperson of the Mathematics Department
Mrs. Jeannine Woolley P'20,
director of studies

20-year anniversary

Mr. Jason Schlereth P'27, '28, *president*

10-year anniversary

Mrs. Helen DeMartini P'21, '23,
chairperson of the Science Department
Mrs. Theresa Dolan '95 P'26,
technology and engineering teacher
Mrs. Corinne Fritzky, *college counselor*
Mrs. Angela Roberts '05, *science teacher*
Mr. Raymundo Salas, *maintenance*
Mrs. Donna Sandt P'20, '23, '24,
English teacher
Mrs. Kerri Sheehan P'20, '24,
chairperson of the English Department

Congratulations and thank you for the many years each one of you has devoted to IHA with your time, love, and dedication to our students!



National Honor Society Q3 Awards

IHA's National Honor Society presented awards to students representing the four pillars of the society: character, scholarship, leadership, and service. For the third quarter of the 2025-26 academic year, congratulations are extended to the following seniors (standing left to right in group photo):

Scholarship: Gabrielle Rivera

Gabrielle is the embodiment of an IHA scholar as she demonstrates her strong dedication to academic excellence every day. She is a member of the National Honor Society and takes her responsibility for other students seriously by tutoring her peers. She strives for excellence in her classes, including the very difficult ones she takes on. Gabrielle is also a member of the rigorous STEM program and will be graduating as a STEM scholar. Her hard work and scholarly excellence define everything she sets her mind to.

Leadership: Clare Wenzke

Clare is an excellent example of leadership at IHA through her work with DECA. She is not only the president of the club, but Clare has also qualified for the International Career Development Conference for DECA members two years in a row. Clare is also a leader in the classroom, as she works tremendously hard to succeed in her rigorous courses. She can always be seen helping classmates when they need assistance.



Left to right: Gabrielle Rivera, Clare Wenzke, Kathleen Hahn, and Giara Gonzalez

Service: Kathleen Hahn

Kathleen demonstrates a strong commitment to service and has participated in numerous service opportunities both inside and outside of IHA. Specifically, Kathleen spent her spring break on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, where she volunteered as a youth group participant in an international Easter celebration for individuals with special needs. Kathleen truly is a kind and loving soul who is always willing to help others in times of need.

Character: Giara Gonzalez

Giara has a magnetic personality that exudes her kind and welcoming character. She consistently carries a smile on her face, a positive attitude, and will always greet you with a warm "hello!" in the halls. Her uplifting spirit carries through the many activities she participates in, including her membership on the Varsity Basketball Team and the Varsity Flag Football Team. She welcomes new members to the IHA community with open arms and is always willing to make a new friend. Giara truly models the positive and strong character that personifies what it means to be an IHA student.

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 16, 2026, 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 Ms. Kerry Carroll '04, principal of Immaculate Heart Academy, Mrs. Amy Baskin, assistant principal of academics, and members of the executive boards from all three honor societies. Thank you to moderators, Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, director of the arts; Mrs. Juliet Montalbano '01, coordinator of the performing arts; and Mr. Gabe Valle, choral director, for coordinating this special event for our students.



National Art Honor Society Executive Board

Congratulations to the new inductees listed below on their accomplishments:

New National Art Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Alexis Buffong
Morgan Connell
Kate Dolan
Leila Holland
Kate Hujsa
Isabella Kerio
Anna Kuchar

Tara McCarthy
Kailyn Rejent
Sophia Sigrist

Grade 11

Alexis Busardo
Mia Fernicola
Emma Fowler
Alexandra Gaglioti
Grace Gallagher
Kathryn Gruber
Alexandra Jacobsen

Riley McKay
Madison Nese
Olivia Norum
Alexis Ramagnano
Kylie Rossig
Lucie Schell

Grade 10

Evangeline Budelman
Cali Caprio
Stella Chan
Victoria Christerer
Alexis Coulter
Nora Duffy
Sabrina Freda
Lily Hryniw
Reagan Jareck
Colette Karg
Juliette Kaye
Lauren Kuchar
Emmeline Masterson
Katherine Montesano
Graesyn Oladipo
Brooke Pryka
Rose Santiago
Emily Schlereth
Grace Wenzke



National Art Honor Society Inductees



Tri-M Music Honor Society Inductees

New Tri-M Music Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Eva Bayersdorfer
Laila Fenyo
Hope McCrimlisk
Gabrielle Rivera
Gianna Sidoti
Alexandra Sosa

Grade 11

Gianna Ippolito
Meredith Solimando

Grade 10

Evangeline Budelman
Riley Espallat
Ashlee Hart
Gianna Kokotas
Emily Schlereth

New International Thespian Society Members

Grade 12

Leila Holland
Kate Hujsa

Grade 11

Jenna Circelli
Lillian Hasenfus
Lara Piccitto
Gianna Valente

Grade 10

Olivia Ashmen
Victoria Christerer
Ashlee Hart
Melina Rambadt
Kianna Sadati
Lucia Willi
Ava Wolcott

Grade 9

Joanna Abramopaulos
Reagan Caufield
Olivia Gagliardo
Cara Linda Kaminsky
Elliana Rose



International Thespian Society Inductees



Math and Science Students Inducted Into Honor Societies



Inductees of Science National 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 10, 2026, for the Science National Honor Society (SNHS) and Mu Alpha Theta, National Mathematics Honor Society.

At the induction assembly, students were addressed by Mrs. Amy Baskin, assistant principal of academics, who told the inductees that their academic gifts were given to them for a reason. “Saint Catherine of Siena once said, ‘Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.’ In your equations, your experiments, your curiosity, and your Faith — I believe you already are.” Madison Les ’26, president of Mu Alpha Theta; Alana Flores ’26, vice president of Mu Alpha Theta; and Danica Libanan ’26

and Gabrielle Rivera ’26, 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 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 new inductees:



New Science National Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Elyse Batmaz
Sophie Botta
Giara Gonzalez
Samantha Kerrigan
Sophia Kuzma
Kailyn Rejent
Adrianna Rispoli
Mikayla Sticco
Ella Vrtis
Sophia Wilson

Grade 11

Kristina Ahn
Lia Carballo
Elizabeth Cetina
Elysia Chae
Ana Chalfin
Lily Chap
Hailey Coombs
Zaria Degenhardt
Harper Eddy
Madeline Edelson
Juliet Fisher
Sophia Freire Lafuente
Carolina Guardascione
Ellie Higgins

Alexandra Jacobsen
Anne Maciejewski
Riley Marino
Rachel Mathew
Clare McCarthy
Yuimi McIntosh
Madison Nese
Anna Marie Pascale
Riley Piscitelli
Lucie Schell
Madeline Schlereth
Juliet Sok
Gabriella Tarinelli
Abigail Twomey
Katarina Van Tassel
Hadassah Vilsaint
Luisa Vogel



Inductees of Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society



New Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Diya Moorjani

Grade 11

Kristina Ahn
Sofia Barrera
Elizabeth Cetina
Elysia Chae
Hailey Coombs
Zaria Degenhardt
Danielle DellaVolpe
Madeline Edelson
Juliet Fisher
Gina Ha
Ellie Higgins
Riley Marino
Clare McCarthy
Lucie Schell
Madeline Schlereth
Juliet Sok

World Languages Induction Ceremony

IHA recognized students for exceptional academic achievement in French, Italian, and Spanish on February 25, 2026. 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 Ms. Kerry Carroll '04, principal of IHA. The following executive board officers from all three honor societies then addressed the audience and inducted new members: Ellie Higgins '27, president, and Daniela Ayala '26, vice president, of the French Honor Society; Clara Byrnes '26, president, and Elliott Daniels '26, vice president, of the Italian Honor Society; and Gabrielle



Rivera '26, president, and Kathleen Brancato '26, vice president, of the Spanish Honor Society.

Thank you to the executive board officers and the following teachers for all their work with these honor societies: Ms. Ana Echeverría P'05, moderator of

the Spanish Honor Society; Mrs. Ester Gennarini, moderator of the Italian Honor Society; and Mrs. Eileen Ingoglia, moderator of the French Honor Society. Congratulations to the following 39 inductees listed below on their well-deserved honor:



Inductees of the French Honor Society

New French Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Daniela Ayala
Alexandra Sosa

Grade 11

Madeline Edelson
Juliet Fisher
Ellie Higgins
Reese Lauricella

New Italian Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Clara Byrnes
Elliott Daniels
Bridget Dooley
Dahlia Iuliano
Ava Sinocchi
Keira Wymbs



Inductees of the Italian Honor Society

New Spanish Honor Society Members

Grade 12

Sophia Bertino
Mariana Builes Garcia
Gabriella DeMarco
Isabella Duca
Alana Flores
Giara Gonzalez
Kathleen Hahn
Mackenzie Handy
Anna Kuchar
Ashley Lopez
Madison Les
Katelyn Negrete
Mary Quinn
Isabella Ragone
Aiva Reid
Clare Wenzke
Kathryn Williamson
Sophia Wilson



Inductees of the Spanish Honor Society

Grade 11

Peyton Einwohner
Maya Henriquez
Rachel Mathew
Jocelyn Medina
Mackenzie Murphy
Anna Marie Pascale
Lucie Schell

Grade 10

Lyra Duta
Bryanna Rodriguez



Q3 and Q4 Soaring Eagle Awards



Quarter Three Recipients (standing left to right in group photo): Katherine Karg '29 (World Languages: Ms. Christina Sollitto '13), Mackenzie Hesser '27 (Mathematics/Business: Mrs. Gregory McDonald), Veronica Brenner '26 (Science/Technology: Dr. Erika Brennan), Reagan Hunt '28 (English: Mr. Kearns), Isabella Feniello-Evans '29 (Physical Education: Ms. Jen Bednarek), Lily Angioletti '29 (Social Studies: Ms. Sophie Pellegrino), Lucia Willi '28 (Communications/Drama: Mrs. Juliet Montalbano '01), Sofia Ghomi '26 (The Arts: Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P'14), and Gabriella Nizza '28 (Theology: Ms. Jessica Giglio)

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 16 and May 28, 2026.

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): Fotini Karounos '29 (English: Ms. Hannah Schultz), Mia Cucchiara '29 (Theology: Ms. Nicole Clermont), Sofia Sanchez '29 (Mathematics/Business: Mrs. Katharine Perry), Arianna George '27 (Communications/ Drama: Ms. Jessi Shaheen), Savannah Callea '28 (Science/Technology: Mrs. Theresa Dolan '95 P'26), Jenna Circelli '27 (Social Studies: Ms. Lynn Maltz), Natalie Joung '28 (World Languages: Ms. Beverly Cardino), Sophia Mahon '28 (The Arts: Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P'14), and Alexandra Gaglioti '27 (Not Pictured) (Physical Education: Mr. John Downey)



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 2025-26 academic year:

FRESHMEN

Anabelle Albano
Lily Angioletti
Aria Bassetti
Alanna Castro
Vivian Cinco
Isabella Feniello-Evans
Samantha Filpo
Kaylie FitzPatrick
Gianna Fusaro
Kiley Galligher
Portia Goett
Lia Guglielmetti
Kennedy Herasme
Harper Hicks
Charli Horton
Giuliana Huaranga
Katherine Karg
Fotini Karounos
Elizabeth Kellogg
Bianca Kovac
Sadie Kovalcik
Emily Lacsamana
Madeline Lorentzen
Madison Lota
Madelyn Magill
Julia Marada
Katelyn Mariniello
Carmelina Marino
Madelyn Marino
Camryn Martucci
Brynn McPartland
Elizabeth Mulder
Katherine Murphy
Katherine O'Halloran
Keira O'Neill
Nicole Pinto-Spiegel
Taryn Robitaille
Lizette Rodriguez
Elliana Rose
Morgan Sadaka
Sofia Sanchez
Charlotte Sein
Lindsay Sheridan
Arianna Snarski

Alexea Sonnenberg
Stella Stefano
Alexa Timpone
Julianna Truberg
Sasha Ugras
Victoria Van Tassel
Gabriella Vaughn
Heidi Wanamaker
Sarah Wey
Brooke Whitman

SOPHOMORES

Kiera Burke
Sabrina Freda
Isla Fry
Isabella Fusaro
Caroline Geisler
Autumn Giglio
Lily Haughs
Paige Hesler
Charlene Jbeili
Natalie Joung
Colette Karg
Giada Laiolo
Alyssa Lo
Khloe Loureiro
Antonella Malone
Taylor McGuire
Mia McNeil
Maggie Mikulski
Lyla Murphy
Pavni Patel
Juliana Rambadt
Emilia Reilly
Vivian Sango
Althea Villareal
Amara Villareal

JUNIORS

Kristina Ahn
Lia Carballo
Elizabeth Cetina
Elysia Chae
Lily Chap
Jenna Circelli
Zaria Degenhardt
Danielle DellaVolpe
Madeline Edelson
Juliet Fisher
Sophia Freire Lafuente
Ellie Higgins

Anne Maciejewski
Riley Marino
Clare McCarthy
Gabriella Morillo
Anna Marie Pascale
Madeline Schlereth
Meredith Solimando
Gabriella Tarinelli
Abigail Twomey
Katarina Van Tassel

SENIORS

Brielle Bakker
Kathleen Brancato
Clara Byrnes
Riley Cannon
Morgan Connell
Elliott Daniels
Gabriella DellaVolpe
Christina Festa
Alana Flores
Sofia Ghomi
Angela Giuliano
Giara Gonzalez
Kathleen Hahn
Maureen Hennelly
Jaylene Hernandez
Madison Les
Danica Libanan
Meghan Long
Catalina Maglicic
Tara McCarthy
Roisin McLaughlin
Etain Moore
Nicole Petrie
Mary Quinn
Isabella Ragone
Gabrielle Rivera
Jaylene Rondon
Grace Sciortino
Mia Severino
Alexandra Sosa
Elisabeth Tralongo
Victoria Zalewski

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 2025-26 academic year:

FRESHMEN

Lucia Amico
Lily Angioletti
Isabella Antigua
Aria Bassetti
Alanna Castro
Isabella Feniello-Evans
Samantha Filpo
Kaylie FitzPatrick
Gianna Fusaro
Maeve Gagliardo
Olivia Gagliardo
Kiley Galligher
Portia Goett
Lia Guglielmetti
Kennedy Herasme
Harper Hicks
Charli Horton
Giuliana Huaranga
Katherine Karg
Fotini Karounos
Elizabeth Kellogg
Bianca Kovac
Sadie Kovalcik
Emily Lacsamana
Peyton Lefever
Mae Loonam
Madeline Lorentzen
Madison Lota
Madelyn Magill
Julia Marada
Katelyn Mariniello
Carmelina Marino
Madelyn Marino
Camryn Martucci
Brynn McPartland
Elizabeth Mulder
Katherine Murphy
Katherine O'Halloran
Keira O'Neill
Emilia Pereira
Nicole Pinto-Spiegel
Taryn Robitaille
Lizette Rodriguez
Elliana Rose

Morgan Sadaka
Sofia Sanchez
Charlotte Sein
Lindsay Sheridan
Arianna Snarski
Shaye Sommer
Alexea Sonnenberg
Triona Sweetman
Julianna Truberg
Sasha Ugras
Victoria Van Tassel
Gabriella Vaughn
Heidi Wanamaker
Sarah Wey
Brooke Whitman

SOPHOMORES

Julia Brignola
Kiera Burke
Savannah Callea
Nina Cardella
Alexis Coulter
Lyra Duta
Katie Eckes
Mia Fanelli
Sabrina Freda
Isla Fry
Isabella Fusaro
Caroline Geisler
Soraya Gershenhorn
Autumn Giglio
Marla Haddad
Margaret Hahn
Lily Haughs
Paige Hesler
Kaitlyn Higgins
Charlene Jbeili
Natalie Joung
Colette Karg
Juliette Kaye
Ashley Kim
Giada Laiolo
Alyssa Lo
Sophia Mahon
Taylor McGuire
Maggie Mikulski
Lyla Murphy
Madilyn Olenick
Pavni Patel
Addison Porod
Juliana Rambadt

Emilia Reilly
Alessandra Stancato
Mia Tirabassi
Althea Villareal
Amara Villareal

JUNIORS

Kristina Ahn
Elizabeth Cetina
Elysia Chae
Ana Chalfin
Lily Chap
Jenna Circelli
Keira Collins
Hailey Coombs
Zaria Degenhardt
Danielle DellaVolpe
Harper Eddy
Peyton Einwohner
Juliet Fisher
Sophia Freire Lafuente
Alexandra Gaglioti
Niamh Hall
Cayleigh Heffernan
Ellie Higgins
Delilah Leichtnam
Riley Marino
Rachel Mathew
Clare McCarthy
Gabriella Nucifora
Valentina Passanante
Riley Piscitelli
Alexis Ramagnano
Madeline Schlereth
Meredith Solimando
Gabriella Tarinelli
Abigail Twomey
Katarina Van Tassel
Samantha Vaz
Ania Winger

SENIORS

Daniela Ayala
Brielle Bakker
Eva Bayersdorfer
Kathleen Brancato
Clara Byrnes
Riley Cannon
Giana Catalano
Morgan Connell

Elliott Daniels
Gabriella DellaVolpe
Bridget Dooley
Christina Festa
Alana Flores
Sofia Ghomi
Angela Giuliano
Giara Gonzalez
Kathleen Hahn
Mackenzie Handy
Maureen Hennelly
Jaylene Hernandez
Samantha Kerrigan
Sophia Kuzma
Madison Les
Danica Libanan
Meghan Long
Catalina Maglicic
Ella Matts
Tara McCarthy
Roisin McLaughlin
Nicole Petrie
Isabella Ragone
Gabrielle Rivera
Jaylene Rondon
Jordan Rupich
Grace Sciortino
Clare Wenzke
Keira Wymbs

Class Retreats

Throughout the school year, IHA held class retreats for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes to help them delve deeper into their Faith and grow closer to each other. The retreats were packed with fun-filled activities and prayerful reflection. Thank you to Ms. Emily Ash '19, director of campus ministry, and all the faculty and staff who helped make these retreats possible for our students.



New IHA Cafeteria Mural

IHA is proud to showcase a new mural in the cafeteria, painted by our talented art students!

Earlier in the school year, members of the National Art Honor Society met with Joe Pimentel, a local muralist, to collaborate on a mural in the newly remodeled cafeteria. Nineteen students from the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) submitted design proposals, and after careful consideration, a design by Mia Fernicola '27 was selected. The final concept also incorporates elements inspired by contributions from other NAHS members and the broader school community.



The mural features large IHA letters in a bold Varsity-Style font, representing the spirit and identity of the school. Each letter contains imagery that represents a different aspect of student life at IHA. The "I" represents academics, and within this letter are images symbolizing learning and scholarship. The "H" represents Faith and service, symbolizing IHA's strong Catholic identity and commitment to service. Finally, the "A" represents activities and student life, which includes various images of athletics, the arts, and extracurricular activities.

This beautiful mural perfectly encapsulates the school's identity, highlighting some of the major aspects of life at IHA, and it is such a welcome addition at lunchtime! Thank you to all the talented artists who contributed to this painting and to Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, director of the arts, for orchestrating this special addition to our school.



SCENE | Around IHA

National Latin Exam Scholars

We are thrilled to announce the outstanding results of our students on the prestigious 2026 National Latin Exam (NLE). Each spring, over 100,000 students from across the globe participate in this rigorous test, which covers not only Latin grammar and translation, but also Roman life, literature and mythology, history, derivatives, geography, and Latin in use in the modern world.

According to IHA Latin teacher Ms. Beverly Cardino, “We are extremely proud of all of our students. Competing against 100,000 students from all 50 states and over 20 countries, our dedicated students performed at the top of all test-takers. While many schools have given up on the classics, IHA realizes the importance of offering this language to our students to advance their understanding and appreciation for Latin’s vibrant impact on English and other world languages.”

The motto of the NLE, Sapere aude or “dare to be wise,” derived from the Roman poet Horace, inspires learners to go beyond mere translation and explore the deeper meaning of the Latin language and its culture. Students in Ms. Cardino’s Latin III Honors class proved their passion for independent thinking, creative curiosity, and the pursuit of wisdom. Congratulations to the following IHA juniors who achieved top honors on the intermediate level of the exam:

Summa Cum Laude (Gold Medal)- Awarded to the top 10% of all test-takers

Elizabeth Cetina and Madeline Schlereth

Maxima Cum Laude (Silver Medal)- Awarded to the top 25%

Kristina Ahn, Keira Collins, and
Vasilia Rodas

Magna Cum Laude - Awarded to the top 35%

Niamh Hall, Anne Maciejewski,
and Clare McCarthy

Cum Laude - Awarded for scoring above the national average

Kaitlyn McCormick

14th Annual Autism Awareness Day

The IHA Lacrosse Team hosted its annual playing for a cause day in support of autism awareness on April 15, 2026. The team has raised \$18,000 since they started this 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.



Standing left to right in bottom row: Keira Collins '27, Kristina Ahn '27, Vasilia Rodas '27, Elizabeth Cetina '27, and Madeline Schlereth '27. Standing left to right in the top row: Kaitlyn McCormick '27, Niamh Hall '27, Ms. Beverly Cardino, Clare McCarthy '27, and Anne Maciejewski '27.



Mental Health Awareness Month

IHA offers many programs to help students be mindful of their mental health needs and to seek help when feeling overwhelmed by their daily tasks and responsibilities. During Mental Health Awareness Month, the IHA Guidance Department filled the entire month of May with various activities for students to promote mindfulness and emotional well-being, including Therapy Dog visits, guest speakers, blowing bubbles, and making s'mores and yogurt parfaits. The students were also encouraged to "Grow Where You Are Planted" by designing containers for succulent plants, as a reminder to make the most of where they are right now, even if things don't feel perfect or exactly as expected. Thank you to the entire Guidance Department for their dedication to the mental health of our students.

On May 28, 2026, we also recognized our Therapy Dog Program by hosting a gratitude luncheon for the dog handlers who have spread joy with their beloved furry friends at IHA this year. Thank you to all of the handlers pictured below, along with Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor and moderator of our Therapy Dog Program, and Alexis Coulter '28 and Quinn Villaruel '28, co-presidents of Wellness Ambassadors.



On the Fly Improv Show

On April 14, 2026, IHA's On the Fly Improv Troupe performed its annual improvisational production. Students showcased their incredible improv skills by competing in a night of one-on-one improvisational battles. Last year's champion, Nicole Nava '28, lost her crown to Morgan Connell, president of the On the Fly Improv Troupe, who became the overall winner and new champion! Thank you to Mr. David Lee, club moderator and journalism/TV studio teacher, for helping to coordinate this production.

10th Annual Anthony LaRezza Invitational Tournament

The IHA Softball Team once again hosted its annual Anthony LaRezza Invitational Tournament on April 19, 2026. In total, during the softball season, the team raised over \$10,000 in honor of the late IHA coach Anthony LaRezza, who passed away due to cancer. Over the last eleven years, IHA Softball has raised more than \$110,000 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!



English III Research Papers

English III Honors students celebrated the completion of their research papers with a party and discussion about their topics with each other and members of the IHA administration. Some of the topics included the fight for equal pay in women's sports, the lack of research into women's health conditions, and the damaging impact of social media on teens. Thank you to Mrs. Donna Sandt P'20, '23, '24 for recognizing their hard work on these impressive papers and for bringing sweet treats to celebrate her students!





College Week at Immaculate Heart Academy

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 2026, the department kicked off its annual College Week with a College Fair, hosting nearly 50 different colleges from across the nation. The fair was followed up with various activities for students during the school day, including mock admissions interviews, college essay brainstorming sessions, information on majoring in the arts, and a session on the athletics recruitment process. Thank you to Mrs. Melissa O'Sullivan, director of college counseling, Mrs. Corinne Fritzky, college counselor, and Mrs. Allison Anderson, guidance and college counseling secretary, for putting this important week together for students and their parents.



Veteran Speakers

On Thursday, March 26, a group of veterans came to speak to AP U.S. History students and members of the Military Awareness Club about their experiences serving our country. Students were able to ask questions and show their appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Thank you to Mrs. Caitlin Zonkowski, social studies teacher and club moderator, for coordinating this event. Pictured left to right in group photo are Steve Kalish, VFW Post 6192 Adjutant; Mrs. Caitlin Zonkowski; Tom Sears, VFW Post 6192 Commander; Mr. Rich Skinner, director of school safety and operations; and Jeff Siconolfi, VFW Post 6192 Quartermaster.



Class of 2030 Ice Cream Social

Our friendly Eagle Ambassadors welcomed the Class of 2030 to IHA at an ice cream social on May 28. Thank you to Mrs. Lauren (Rhein) Glarner '09 and Mrs. Kerri Sheehan P'20, '24, moderators of the Eagle Ambassadors, for putting together this entertaining, sisterhood-bonding activity for our incoming freshman class!



Living Stations of the Cross

IHA Campus Ministry and members of the Christian Service Board put together an inspiring Living Stations of the Cross ceremony for staff and students before Easter break. A special thank you to Ms. Emily Ash '19, theology teacher and director of Campus Ministry, for coordinating this touching ceremony, and Mr. Michael Hamlett, school photographer, for helping with set and lighting design. We would also like to thank the IHA Praise Choir, as well as Kathleen Hahn '26, Giara Gonzalez '26, Madison Les '26, Kaitlyn Higgins '28, Katarina Van Tassel '27, Lily Yezdanian '27, Ariana George '27, Kaylie O'Connell '27, Catalina Maglicic '26, Melina Rambadt '28, Emily Schlereth '28, Alicia Eldridge '28, Bridget Dooley '26, Tara McCarthy '26, Hayden Edwards '26, Zoe DePhillips '26, and Alana Flores '26 for their beautiful performance and narration.



Parent Volunteer Reception

Our wonderful parent volunteers were celebrated at a reception on May 13, 2026. 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 pictured above: Dana Van Voorhis P'26, Carol Soranno P'26, Gerri Minichetti P'26, and Christina Guirland P'26; as well as

Parents' Club volunteers, Angela Vrtis P'26, and Eileen (Barnes) Hahn '85 P'24, '26, '28.

We are so appreciative of all the members of our Parents' Club board, including those not pictured: Daniela Nizza P'23, '28, Stephanie Budelman P'28, Jim Hart P'28, Alice McDermott P'28, and Jenn Roman P'25, '26, '30. Each of our parent volunteers has given his or her time, talent, and treasure to IHA, and for that, we are incredibly grateful.

Art Therapy Guest Speakers

The Arts Department was thrilled to welcome back Patricia Grego '93 P'26, and Margaret Kaounis Marrero '02 on March 3, 2026, to share their educational journeys, career experiences, and advice to students interested in a career in art therapy. More than 75 students from the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) and St. Hidegard Arts Schola also learned how art can be used as a powerful tool for healing, advocacy, and emotional wellness. Ms. Grego owns and operates Therapeutic Arts with offices in New York and New Jersey; Ms. Marrero is an art therapist on staff. Thank you to Mrs. Lisa Encke P'20, director of The Arts and moderator of NAHS, and Ms. Patrizia Tersigni P'14, art teacher and academic coordinator of the Arts Schola, for coordinating this informative discussion.



Latest Edition of Orb Literary Magazine

Congratulations to the writers, artists, and staff members of IHA's 2026 *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 and artwork. A special thank you goes out to moderator and teacher, Mrs. Donna Sandt P'20, '23, '24. Pictured to the right are some of the ORB editors and staff members at a release party in May 2026 for the new magazine.



Class of 2031 Sisterhood Sneak Peek

IHA welcomed members of the Class of 2031 to a Sisterhood Sneak Peek on April 20, 2026. Meghan Long '26 started the day off by sharing with students the many things that make IHA so special. Etain Moore '26 also spoke to students about why service is such an important part of the IHA experience, and then the seventh graders participated in their first service project at the school, preparing toiletry bags for an upcoming Midnight Run. The day would not be complete without a special cookie at locker break, followed by classes alongside current students in the art room, TV studio,



gymnasium, and Performing Arts Center. The seventh graders also met some of our peer mentors and were then treated to lunch at the end of the day. We are so excited to welcome the next generation of Blue Eagles. Thank you to Mrs. Lauren (Rhein) Glarner '09, director of admissions, and Mrs. Kelly Tweed '93 P'30, assistant director of admissions, and all of our student and faculty volunteers for this fun-filled day at IHA.



Mother/Daughter Brunch



Mothers and daughters enjoyed a special bonding day at a brunch held on February 8, 2026, at Seasons Catering. The Mother/Daughter Brunch included a fun-filled afternoon of food, dancing, games, and prizes. More than 325 mothers and daughters attended this amazing event.

Thank you to the event co-chairs, Daniela Nizza P'23, '28 and Christina Guirland P'26; the IHA Advancement Team; and members of the Parents' Club for organizing such a beautiful day! A special shout-out to Christina Guirland P'26 for putting together the colorful candy table and to all parents who donated candy — a big hit with moms and daughters alike.





Beefsteak Dinner

More than 400 guests attended Immaculate Heart Academy's annual Beefsteak Dinner on Saturday, April 25, 2026, to celebrate our outstanding athletics program. The event was a huge success and truly an incredible display of support for IHA 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; Beefsteak co-chairs, Daniela Nizza P'23, '28 and Christina Guirland P'26; Beefsteak sports basket coordinator, Lia (Kunnapas) Aloia '09; Beefsteak committee members and additional parent/faculty volunteers; Stacy DeMicco P'21, '24, '25; Mr. Steve Ferro, director of athletics; Mrs. Sarah Frasure '07, director of advancement &

alumnae relations; Ms. Michele Verrone '88 P'21, '24, coordinator of special events; IHA administration; and the IHA maintenance team.

A special thank you also to our numerous generous vendors and donors, and to George Kuzma P'26 and Fischbach Catering LLC.



Did You Know...



IHA Named Best Private School, Again!

For the second year in a row, Immaculate Heart Academy is proud to have won the Best of Bergen 2026 Readers' Poll in the category: Best Private School (K-12).

IHA received this award at the 20th annual Best of Bergen Gala hosted by (201) magazine on Thursday, March 12, 2026, 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 130 categories. The top seven nominations in each category then moved on to the final round, 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.



Model United Nations (UN) Club Brings Home a Win

On March 7, 2026, the Model UN Club participated in the seventh annual Pearl River High School Model UN conference. Colette Karg '28, Elizabeth Kellogg '29, and Ashley Kim '28 won Best Position Paper, and Katarina Van Tassel '27 won Outstanding Delegate. Congratulations to all of our students for participating in this competition, and a special thank you to moderator and Science Department chairperson, Mrs. Helen DeMartini P'21, '23, for providing this insightful opportunity for our students. Standing left to right in the photo on the left side of the page are Elizabeth Kellogg '29, Olivia Kim '28 (accepting for her sister Ashley), and Colette Karg '28.



DECA Shines at Competitions

IHA DECA traveled to Atlantic City from March 3-5 to compete at the New Jersey DECA State Career Development Conference. A total of 71 IHA students competed in business, marketing, role-play, and prepared events against top students from across the state.

Several students earned DECA Mini Awards, recognizing top exam or role-play scores in their events, including

Emerson Christman '28, Vivienne Ujhely '27, Grace Higgins '28, Nina Cardella '28, Grace Handy '28, Olivia Cirello '28, Serena Vassak '28, Madelyn O'Brien '28, Riley Gowie '28, Riley Mitchell '28, and Andrea Valente '28.

Students who advanced to the DECA State Semifinals include Isabella Realbuto '27, Malia Hamilton '27, Chloe Coffey '26, Riley Gowie '28, Riley Mitchell '28, Andrea Valente '28, Vivienne Ujhely '27, and Clare Wenzke '26.



A special congratulations to our DECA State Finalists who qualified to attend DECA's International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, Georgia in April:

- Vivienne Ujhely '27 — Principles of Business Management
- Clare Wenzke '26 — Human Resources Management
- Riley Gowie '28 — Integrated Marketing Campaign
- Andrea Valente '28 — Integrated Marketing Campaign
- Riley Mitchell '28 — Integrated Marketing Campaign

This prestigious event brought together top-performing students from around the world to compete at the highest level. Also in attendance at the ICDC were Zoe DePhillips '26, Samantha Kerrigan '26, Madelyn Hryniw '26, Keira Collins '27, and Malia Hamilton '27, who earned the opportunity to attend DECA's Leadership academies.

Congratulations to all of our IHA DECA competitors for representing the school with professionalism, leadership, and business excellence. Thank you to IHA chapter advisor, Mrs. Christine Capizzi '89 P'25, for all her hard work in preparing our students and providing an incredible experience; and to the IHA DECA executive board members for their dedication to membership, promotional, and community service campaigns. We also appreciate our wonderful chaperones on these trips, including Mrs. Jeannine Woolley P'20, Mrs. Amy Baskin, Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, Ms. Michele Verrone '88 P'21, '24, Ms. Danielle Buldo '91, and Mrs. Allison Anderson.





Sophia's Workshop

Sophia Wilson '26 partnered with the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital in Hackensack, NJ, to create an initiative called Sophia's Workshop, which strives to provide pediatric patients and their families a sense of normalcy as they spend the holidays away from home. Through the organization, which sponsors various

toy, gift, and book drives throughout the year, Sophia's Workshop hopes to spread a little holiday cheer during the difficult times these children and their families face.

The creation of Sophia's Workshop in 2024 has been years in the making. According to Sophia, "The summer before my eighth-grade year, I, too, was a patient at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital due to an unforeseen health scare. Something that stayed with me from my visit was the kindness of the staff, which, in part, was made possible by the generosity of many donors. The staff at the children's hospital ensured that I had something to take my mind off the obstacles I was facing. Whether it was gifting me a jigsaw puzzle or a book, they helped brighten the darkest of days. It was in this moment that I knew I wanted to pay it forward and provide other pediatric patients with that same glimmer of hope!"

In her first year, Sophia collected about \$4,000 worth of gifts (toys, puzzles, books, etc.) for the hospital thanks to the generosity of family, friends, and teachers from her grammar school, as well as a donor from Scholastic books. In 2025, she collected more than \$2,500 worth of gifts and hopes to continue to support the hospital with future drives. Sophia is always accepting donations and has created an Amazon wishlist posted on her Instagram page for anyone interested in supporting this cause — Instagram: @sophias_.workshop.



Black Culture Club Field Trip

The Black Culture Club (BCC) went on a field trip to the Staatsburgh State Historic Site in April. Students learned about the triumphs and struggles of Black families during the Gilded Age in the Staatsburg area, as well as a historic background of slavery at the mansion and around the area. Students also enjoyed a guided tour of the 79-room Beaux-Arts mansion at this historic site. Thank you to Dr. Sue Kenney, social studies teacher and moderator of the BCC, for coordinating this trip, and Mrs. Tanya Dwyer, social studies teacher, for helping to chaperone.





IHA Performing Arts Recognized for Foxy & Rising Star Awards

IHA's performance of Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* won two Montclair State University Foxy Awards and was nominated for seven others. IHA's production of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller also received two nominations for Foxy Awards. Congratulations to everyone nominated below for these spectacular productions:

Matilda the Musical

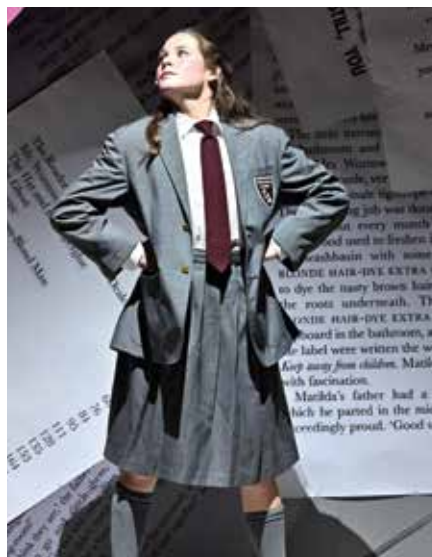
Award Winners

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress (Foundational)

Katherine Ryan '25



Outstanding Achievement in Choreography in a Musical
Kimberly Galberaith



Award Nominees

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress (Foundational)

Tara McCarthy '26

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress (Comprehensive)

Mia Severino '26



Outstanding Achievement in Direction of a Musical; Outstanding Performance by an Acting Ensemble in an Established Musical; and Outstanding Production of an Established Musical
Jodi Capeless

Outstanding Achievement in Contemporary Costume Design for a Musical
Nancy Reynolds

Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design for a Musical
Nikki Belenski

The Crucible

Award Nominees

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress in a play (Foundational)

Tara McCarthy '26

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress in a play (Foundational)

Alicia Eldridge '28



In addition, IHA's performance of *High School Musical* was nominated for the Rising Star Awards by Paper Mill Playhouse. IHA is proud to celebrate all of our nominees for their work on this captivating musical:

High School Musical

Award Nominees

Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role

Alicia Eldridge '28

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group (Cheerleaders)

Brielle Burnett '27

Elliott Daniels '26

Marley Digby '27

Arianna George '27

Grace Higgins '28

Gianna Kokotas '28

Peyton Lefever '29

Melina Rambadt '28

Kianna Sadati '28

Stella Tineo '28

Lily Yezdanian '27

Honorable Mention for Outstanding Achievement in Direction
Jodi Capeless



Debut Novel by IHA Sophomore

IHA is thrilled to announce an impressive achievement by one of our sophomores this year. Victoria Rizzotti '28 is the author of her debut novel, *The Assassin's Crown*. This young adult fantasy novel, under her pen name of Victoria Lynn, can be purchased at various online retailers, including Amazon, and at most major bookstore locations. Victoria has multiple book signings at Barnes & Noble locations throughout the summer, and encourages you to check them out on her Instagram: [victorialynnwrites637](#). Victoria also wants to give a special shout-out to Jillian Griglio '28 for designing and creating her cover. IHA is so proud of Victoria on this tremendous accomplishment.



North Jersey Athlete of the Week



Congratulations to Zoey Orlando '28 on being named the North Jersey Female Athlete of the Week in May 2026. According to [northjersey.com](#), "At the Bergen Meet of Champions ... Orlando ran a personal-best 11.84 in the 100 meters — the second-fastest time in New Jersey this season and quick enough to break a 24-year-old meet record. Around 45 minutes later, she repeated as the county champ in the 200 in 24.88. By doubling up on gold on May 20, she became the first girl to win both sprint titles in nine years." This incredible achievement ultimately led Zoey to being named the North Jersey Female Athlete of the Week. We are so proud of Zoey and all that she has accomplished with IHA Track and Field. She is currently the Non-Public A Outdoor State 100 meters champion, the Non-Public A Indoor State 55 meters champion, and holds eight IHA records!

New Members of the IHA Community

Mrs. Maureen Layng, assistant principal of students, and her husband, George, welcomed their second son this year. Conor George decided to share his birthday with his big brother, Cillian Patrick, and was born on March 31. The IHA community sends its blessings to the entire Layng family.



Mrs. Ester Gennarini, world language teacher, announced the birth of her first child this year. Ester and husband, Giuseppe, welcomed their daughter, Maria Giuditta Gennarini, on May 8. We wish Ester and Giuseppe many blessings, and we can't wait for Maria to meet her extended IHA family.



National Rowing Championship

Charlotte Lillian Sein '29 and Burke Cooley '29 competed in the USRowing Youth National Championships from June 11-14, 2026, at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota, Florida. Charlotte and Burke competed at a high level against all of the rowing teams in the country. In fact, Charlotte finished 15th in the country for the U17 4+ category and Burke finished 17th in the country for the U17 8+ category. This impressive duo said they are very grateful for the experience, thoroughly enjoyed competing, and learned many new things from this event. Congratulations Charlotte and Burke, IHA is so proud of your impressive achievement.



Mock Trial Club Advances to Quarterfinals

The defense team of the IHA Mock Trial Club took home a win against Ridgewood High School on January 28, 2026. The team had the opportunity to compete in a real courtroom at the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack. Standing left to right in the group photo above are: Colette Karg '28, Kelsey Brooks '27, Katherine Montesano '28, Juliet Fisher '27, Kathleen Brancato '26, Sophia Nemeth '26, Maureen Hennelly '26, Hayden Edwards '26, and Evangeline Budelman '28. The Mock Trial prosecution team delivered its own win on February 4, 2026, in a competition against Garfield High School. Standing left to right in the group photo below are: Emma Bossbaly '26, Anne Moore '26, Peyton Einwohner '27, Madison Les '26, Lara Piccitto '27, and Kiera Burke '28; and in



the front row are Maureen Hennelly '26 and Keira O'Neill '29. Overall, both the IHA Mock Trial defense and prosecution teams were ranked eighth in the Bergen County competition out of 31 teams as they advanced to the quarterfinals this year — the farthest into the competition the Mock Trial Team has placed in many years! Thank you to moderator, Mrs. Caitlin Zonkowski, for her dedication to the success of our students in the Mock Trial Club.



All-American Athletes

Congratulations to Jaylene Rondon '26 and Liliana Betz '27 on being named All-Americans! Jaylene Rondon '26, goalie for IHA Varsity Soccer, was named All-American and Scholar All-American by the United Soccer Coaches, recognizing both her work in the classroom and on the field. Liliana Betz '27, midfielder for IHA Varsity Lacrosse, received her All-American honor from USA Lacrosse. Congratulations to both Blue Eagles! These honors are a testament to their hard work, dedication, and leadership both on and off the field. IHA is proud of everything Liliana and Jaylene have accomplished.



Italian Class Trip

IHA's Italian classes took a field trip on March 24, 2026, to the Rosen Performing Arts Center in Wayne to see *Pinocchio Pop*, a bilingual edu-musical by Incanto Productions. This interactive show was thoroughly enjoyed by the 80 students who attended. Thank you to Mrs. Maria Daly-Valls, world language teacher and Italian Club moderator, and Mrs. Ester Gennarini, world language teacher and moderator of the Italian Honor Society, for coordinating this trip. We are also grateful to our other chaperones, Ms. Beverly Cardino and Ms. Christina Sollitto '13, world language teachers; Ms. Ellen Donoghue '76, guidance counselor; and Ms. Jessica Giglio, theology teacher, for taking students on this incredible experience.

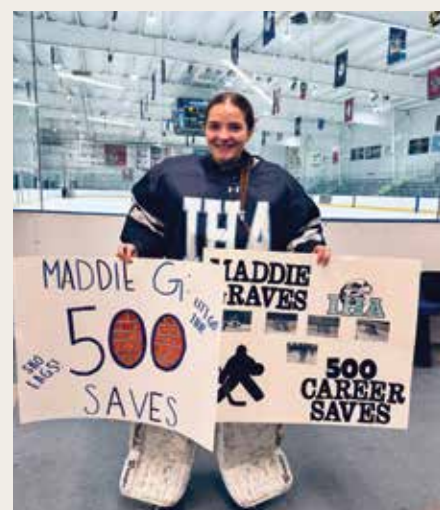


IHA Junior Selected for Ted-Ed Live Program

Malia Hamilton '27 was selected for the 2026 TED-Ed Live program with Club Être. Out of many inspiring applicants from around the world, Malia will be part of a global community of young people using their voices to share ideas that matter. According to Malia, "Over the next few months, I will be developing a talk that's deeply personal to me, centered around confidence, self-expression, and what it truly means to take up space and be unapologetically yourself." Malia will deliver her talk in New York City in October.

Ice Hockey Milestone

Congratulations to Madison Graves '28, who marked a career milestone in Ice Hockey. Maddie saved her 500th goal this past season in a thrilling game that went into overtime against Princeton Day School on January 30, 2026. Maddie was also integral in IHA's 3-1 win in the state finals over Morristown Beard School. This is the first time in school history that IHA won the State Championships in ice hockey. Maddie saved 31 of the 32 shots she faced and received the Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau MVP Award for her efforts. She has been playing ice hockey since she was 12 years old, and this is her second year of IHA hockey. Congratulations Maddie!

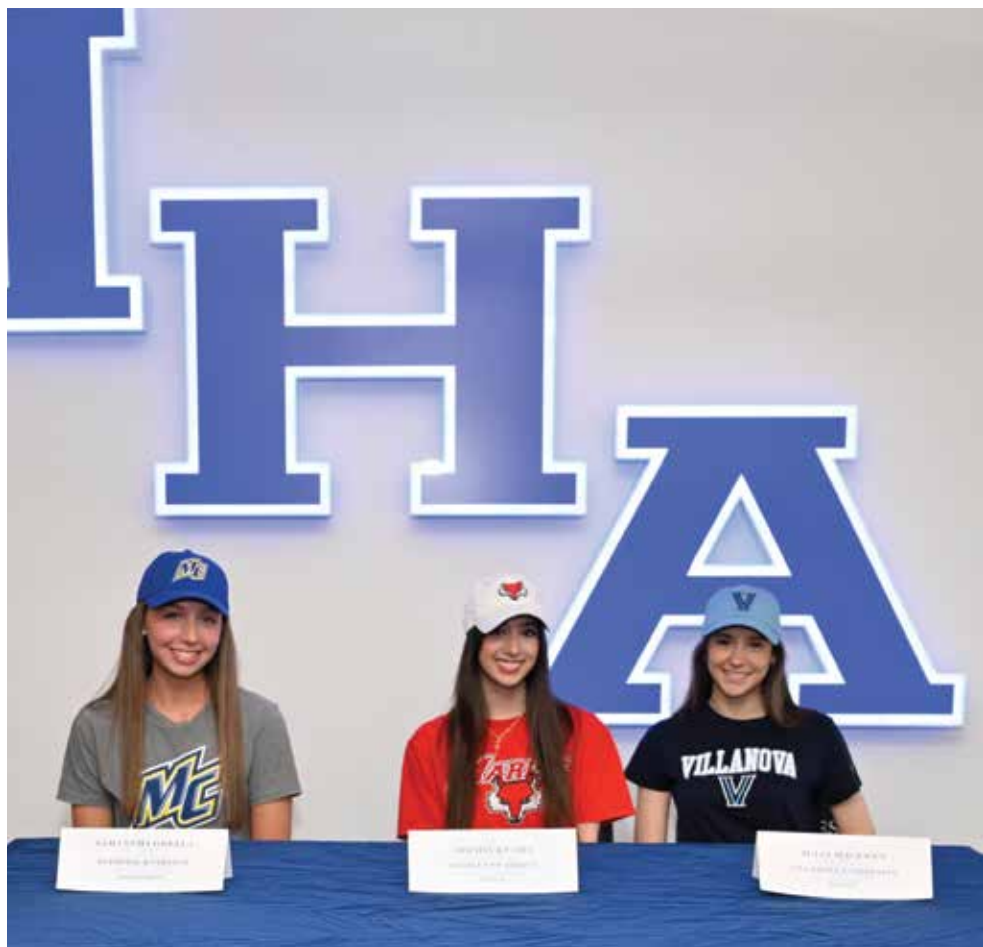


Spring Sports Signing

On June 2, 2026, IHA celebrated three impressive IHA student-athletes who had officially committed to their universities. The athletes seated left to right in group photo are:

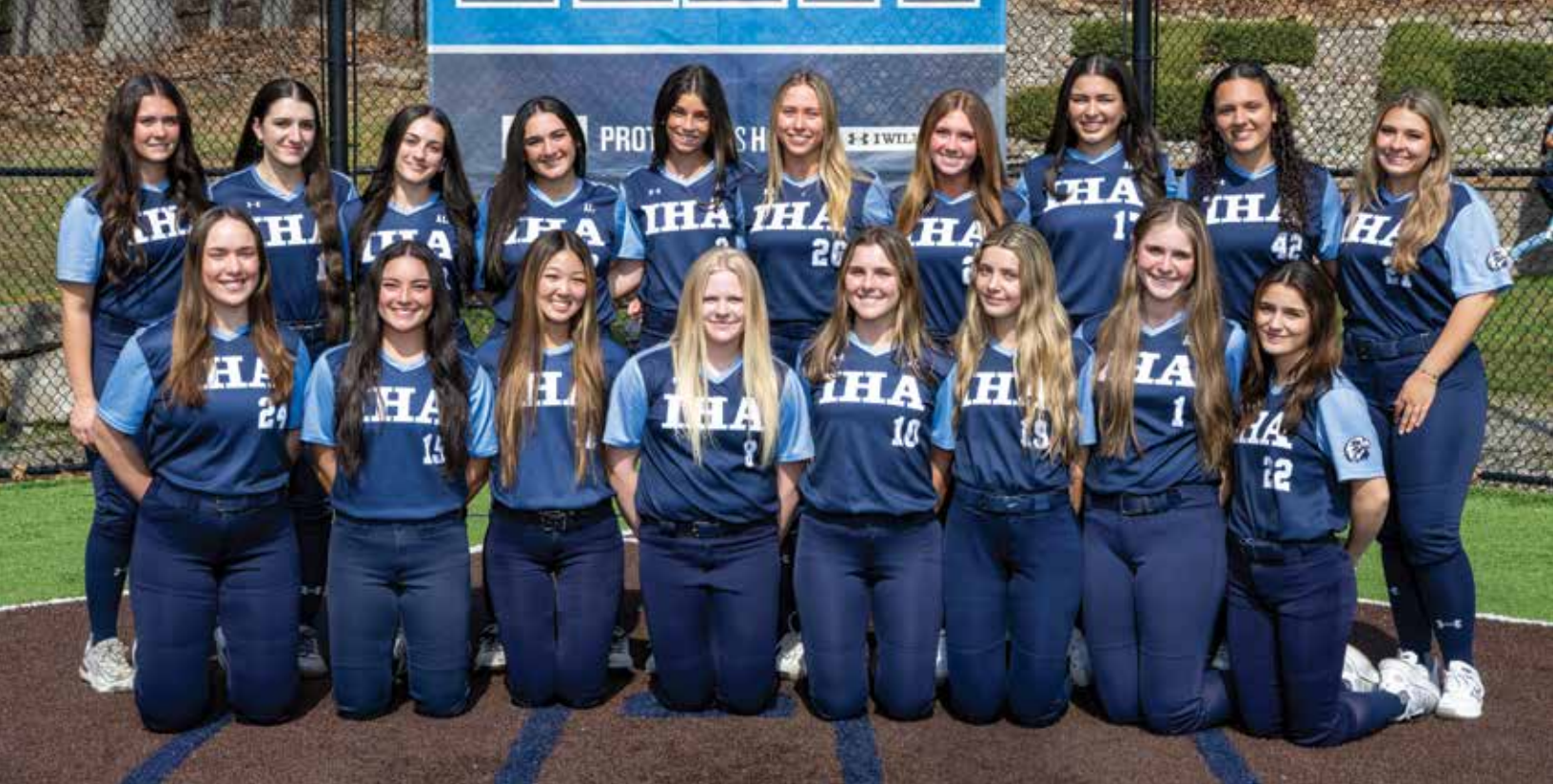
- Samantha Grella (Merrimack College, Basketball)
- Sophia Kuzma (Marist University, Dance)
- Julia MacEwen (Villanova University, Dance)

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



SPRING | sports wrap-up





SOFTBALL

Immaculate Heart Academy Softball remains as one of the premier programs in New Jersey. Powered by dominant pitching, a high-powered offense, and clutch postseason wins, the IHA Varsity Softball Team appeared in the League Championship, Bergen County Final, and State Sectional Championship games during the 2026 season. The team finished with an overall record of 22-9 and is looking forward to another successful season next year.



Big North United Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Brielle Bakker '26
Gabriella DellaVolpe '26
Leah English '27
Olivia Gilligan-Ollert '27
Julia Valente '27

Second-Team

Bernadaette Grace Colonna '26
Julia Costello '27
Danielle DellaVolpe '27
Breonna Guirland '26
Ariana Lee '28
Kahlan Vough '29

Honorable Mention

Reese Lauricella '27
Sarah Komninos '26

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Leah English '27
Julia Valente '27

Second-Team

Gabriella DellaVolpe '26

Third-Team

Brielle Bakker '26
Olivia Gilligan-Ollert '27

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Leah English '27

Second-Team

Gabriella DellaVolpe '26

NJ.com All-State-Non-Public Honors

Second-Team

Leah English '27

Third-Team

Kahlan Vough, '29





LACROSSE

IHA Varsity Lacrosse had an exciting 2026 season. Despite being a young team with only a handful of seniors, the players found success and fought hard until the final game. Battling through injuries along the way, the team came together and earned a return trip to the county finals. Highlighted by several strong wins against county opponents, the IHA Varsity Lacrosse Team finished with a 10-9 record. We are proud of everything this group accomplished and are looking forward to getting back at it next season with our talented returning players!



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Liliana Betz '27
Meryl Lawson '27
Gia Murphy '28

Second-Team

Juliette Kaye '28
Cali Caprio '28
Kylie Bryan '26
Isabella DeTuro '27

Honorable Mention

Katarina Van Tassel '27

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Liliana Betz '27
Meryl Lawson '27
Gia Murphy '28
Juliette Kaye '28

Second-Team

Cali Caprio '28
Kylie Bryan '26
Isabella DeTuro '27

Third-Team

Katarina VanTassel '27

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Gia Murphy '28
Liliana Betz '27

Second-Team

Kylie Bryan '26
Isabella DeTuro '27
Meryl Lawson '27
Juliette Kaye '28

USA Lacrosse All-American

Liliana Betz '27



GOLF

The IHA Golf Team completed the 2026 season with an impressive 11-1 overall regular-season record. The successful team went undefeated in league match play with a 10-0 record to place first in the Big North Central Division. Adding to that perfect record, IHA Golf followed up with third-place finishes in the Big North League Tournament, the Bergen County Tournament, and the Non-Public State Tournament of Champions. Congratulations to the entire IHA Golf Team. We are excited for all that you will accomplish next year.



Big North Conference Central Division All-League Honors

First-Team

Alana Flores '26
Lily Angioletti '29
Sophia Mysliwiec '29

Second-Team

Peyton Connors '27
Nicole Petrie '26

Honorable Mention

Anne Maciejewski '27

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Sophia Mysliwiec '29

Second-Team

Lily Angioletti '29

Honorable Mention

Alana Flores '26

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Sophia Mysliwiec '29

NJ.com All-State- Non-Public Honors

Third-Team

Lily Angioletti '29
Alana Flores '26
Sophia Mysliwiec '29





SPRING TRACK

The 2026 IHA Spring Track and Field Team had another magnificent year, going 3-0 in dual meets, winning the Comet Relays, County Relays, League Title, and County title for the sixth consecutive year. Zoey Orlando '28 broke her own school records in both the 100 and 200 Meters and won the Non-Public-A State Title in the 100m. Zoey's 100m time of 11.84 is the #2 all-time record in Bergen County history, and her 200m time of 24.39 is ranked #7. Antonella Malone '28 broke a seven-year school record in the 200m hurdles. The 4x800 relay of Abigail Silvera '28, Olivia Koukouras '29, Isabella Fungaroli '27, and Mary Roberts '28 placed third at the Non-Public-A State Meet to advance to the New Jersey State Meet of Champions, as did the 4x100 relay of Mary Quinn '26, Veronica Brenner '26, Antonella Malone '28, and Zoey Orlando '28. Also of note, Katherine Montesano '28, a first-year pole vaulter, placed fifth at the State Group Meet. Congratulations IHA Track on another impressive season.



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Antonella Malone '28
Zoey Orlando '28
Isabella Fungaroli '27
Olivia Koukouras '29
Mary Roberts '28
Ella Heinimann '27
Mary Quinn '26
Kayla Rodriguez '26

Second-Team

Veronica Brenner '26
Abigail Silvera '28
Madeline Lorentzen '29
Abigail Bennett '26
Lilith Roman '26
Joslyn Lessieu '26
Ava DeJesus '29

Coach Of The Year

Matt Joyce

Honorable Mention

Olivia Hudak '27

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Zoey Orlando '28

Third-Team

Natalie Lovaglio '26
Mary Quinn '26
Veronica Brenner '26
Antonella Malone '28
Zoey Orlando '28

Northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

First-Team

Zoey Orlando '28

NJ.com All-State-Non-Public Honors

First-Team

Zoey Orlando '28

NJ MileSplit All-State

First-Team 100 and 200 Meters

Zoey Orlando '28





FLAG FOOTBALL

IHA added a Flag Football Team to its impressive athletic program during the 2025-26 school year. In its debut, the Flag Football Team wrapped up an exciting first season with a 4-5 record, showing tremendous growth, resilience, and heart every step of the way. Our seniors, Elliott Daniels, Giara Gonzalez, Grace Sciortino, and Kate Hujsa led by example, showcasing incredible talent, leadership, and dedication that helped shape this year's success. While we will miss their impact, we are excited to see how the program continues to build on this momentum. The future is bright for IHA Flag Football!



SFC Patriot Red All-Division Honors

First-Team

Offense - Giara Gonzalez '26,
Lucie Schell '27

Second-Team

Offense - Ellie Alvarado '29
Defense - Olivia Norum '27
Special Teams - Vivienne Ujhely '27

Honorable Mention

Offense - Mackenzie Hesser '27,
Gabriella Vaughn '29
Defense - Elliott Daniels '26,
Brooke Carney '29

WINTER | sports wrap-up





Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Delaney Cozine '27

Second-Team

Taylor Ahrens '29

Honorable Mention

Julia Bussanich '29

Madison Graves '28

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors All State All-Groups

First-Team

Delaney Cozine '27

Second-Team

Madison Graves '28

Honorable Mention

Julia Bussanich '29

Taylor Ahrens '29

New Jersey Devils and NJSIAA

Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau MVP Award (State Finals)

Madison Graves '28

ICE HOCKEY

The IHA Ice Hockey Team had another impressive showing in the 2025-26 season with an overall record of 11-4 and a State Championship win! The team finished third in the top division of New Jersey Girls High School Hockey and beat every team during the regular season at least once, only losing matchups to Princeton Day School.



In the first round of the State Championship playoffs, the team beat Hoboken by a score of 4-0. Madison Graves '28 recorded a playoff shutout. The semifinal marked the final game against Princeton Day School, and this time, IHA found a way to win. Delaney Cozine '27 scored two goals, and Madison Graves '28 performed another stellar game in net, paving the way to the third consecutive trip to the Prudential Center.

IHA beat Morristown Beard in the state final game 3-1, with Julia Bussanich '29 scoring the first goal of the game and Delaney Cozine '27 once again scoring two goals to win IHA's first-ever State Championship. Madison Graves '28 saved 31 of the 32 shots she faced and received the Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau MVP Award for her efforts. Congratulations to IHA Ice Hockey on a truly incredible season!





BASKETBALL

Entering the season with high expectations and challenged by arguably one of the toughest schedules in the state, the IHA Varsity Basketball Team proved once again worthy of all the hype with an overall record of 21-6. The girls won the Big North United League Championship for the nineteenth year in a row. They were undefeated (6-0) in Big North United Division play and suffered only one loss in the overall Big North League. A few highlights included two exciting wins over DePaul Catholic and impressive wins over state powers: Teaneck, Eastside, Bayonne, and Franklin. The injury bug was an issue down the stretch as the team came up short in the Bergen County Tournament semifinal, in overtime. The season ended in the North State Sectional Tournament semifinal against Pingry, 46-43, as the team finished #4 in the northjersey.com Top 25 Girls Basketball Ranking. Congratulations to all three of our basketball teams on another impressive season of IHA basketball.



Big North Conference/ All-League Honors

First-Team

Samantha Grella '26
Addison Valdez '27
Casey McCauley '28
Giuliana Huaranga '29

Second-Team

Isla Fry '28
Lucie Schell '27
Stella Broderick '27
Kaylie FitzPatrick '29

Honorable Mention

Giara Gonzalez '26
Neriah Mbouyo '29

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Samantha Grella '26
Giuliana Huaranga '29

Second-Team

Addison Valdez '27

Honorable Mention

Casey McCauley '28



SWIMMING

The IHA Swim Team enjoyed another successful season, finishing with a 7-2 record. The team won its thirty-fifth consecutive League title and its twenty-seventh consecutive Bergen County title. IHA remains the only team to ever win the Bergen County Championship.



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Kimberly Zhang '26
Harper Eddy '27
Madeline Schlereth '27
Stella Chan '28
Kathleen Brancato '26
Mariana Builes Garcia '26
Emily Schlereth '28
Emma Arevalo '28
Niamh Hall '27
Jillian Ciabattoni '29

Second-Team

Alyssa Lo '28
Victoria Choi-Seem '29
Sofia Sanchez '29
Riley Espallat '28
Morgan Sadaka '29

Honorable Mention

Kate Dolan '26

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Kimberly Zhang '26
Harper Eddy '27
Madeline Schlereth '27
Elizabeth Mulder '29

Second-Team

Emma Arevalo '28
Kathleen Brancato '26
Mariana Builes Garcia '26

Honorable Mention

Jillian Ciabattoni '29

NJ.com Big North Conference All-Conference Team

Elizabeth Mulder '29





BOWLING

Once again, the IHA Varsity Bowling Team had an amazing season. Our record was 54-44 in the 2025-26 season, placing second in the league. The Bowling Team also reached a milestone by placing sixth in the County Tournament for the second year in a row, before moving into the third round of the State Sectionals. We will miss our talented group of seniors as they head off to college, but remain confident in our prospects for next year with an impressive group ready to make an impact at the lanes.

Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Jaylene Hernandez '26

Second-Team

Madelyn Hryniw '26

Meghan Long '26

Madison Hawryluk '26

Honorable Mention

Samantha Kerrigan '26

Miranda Dougherty '26

BCWCA All-County Honors

Honorable Mention

Jaylene Hernandez '26

Meghan Long '26

Madelyn Hryniw '26

*Jaylene Hernandez was ranked in the top 100 in the State and played in the State Tournament. Jaylene and Madelyn Hryniw were also chosen to play in the Big North Singles Tournament, with a top 32 ranking in the Big North Conference.



WINTER TRACK & FIELD

The Winter Track & Field Team had another spectacular season, once again taking wins in both the League and County Relay Championships for the sixth consecutive year. The team also won the New Jersey Catholic Track Conference Championship Meet. Zoey Orlando '28 won the Non-Public A State Championships, tying the school record in 7.12. Zoey also set school records in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter dash, and ran the second fastest time in school history in the 300 meters. Abigail Silvera '28 posted the fourth fastest time in school history in the 600 meters; Triona Sweetman '29 set new freshman records in the 1600 and 3200 meter run; and Bianca Kovac '29 set new freshman records in the long jump and triple jump. Additionally, Natalie Lovaglio '26, Zoey Orlando '28, Abigail Silvera '28, Bianca Kovac '29, Ava DeJesus '29, and Triona Sweetman '29 all qualified to compete at the Nike Indoor Nationals in New York City. We are proud of all of our track athletes for an impressive 2025-26 season!



Big North Conference All-League Honors

First-Team

Zoey Orlando '28
Mary Roberts '28
Reagan Mortko '29
Riley Mitchell '28
Natalie Joung '28
Brooke Whitman '29
Abigail Silvera '28
Triona Sweetman '29
Olivia Hudak '27
Mary Quinn '26

Second-Team

Katherine O'Halloran '29
Olivia Koukouras '29
Antonella Malone '28
Layla Graddy '28
Veronica Brenner '26
Kayla Rodriguez '26

Honorable Mention

Isabella Fungaroli '27
Abigail Bennett '26

Coach Of The Year

Matt Joyce

BCWCA All-County Honors

First-Team

Zoey Orlando '28

northjersey.com All-North Jersey Honors

All State Non-Public First-Team

Zoey Orlando '28 (55 Meters)





SKIING

The Ski Team delivered an outstanding season defined by teamwork, competing through brutally cold temperatures and challenging conditions. A defining highlight of this season was the team's qualification for the state championships, along with an impressive third-place finish in the Non-Public Division. The team also earned individual recognition for their performances, which are listed on the right. While the results were impressive, what stood out most was the character of this team, their sportsmanship, determination, and the way they consistently supported one another. Congratulations to all of our racers on an outstanding season. We are eagerly looking forward to next season; winter cannot come soon enough.



NJISRA

All-League Honors

Shelby Quiles '26

Lyra Duta '28

Honorable mention

Samantha Sundlin '26





DANCE

The IHA Dance Team experienced tremendous success in the 2025-26 season, competing both locally and nationally. For the first time in program history, the IHA Dance Team placed in all three routines they competed in at the Dance Team Union (DTU) National Championship in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations to all of our talented dancers, including the Junior Varsity Jazz Team, which placed sixth at Nationals! In addition, at the DTU regional competition, our JV Squad placed first and was named Jazz Champions, while the Varsity Jazz Team took third place, and Varsity Pom was awarded fourth place. A heartfelt congratulations to all of our dancers on an exceptional season.



Ramapo College Dance Team Invitational

Varsity Pom 1st place
Junior Varsity Jazz 1st place
Varsity Jazz 2nd place
Innovative Choreography for Varsity Jazz

Pascack Valley Sweetheart Invitational

Junior Varsity Jazz 1st place
Varsity Pom 2nd place
Varsity Jazz 5th place

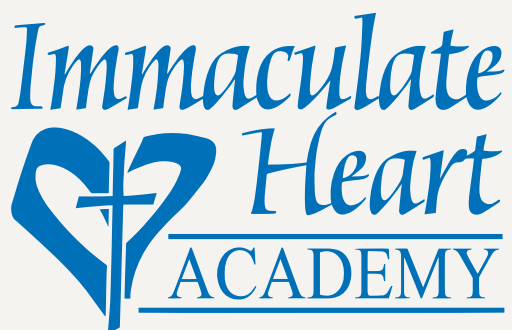
Dance Team Union (DTU) Regionals

Junior Varsity Jazz 1st place
Varsity Jazz 3rd place
Varsity Pom 4th place

DTU Nationals in Orlando, Florida

Junior Varsity Jazz 6th place
Varsity Pom 14th place
Varsity Jazz 19th place





CLASS notes

'74 & '75

Irene McLaughlin Nayden '75 and **Theresa Ippolito Bresten '74** met coincidentally at a golf outing in Jupiter, Florida. While they did not remember each other from their days at IHA, they quickly figured out that they were both alumnae and part of the enduring sisterhood!



'97

Dr. Julieanne Sees was recently elected president of the board of directors of the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF). She is also honored to serve on the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Association, as well as on the board of directors of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics and the national board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. Julieanne is also president of the Delaware State Osteopathic Medical Society and a National Academy of Medicine Fellow of Osteopathic Medicine.

Julieanne holds two U.S. Patents with Pfizer Global Research and Development and was recently awarded Mentor of the Year by the American Osteopathic Association. According to Rita Forden, the CEO of AOF, "Dr. Sees is a bright light in our profession! Not only is she an empathetic and compassionate person who is highly praised by her peers, mentees, and patients, she is also one of the most tireless individuals I have ever met."



In 2025, Julieanne was also invested into the Order of Malta, as a Dame from the NJ area (pictured above). The Order of Malta is a Catholic lay religious order that focuses on caring for people in need through its medical, social, and humanitarian works. Julieanne says, "I could never have imagined that this past IHA Award winner would be who I am today. So often I lean into the serenity prayer we said during my IHA Varsity Softball days, asking God to grant me the strength to play hard, the courage to play fair, and the wisdom to know the difference. I am forever grateful for my Catholic Faith, my loving family, and my treasured IHA. My advice to current students: keep shining your bright light, enlighten the world, and be the beacon to illuminate your journey and the pathways for others."



'03

Jasmine Urzo and her husband welcomed their daughter Lily Vinnie Cuomo into the world in July of 2022.

Currently living in Nutley, New Jersey, with her family and dog, Porkchop, Jasmine works with the Archdiocese of Newark, specializing in cemetery sales for Catholic Cemeteries. In addition, she is a residential and commercial real estate agent with Keller Williams Park Views.

'13

Jessica Sperber

completed her Ph.D. in developmental psychology at Columbia University this year. She subsequently

moved to Berlin, Germany, to begin a postdoctoral fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. According to Jessica, "My research examines the biological embedding of social inequality in childhood via epigenetic processes and has been funded by the National Institutes of Health. My work aims to identify mechanisms that can help improve the developmental trajectories of children growing up in poverty."



'14

Marisa (Proscia) Harris

married Bradford Harris on November 15, 2025, in Poughkeepsie, New York. Marisa and Brad

met at Marist University and were thrilled to return to the Hudson Valley for this major milestone. After spending five years living in San Antonio, Texas, the couple is excited to now call Bergen County home, planting roots in Hillsdale. Joining Marisa on her special day were several IHA alumnae pictured left to right in group photo above: **Nicole (Hallsiey) Stram '06**, **Kelly Hallsiey '14**, **Sara (Nestrowitz) Bradley '14**, **Sofia Zingale '14**, and **Daniela Crowley '14**.





'14

Following her graduation from IHA in 2014, **Jordan Stefanacci Fox** attended Gettysburg College. During her junior and senior years of college, she was an honors Intern at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where she worked in a financial crimes unit alongside special agents. After graduating from Gettysburg College and then Seton Hall Law School, Jordan clerked for now-retired New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Lee Solomon. Subsequently, she worked at two New Jersey law firms and focused her practice primarily on white-collar criminal defense work. In January 2025, Jordan moved to Washington, D.C., and became the chief of staff to the deputy attorney general of the United States. According to Jordan, "In this role, I help oversee and align policy initiatives across the Department of Justice, including DOJ's federal law enforcement agencies and litigating divisions. While at the Department of Justice, I also had the opportunity to serve as DOJ's first senior coordinating official on the White House FIFA World Cup Task Force." Pictured on the left with Jordan is her husband, Spencer Fox, who is a graduate of Don Bosco Prep.



'17

Sophie Lee recently graduated with a D.O. from Midwestern University - Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and has returned home to pursue her residency in family medicine. According to Sophie, "I have wanted to become a doctor for so long, and it feels surreal to have finally accomplished this... It was actually during Thanksgiving break of my freshman year in college that I went back to visit IHA and ran into one of the faculty members who recommended I reach out to Dr. Regan (an IHA alumna

and anesthesiologist in NJ.) for guidance and mentorship. I not only contacted Dr. Regan and shadowed her that following summer, but have since kept in touch with her for nearly a decade. She wrote me recommendation letters for my medical school applications and gave me so much advice and shadowing experience. Looking back on my whole experience throughout this entire process, I realize that I would not have gotten here without the tremendous amount of help I have received from people like Dr. Regan and our connection through IHA." Pictured on the left at Sophie's graduation is her fiancé, James.

'21 **Lauren Turci** recently graduated from Northeastern University with a B.S. in behavioral neuroscience with a minor in health psychology. She is currently working at Sagely Health as a lead patient advocate, helping patients navigate a cancer diagnosis and all that follows. According to Lauren, "I've been amazed at how many cancer patients are missing out on newer treatment options and glad to be working with Sagely Health to fill that gap."



'22 **Isabella Vaughn** graduated summa cum laude from Marist University, earning her Bachelor of Arts in psychology with double minors in Spanish language studies and criminal justice. This summer, she began graduate school at Columbia University, where she is pursuing a Master of Education in mental health counseling. Alongside her graduate studies, Isabella is currently working as a behavior technician, providing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy to children with autism.





22 **Olivia Raia** graduated cum laude from Boston College in December 2025. Olivia had a triple major in elementary education, applied psychology and human development, and theology. She was also a member of the track and field team at Boston College. Olivia is now headed into her own classroom as a second-grade teacher in Boston.



24 **Kaitlyn Klaus** recently completed her sixth diaper drive for the Center for Food Action while attending the University of Mississippi. When Kaitlyn was a freshman at IHA, she began a diaper drive because she recognized that the need for diapers was a growing problem in the country. Kaitlyn used the power of social media to collect diaper donations from across the country, and since her drive began in 2020, she has collected nearly 60,000 diapers to support families in need.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Elizabeth McGreevy Bodie

Class of 1975
March 31, 2025

Mary Gail (Fahrendorf) Deaux

Class of 1976
July 17, 2026

**Sister Antoinette
Moore, CSJP**

March 18, 2026
Former principal of IHA

Michele O'Neill

April 6, 2026
*Mother of Allison (O'Neill)
Ayers '99*

Barbara Ann Allan

April 8, 2026
*Sister of Lisa Porkka Kondvar '78;
and aunt of Kathryn Porkka '09
and Jennifer Porkka '12*

Margaret Coyne

April 20, 2026
*Mother of Margaret (Coyne)
Minogue '85, Michele (Coyne)
Piedmonte '87, and Mary
Beth (Coyne) Mulry '91; and
grandmother of Meghan Minogue
'23 and Lauren Mulry '25*

Marion B. Gionta

April 23, 2026
*Mother of Margaret (Gionta)
Kivlehan '84, staff member, and
Barbara (Gionta) DeStefano '86*

**Sister Carol Ann
Lockwood, SC**

June 10, 2026
Former faculty member

Timothy Rooney

June 20, 2026
*Brother of Jeannine Woolley,
staff member, and uncle of
Kerri Woolley '20*

Carmella Belgiovine

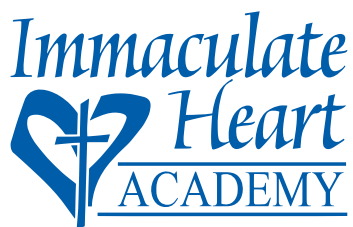
June 24, 2026
*Mother of Bridget Belgiovine '75,
Rosemary (Belgiovine) Kwaterski
'76, Camille (Belgiovine) Spera '81*

William Keough

July 3, 2026
*Father of Norine (Keough)
Tamborino '81 and Kathleen
Keough '86*

Catherine "Katie" Hall

July 4, 2026
*Mother of Shannon (Hall) Guy '06
and MaryKate Hall '16; and aunt
of Tara Hall '03, Deirdre Hall '07,
and Niamh Hall '27*



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
21

Blue Eagle Open

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

OCT
18 & 22

Fall Open Houses

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

OCT
23

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!

NOV
06

HSPT Test for Class of 2031

Class of 2031 prospective students are required to take the Archdiocesan high school entrance exam.

NOV
08

Annual Handbag Fundraiser

You can never have too many handbags! Join us for a chance to bring home one of the season's most fashionable designer bags.

NOV
19

Junior Ring Day

The Class of 2028 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.

NOV
20-22

Fall Drama

Join us for IHA's production of the hilarious romantic comedy, *Midsummer/ Jersey*, written by award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig. Performances will be on November 20, 21, and 22.

DEC
01

Class of 2031 Application Deadline

Applications to be a member of IHA's Class of 2031 are due by December 1, 2026.

DEC
17

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.