

PRESTON *Then & Now*

DIGNITY. HONOR. RESPECT. COMPASSION.



THE CLASS OF 2024 WAS AWARDED
\$25,809,502
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS.

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

The importance of scholarships and financial aid

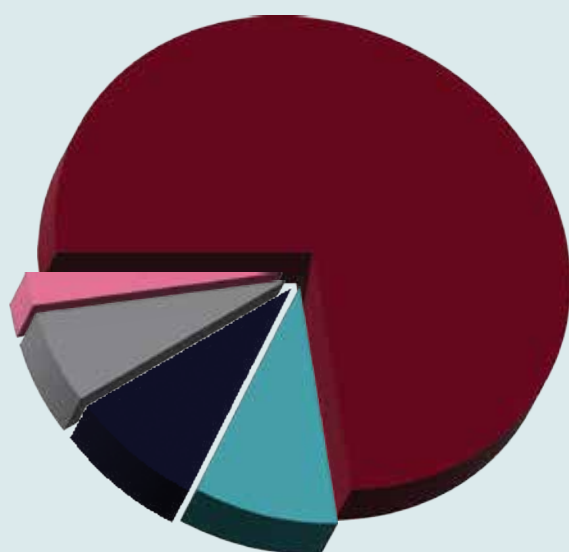
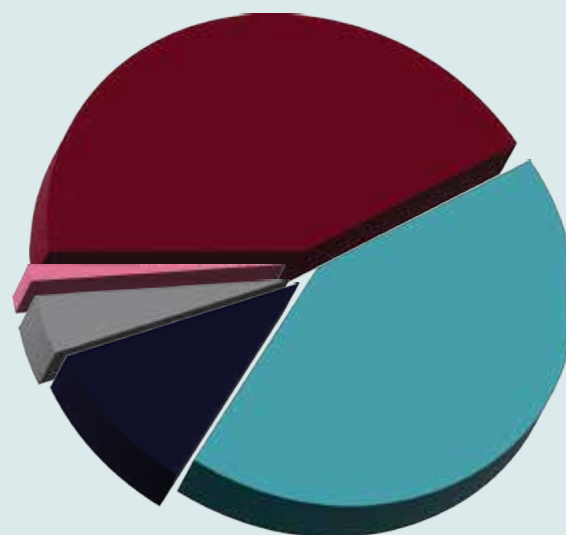
A donation to the scholarship fund allows Preston to recruit the highest achieving 8th grade students by offering full, half and quarter scholarships, as well as the Mother Mary Veronica Compassion through Service Scholarship for students who perform service in their community.

A donation to our financial aid program makes a Preston education affordable for so many hard working families. Approximately 72% of our students receive aid in some capacity, whether through academic scholarships, service grants, financial aid or outside scholarships including but not limited to Student Sponsor Partners, Inner-City Scholarship Fund and the Columbus Citizen Foundation.

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$3,693,321	43%
Programs	\$3,693,321	43%
Operations/Maintenance	\$824,122	10%
Administrative	\$327,976	4%
Development	\$66,710	1%

Total Expenses **\$8,605,450**



REVENUE

Tuition and Fees	\$3,679,012	74%
Mandated Services	\$435,485	9%
Scholarship Income	\$420,629	8%
Development Income	\$314,486	6%
Other Income	\$123,424	2%

Total Revenue **\$4,973,036**

Operating Net Loss **\$(3,632,414)**

SHORTFALL

Enrollment	365
Tuition and General Fee	\$12,995
Loss per Student	\$10,581

Preston relies heavily on the generosity of our donors. Through grants and donations to the annual fund, we are able to keep the deficit to less than \$2,000 per student.

Message From Our Principal



Dear Alumnae,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we transition into the summer months, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and share some highlights from the recent events at Preston High School.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce that on Saturday, June 1st, we proudly watched 83 seniors walk across the porch at our graduation ceremony. It was a picturesque day, with our graduates seated under the shade of the Ginkgo tree, surrounded by their loved ones and the serene backdrop of the water. This longstanding tradition serves as a beautiful link between the past and present classes of Preston High School.

Prior to the graduation festivities, we gathered for a memorable Baccalaureate Mass at St. Frances de Chantal Church, and the seniors enjoyed an enchanting prom held at Mulino's at Lake Isle Country Club. These events were moments of joy and reflection for our seniors as they prepare to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

However, our celebrations were not limited to the graduating class. On Tuesday, May 21st, we honored 158 students at our Academic Honors Convocation for their outstanding academic achievements. Additionally, we recognized the accomplishments of our student leaders during our Leadership Assembly, and celebrated the dedication of our athletes at Sports Night.

This year has been marked by the revival of cherished traditions and the inception of new ones. We hosted our first Career Day in over a decade and welcomed back over 35 alums as guest speakers. Our soccer team is the NYC champion, and we had an incredible run of Grease. Our Theology department has been offering sacramental prep classes, resulting in the confirmation of six students during our Easter liturgy. Our commitment to providing diverse opportunities for our students remains unwavering.

Thanks to the generosity of an alum donor, the Preston Scholars Program continues to support students with transformative experiences, including online classes at NYU and summer seminars abroad. This year they are heading to the Azores! We are working with another alum to bring Rock the Street, Wall Street to Preston, but we need your help- if you or a woman you know is working in Finance in NYC, and would like to partner with us, please email me at jconnolly@prestonhs.org. Thank you!

As we anticipate the start of the 2024-2025 school year, we reflect on the achievements and milestones of the past year with pride and gratitude. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. Thank you for your continued dedication to Preston High School and its mission.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable summer ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Connolly", written in a cursive style.

Jennifer R. Connolly, Esq.
Principal
Class of 1992

ROCK THE STREET, WALL STREET, a high impact nonprofit, empowers underrepresented high school girls by reintroducing the M in STEM with a focus on financial and investment mathematics provided through investment professionals in the classroom.

Congratulations Class of '24!



GRADUATION On Saturday June 1st, faculty, staff, friends and family joined together in the beautiful backyard of the Preston High School campus to celebrate the Class of 2024. The weather acted as a perfect backdrop as our principal, Ms. Jennifer Connolly began the ceremony. Student Body Vice President Briana Cherubino sang the national anthem and 10 graduates led the prayer. Clara Suriel delivered the salutatory address to her fellow graduates after taking a moment to ask her classmates to give their parents a round of applause for supporting and leading them to this moment. Three alumnae mothers presented their daughters with their diplomas: Laura DeMaria-DeMattia '92 to her daughter Danielle DeMattia, Melissa Paradiso Kibler '85 to her daughter Jamie Kibler '24 and Joanne Rocchio Lombardo '91 to her daughter Anna Maria Lombardo '24.



This year's Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to the Honorable Amanda C. Farías '07. She currently serves as Majority Leader of the New York City Council and Council Member of the 18th district serving the Soundview-Bruckner, Clason Point, Castle Hill, Unionport, Harding Park, Parkchester, and Westchester Square neighborhoods of the Bronx.

After the distribution of the diplomas and academic and extra-curricular awards, Katherine Chambers delivered the valedictory address to her fellow graduates. The ceremony ended with the traditional throwing of the graduation caps as a class.

The Cecelia Cunningham Noonan Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Nursing
Sara Efrem

The Patricia Langan Mrsich '70 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Law
Katherine Chambers

The Barbara Lee Feinberg '69 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of English
Marian Medina

The Helen & Anton Wagner Memorial for Outstanding Service & Compassion
Danielle DeMattia

The Ronnie Donovan Memorial Award for Courage
Skylar Hernandez

The Anthony D'Abbraccio Memorial Foundation Scholarship Award
Madison Sanchez

The Amanda Tamburrino Compassion Award
Rhiannon Hiney

The Salvatore Marino Memorial Award
Nyla Odutola

The Marie Ann McNamee Carlucci '71 Grant for the Intended Study of Nursing
Leangie Matos

The Sr. Mary Carmella Stapleton Alumnae Association Award for Exemplary Preston Spirit
Jamie Kibler

The Divine Compassion Award
Katherine Chambers

The Margaret A. Gaughan '66 Memorial Scholarship for the Intended Study of Journalism
Samantha Herrera



Announcing...

↓ **Krista Picone Serrao '10** and her husband Joseph Serrao welcomed baby girl Ava Maria on August 15, 2023.



↓ **Angelique Cruz Rodriguez '10** and husband Torrey Rodriguez welcomed baby boy Tristan Gabriel on September 29th, 2023.



↓ **Angela Fragale Episcopio '13** and husband Anthony Episcopio welcomed baby boy Anthony Pietro on March 9th, 2024.



→ **Gabrielle Cruz '13** and Steven Palladino were married on June 28th, 2024.



→ **Christina Sassone '13** and Christian Hauser were married on November 18th, 2023.



← **Jamie Bragg '13** and Christopher Arnone became engaged in May 2024.

↓ **AnnaRose Fragale '15** and Wesley DeSimone became engaged in July 2024.

→ **Brianna Bell '12** graduated with her Juris Doctorate Degree Cum Laude from Florida A&M University College of Law. She also became engaged to her fiancé Richard Smith on May 14, 2023.



Laura Bisignano '77 welcomed grandson Salvatore Joseph on March 31, 2022.

***There was a misprint in the Summer 2023 issue.*

TO SHARE NEWS OR TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE,
PLEASE EMAIL GABRIELA DEL VALLE [GDELVALLE@PRESTONHS.ORG](mailto:gdelvalle@prestonhs.org) OR (718) 863-9134 EXT.143.

In Loving Memory

Sandra LoBalbo Britt '64, sister of Doreen LoBalbo '82

Marie McNamee Carlucci '71

Elizabeth Carroll, mother of Catherine Carroll-Spadt '81

Dawn McCarroll Casey '88

Rosina Censani, grandmother of Rosemarie Barresi '01 and Serena Barresi Forzaglia '03

Ruth DeStefano, mother of Debra DeStefano McNamara-Johnson '75

Patrick Doyle, father of Margaret Peggy Doyle '74, Patricia Doyle Imperiale '75, and Cathy Doyle Sleeper '77

Ralph T. Federici, father of Vickie Federici Causa '75 and grandfather of Jackie Causa Bassani '99

Jacqueline Murphy Flanagan '56

Eileen Farrell Frawley '61, sister of Betty Farrell Colkin '64

Margaret Gaughan '66, sister of Ellen Gaughan Porcaro '67, Agnes Gaughan McNamara '70, Mary Gaughan Werner '78, and aunt of Heather Gaughan Greiss '06

Kaisha Lopez Jones '99

Jeanne Keegan '77, sister of Anne Keegan '74, Patricia Keegan '75 and Eileen Keegan '79

Julie Ann Lopez-Balbi '79

Carol Kleber Lorenzut '73

John McArdle, husband of Barbara Higgins McArdle '73

Carlos Medina, husband of Gina Twomey Medina '93

Marie Hagen Mischorr '51

Marie Perrotta '61

Patricia Aurricchio Ricco '02, daughter of Vivian Fiametta Aurricchio '66

Bridget Oteri Robinson '59

Camille Squitieri, mother of Rose Squitieri Ciminera '77 and Angela Squitieri Lichti '80

Lydia Zayas-Vega, mother of Hope Vega '16

Rose Ziliani, mother of Jessica Ziliani Miano '10



SR. MARIA TERESA DE BOURBON, RDC
1935-2024

Following her courageous management of her long infirmity and her many years of compassionate

presence as an RDC, Sister Maria Teresa de Bourbon, RDC (known to many as Sister Marie Jose or MT), left this earth for her heavenly home and eternal reward for her life of serving others.

Sister began teaching at GCA Elementary School in White Plains, then enjoyed 20 years of teaching Spanish at Preston High School. Later Sister taught at Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers.

As we mourn her passing, we also rejoice in her life, her deep faith, her wit, and her ever-generous heart. May our sister, Maria Teresa, now enjoy the loving embrace of Jesus and share the peace and joy of our loving God.



MS. MARILYN MIERZWA
1945-2024

Ms. Marilyn Mierzwa, a beacon of knowledge and inspiration to generations of students, passed away on July 5, 2024.

Ms. Mierzwa began her teaching career at Preston in September of 1993, imparting not only academic lessons but also invaluable life lessons to countless students. For 20 years, she taught junior and senior students United States history at the honors and AP levels, and seniors Government & Economics and Intro to Law and served as History Department for several of those years. She moderated the Political Roundtable club to students of all grade levels as well.

She had a unique ability to connect with students, nurturing their potential and encouraging them to strive for excellence in every endeavor. The Preston community will continue to remember her and the impact she left on all who knew her.

STUDENT *Spotlight*

BRIANA CHERUBINO:

Dear Preston Alumnae,
It brings me immense joy and gratitude to have been selected as one of the student spotlights for the Summer 2024 issue of the Preston High School newsletter.

My name is Briana Cherubino, and I was born in the Bronx, New York. My journey at Preston began in an unconventional manner when I transferred in at the start of sophomore year, which is a decision that I now cherish as one of the best I've ever made. From the moment I stepped foot into Preston, I felt a sense of belonging and community that resonated so deeply with me. Throughout my time here, I've not only received an exceptional education but also found a second family and a place I can always call home.

One of my proudest achievements at PHS has been serving as the Vice President of the Student Body. Reflecting on my first day as a sophomore, listening to the Big 4's speeches, I never imagined I could one day hold a leadership role. However, the support and encouragement I received from both my peers and the faculty empowered me to pursue this goal, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to lead and inspire my fellow students. In addition to my role as Vice President, I've been actively involved in numerous clubs, including Italian Club, Compassion Connection, and Women's Empowerment Club just to name a few.

One of the most memorable experiences during my time at PHS was traveling to Berlin, Germany, sponsored by the Preston Scholars Program to attend the Global Leadership Summit. This opportunity allowed me to explore a new country alongside my closest friends and mentor Ms. Wolovich, which was an experience that has profoundly shaped my perspective and aspirations in life. I am thrilled to announce that after a very selective interviewing process, I have been chosen to attend the Summit again, this time as the student emcee being able to share my story in front of over two thousand people, which I consider a true testament to



the growth and development I've undergone during my time at Preston.

As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my journey, attending college and pursuing my passions, I am filled with gratitude for the invaluable experiences and opportunities that Preston has provided me. While I may be bidding farewell to my high school years, I carry with me the lessons learned, the friendships I made, and the memories created. It is with great excitement that I announce my enrollment at Iona University in the fall, where I will be studying elementary education. It was the dedicated teachers at Preston who played a pivotal role in igniting my passion for teaching. Their guidance, support, and unwavering commitment to their students have profoundly influenced my life and made me realize the strength of my desire to pursue a career in education. Although this chapter may be closing, I take comfort in knowing that I will always have a home and a family to return to at Preston High School.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story, and I look forward to witnessing the continued success and achievements of the Preston community.

Warm regards,
Briana Cherubino
Class of 2024

KRIS-ANN GREEN:

Hello! I am Kris-Ann Green, a determined and enthusiastic young woman proud to be part of the Class of 2024 at Preston High School. Throughout my high school journey, I've been deeply engaged in a variety of activities and organizations that have shaped my interests and aspirations. Among my academic pursuits, I've had the privilege of being a part of Mrs. Van-Sicklin's classes in both Honors Biology and AP Biology. Her passion for science

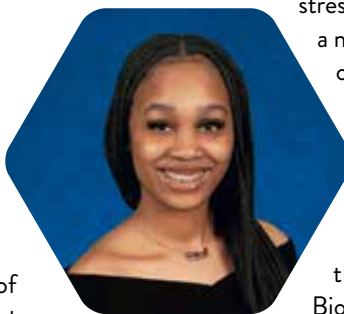
and commitment to her students further fueled my interest in the subject, igniting a curiosity that continues to drive me forward. In addition to the many other remarkable educators at Preston, Mr. Martinez holds a special place in my heart. His unique blend of humor and wisdom not only made his Physics course enjoyable but also inspired me to strive for excellence. His mentorship and guidance have been invaluable throughout my high school journey.

In addition to my academic endeavors, I've been actively involved in prestigious societies such as the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Spanish Honor Society. These experiences have not only recognized my academic achievements but also instilled in me the values of service and leadership.

One of the most memorable experiences during my time at Preston was the lock-in event during my junior year. Spending the night at school with classmates, participating in various activities, and creating lasting bonds created memories that I'll cherish for a lifetime. Another memorable experience at Preston was my sophomore year retreat, where my class had the opportunity to connect with one another and release

stress and tension together through a multitude of calming activities organized by our Theology department.

Looking forward, I'm excited to embark on the next chapter of my academic journey at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. With a major in Biomedical Sciences, I aspire to pursue a career in medicine, specializing in either general surgery or obstetrics. I'm eager to combine my passion for science with my desire to make a meaningful impact on people's lives, and I'm confident that Preston provided me with the knowledge and skills to further my education at Sophie and achieve my goals.



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESTON ADMISSIONS OFFICE!

This summer, the Project Prep program resumed with vigor! This dynamic three-week initiative is designed for rising 7th and 8th grade students. Participants engaged in comprehensive coursework spanning English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Italian, and Art. This balanced curriculum not only prepared students for the upcoming TACHS exam but also encouraged exploration of diverse passions and potential career interests.

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of the new incoming freshman Class of 2028 at Preston High School! We eagerly anticipate welcoming nearly 100 bright students through our doors from Catholic, public, and charter schools, each bringing their unique talents and aspirations. It's especially exciting to note that we have already had the pleasure of meeting over 50% of this class during our engaging PHS 101 program over the summer. PHS 101 is specifically designed to prepare our first-year students for the rigors of high school and introduce them to all things Preston before they even start in September. Their enthusiasm and energy have already made a positive impact, and we look forward to supporting their growth and achievements throughout their high school journey.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Fall TACHS Prep

September 14th - October 26th (Saturdays ONLY)
9am - 12pm

Fall Open House

Monday, October 28th 6pm **OR** Saturday, November 2nd 11am - 2pm

Interested in applying to Preston High School? We are still accepting students for the 2024-2025 academic school year. Contact the Office of Admissions for more information.

Mrs. Angelique Rodriguez '10
acrodriguez@prestonhs.org
(718)863-9134 ext. 131



OFFICE OF ACADEMICS

Plato believed education was an arduous, but exciting, process of ascending out of a dark cave of ignorance and into the fresh bright light of the sun. Our students and teachers have climbed diligently all year, and they saw the benefits of that this Spring.



In April we hosted a validation visiting team from the Middle States Association, and they recommended us for reaccreditation. In May, 72 of our upper-class women took 100 AP exams, and 75 took dual enrollment courses through SUNY Albany and 41 through St. John's University for a total of 393 college credits. On May 21st, 158 students were honored at our Honors Convocation, and selected Juniors were awarded college scholarships: Le Moyne College Heights Award, Utica University-Junior Achievement Scholarship, The Rensselaer Medal at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, The Student Sage Award at Russell Sage College, Elmira College's T Key Award, and Saint Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement & Social Conscience.

We are very proud of our 83 graduates of the class of 2024 who earned over \$25 million in scholarships and grants! Of those 83 graduates, three students were \$1 million dollar scholars, another three students were accepted into the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, and one was selected for the Simons STEM Scholars program at SUNY Stony Brook.

Once we have escaped the cave and achieved Truth, according to Plato, we must go back into the cave to help others on their journey out. We are excited that our graduates will spelunk anew in their colleges, and wherever their adventures take them!

Brianah Cotto '24 at the Simons STEM Scholars program welcome reception at SUNY Stony Brook.

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Life has been busy all year with numerous events and activities that reflect the amazing spirit that our Panthers bring outside of the classroom. As the 2023-2024 academic year ends, we want to share some highlights and updates from our end-of-year festivities.

➔ September kicked off with excitement as we launched into the new academic year with our traditional class parties. Freshmen had the opportunity to connect with their Junior Sisters, who guide and support them throughout their 4-year journey here at Preston. Meanwhile, Sophomores enjoyed hanging out with their Senior Sisters and getting advice on navigating their upcoming year.

The Co-Curricular Fair, which marked the start of the after-school clubs and programs, was a success. Several new clubs were started this year, including Mind Over Matter, a mental wellness club, which provided a safe space for students to focus on their mental health and well-being and the Dungeons & Dragons club sparked creativity and strategic thinking among its members.



◀ October's highly anticipated Halloween Assembly is always a hit with the Preston community. Students in imaginative costumes vied for the top prize in the costume contest. The seniors stole the show with their electrifying skit set to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." The Step Team delivered a wonderful performance, stepping on stage in a dark auditorium wearing their lit-up masks.

November brought the ever-popular Cultural Thanksgiving. Students, volunteer parents, and faculty and staff share and partake in various dishes from different cultures, reflecting the rich diversity within our community.

⬇ December was a memorable month for all of our grade levels. Freshmen had a Christmas Breakfast in the cafeteria while Sophomores and Juniors enjoyed a Social one Saturday night

in the gym. Our seniors celebrated their 4-year Preston journey at the elegant Senior Luncheon at the Marina Del Rey, where they enjoyed an afternoon of dancing, buffet dining, and picture-taking along the picturesque patio of the Marina.





↑ Preston celebrated the end of midterms with our annual Lock In and then held Spirit Week from January 29 through February 2 with themed dress-down days including Decades Day, Culture/Flag Day, and even a Future So Bright/Zoom Day, where students dressed in their future professional attire with the added twist of sweatpants as if they were on a Zoom call.

At our Leadership Assembly, we recognized the students who went above and beyond for their clubs, known as backbones, and all club officers. Their hard work and dedication resulted in numerous accomplishments, collaborations, and impactful events, including the LOC extravaganza, the Ceili, and the Cinco De Mayo celebration, just to name a few. From art to photography, this year's 33 Co-Curricular clubs continue to make Preston the school that never closes.

➔ Senior Week was full of joy and nostalgia. Our graduating seniors celebrated the end of their time at Preston with a series of memorable events. On May 23rd, they enjoyed a spectacular "Midnight Sky" themed prom night at Mulino's at Lake Isle in Eastchester. The students danced all night, and the evening culminated with the Prom Queen crowning. This year's winner, Gianna Raldaris, won the white rose and the crown.

The celebrations continued on May 29th with the traditional Senior porch gathering after graduation practice. Seniors received their yearbooks, watched a Class of 2024 video montage by the Panther Vision class, and enjoyed a lunch spread catered by Barino's Market.

↓ Under-class women continued their classes until June 7th, culminating in our annual Step Up Day celebration. The celebration featured the traditional rising senior run, minute-to-win-it games in the gym, and a spirited PEP rally. During the end-of-day assembly, Maya Patterson was presented with the Friends of Divine Compassion Award by alumna Jamie Leotta '11. This award is donated by 2011 alumnae Jamie Leotta, Emily Marino-Catanzarita, Caitlyn McElroy and Sophia Rocchio to help a rising senior cover costs associated with their senior year such as the graduation, senior luncheon and prom fees. We eagerly look forward to another year of celebrating the achievements and spirit of our students, knowing that we are all part of a truly special Preston community.



WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS & THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OUTSIDE OF PRESTON!

BRIANA CHERUBINO '24



After an intense and selective interview process, senior Briana Cherubino '24 traveled to Berlin, Germany this summer to serve as emcee for the 2024 EF

Global Leadership Summit. After attending the EF Global Leadership Summit last summer with the Preston Scholars Program thanks to a generous donor, Cherubino knew that she wanted to be next year's emcee. She worked closely with Ms. Eugenia Wolovich and Mr. Craig Youngren to work on her application and stand out amongst the pool of worldwide applicants. This year's theme was The Impact of Water on Society and participants from all over the world explored ways to harness its full potential. EF Global Leadership Summit is a three-day leadership conference for youth to hear from world-renowned keynote speakers, work with local and global experts, and collaborate with peers in small international teams.

DANIELLE DEMATTIA '24

Senior Danielle DeMattia won the Programma Ponte Scholarship to study abroad in Pisa, Italy this summer for two weeks. She will be taking classes



and attending cultural events while continuing to learn the language and further her studies. Danielle will be the only student attending from a Catholic high

school among college students. In the fall, Danielle will be attending Iona University as a Business major.

THREE SENIORS ATTENDING THE PRESTIGIOUS SOPHIE DAVIS SCHOOL



ADAUGO NWOSU



CLARA SURIEL



KRIS-ANN GREEN

This year, three graduating seniors were accepted to and will be attending the Sophie Davis Medical School of Biomedical Education. Kris-Ann Green, Adaugo Nwosu and Clara Suriel will be members of the newest class at the CUNY school of medicine as they pursue their studies in biomedical sciences. Throughout their time at Preston, all three served as dedicated members of the National, Spanish, and Mu Alpha Theta Honor Societies. In addition, Kris-Ann was an active

member of Compassion Connection, Clara served as Vice President of the Young Leaders in Medicine Club and President of the Spanish Club, and both her and Adaugo served in the National English Honor Society.

TWO FIRST-PLACE ESSAY WINNERS IN THE BXWBA 2024 GALA ESSAY COMPETITION



Juniors Christina Castillo '25 and Nicole Duarte '25 were both announced as first-place winners of the Bronx Women's Bar Association (BXWBA) 2024 Gala Essay Competition. History Dept. Chairperson and global history teacher to the junior class, Ms. Eugenia Wolovich '10 invited her students to participate. Over 15 of her students entered the contest and submitted essays on obstacles that they have faced as women and what qualities and characteristics they possess that have helped them overcome those obstacles. As winners, Christina and Nicole were invited to attend the BXWBA Gala Dinner on June 13 at Marina Del Rey alongside other members of the Bronx Women's Bar Association. Alumna Valerie Casali '09 was sworn in as President of the BXWBA that evening. Pictured from left to right is Nicole Duarte '25 and Christina Castillo '25.

FACULTY *Spotlight*

CRAIG YOUNGREN, *Assistant Principal of Academics*



I have been in Catholic education my entire life: Annunciation, Fordham Prep, Boston College, Preston High School. Sr. Laura Donovan first hired me during my holiday breaks from college to help input data for a Middle States accreditation in the late 90s. Throughout my time here, I have worn several hats: Assistant to the Dean, Physics teacher, Registrar, Philosophy teacher, Webmaster, Video Production Instructor, Moderator for the German Badminton and Frisbee Klub, Assistant Principal of Academics ... and as one of the co-leaders of the Middle States Re-evaluation Team this year it has come back full circle.

I fondly remember when panthers got excited by Newton's Laws, Kepler's Solar Spikes, Plato's Cave, my own father's Theory of Dreams, or a new video segment during homeroom. A student's realization – the spark of knowledge – is the reason why many teachers return to the classroom year after year. I am so grateful for all the panthers that have joined me in the classroom over the years, and for the faculty and staff that have supported me.

While at Preston, with the encouragement of Sr. Lucille Coldrick, I also continued my education at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts to pursue a Master of Arts in Cinema Studies. I brought my passion for storytelling back to Preston with the PantherVision senior elective class and the expansion of the Sr. Mary Ellen Bernard Center for Video Production.

I have been at Preston High School for 25 years, it is time for me to graduate. I treasure my years here. Preston has been my church, my laboratory, my studio, my office and my classroom for more than half my life here on earth. It is time I refocus on family and a few opportunities outside of high school. My kinship to our graduating class is all too appropriate. I know well the comfort that Preston provides; and I feel that nervous excitement, now, that awakens in our students as they prepare to start a new chapter. What lies before us?!



ALUMNA/FACULTY *Spotlight*



BRITTANY SMITH '01, *School Nurse*

Born and raised in the Throggs Neck area of the Bronx, Brittany Smith is deeply rooted in her community, tracing her family's presence back over five generations. This enduring connection fuels her passion for enhancing the health education and overall well-being of the students at Preston High School. Growing up, Brittany attended P.S. 14 until first grade before transferring to Villa Maria Academy. Graduating in 1997, Brittany's exceptional academic achievements earned her a full scholarship to Preston High School, where she graduated in the class of 2001. At Preston, Brittany stands as a legacy, following in the footsteps of her mother, Dorothy Daly Smith '71, and her aunts Janet Tulimiero Tonner '71 and Deborah Daly Jenkins '73. Excelling in the Honors program, she continued her education at SUNY Buffalo, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a keen interest in law, complemented by a Paralegal Certificate.

Upon graduating, Brittany embarked on a career at Bear Stearns Investment Bank, now J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., where she served as a paralegal specializing in Restricted Stocks and Government Investigations and Regulatory Enforcement. However, she soon realized that her true calling lay in directly serving those in need. Motivated by her compassion and desire to make a tangible difference, Brittany enrolled in the evening program at CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College to pursue a Nursing degree. In May 2019, she achieved her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and subsequently obtained her License as a Registered Nurse in August of the same year.

Brittany's dedication to healthcare was further demonstrated as she took on the role of a Medical/Surgical Nurse at Montefiore Einstein Hospital in December 2019. Assigned to a Genitourinary floor, Brittany found herself on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, transitioning swiftly to care for patients afflicted by the virus. Her unwavering commitment to her patients during this critical time epitomized her dedication to service. After two years of tireless service as a COVID nurse, Brittany took a brief hiatus to welcome her son, Tyler Daniel, into the world. Returning to the workforce after six months of devoted motherhood, she joined an Eye Surgery Center in New Rochelle, where she applied her nursing expertise in an ambulatory clinic setting.

In April 2023, Brittany's journey came full circle as she joined Preston High School as a staff member, serving as a Junior Public Health Nurse. Drawing upon her own experiences as a Preston alumna, Brittany connects with students on a personal level, offering guidance and education in a relatable manner. Her commitment to nurturing the next generation is evident in her active involvement in school events, often accompanied by her young son, Tyler Daniel, as they cheer on the Panthers.

As a valued member of the Preston community, Brittany finds fulfillment in promoting both the physical and mental well-being of the students. Her role as a mother and a nurse underscores her dedication to serving others, embodying the spirit of compassion and care that defines her character.

FROM ALUMNA NANCY MARTUCCI WEIHE '70

I have such fond & happy memories of my time spent at Preston. The friendships I've made left such an incredible mark on my life. I am so grateful to have been able to get in touch with so many of my classmates through social media & that has kept us together. When Preston was organizing our 50th Reunion, I started a Facebook Page for just our class, because I had reconnected with so many of the girls on FB. The response was overwhelming! We all had the same feelings of Love & Gratitude towards our Alma mater. Our group grew larger & larger!! We loved hearing about each other's lives now & sharing stories of our days at Preston. I was able to collect enough donations from our class to purchase a Gold Leaf on The Tree of Life in The Lobby & also buy a locker memorial!

We all enjoyed seeing each other at our reunion, so I started getting together with whoever could come to an afternoon lunch, every now & then. It's so easy to contact everyone because of our Facebook page & word of mouth! This last get together, we had one of our sisters from California (Rosalie Fernandez) & the luncheon in October 2022, we had Peggy Deneen & her beautiful daughter from Arizona and Doris Orgera came in from Florida! We are all so blessed to be able to continue keeping in touch with our Preston Sisters. The Love & Values Preston instilled in us will be forever in our hearts.



ALUMNAE WORKING AT PRESTON

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, there were 16 alumnae working about the halls once again. In February, one more alumna joined the group for a grand total of 17. Pictured from top to bottom, left to right: Melissa Castignoli '07, Katie Kelly Welton '01, Angelique Cruz Rodriguez '10, Sarah Como '10, Katie Gannon '19, Joanne Gannon '83, Samantha Marrero '15, Brittany Smith '01, Stephanie Mozzone '10, Dominique Labate '09, Jennifer Connolly '92, Celeste Martino Shanahan '72, Sr. Carol Wagner, RDC '69, Pasqualina Zeolla Traina '78, Gabriela Del Valle '16, Eugenia Wolovich '10 and Sarah Chambers '18.

DEVELOPMENT *Events*



SAVE THE DATE!
**HALLOWEEN
FESTIVAL**
10.19.2024



HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

The Halloween Festival returned again this year for an afternoon of fun. Guests enjoyed carnival-style games, pumpkin decorating, crafts and of course lots and lots of candy! After providing balloon animals and face painting, Rocky the Magician gave everyone a magic show.



GIVING TUESDAY

Thank you to all who donated this Giving Tuesday 2023! We raised over \$10,000 in 24 hours alone. It would not have been possible without support from alumnae and we are so incredibly grateful.

SAVE THE DATE!
**GIVING
TUESDAY**
12.3.2024

YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH

In January, we welcomed alumnae from the classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to share advice with the graduating class of 2024 as they prepared to embark on their next journey. Over 45 alumnae came back to reminisce with each other and share insights and knowledge with the seniors.

The seniors were excited to see familiar faces and hear from those who were in their shoes not so long ago. Next year's

Young Alumnae Brunch is scheduled for Friday January 10th, 2025 for the Classes of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

SAVE THE DATE!
**YOUNG ALUM
BRUNCH**
1.10.2025



SAVE THE DATE!
**MOTHER MARY
VERONICA
GIVING DAY**
2.4.2025



SAVE THE DATE!
CARD PARTY
3.22.2025

CARD PARTY

The sold out Roarin' 20s Card Party on March 16th was a big hit raising over \$25,000! Attendees listened to music from the 1920s while preparing for a night of big prizes and lots of raffles. The 50/50 winner went home with over \$2,500 at the end of the night! Thank you to all those who helped make the event the success that it was; whether by volunteering your time, donating money trees or gifts, or simply by attending, you are so appreciated!

ALUMNAE REUNION

Members of classes ending in 4s and 9s returned to Preston High School's beautiful campus on Saturday April 27th for the Alumnae Reunion. Nearly 120 alumnae from various years reminisced about their time at PHS. The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th high school reunion with 21 members of their graduating class. In celebration of their 10th high school reunion, 16 members of the Class of 2014 returned and enjoyed the day.

SAVE THE DATE!
ALUMNAE REUNION
0s & 5s
4.12.2025



CAREER DAY

For the first time in over 10 years, Preston High School held Career Day. The event welcomed over 50 female speakers from different industries and professions, 33 of which were PHS alumnae and 8 either current or former parents!

Students were polled on professions they were interested in and scheduled for the day accordingly. During each 45 minute session, students had the opportunity to hear from panelists about their careers and ask questions about their day-to-day tasks, their own individual paths and overall tips and advice. Thank you to all those who joined and helped make the event a success! We hope to have even more alumnae present and more professions represented at the next one!



CLASS OF 1974



CLASS OF 2014

DEVELOPMENT *Events*

CONTINUED

GOLF OUTING

Thanks to all who participated and supported this year's Golf Outing on Thursday May 9th, we raised over \$24,000! This year's honoree was longtime PHS contractor and service provider Mr. Donald Gallant. The morning weather provided a great backdrop for the golfers as they enjoyed the greens at Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Courses. For lunch, we traveled to Posto 22 Restaurant in New Rochelle. They provided excellent service and a delicious lunch as we continued to celebrate the money raised to continue the hard work done at Preston High School.

SAVE THE DATE!
GOLF OUTING
5.8.2025



Virginia McGovern Giuffre '61 & Joel Giuffre

Margaret Ahl Damo '77 · Christie Damo Armstrong '04 · Carolyn Damo '08
Laura Finneran · John Mastronardi · Jane Wrynn '63 · Dr. Robert Taglia, MD
Grendell Family · Joseph S. Connolly · Manida Fuel Oil Inc. · Fragale Family
Lt. Raymond E. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund



PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL
2780 SCHURZ AVE. BRONX, NY 10465

TWIN GOLD HOSTS
SUNDAY - 2 TO 5PM
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

THE FELLAS
TEMPTATIONS REVUE

SHEILA
AS TINA TURNER

STEVE MITCHELL
AS ELVIS

**LEGENDS
COME TO PRESTON**

PURCHASE TICKETS @ WWW.PRESTONHS.ORG
GENERAL SEATING - REFRESHMENTS FOR PURCHASE
\$50 FUNDRAISER - FOR MORE INFO CALL:
MS CHRISTINA FRAGALE 718 863-9134 X 132
JANE FOX 914 672-6878 - TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

TWIN GOLD HOSTS

Legends Come to Preston Concert September 22, 2024

Join us on Sunday September 22, 2024 at 2:00pm for a legends concert brought to you by Twin Gold. Enjoy an afternoon of music from The Temptations, Tina Turner, and Elvis from local musicians. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased by visiting our website or scanning this QR code. **Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended.** If interested or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Cristina Fragale at cfragale@prestonhs.org.



ATHLETICS

Updates

Varsity Soccer Wins NYCHSAA Championship

The Varsity Soccer team at Preston High School brought home the CHSAA Tier 3 Championship title on November 8th against Moore Catholic High School from Staten Island. Led by coaches Christina Psomopoulos and alumna Nicole Capezuti Burns, the team played hard and diligently all season long. Five players from the team received All League Honors: Sophia Arciuolo '25, Erin Crowe '25, Jamie Kibler '24, Victoria Malone '25 and Emily Sampson '27.



Alumnae Soccer Game

On Saturday May 18th at Ferry Point Park, we welcomed back 18 alumnae to play against the Varsity Soccer team. The alums put up a great fight but they couldn't beat the students this time. After the game, all were invited to the back porch to enjoy refreshments and reminisce about their time as a PHS athlete. If you are an alumna from the volleyball or basketball teams and interesting in participating in an alum game, please contact Athletic Director Jamie Skrapits at sportsphs@prestonhs.org or Assistant Athletic Director Ben Piacquadio at bpiacquadio@prestonhs.org



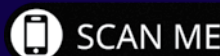
College Signings

This year, three of the graduating athletes will be continuing their athletic journeys in college. Gianna Barbieri will attend Dominican University in the fall to study occupational therapy and will be playing softball.

Jamie Kibler will attend Maritime College in the fall to study marine transportation and will be playing soccer. Heide Lopez Ramirez will attend Fordham University in the fall to study biological sciences and will be joining the cheerleading team.

Athletics Bus Fundraiser

The Athletics teams are raising money to buy a new bus so that they can travel to and from games. The bus will be used by all five of the teams at Preston. If you are interested in donating, please scan this QR code to donate directly to their fund. If you'd like to mail in a check, make it out to Preston High School and put "Athletics Bus" in the memo.



PRESTON SCHOLARS'

Adventure in the Azores!

Thanks to another generous donation of **\$100,000** to the Preston Scholars Program from a 1974 alumna, Ms. Eugenia Wolovich '10 and 11 students from the program traveled with EF Tours to the Azores, an archipelago of volcanic islands belonging to Portugal, this summer. The Azores are known for their volcanic origins and dramatic landscapes. This trip focused around just that!

To learn more about volcanic activity, students gained an understanding of the islands' origins with professors of Geology at the sismovolcanologic center to visits at the Gruta do Carvao, the longest lava tunnels on the main island of Sao Miguel. Students also collected water samples at the University of the Azores to study phytoplankton and their purpose in our ecosystems. To students' delight, they also went whale watching with local guides and were able to witness five different species of fish (from sperm whales to bottlenose dolphins) who are integral to the island's environment.

Whether it was coastline walks to discover geological patterns or dips in natural, thermal pools, students thoroughly enjoyed their opportunity to learn, gain a cultural understanding of a new place, and form tighter bonds with their classmates. These PSP trips have been instrumental in broadening our students' worldviews and their educational horizons.



ALUMNAE GIVING BY GRADUATION YEAR

2022 - 2023

It warms our hearts to know that many alumnae look back on their years at Preston with such heartfelt memories and give back when they are able. Below is a list of how many alumnae per graduation year gave a donation during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

1951 : 4	1963 : 11	1975 : 3	1991 : 6	2007 : 10
1952 : 2	1964 : 3	1976 : 4	1992 : 5	2008 : 2
1953 : 4	1965 : 7	1977 : 7	1993 : 2	2009 : 2
1954 : 2	1966 : 4	1978 : 9	1994 : 4	2010 : 3
1955 : 4	1967 : 11	1979 : 6	1998 : 3	2011 : 5
1956 : 6	1968 : 12	1980 : 2	1999 : 2	2012 : 1
1957 : 2	1969 : 5	1981 : 5	2000 : 2	2013 : 10
1958 : 5	1970 : 17	1982 : 3	2001 : 5	2015 : 3
1959 : 5	1971 : 3	1983 : 2	2002 : 2	2016 : 11
1960 : 3	1972 : 11	1986 : 1	2003 : 5	2017 : 1
1961 : 8	1973 : 54	1987 : 2	2004 : 1	2018 : 1
1962 : 3	1974 : 5	1988 : 1	2005 : 1	2019 : 2
		1990 : 1		



**If a class year was omitted, no members of that graduating class contributed to Preston High School during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Be sure to give a gift before August 31st to be included in the next one!



WAYS TO DONATE



MAIL IN

a check



VISIT

our website
to donate online



CALL

to donate
over the phone



MATCHING

Gift from your
company



ENDOWMENT



ESTATE

Gifts

Where does your donation go and who benefits?

Whether it is a donation to support scholarships or a graduation award, the choice is yours to make. Contribute to any of these funds or grants or set-up a new one!

FUNDS:

The Fund for Preston
Scholarship Fund
Angel of Compassion Fund
Preston Scholars Fund
The Learning Center
Friends of Divine Compassion Fund

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

Catherine Stenderhoff 10465 Scholarship
Cathy Clausson Nelson Grant
Mary Ricci Memorial Scholarship
Marie A. Rudolph Memorial Scholarship

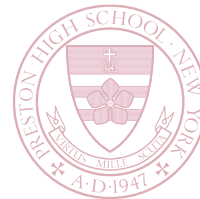
GRADUATION AWARDS:

Patricia Langan Mrsich '70 Memorial Award
Anthony D'Abbraccio Memorial Foundation
Grant
Salvatore P. Marino Grant
Cecelia Cunningham Noonan Memorial
Award
Barbara Ann Lee Feinberg '69 Memorial
Award
Ronnie Donovan Memorial Award for Courage
Helen & Anton Wagner Memorial Award
Marie Ann McNamee Carlucci '71 Grant
Margaret A. Gaughan '66 Memorial
Scholarship

To set up a fund or scholarship or to donate to one of these specific funds,
please contact Cristina Fragale at cfragale@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 132.

MISSION

Through a broad and challenging curriculum, a diverse, faith-centered community and a commitment to Christian service, Preston High School empowers young women by providing them with the skills needed to become compassionate leaders for change in their world.



PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

Hail to Preston alma mater fair
Banners high in triumph we raise
Ever mindful of your loving care
We will proudly sing your praise
We will strive to keep your honor bright
And we vow to add to your fame
The maroon and white forever
And the glory of your dear name
Preston High
We pledge our hearts to you
Preston High
To you we will be true
March on, march on to victory!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer Connolly '92, *ex officio*
Sr. Susan Becker, RDC, Co-Chair
Laura DeMaria-DeMattia '92
Sr. Laura Donovan, RDC
Thomas E. Merkel
Sr. Carol Peterson, RDC, Co-Chair
Sr. Roberta Smith, OSF

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal | Jennifer Connolly, Esq. '92 | x113
Assistant Principal of Academics | Craig Youngren, MA | x196
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Edgar Martinez | x130

OFFICE OF RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

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2780 Schurz Avenue,
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PARENTS OF ALUMNAE:

Please forward if
the alumna has moved.

FALL TACHS P.R.E.P.: SEPTEMBER 14TH – OCTOBER 26TH
(SATURDAYS ONLY) 9AM-12PM

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL: OCTOBER 19TH 2PM-4PM

OPEN HOUSE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH 6PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 11AM-2PM

GIVING TUESDAY: DECEMBER 3RD

YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH 2021-2024:
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH 11AM

FEAST OF MOTHER MARY VERONICA GIVING DAY:
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

CARD PARTY: SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND 6PM

PRESTON PLAYERS MUSICAL PRODUCTION:
APRIL 3RD – APRIL 6TH

ALUMNAE REUNION CELEBRATING OS AND 5S:
SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH 11AM

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: THURSDAY, MAY 8TH

SAVE THE DATES



TELL US YOUR NEWS
GDELVALLE@PRESTONHS.ORG

If you would like to RSVP or donate prizes, sponsorships or for more information, contact gdelvalle@prestonhs.org.