Empowering women for nearly 80 years

FALL *2026*

PRESTON *Echoes Revisited*

DIGNITY. HONOR. RESPECT. COMPASSION.



A Publication for Alumnae, Family and Friends of Preston High School

Message from Our Principal



Dear Alumnae,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we settle into a new school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on a remarkable spring and summer at Preston High School—and to share my excitement about all that is ahead. This year has been a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience of the Preston community. More than a year and a half after the announcement that Preston would remain open, what once felt uncertain has become a testament to what is possible when a community comes together with faith, determination, and love for its school. Alumnae, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends came together not only to preserve a school, but to protect a legacy rooted in faith, academic excellence, and sisterhood.

This past spring was filled with celebrations of our mission in action. We honored the Class of 2026 at our 75th Commencement Ceremony, welcoming another remarkable group of young women into our proud network of Preston alumnae. In the days leading up to graduation, our seniors gathered for Baccalaureate Mass at St. Frances de Chantal Church and celebrated together at prom—cherished traditions that mark both an ending and a beginning.

Our underclasswomen had much to celebrate as well. Academic Honors Convocation recognized outstanding achievement i the classroom, Leadership Assembly celebrated students who make a difference in our community, and Sports Night honored the dedication and accomplishments of our student-athletes. And we celebrated an especially exciting milestone: our inaugural Flag Football team became CHSAA champions!

Summer brought opportunities for our students to learn, explore, and grow beyond the classroom. Through the generosity of a dedicated alumna, the Preston Scholars Program once again provided a transformative international experience, with students traveling to Ecuador, the Galápagos Islands, and Costa Rica. Experiences like these remind us that a Preston education is about more than preparing students for college—it is about preparing them to engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

And now, a new school year is underway. My theme for this year is "The Power of Us: Individually Talented. Collectively Unstoppable." It is a fitting theme for this moment in Preston's history. Each member of our community brings unique gifts, talents, and experiences, but it is what we accomplish together that makes Preston special. As we begin our 79th year, we do so with renewed confidence and a deep sense of gratitude. We are building on the strong foundation we strengthened together, while continuing to look toward the future. Our commitment remains clear: to provide a dynamic, faith-filled education that prepares young women not only to succeed, but to lead, serve, think critically, and make a difference in the world.

Thank you for continuing to stand with Preston High School. Your belief in our students and your investment in our future make all of this possible. The best chapters of Preston's story are still being written—and I am grateful that we are writing them together.

With gratitude and Preston pride,



Jennifer R. Connolly, Esq.
Principal
Class of 1992

Message from The Board of Trustees

Dear Preston Family,

There is a kind of growth that happens out of sight. Long before a tree ever shows its first leaf, it spends itself sending roots deep into the ground, securing the strength it will need for every storm and every season still to come. That has been the story of your Board of Trustees this past year. While so much of Preston's life unfolded in plain view, in classrooms, on the field, in our chapel, the Board's work has largely happened beneath the surface. It has been quiet, patient, and absolutely essential to everything that is now ready to bloom.

From the moment we were formally constituted, our task as a Board was to hold two truths at once: Preston had to remain the home so many of you have always known, even as we worked to build what we have come to call Preston's Brand New Day. Balancing those equities, honoring our roots while reaching for new growth, shaped every decision we made this year.

That balance meant the painstaking work of amending Preston's charter and bylaws, and partnering closely with the Archdiocese of New York as we pursue Preston's status as an independent Catholic school, a process that touches our governance, our finances, and our Catholic identity all at once.

It also meant inviting in partners who could lend their expertise where ours needed support. Sidley Austin LLP has guided us through complex legal and governance terrain. Harvard Business School's Community Practices team has helped us pressure test our plans for financial sustainability and growth. CCS Fundraising has laid the groundwork for a capital campaign built to last. And Inspire Consulting has generously given its time and talent to help us think clearly about our finances, our investment in faculty, and the voices of the many stakeholders who make Preston what it is.

And it meant listening. This spring, we asked parents, students, faculty, and alumnae to tell us, honestly, what it feels like to be part of the Preston community today. That survey was not a formality. The Board is using what we heard to guide the decisions still ahead of us.

None of this work has been visible the way a ribbon cutting or a championship trophy is visible. But roots are not meant to be seen. They are meant to hold. And because of the depth of this year's work, Preston is positioned to grow in ways that will, very soon, be visible to everyone.

We cannot do this alone. As Preston moves from foundation to flourishing, we need your voice, your time, and yes, your support. Every gift, every hour volunteered, and every story shared with a prospective family helps Preston's roots grow stronger and its branches reach further. We ask you to consider a gift to Preston this year, in whatever way is meaningful to you, as an investment in the home we are all working to keep standing for generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us, this year and every year.

With gratitude and resolve,

Andrea Donkor

Andrea Donkor '99
Chair, Preston High School Board of Trustees

Preston first. Preston always. Preston Forever.

Congratulations Class of 2026!









On Saturday, June 6, faculty, staff, family and friends joined together in our picturesque backyard in celebration of the graduation of the seventy-fifth class of Preston High School, the Class of 2026.

In keeping with Preston tradition, we invited alumnae mothers and grandmothers of the graduates to present the newest alumnae their diploma.

This year's class featured 11 alumnae:

Jacqueline Cardona Buono '94, mother of Ashley Buono

Alba Roman-Churchill '72, grandmother of Mia Churchill

Kristy Bariatti Deenihan '97, mother of Kylie Deenihan

Lucia Jimenez-Morales '00, mother of Marianna Morales

Tiffany Ramos Rodriguez '02, mother of Isabella Rodriguez

Diana Rivera '00, mother of Rayana Ruiz

Joann Avicolli Salazar '92, mother of Julia Salazar

Nancy Bruno Tiernan '93 & Kathy Granger Martinucci '67, mother and grandmother of Kate Tiernan

Linda Morani Trosa '85, mother of Mary Trosa

Michelle Cali Vidal '91, mother of Jaclyn Vidal

This year's Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to **Vanessa Javier '02**. Her career spans many years of communications work for esteemed agencies and private organizations. She is one of the founding members of the Preston Forever movement and was instrumental in the process of securing Preston High School for years to come. In her address to the Class of 2026, she encouraged them to always remember where they came from.

As the graduation class that almost didn't exist, they made sure to leave their mark on PHS. The ninety-six graduates collected over **$28,007,888** in scholarships and grants from universities and colleges across the United States. Of those ninety-six, a grand eight of them are **Million Dollar Scholars**, meaning that individually they received over 1 million dollars in scholarships and grants. Those graduates are: **Isabella Bautista**, **Bria Degliuomini**, **Olivia Hernandez**, **Eliana Mayi**, **Jade Parks**, **Valeria Salinas**, **Aliyah Taylor** and **Nicole Yencik**.

GRADUATION AWARDS

ZOEY LEBRON
Cecelia Cunningham Noonan Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Nursing

IRIS RODRIGUEZ
Patricia Langan Mrsich '70 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of Law

NATINA RICHARDS-SMITH
Barbara Ann Lee Feinberg '69 Memorial Award for the Intended Study of English

KATE TIERNAN
Helen & Anton Wagner Memorial Award for Outstanding Service & Compassion in School & Community

LAYLANIE HUERTAS
Ronnie Donovan Memorial Award for Courage

ARETI VEROS
Anthony D'Abbraccio Memorial Foundation Scholarship Award

JACLYN VIDAL
Preston Center of Compassion Award for Distinguished Service

CASEY PURVIS
Margaret A. Gaughan Memorial Scholarship for Promoting Social Justice Through Journalism

JENNA PASSANISI
Marion & Alex Rifelli Scholarship

AMANDA DZIUMA
FRANCHESKA VARGAS
Diane Dinaso '89 Memorial Scholarship

RAELYNN MELENDEZ
Salvatore Marino Memorial Award

KATE TIERNAN
Marie Ann McNamee Carlucci '71 Grant for the Intended Study of Nursing

ARSA PEPUSHAJ
Board of Trustees Award for Unique Leadership & Service to PHS

ISABELLA BAUTISTA
Divine Compassion Award

STUDENT *Spotlights*



NICOLE YENCIK '26

Dear Preston Alumnae,
As the Valedictorian of the Class of 2026, I am honored to be featured as one of the student spotlights for the 2026 summer newsletter, and I am filled with such happiness to know that Preston's doors will remain open forever!

My name is Nicole Yencik, and I was born in the Bronx, New York. From the moment I attended Preston's open house, I knew it would be my home for the next four years. It brings me immense joy and gratitude to say that my time at Preston was filled with service, opportunities, growth, and memories I will forever cherish. While I began my journey here as a shy, reserved girl, I am leaving as a confident, compassionate young woman who is ready to change the world.

Throughout my time as a Preston Panther, I've immersed myself in both my academic responsibilities as well as numerous co-curricular activities, embracing every opportunity to contribute to the Preston community. Our clubs and honor societies build the foundation of Preston's culture, and I've been lucky enough to hold many leadership positions throughout the years. I have participated in Compassion Connection, the Italian Club, Women's Empowerment, Preston's Fundraising Society (Vice President), Italian Honors Society (President), National Honors Society, National English Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Preston Scholars Program. While balancing my studies and these co-curricular activities, I've also been able to participate in my love for volleyball and share that love with others. This year, I was honored to be captain of Varsity Volleyball, leading our team to the championship match. Concluding the season, I was recognized as MVP and Bronx Player of the Year. Volleyball became more than just a sport during my years at Preston; it challenged me to grow as a person, player, and teammate.

Through all of these accomplishments, I have been fortunate to have remarkable mentors guiding me every step of the way. One teacher in particular has had a lasting impact not only on me, but on the entire Class of 2026. Ms. Wolovich taught me as both a freshman and junior, two pivotal years in my high school journey. Her classroom provided me with far more than an education, and I will forever be grateful for the memories, friendships, and life lessons I have gained there. Furthermore, her outstanding contribution to the Preston Forever movement inspired each and every student to advocate for the school we love, demonstrating the power of perseverance, unity, and unwavering dedication to our community.

Saving our school gave me the opportunity to share in the Preston community one last time and create some of my favorite memories. One of those memories came from traveling to Greece this year. Having never traveled with Preston before, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity at the last minute, and it quickly became one of the highlights of my senior year. I got to experience both Greek culture and breathtaking scenery. On the last day of our trip, we descended the 1,000 steps of the Palamidi Fortress in the city of Nafplio. While the journey was scary and physically challenging, it was also rewarding to look down at the city below and see all of its beauty. It reminded me of my high school experience: challenging and scary at times, but through it all, there is a sense of beauty in everything accomplished at the end.

As I move on from Preston to embark on my collegiate journey, I am excited to take all I have learned and experienced with me. In the fall, I will attend Binghamton University, where I plan to major in Biology and pursue my bachelor's degree. While leaving Preston has been difficult to process, I am forever grateful for all the opportunities, friendships, and mentors that have shaped my time here. Preston has challenged me to grow, inspired me to lead, and given me a community that I will forever cherish. No matter where life takes me, I will always carry the values Preston has instilled in me, and I will always be grateful to call myself a Preston Panther.

Preston Forever!
Nicole Yencik '26



JENNA PASSANISI '26

Dear Preston Alumnae,

My name is Jenna Passanisi and I am honored to serve as the Salutatorian of Preston High School's Class of 2026–the class that truly changed it all. Growing up in the Bronx as the youngest of five children, I quickly learned the value of family, perseverance, and finding strength in the people around you. These values, first taught to me by my family, were reinforced by the community at Preston and have shaped who I am today.

My experience with Preston began far before my Freshman year of high school. Being the youngest of five children, nicknames such as "the baby," "munchkin," and even "spoiled" were reserved for me. But greater than that, as the youngest, I spent much of my time following in my sibling's footsteps; having an example to follow, celebrating their successes, and learning from their mistakes. With my eldest sister graduating from Preston in 2016, I grew up attending games, school events, and celebrations. I watched from the sidelines, preparing myself for the day that I would become a Preston Panther myself. For me, there was no other option; no other destiny but this one. A formative memory was cheering my sister on at her softball games. At the time, I was unaware that years later I would wear the same colors, step onto the same field, and create memories of my own. Looking back, it truly feels as though my Preston story began long before I walked through its doors as a student. For me, this only attests to the profound sense of belonging that Preston fosters—a community that welcomed me before I could read or write my own name, long before I officially became a part of it.

When I finally began my Freshman year, Preston quickly became everything I imagined it would be. I was so incredibly eager to create my own memories, build friendships of my own, and leave my own mark on the community that had already given so much to my family. And while I began to do that, the summer following my Freshman year, I faced the greatest challenge of my life as my father passed away from ALS. In an instant, the world I had always known felt different. As I navigated my grief and uncertainty, Preston had proven itself to me once more, becoming my source of strength. Through the friendships and environment Preston fostered, I learned that resilience does not mean facing hardships alone, but rather allowing others to walk besides you. Although that loss will always be a formative part of my story and who I have become, so too will the compassion, kindness, and love I found at Preston that carried me through it.

Throughout my time at Preston, I have immersed myself in both Preston's academic and co-curricular culture. I have actively participated in the National Honor Society, where I served as secretary my senior year, the National English Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Preston Scholars Program, Mu Alpha Theta, Compassion Connection, Women's Empowerment club, the Italian club, and Young Leaders in Medicine. Moreover, as an athlete, I was able to foster my love for Softball and play alongside some of my best friends. I am forever grateful to Preston for the opportunities they have provided me with.

However, when I truly reflect on my time at Preston, it is not the clubs, titles, or honors that first come to mind. Rather, it is the people who shaped me along the way. Among those individuals, two teachers specifically stand out; Ms. Wolovich and Ms. Van Sicklin. Ms. Wolovich taught me as both a Freshman and Junior, and served as my Senior homeroom mentor this year. Her lessons have extended far greater than the classroom. She became a figurehead in the Save Preston movement, exemplifying genuine passion, courage, and leadership. Through her guidance, I learned the power of advocacy, not only for myself but others. I truly believe that without her, I would not have the privilege of being the Salutatorian of the Class of 2026 because without her tireless efforts, there may have never been a Class of 2026 at Preston at all. Her unwavering commitment to saving Preston helped ensure that future generations of young women, as well as myself and my classmates, would have the opportunity to experience Preston as I did. Moreover, Ms. Van Sicklin became a person who believed in me when I struggled to believe in myself. It was in her classroom that my love for science deepened, but more than that, it became the place where I recognized my full potential. She saw strengths in me that I often overlooked and never failed to remind me of my capabilities. For that, I am eternally grateful to both Ms. Wolovich and Ms. Van Sicklin.

As I embark on my next journey, following my graduation from Preston High School, I plan to attend the University of Virginia where I will be majoring in Nursing. The concept of goodbye has always been hard for me, yet, I am beyond excited to begin this next chapter of my life. I can proudly say that it is because of Preston and the people I have met that I have become the confident, strong-willed, and eager person I am today. So, to Preston High School, thank you. This isn't a goodbye, just simply a see you later.

Sincerely,
Jenna Passanisi '26



RETIREMENTS

We mark the retirement of four extraordinary women whose dedication, generosity, and love for Preston have shaped our school in countless ways.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Marge McEvoy, who devoted 41 years as our Physical Education teacher; Susan Casario, who faithfully served for 39 years as our Front Desk and Attendance Secretary; Jamie Skrapits, who spent 20 years leading our Athletic Department; and Cristina Fragale, who dedicated 15 years as Senior Director of Recruitment and Development while also bringing the magic of the annual school play to life as its producer.

While their titles describe their positions, they cannot fully capture the impact each has had on generations of Preston students, families, faculty, staff, and alumnae. Each woman approached her work with remarkable professionalism, unwavering commitment, and a heart for service. They did far more than fulfill the responsibilities listed in a job description. They anticipated needs before they were spoken, quietly stepped in when help was needed, and consistently gave of themselves without seeking recognition.

Ms. McEvoy inspired students to challenge themselves, embrace teamwork, and develop confidence that extended well beyond the gymnasium. Mrs. Casario became one of the first welcoming faces visitors, students, and families encountered each day, offering calm, compassion, and kindness through every busy school day. Jamie built a culture of pride, sportsmanship, and excellence in Preston athletics, supporting countless student-athletes while strengthening our school community. Mrs. Fragale's passion for Preston shone through her work in advancing the mission of the school and in creating unforgettable theatrical experiences that allowed students to discover their gifts and share them with others.

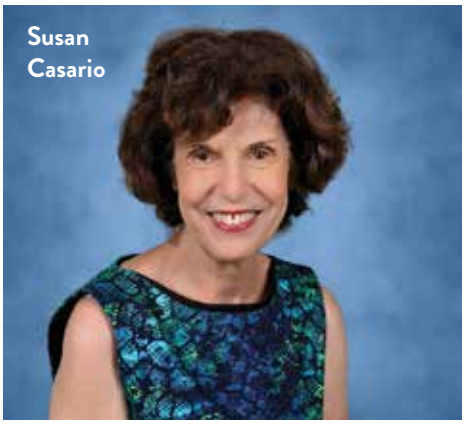
Together, these four women represent more than a century of combined service to Preston. Their legacy is found not only in years served, but in lives touched, traditions strengthened, problems solved, and opportunities created. Their willingness to do what was asked—and just as importantly, to recognize what needed to be done before anyone else did—is a hallmark of true servant leadership.

On behalf of the entire Preston community, we offer our heartfelt thanks. We are profoundly grateful for your dedication, your countless sacrifices, your wisdom, and the example you have set through your faithful service. Preston is stronger because of each of you, and your influence will continue to be felt for years to come.

As you begin this new chapter, may you enjoy the time to pursue new adventures, cherish time with family and friends, and reflect with pride on the extraordinary legacy you leave behind. You will always be a cherished part of the Preston family.

SUSAN CASARIO
School Secretary

I once read, "Never retire from anything you love." After 39 years as the School Secretary, it is time for me to say good-bye. I thank everyone I've met throughout the years for making my time as an employee some of the best. Lastly, "Love what you do and you will never work a day in your life."


Susan Casario


Marge McEvoy



Jamie Skrapits

MARGE MCEVOY
Physical Education Teacher

I taught PHYSICAL EDUCATION, NOT GYM, because JIM is my brother. Here are some my top things that have helped shape me and I would like to share:

1. Learn how to pronounce someone's name correctly, because that's part of their identity.
2. Following directions is a key to success. (-10 for not following directions!)
3. If a complex task seems overwhelming, break it down into the parts. Then put it together in sequence and there you go!
4. If you can do it right once, you can do it right again. Figure out what you did and how you did it and repeat it until you're satisfied with the skill (PS: you can ask for help)
5. Try to learn something from every experience, but find the positive, too! Otherwise, you are being way too negative.
6. Be part of the TEAM: Total Effort Among Many OR Together Everyone Achieves More! They say, "Men compete, women collaborate." Working together is often more fun and rewarding, anyway!
7. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem! Don't just complain. Find a solution!
8. "Do what you like. Like what you do."
9. Try to live your life with gratitude. Be grateful for what you have and appreciate it. Comparisons are often hurtful.
10. "On to the next!" That task is done; good or bad. Put it behind you and move forward.

and finally....

God's time and God's plan are not always in line with yours.

With gratitude,
Marge

JAMIE SKRAPITS
Athletic Director

Where do I begin? I have spent the past 32 years at Preston in one capacity or another. First as a Parent with my 2 daughters here, then getting my dream job as the Athletic Director in 2006. It became my passion, not a job. I have so many fond memories of past athletes that will always be a part of my heart, many of whom keep in touch to this day. Athletes are a special brand, they always come HOME to Preston to visit, especially when their sport is in season and has a game. There is nothing like a Preston Alum!!!

I am extremely proud of the athletic program that I have put my blood, seat and tears into over the past 20 years. I am especially proud of all the teams that have put their own blood, sweat and tears into the sport that they love. I always encouraged them to leave their legacy on the walls in the gym with a banner that will always be there. I feel so blessed to be a part of that legacy too.

I am grateful for the friendships that I have made with all my colleagues and everyone in our sports world. I will always hold Preston in a special place in my heart and am forever grateful to Sister Lucille Coldrick for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this incredible community. I plan on being at Preston whenever they need me but now I have the time to be a fan at all my grand children's games. Being an athlete runs in my family!!!

I leave you with this: If you love what you do, then you will never work a day in your life.

Forever Maroon and White,
Jamie

RETIREMENTS *continued*


Cristina Fragale

CRISTINA FRAGALE
Senior Director of Recruitment & Development

Dear Alumnae,
After 15 years serving in this role—and many more years as part of the Preston community—the time has come for me to retire. This decision comes with a great deal of reflection and emotion. Preston has never been just a place of employment for me; it has been a place that has shaped my family and my life in profound ways.

As a mother of four daughters who proudly graduated from Preston, I experienced firsthand the incredible impact this school has on young women. Watching my daughters grow within this community, and later having the privilege of helping other families discover what makes Preston so special, has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Each year, welcoming new students and their families and seeing those young women grow into confident, empowered graduates has been deeply meaningful to me.

Over the years, I have also had the privilege of building relationships with our alumnae, donors, and supporters who believe so strongly in Preston's mission. When I first stepped into the world of development, I thought asking for financial support would be one of the most challenging parts of the job. Instead, I discovered that when you truly believe in the mission, sharing the story and advocating for the needs of your students and school comes naturally. I was simply spreading the word about a place that I wholeheartedly believe changes lives.

The relationships I have built, the students I have met, and the countless moments shared with colleagues, alumnae, and families have made my time at Preston incredibly special. Beyond my admissions and development work, I was fortunate to connect with students through moderating the Step Team, Hellenic Club, and STAR Club. One of my favorite memories will always be serving as the producer of our school musical. While I may not have possessed the talents displayed on stage, it was a joy to watch young women discover their voices, develop confidence, and shine before an audience.

Most importantly, I leave knowing that the spirit of Preston lives on through the generations of women who have walked its halls. The strength, faith, resilience, and sisterhood that define this community are unlike anything else, and I am grateful to have witnessed them every day.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be part of the Preston story. It has been one of the greatest blessings of my life, and it is a chapter I will always treasure. Though I am retiring from my role, I will always remain a proud member of the Preston family.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Cristina Fragale
Director of Admissions & Development (Retiring)

Returning to Campus:

Nicole Capezuti Burns '94
Assistant Athletic Director

I am a proud Preston High School alumna from the Class of 1994 and am excited to return to the Preston community, where my daughter is a current senior. I have dedicated the past 29 years to teaching special education at P.S. 106 in the Bronx. A lifelong athlete, I played collegiate soccer at LIU Southampton and have continued to share my passion for sports through coaching. In 2001, I led Preston's soccer team to a championship and returned to the sidelines in 2023, capturing another soccer championship while also coaching JV basketball. I am thrilled to continue my Preston legacy by inspiring young women both on and off the field at a school that has always held a special place in my heart.

Michele Miraglia '01
Finance Director

I am thrilled to return home to Preston High School as the new Director of Finance! After beginning my career in finance, I spent over a decade in education as a teacher before returning to my financial roots. As a proud Preston alumna from the class of 2001, it is especially meaningful to be back at the school that helped shape the woman I am today. I look forward to combining my experience in education and finance to support Preston's continued growth, financial stability, and mission of empowering young women. It is truly an honor to give back to a community that has given me so much!

Theresa-Ann Kentner Holihan '97
Director of Development

I am a proud member of Preston High School's Class of 1997 and grew up in Throggs Neck. After graduating from Preston, I attended Iona College, where I studied Broadcast Journalism. My career began at News 12 The Bronx as an intern and Assignment Editor. Over the years, I advanced through several roles, including Producer, Assignment Manager, and ultimately Special Projects Producer for the News 12 Network. Throughout my career, I found great fulfillment in helping individuals bring attention to issues affecting their communities. I also coordinated the station's annual Back-to-School events in The Bronx and Brooklyn, securing donations and organizing vendors to help students in Morrisania and Flatbush begin the school year with the resources they needed. I am honored to be a four-time Emmy Award-winning journalist. Today, I am excited to use the relationships and community connections I have built throughout my career to advocate for Preston High School. As a proud alumna, I look forward to helping showcase the incredible work happening at Preston each year and supporting its mission for future generations of young women.

Victoria Lococo '14
Director of Recruitment

As a proud alumna from the Class of 2014, it means a lot to come back and serve the school that shaped me. After Preston, I went on to Binghamton University, where I earned three degrees — a bachelor's in Geography (Urban Planning) in 2018, and both a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Science in Student Affairs Administration in 2020. While a student at Binghamton, I spent six years working in admissions and recruitment as a tour guide, ambassador, supervisor, and graduate assistant. From there, I continued my admissions career at SUNY Maritime College, focusing on recruitment strategy and transfer admissions, and later at SUNY Purchase College, where I directed recruitment operations, trained staff, and managed large-scale events. Those experiences gave me a strong foundation in enrollment strategy, student advising, and team leadership. Now, I'm thrilled to bring that knowledge and energy back to Preston. My goal is to make the admissions process welcoming and clear for families, while continuing the tradition of excellence that makes Preston High School so special.

New to Campus:

Bogumila Filonik
Math Teacher

Judy Harrison
School Secretary

Peter Harsch
Theology Teacher

Aaron Huntt Jr.
Physical Education Teacher

Rishi Ramachandruni
Science Teacher

Maria Sanahuja Escofet
Spanish Teacher

Christine Sullivan
School Counselor

CATHOLIC *Identity*

Being a Catholic school is more than just calling ourselves such. Beyond praying together at the beginning and end of our days and holding monthly Masses and communal prayers, Preston High School offers several other ways for the community to express and practice their faith.



FIRST FRIDAY MORNING MASS

Each month, members of the community at Preston High School are invited to join together in our intimate chapel on campus to celebrate Mass on the First Friday of the month. The event is quickly growing, almost growing out of its space.



CONFESSION & ADORATION

Once a month, the Theology department invited students and staff to participate in confession and adoration in the chapel. This year, we were pleased to welcome Fr. Sandro from St. Frances de Chantal Church who made himself available to our students monthly. Mrs. Innamorato, Theology Teacher & Campus Minister, also led Adoration for students and stuff to participate.



SACRAMENTAL PREP PROGRAM

This year, marked the fourth year of Preston High School's Sacramental Prep program. Twelve members of the student body participated to receive one, two or three of the Sacraments of Initiation. The program culminated at our Easter Liturgy in April with Fr. Whalen as the celebrant. Thank you to Mrs. Innamorato for leading this program and allowing us to strengthen their faith.



SENIOR MASS AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Each year, the Archdiocese of New York hosts a special mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral for the Class of 2026. The Mass provides a meaningful opportunity for seniors from Catholic high schools throughout the Archdiocese to come together in prayer and reflection as they prepare for graduation and the next chapter of their lives. This year, one of our seniors had the honor of bringing up the gifts during the liturgy. Surrounded by the beauty and tradition of St. Patrick's Cathedral, our students celebrated their accomplishments, gave thanks for their high school experience, and sought God's guidance for the future.



MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY COMMUNAL PRAYER

In honor of October as the month of the Holy Rosary, the Preston High School community gathered in prayer for a special multilingual Rosary service. Reflecting the rich cultural diversity of the school, students and staff were invited to pray a Hail Mary in a language other than English.

The prayer was recited in Albanian, American Sign Language, Bulgarian, French, Gaelic, German, Italian, Latin, Malagasy, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese — a powerful testament to the global heritage represented within the Preston community.

SCHOOL YEAR *@ a glance*



STREET CO-NAMING CEREMONY

After the near-closure of Preston High School in 2025, the community voted to honor our story in a special way with a Street Co-Naming Ceremony. On September 4, 2025, community members, alumnae, students and families joined together in front of our building for the unveiling of the new street name at the corner of Schurz and Brinsmade Avenues: Preston High School Way. We were joined by several local elected officials including Bronx Boro President Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council majority Leader Amanda Farias '07, NYS Senator Nathalia Fernandez, and Council Member Kristy Marmorato.

MAMMA MIA! THE MUSICAL

In March, the Preston Players proudly presented *Mamma Mia!*, the beloved musical featuring the timeless hits of ABBA. Through months of hard work, dedication, and creativity, our talented student cast, crew, and production team brought this energetic and heartwarming story to life on stage. From vibrant musical numbers to unforgettable performances, Mamma Mia! showcased the incredible talent, teamwork, at PHS. Thank you to the directors, MK & Mike Breen, the producer Mrs. Fragale, the Leich family for their commitment to the set, lights, front of house and backstage, and finally the parents who volunteered.





VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM WENT TO NATIONALS

The Varsity Cheerleading team had an amazing season that brought them to Nationals in Orlando Florida! At Nationals, they delivered an outstanding performance and advanced to the finals, where they placed 7th in the nation for Traditional!



CAREER DAY

This year, we welcomed over 50 alumnae and friends for Career Day! Students spent the day hearing from professionals working in fields that interest them, networking with speakers, and learning about the many career paths and opportunities available to them after high school. The schoolwide keynote speaker was FDNY Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore, who shared her personal and professional journey and encouraged students to pursue their goals with confidence, perseverance, and a commitment to service.





INAUGURAL FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM WINS

Preston High School's inaugural flag football team captured the CHSAA "A" Championship in its first season! Led by four dedicated coaches, their championship victory was the culmination of months of hard work, commitment, and countless hours spent practicing and preparing for each opponent. The team's success was fueled by standout performances on both offense and defense, as well as the unwavering support of classmates, families, faculty, and the broader Preston community. As the first team in program history, these student athletes have secured a special place in Preston's legacy. The entire Preston community celebrates this milestone achievement and looks forward to seeing the program continue to thrive in the years ahead!



PANTHERS ABROAD









OVER EASTER BREAK,

Ms. Wolovich, alongside five other faculty & staff members, traveled with a group of 42 students over the Atlantic Ocean to Greece. Throughout the week, they visited the Acropolis, shopped in the Plaka district, spent a day visiting the Saronic islands, and even participated in a cooking class to learn how to make traditional Greek delicacies. Next year's Easter Break trip is traveling to Japan!





LAST SUMMER, fourteen members of the Preston Scholars Program traveled to Ecuador, the Galápagos Islands, and Costa Rica for an unforgettable educational adventure. Students explored the Mindo Cloud Forest, observed giant tortoises and other unique wildlife in the Galápagos, snorkeled among marine life, and learned about conservation efforts at the Charles Darwin Research Station. The journey concluded at the EF Global Leadership Summit, where students participated in leadership activities centered on the power of environmental stewardship and heard from keynote speaker, Costa Rican diplomat Christiana Figueres. Through exploration, environmental stewardship, and leadership development, our scholars gained experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Our students are doing amazing things, in and outside of our walls!



Junior **Alivia Toapha** was recognized as an honoree at Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's Italian Heritage celebration on October 14, 2025. Alivia was celebrated for her exceptional academic performance, leadership, and dedication to serving her community.

This past summer, she represented Preston High School at the Global Leadership Summit in Berlin, collaborating with students from around the world to develop innovative solutions for a more sustainable future. At Preston, Alivia is an active member of two honor societies, three service organizations, the Preston Scholars Program, and two creative arts clubs — exemplifying the values of scholarship, service, and compassion.

Paula Calle '27 attended the World Conservation Society and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. Throughout the day, she met with members of Congress and policy staff on Capitol Hill to discuss the importance of conservation programs and environmental policy. Attendees shared personal experiences and engaged in conversations with elected officials about protecting wildlife and natural resources. Pictured is Paula Calle '27 on the right, alongside other attendees, on Capitol Hill.



Announcing...

PRESTON FOREVER: A HISTORIC CHARTER

Preston High School proudly celebrated a historic milestone as we received our amended charter in July, officially establishing Preston as an independent high school! This achievement reflects the unwavering faith, dedication, and determination of a community deeply committed to our school's mission and future. For generations, Preston has empowered young women through academic excellence, faith, leadership, sisterhood, and service. Today, we honor that extraordinary legacy while embracing a future filled with new possibilities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, alumnae, parents, faculty, staff, and all who stood alongside Preston throughout this journey. As we enter this exciting new chapter, our commitment to providing an exceptional Catholic education rooted in faith, compassion, dignity, and excellence remains stronger than ever. Our legacy continues, our future is bright, and our Panther Pride is stronger than ever!





← **AnnaRose Fragale '15** and Wesley DeSimone wed on November 8, 2025.

Gina DePolo '16 and → Vincent Reda wed on September 19, 2025.





← **Danielle Carpentieri '15** and Christian Capilets wed on September 5, 2026.

To share news or to remember a loved one, please email Gabriela Del Valle gdelvalle@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext.143.

In Loving Memory

Annalea Canzoniero Ricci '62

Gerard J. Paterno III
Brother of Janet Paterno Shaw '80

Patricia Walsh Valonis '73
Sister of Mary Walsh '75,
Diane Walsh O'Neil '74,
Lorraine Walsh '78

Pedro Perez
Father of Adriana Perez '10

Rossy Natal '92

William Fayekas
Husband of Jeanette Tricamo Fayekas '68
and brother-in-law of
Julia Tricamo Bernstein '66

Wendie Villafane-Lauriola '66

Cara Rizzuto Handel '92

DEVELOPMENT *Events*



CARD PARTY
4.10.27

CARD PARTY

This year's Survivor themed Card Party on March 7th was a smashing success, raising over $25,000 to support the Fund for Preston High School. The fundraiser included several fun ways to participate, including sold out 50/50 raffles in the form of immunity necklaces and buffs (bandanas), money trees in the form of hidden idols, and a "bowl of rice" as the door prize. Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the event, either by volunteering, donating monetarily or with prizes, or simply by joining us for a fun night. We'll see you next year on April 10, 2027!

YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH for the classes of '23–'26
1.7.27

YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH

At the beginning of the new year, we welcomed our youngest alumnae back to Preston High School for the Young Alumnae Brunch on January 8, 2026. Members of the classes of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 joined the class of 2026 for brunch to answer their questions and share advice on how to navigate the upcoming journey ahead. We welcomed over 30 alumnae to reminisce about their high school days and impart knowledge on the soon-to-be graduates. The seniors took advantage of the opportunity to speak with their friends and learn more about how to prepare for the next step.





CLASS OF 1976

ALUMNAE REUNION

In April, we welcomed back alumnae from class years ending in 1s and 6s to celebrate with their former classmates and reminisce about their high school days. Over 100 alumnae joined us for a Reunion Mass, followed by lunch catered from Posto 22 in New Rochelle, NY. We are so grateful for to all those who joined us and those who sent well wishes from afar. We look forward to welcoming even more of you next year on April 24, 2027!



ALUMNAE REUNION 2s & 7s 4.24.27



CLASS OF 1981



CLASS OF 1991



CLASS OF 2001

The Importance of Scholarships & Financial Aid

At Preston High School, approximately 75% of our students receive financial assistance in some form, whether through academic scholarships, financial aid from PHS, or support from outside organizations. The cost of educating each Preston student is $17,258, while the average amount families pay in tuition and fees is approximately $14,165, leaving a deficit of $3,093 per student. Your generous donations help bridge this gap and ensure we can continue providing our students with a quality education.

Ways to Donate



MAIL IN
a check



VISIT
our website
to donate online



CALL
to donate
over the phone



MATCHING GIFT
Check with employer for 2x or 3x matching contributions



ENDOWMENT & STOCKS



ESTATE
Gifts

Where does your donation go and who benefits?

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 the Divine Compassion Fund

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Annalea Canzoniero Ricci '62 Scholarship
- Cathy Clausson Nelson Grant
- Catherine Stenderhoff 10465 Scholarship
- Mary Ricci Scholarship
- Marie A. Rudolph 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
- Amanda Tamburrino '22 Compassion Award

To set up a fund or scholarship or to donate to one of these specific funds,
please contact Gabriela Del Valle at gdelvalle@prestonhs.org or (718) 863-9134 ext. 143.

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

Patricia Tranchese Bisesto '80
Jennifer Connolly '92, ex officio
Andrea Donkor '99, Chair
Geralyn Harty Giannini '74
Marge McEvoy
Stefanie Fedak-Rodrigues '02

School Administration

Principal | Jennifer Connolly, Esq. '92 | x113
Assistant Principal of Academics | Kelly Keane | x115
Assistant Principal of Student Life | Edgar Martinez | x130

Recruitment & Development Office

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PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL
EST. 1947

2780 Schurz Avenue,
Bronx, New York 10465

PARENTS OF ALUMNAE:
Please forward if the alumna has moved.



Save the Dates

OCTOBER 24
Open House | 11am

DECEMBER 1
Giving Tuesday

JANUARY 7
Young Alumnae Brunch '23-'26

FEBRUARY 4
Mother Mary Veronica Day of Giving

APRIL 10
Card Party | 6pm

APRIL 24
Alumnae Reunion celebrating 2s and 7s | 11am

MAY 14
Golf Outing

JUNE 10
Open House | 11am

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.