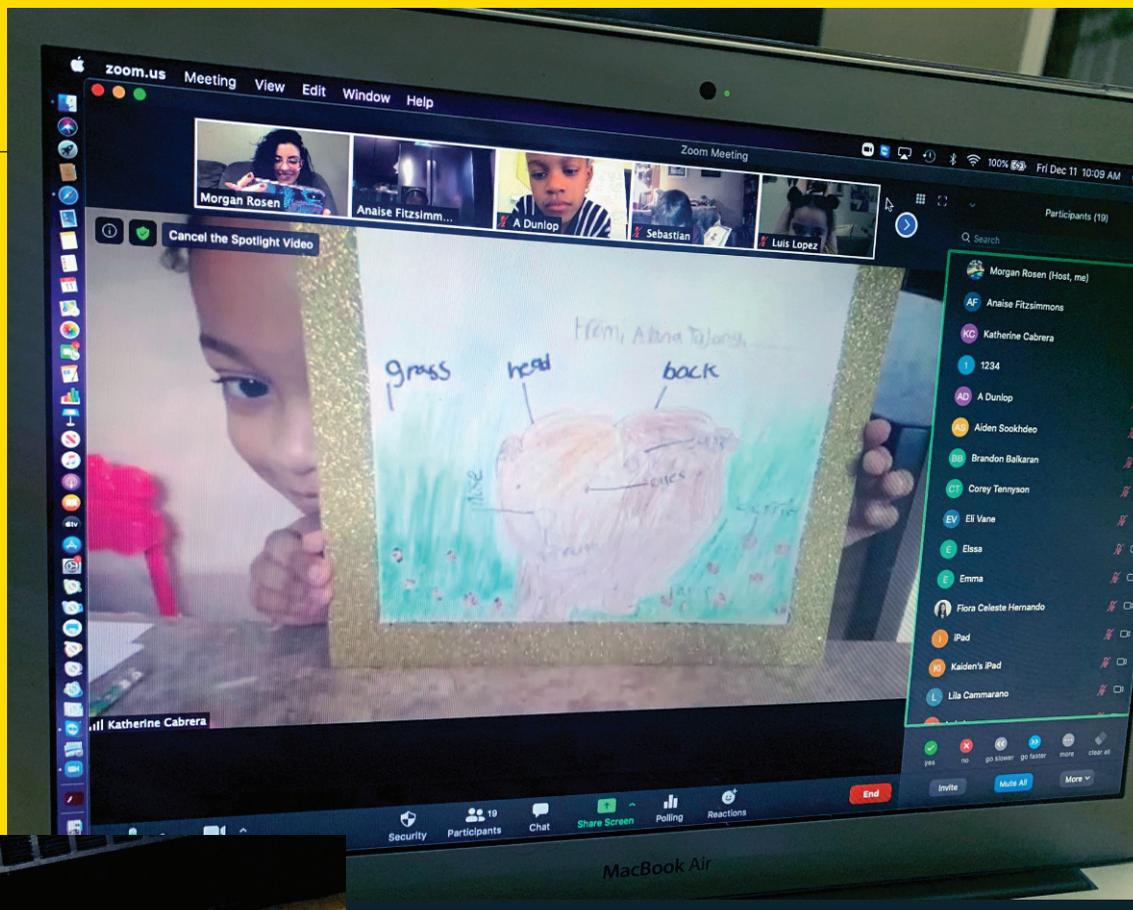


NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

2021

VIRTUAL VISITING PROGRAM—The Virtual Visiting Program of the Archdiocese of New York began last month and will continue at least through May, archdiocesan education officials said. St. Barnabas Elementary School in the Bronx provided these photos: Below, older students stand and pray during “virtual First Friday Mass,” said principal Jonathan Morano. The school’s virtual open house includes that photo as well as the other two, of the students at right and bottom left.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. BARNABAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



National Catholic Schools Week, an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States, will take place Jan. 31 to Feb. 6. This year’s theme is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service. This special pullout section features stories about Catholic elementary and high schools in the archdiocese. Topics include virtual open houses, an IBM Family Science Saturday program, as well as a recent graduate chronicling how one Catholic high school safely brought students back to campus.

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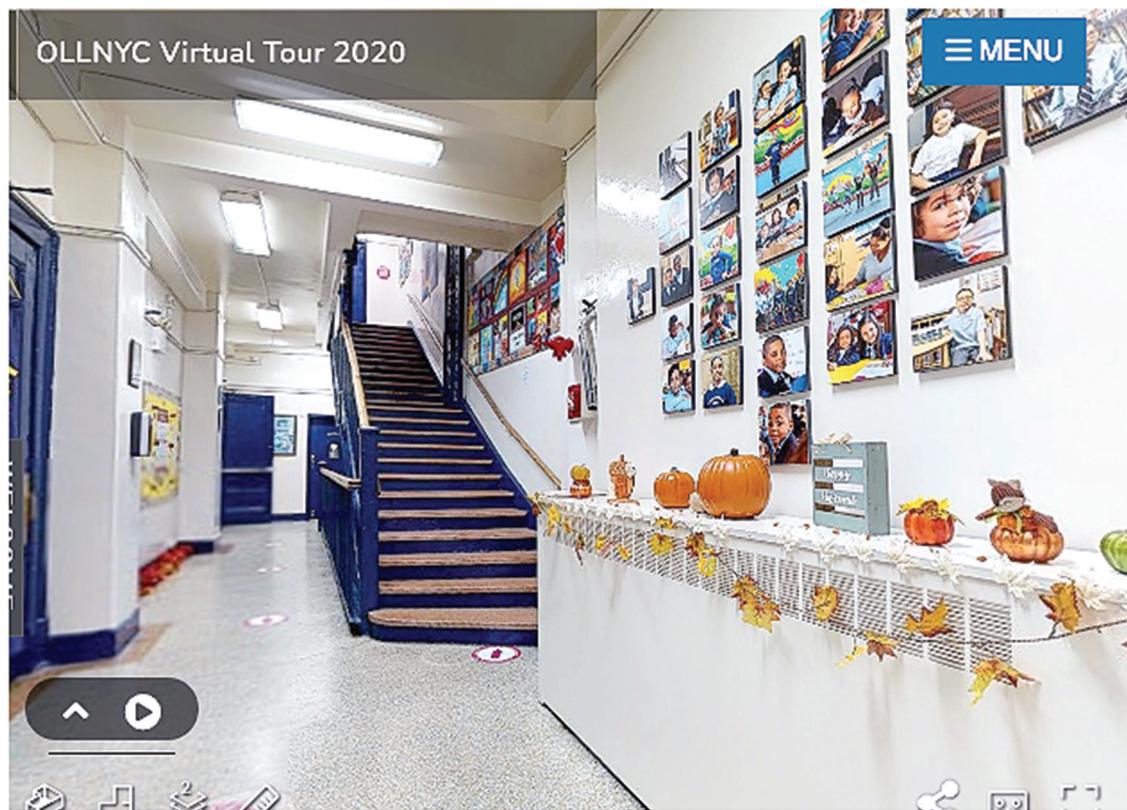
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Virtual Tour



Virtual School Open Houses Put Prospective Students, Families in the Know

By **ARMANDO MACHADO**

Since early December, prospective students and their families have been able to participate in the archdiocesan Virtual Visiting Program for school open houses, a solid plan stemming from limitations on in-person visits due to the pandemic.

“This is critical to our recruitment process and to families being able to get the information that they need about our schools,” Veronica Jarek-Prinz, archdiocesan director of school Enrollment Management, told Catholic New York in a phone interview last week.

“It’s been our mission to keep the schools open and safe for families during the pandemic, and so our office has worked to develop a completely safe virtual enrollment process.”

Ms. Jarek-Prinz noted that her office sent emails to principals, “with the instructions, information and guidance on setting up a virtual visit...We provided materials for the principals to use and to share with the families. It allows the principals to talk about the specifics of their schools and the highlights of their curriculum.

“They also have the ability to include a video of a virtual tour, or photos and slides of what the school looks like.”

She also said, “We opened our admissions on

the first of December, and families have been visiting our schools virtually since we started doing that. They will get more active now that the holidays are over; that’s part of the reason we’re invigorating this push to principals.

“We sent all of them their (program) toolkit, which helps them prepare their template and plan the virtual visits for January, February and March, which is our heaviest application period. Virtual visits will be available through at least May.”

(Catholic high schools in general are implementing virtual tours and open houses under each school’s own guidelines and practices.)

In-person school tours are done on a case-by-case basis, Ms. Jarek-Prinz said, “if the schools are safe to enter in that way.”

“That has to be managed on a school-specific basis with the regional superintendent. Our protocols do not permit us to have non-school personnel in the buildings during the school day,” she said.

In the virtual visits, grade-school students and their families are informed about how students have an opportunity to progress in a safe, structured learning community, from early childhood through eighth grade, and how free, high-quality UPK and private Pre-K 3 classes help young learners prepare for kindergarten.

The virtual visits also provide information about full New York State Core Curriculum—mathematics, reading, spelling, writing, grammar, social studies, science and study skills; special area subjects and programs included in the school program, such as art, music, choir, Title 1 Math & Literacy, church choir; and religious instruction: worship and service; and preparation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL, WEST HARLEM

VIRTUAL GREETINGS—The archdiocesan Virtual Visiting Program for school open houses began in early December and will continue until at least late May. Top, the main entrance area at Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Harlem. Above, then-eighth-grade students Angel Mosso, left, and Bryant Paulino walk down a staircase at Our Lady of Lourdes in the early part of the 2019-2020 school year. The boys graduated last June.

Educators, IBM Partner in STEM Program for Ossining Students

By ARMANDO MACHADO

At St. Augustine's School in Ossining, administrators, teachers and students are thankful for the gift of innovation. Indeed, innovation, science, engineering and exploration are some of the ways the IBM Family Science Saturday Program "has sparked excitement within the minds of many students," Mary Huvane, a fifth-grade teacher, told Catholic New York.

"The program is a wonderful pathway for learning because it provides (fifth-grade) students with a way of engaging with science, and they can connect with others virtually," Ms. Huvane said last week in a phone interview with CNY. "And they (coordinators) also provide a tactile portion of the program, which I think makes it extra exciting for the students. It allows them to explore science more deeply, and to be more college- and career-ready at a young age."

Mary Jane Daley, regional superintendent of schools for Dutchess and Northern Westchester/Putnam Regions in the archdiocese, called the free educational outreach program "a wonderful way to inspire inquiry and creativity among our students."

"Hopefully, they will have an insatiable interest to pursue careers in the sciences, math, technology and engineering," she said.

Since the fall, a group of fifth-graders at St.



COURTESY OF ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL, OSSINING

SCIENCE SATURDAYS—Lizzie Allan, left, and Marco Radeljic, above, are among fifth-grade students of St. Augustine School in Ossining participating in the IBM Family Science Saturday Program. The academic, extracurricular activity covers varied topics within the STEM arena. On Saturday mornings, the students collaborate virtually with IBM experts who volunteer their time for the free educational outreach program.

Augustine have partnered with IBM to expand their minds and critical thinking skills through inquiry-based, hands-on learning, Ms. Huvane said. On Saturday mornings, she said, the students collaborate virtually with experts to expand their horizons within the realm of STEM

(Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics). There are 42 fifth-graders at the school; about 20 have been participating in the academic, extracurricular activity, which is like a school club, in conjunction with the solid science cur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



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Janvier's Life Lessons Were His Greatest Gift to Students

By DAN PIETRAFESA

George Janvier brightened up a room with his smile and his positive outlook on life, and family, friends and students in his Bronx community and at Salesian High School in New Rochelle are remembering a “best friend and father figure,” who died Dec. 23 at age 41 due to Covid-19 complications.

“He always told me to do what makes you happy,” Chris Moronta, a junior at Salesian High School and parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Elmsford, told CNY. “He was always encouraging me to keep my faith up no matter what. We always have to keep our faith up no matter

“He tried to show us life is really about how you handle it, it’s not about how hard it is or how you’re going to deal with it. It’s about the way you look at things. I think that’s going to stick with me for the rest of my life no matter what goes on.”

what God throws at us, no matter what life throws at us. You always have to stay happy because he was always happy no matter what was going on.

“He tried to show us life is really about how you handle it, it’s not about how hard it is or how you’re going to deal with it. It’s about the way you look at things. I think that’s going to stick with me for the rest of my life no matter what goes on.

He was a best friend and father figure.”

Janvier became youth minister in the 2017-2018 school year at Salesian where he arranged school Masses, worship services and special religious events; coordinated retreats with other Salesian schools on the East Coast; and organized Salesian mission trips to Belle Glade, Fla. He also planned service opportunities for students, including volunteering at the Don Bosco Soup Kitchen in Port Chester and feeding the New York City homeless in the Midnight Run program.

“George was an inspiration to all,” said Thomas Siefing, a close friend of Janvier and a history teacher/coordinator of youth ministry at Salesian. “He took on every task that he was given with great pride. He was a wonderful example and a model for our young men and always



COURTESY OF SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL



FRIEND TO ALL—George Janvier, center, sat with students from Salesian High School in New Rochelle where he had served as youth minister since the 2017-2018 school year. Left, Janvier served in various roles at parishes and schools in his Bronx community and at Salesian. All who knew Janvier are mourning his death Dec. 23 at age 41 due to Covid-19 complications.

stressed the importance of trusting in God, attending Mass, and having a conversation and praying to our God.”

Raised in the Bronx, Janvier was the husband of Joanna and father to Thomas and Jacob. Before arriving at Salesian, Janvier, who attended St. Francis College in Brooklyn, was technology coordinator at Our Lady of Grace School in the Bronx, where he attended school as a student. He remained a basketball coach at Our Lady of Grace until his death.

Janvier also served in the Bronx as choir director at Mount St. Michael Academy and Na-

tivity of Our Blessed Lady parish, and director of youth and young adult ministry at the parish of St. Frances of Rome, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony and Our Lady of Grace. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 9 at St. Frances of Rome.

Our Lady of Grace principal Rich Helmrich remembered Janvier as a friend and father figure to students and athletes, recalling Janvier bringing more than a carload of players to games and spending part of halftime figuring the best route to drive his players home.

“His impact was hard to measure,” Helmrich said. “It was all about service, giving up his time for others.

“No matter what would go on during a day, once you saw George come into a room you knew you were in the presence of someone special.”



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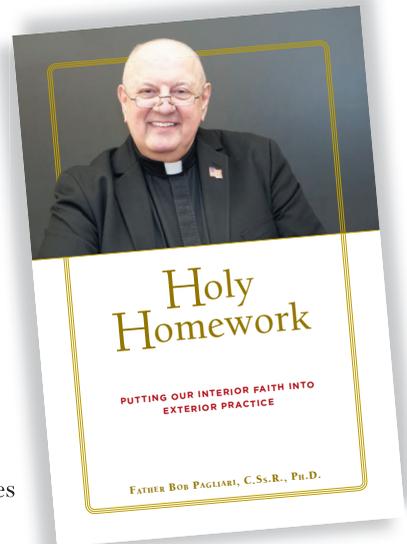
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2020 Grad Recounts Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School's Safe Reopening



NOELLE TORRE

portance of an in-person education. “There are much fewer distractions (in the building) than there are at home and being able to interact with (his) teacher and classmates makes the learning experience more interesting.”

The sentiment is echoed by Susan Willis, chairperson of the English department, who said she “looks forward to the day when all the students will be back in person.”

While three months of virtual learning worked last spring, it was clear Kennedy needed to open its doors to students in September. To successfully reopen, many measures were necessary to ensure the safety of the Kennedy community, as well as the many communities where Kennedy students live. Students travel to Kennedy from 58 districts.

In the last few months, many have argued over whether opening schools is a good idea. At Kennedy, the question wasn't whether to open or stay remote; it was how to open safely while delivering an authentic educational experience. As soon as the doors closed in March, Father Mark

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

IN CLASS—Students at John F. Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School in Somers are divided into two cohort groups that alternate weeks of in-person study with virtual instruction at home. Left, junior Valeria Acierno works on a drawing in studio art. Below, sophomores Jalen Alvarez-Vasquez, Ellis Kennedy and Lukas Gojcaj complete a solubility chemistry laboratory experiment.

By JOSHUA BAKER

Over the last nine months, Covid-19 has left the world in a state of disarray, fear, loss and uncertainty. As every facet of daily life was forced to shut down or adapt in some way, it began to feel as if a return to normalcy would never be possible. How could we ever go back to schools or socialize with our peers safely? At times, it felt like we'd be trapped inside forever. At some point over the last few months, the idea of returning to normalcy became more and more of a fantasy, with the goal now being to make the best of the situation at hand. Ten months into this pandemic, schools that recently reopened are once again being faced with closures. John F. Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School, however, is still working like a well-oiled machine, and has delivered on its mission to keep students in the school environment they so greatly need.

On March 13, Kennedy Catholic held in-person classes for the last time of the 2019-2020 academic year. For the next three months, students completed their coursework in a completely virtual setting. While grades did not slip and measures to maintain academic integrity were implemented, there was clearly a gap between remote and in-person learning.

Paul “P.J.” Wu, a current senior and a member of the Student Council, told me that staying home for so long made him realize the im-



MOIRA NORMILE

Kennedy Catholic...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Vaillancourt, the president and principal, with the assistance of Mark Girolamo, a member of the school's board of directors, enlisted a team of doctors, security advisers, health officials and engineers to ensure that students would be able to safely travel to Somers from those 58 districts and return to school.

Girolamo, class of '71, spearheaded the re-entry effort, saying that to reopen successfully they needed "to reverse engineer a student's day at Kennedy...to make this a productive year." By understanding each facet of a student's day, the elements can be adapted to maximize safety and health.

Father Vaillancourt shared details about how

the committee went about adapting the school through changes to the building. Screens are present all across the library dividing chairs and tables, some desks have been taken out of classrooms to replace cafeteria tables in the lunchrooms for social distancing, and signs directing traffic flow can be found at every turn. Attendants in masks and gloves now serve food through a window in packages. A new HVAC system is working constantly to purify the building's air, and the cleaning team is working rigorously and constantly to sanitize the building.

In the event of a Covid-19 scare, rooms have been sectioned off to serve as dedicated quarantine zones. Anyone who enters the building is screened daily for symptoms, contact and fever. The entire building has been altered to combat

Covid-19, while also suiting the needs and comforts of the students and teachers. While the school has been rewired to combat the virus from a technical standpoint, the human element has been vital to maintaining a safe environment and staying open.

It is important to get the support and compliance of the school's nearly 700 students for any large-scale initiative to be tackled. Any plan laid out by the re-entry committee may work on paper, but for it to be effective those within the building must follow along.

Tom Foltin, Kennedy's head of security and a member of the re-entry team, said that security "has not had to enforce many Covid restriction infractions at all" and that "the general feeling at Kennedy is to help one another, so when we put restrictions in place to protect everyone, the students stepped right up and took care of it."

The alterations made to the building and the commitment of the community have been key components of the continued success of Kennedy's reopening, however much can also be said about the staggered scheduling system that has been adopted. The "cohort" system breaks the student body into two even collectives, the Sister Christopher and Sister Barbara cohorts, and

the members of each come to the building for five days at a time. This system has allowed for students to have a structured school week that involves a consistent in-person schedule. In the event that a student or teacher tests positive for Covid-19, only students in that cohort will potentially be affected, and the other half will be able to resume normal in-person activities the following week.

When one cohort is in the building, the members of the other are virtually present in class through the use of Canvas conferencing and Zoom meetings. Classes can continue at a typical pace without having to reteach students who are off campus for a week. Father Vaillancourt said "all curriculum goals are being met," including for the significant portion of the student population in China. Virtual learning has allowed these students to continue to participate in class and still be active members of the Kennedy community while they await the opportunity to return to the United States.

Thus far, Kennedy is yet to have a significant Covid-19 scare. This level of success—and continued safety going forward—is a testament to the hard work being done to maintain a top tier education accompanied by an authentic experience.

Joshua Baker, a member of John F. Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School Class of 2020, now attends Northeastern University in Boston.

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Virtual Open Houses...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

for receiving the sacraments.

Each school, as with regular in-person visits, also promotes its own particular programs and activities.

The school Virtual Visiting sites in general include still photos, videos, PowerPoint presentations and other online means of school information and promotion, including opportunities for students and their families to attend scheduled group Zoom meetings with school administrators and teachers. Families can also request one-to-one appointments for students and their families to meet virtually with school representatives, such as with a faculty member teaching a particular subject.

The Archdiocese of New York has 108 elementary schools, plus 12 Early Childhood and eight Special Education programs, covering the New York City boroughs of Staten Island, Manhattan

IBM...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

riculum at St. Augustine, Ms. Huvane said.

The program generally begins with a live-streamed session with experts followed by an activity-based tactile portion. For students who would like to view the program again, the sessions are recorded and parents can easily access them for students at a later date. The lessons cover varied topics within the STEM arena, “such as states of matter, algorithms, coding, DNA extraction, electronics and kitchen chemistry,” Ms. Huvane said.

“It’s a ton of fun since we get to learn about many different subjects within science,” said Lizzie Allan, a fifth-grader at St. Augustine, quoted by her teacher.

Grace Kaplan of IBM usually begins the morning online. Experts then teach lessons about specific topics and students are guided through a hands-on activity, Ms. Huvane said. The activities range from computer programming to extracting DNA from strawberries, she said, adding, “Led by Grace Kaplan of IBM and Stephen Stibler, the head of IT at St. Augustine’s School, students are able to expand parameters of scientific knowledge and discovery.”

Ms. Kaplan told CNY, “This local educational outreach program is normally taught at Yorktown. Children work together with their parents and IBM researchers. At this time when many children are learning from home, IBM pivoted to an online learning environment. These classes are offered at no cost to participants.”

The learning topics include Programming in Python, Polymers, States of Matter, Electronics, Algorithms, Kitchen Chemistry, Climate Change, Artificial Intelligence, Waves, Water and How to Help Creatures that Live in the Seas. “IBM has a history of helping to nurture the science skills of young people,” Ms. Kaplan said, adding that volunteer scientists who implement the program “also find the experience very rewarding.”

and the Bronx and upper counties.

Jonathan Morano, principal of St. Barnabas Elementary School in the Bronx, said his school began virtual open houses much earlier—around May/June of last year for September 2020, and last autumn for September 2021.

“We started it towards the end of last school year when we knew that we weren’t going to be able to come back in person, and we realized pretty quickly the summer and this school year would look radically different; and that people coming in and out was not going to be the best idea,” Morano told CNY.

“We immediately looked for that virtual solution, in particular because if parents are going to

choose one of our schools, they need to be able to see what they’re choosing.”

Suzanne Kaszynski, principal of Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Harlem, said her school joined the archdiocesan Virtual Visiting Program in early December when most grade schools joined.

“The pandemic has provided some challenges, but we believe we’re meeting them through virtual Zoom meetings and through virtual tours,” said Ms. Kaszynski, noting that prospective students and their parents can learn all about the school virtually from administrators and teachers.

“We also have a welcome video, and we have a 360-degree virtual tour of the school.”



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Cathedral High School Launches Principal's Council

Cathedral High School in Manhattan has created a Principal's Council, the girls' Catholic college preparatory school announced.

Serving as ambassadors and strategic advisers to the principal, Maria Spagnuolo, the alumnae and supporters are helping to further the school's mission and enhance its visibility.

Through their guidance, the members of the Principal's Council will seek to expand Cathedral High School's network and develop new relationships and collaborations.

"The importance of a Catholic school education is needed now more than ever," Ms. Spagnuolo said. "The Principal's Council will help us navigate through these unprecedented times to

ensure we achieve success with hybrid learning while helping our students to become productive members of society with religious and moral integrity in the pursuit of social justice.

"These impressive men and women have achieved success in their careers, and I am confident that they will serve Cathedral with the same enthusiasm and passion."

Cathedral High School's Principal's Council is composed of the following:

Emmy-award winning Lynda Baquero, NBC 4 New York's consumer reporter, is a 1983 alumna. Her "Better Get Baquero" segments resolve consumer complaints and provide updates on the latest consumer alerts. She also hosts the series

"Visiones," which highlights issues affecting the Hispanic community.

Ursula Burns, a senior advisor of Teneo Ltd., retired chair and CEO of VEON Ltd. and a retired chair and CEO of Xerox, is a 1976 alumna. President Barack Obama appointed her to help lead the White House national STEM program, 2009-2016, and she served as chair of the President's Export Council, 2015-2016, after serving as vice chair, 2010-2015.

Thomas W. Crawford was a partner at KPMG in New York City, 1981-2009. During that time, he served as the area managing partner for Tax for NYC and the Northeast and other leadership positions. Since 2016 he has been the vice president of Tax at Hillspire LLC, a family office in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a CPA and served as the treasurer and a member of the board at Cathedral High School, 2008-2015.

Sister Margaret Egan, S.C., Ed.D., a 1956 alumna, is a member of the leadership governance of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York. She has served as an elementary/middle school teacher and as a professor of Teacher Education and vice president for Student Development at the College of Mount St. Vincent. She was president of the New York State Colleges for Teacher Education and received the Teacher of the Year Award from the New York State Association of Teacher Educators. She served on the Cathedral High School board of trustees for 10 years.

Maria Cecilia Salazar, a 1987 alumna, has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry. Her career in finance began through a Junior Achievement program during her senior year at Cathedral High, which led to an internship at the IBM Metro Employees Federal Credit Union, where she remained a part-time employee for several years while continuing her education. She has worked at Standard & Poor's as an index market analyst and during the last 17 years has been at J.P. Morgan, where she is the head of relationship management for Latin American corporate clients in the American Depository Receipts division.

Glenn Shannon is a vice chairman of Shorenstein Properties LLC, a privately owned company headquartered in San Francisco that owns office buildings and multifamily properties located in major metropolitan areas. A longtime contributor to Cathedral High and sponsor of student scholarships, he is one of five children of the late Edna Marie Rasmussen Shannon, Class of 1944.

Debra De Jesus-Vizzi, a 1981 alumna, is a thought leader and changemaker for child welfare, education and poverty. Her passion and drive come from her personal experience as a foster child in New York City and the adults who changed the trajectory of her life in the same way she aims to support vulnerable youth today. She serves as executive director of Student Sponsor Partners, an organization that provided her the opportunity to attend Cathedral High School and have a supportive mentor.

In these uncertain times, one thing is crystal clear—today's students need to be empowered with future-ready skills to succeed in an increasingly challenging world. Discover Stepinac's unsurpassed competitive edge.

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No Singing Allowed? Chicago Catholic School's Students Learn Sign Language

By JOYCE DURIGA

When music teacher Lynn Kingsbury at St. Damian School in the Chicago suburb of Oak Forest learned that her students wouldn't be allowed to sing in class because of Covid-19 restrictions, she made a dream of hers into reality—teaching the students how to sing in American Sign Language.

This year, the fifth grade's annual Nativity play and concert featured the students in costume signing all of the songs, along with a fourth-grade angel choir. Students doing remote learning also were featured in the production. The school recorded the concert Dec. 18 and made it available through its Facebook page and website.

"As I've been a teacher here teaching music, I've always wanted to incorporate American Sign Language with the lyrics of the songs. I've never really had time," Ms. Kingsbury told the Chicago Catholic newspaper of the Chicago Archdiocese.

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"So when I was told I could not sing this year because of the pandemic because it would spread the virus, I was thinking that it would be a great idea now to incorporate American Sign Language with the school so the students could then sign the lyrics of the songs," she explained.

Music is still part of the classes, but the students don't vocalize the song lyrics.

"Signing is a very expressive, beautiful language, so it goes with the whole," she said. "Music is very performance-based and sign language

is also. The students have just been catching on and loving it."

Ms. Kingsbury is fluent in ASL thanks to her relationships with her three great-aunts who are deaf, including 92-year-old legendary aviator Jean Hauser, who became the first deaf pilot in the state of Wisconsin in 1965 and was Ms. Kingsbury's confirmation sponsor.

"I would sign with her, so I fell in love with it as a child," Ms. Kingsbury said. "I've kind of always just had it in my life."

Even though the students wear masks in class, Ms. Kingsbury has emphasized to them that part of ASL is also mouthing the words, so they have to do that too.

"I definitely want to follow the deaf community etiquette and I've told them all about it. It's a whole-body language," she said. "We have a nice vocabulary going right now. We could carry on a conversation."

Learning ASL is something the students will carry with them for the rest of their lives, said

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Jennifer Miller, principal at St. Damian.

"They have grasped every bit of this, from our youngest learners, our 3-year-olds, all the way through to our eighth-graders," Ms. Miller said. "And they are taking this home and they are teaching their parents and their siblings. Their eyes are open to a whole new language and a great communication skill."

It is opening them up to a new group of people and expanding their faith too, she said.

As an unintended consequence of the classes, Ms. Miller said the faculty and staff should probably learn ASL "because the kids are going to

start communicating and we won't know what they are saying."

The eighth-graders have already caught on to that, Ms. Kingsbury said.

"They are having fun with it," she said. "I keep really emphasizing the fact that, 'You are doing something really special here and this is something you're going to have for the rest of your life. If you're in college and you have a friend who is hard of hearing or who is deaf you are going to be able to help them interpret or communicate with them.'"

St. Damian School's Nativity play and concert can be viewed on YouTube, <https://bit.ly/37FcUO9>. —CNS

Ms. Duriga is editor of the Chicago Catholic.



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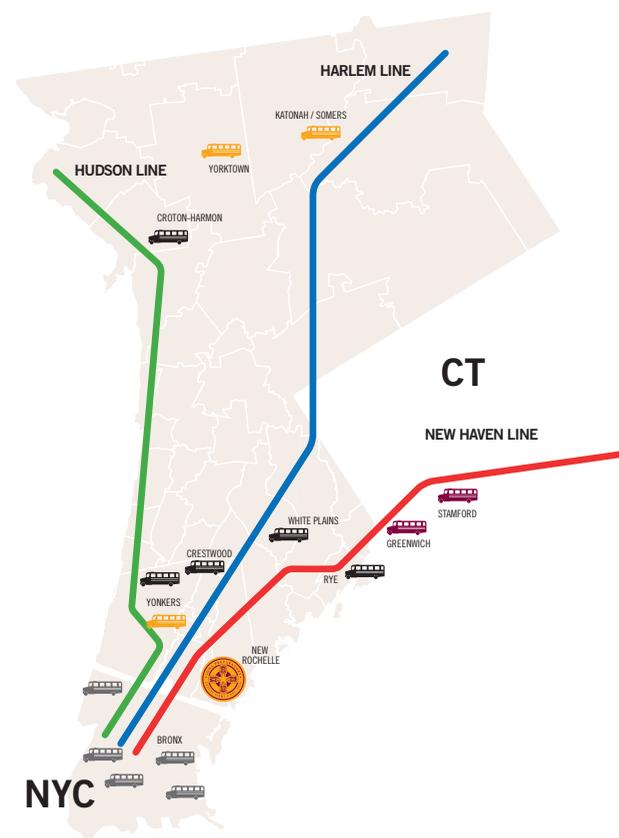
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Principal Appointed at Maria Regina High School

Maria Carozza-McCaffrey has been appointed principal of Maria Regina High School in Hartsdale.

Mrs. Carozza-McCaffrey, a 1999 graduate of Maria Regina, had served as interim principal since July.

The Dec. 28 announcement was made by school president Anna E. Parra.

“Over the past five months as interim principal, Mrs. Carozza-McCaffrey has led our



Maria Carozza-McCaffrey

school with grace and strength through challenging times,” Ms. Parra said. “She is genuinely leading her alma mater with true tiger spirit. We look forward to a new year filled with hope, health and continued success. We wish Maria all the best as she continues in her role as principal empowering our students and guiding them as women of faith to be leaders in our society.”

Mrs. Carozza-McCaffrey, in coordination with assistant principal Silvia Santo and school social worker Josefa Santos, introduced the Counseling Resource Google Classroom that provides advice to parents and students on a range of essential learning issues in the Covid-19 climate. The new principal has supported and guided the faculty in helping them teach effectively in the challenging pandemic environment.

Mrs. Carozza-McCaffrey, who holds a master’s degree in human development from Teachers College at Columbia University in Manhattan, had served Maria Regina as a science teacher and administrator for more than 18 years. She taught scientific research, biology, anatomy and physiology, health, AP psychology and introduction to computers.

She was assistant principal of operations, 2015-2017, when her responsibilities included administration and educational oversight and strategic planning. As choral director, she guided the ensemble to 11 national titles since 2006.

“The board is grateful for all Maria has done, and we have every confidence in her ability to lead our school,” said Luanne Tantillo Diecchio, chairperson of the board of trustees. “She assumed the position of interim principal at a challenging time and, in a short period, demonstrated exemplary leadership, a positive spirit, and genuine dedication to the school.”



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