

CLASS OF 2025



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Valedictorians
& Salutatorians
CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025 • 9:00 A.M.
Westchester Manor • Hastings-On-Hudson, NY



PROGRAM

Welcome and Remarks.....	Dr. Stephanie McCaskill Associate Superintendent Student Support Services
Pledge of Allegiance	Samuel Arturo Rodriguez Valedictorian Lincoln High School
National Anthem	Sophia Z. Marjeh Grade 10 Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies
Greetings	Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio President, Board of Education
Remarks	Aníbal Soler, Jr. Superintendent of Schools Mike Spano Mayor, City of Yonkers

PRESENTATION OF HONOREES

Barack Obama School for Social Justice – Jamell Scott, Principal
Charles E. Gorton High School – Jamie Morales, Principal
Lincoln High School – Ian Sherman, Principal
Riverside High School – William Shaggura, Principal
Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies – Edward DeChent, Principal
Saunders Trades and Technical High School – Jeremy Rynders, Principal
Yonkers Middle/High School – Dr. Sandy Hattar, Principal
Yonkers Montessori Academy – Dr. Eileen E. Rivera, Principal
Closure Dr. Stephanie McCaskill



BARACK OBAMA SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



Alexa Guadalupe Escamilla Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 100.98

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP English Language and Composition,
AP U.S. History, AP Biology, CL Basic
Calculus, CL Writing and Literature

School Activities

Chess Club, Drama Club: Backstage Sound and Musician, Music Club,
Film Club Treasurer

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2021-2025,
National Honor Society, Century Honors

Community Service and Work

Summer Program Facilitator and Mentor at CLUSTER, Hudson River
Museum Junior Docent

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Enjoys music, writing, playing the guitar; arts and crafts such as
crocheting, painting, and drawing; playing video games. Fluent in
English and Spanish. Selected as a Hudson River Museum Junior
Docent Volunteer in 2021 and has worked there as a paid docent
since 2022. A strong communicator with years of experience working
with others to achieve mutual goals as a museum employee.

College Acceptance - Plans to major Undecided

Accepted – Fordham University, Pace University, Binghamton
University, Sarah Lawrence College, Lehman College,
Manhattanville College



Seediya Jabbi Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 99.64

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP English Language and Composition,
AP U.S. History, AP Biology, CL Basic
Calculus, CL Writing and Literature

School Activities

STEER for Student Athletes, My Brother's Keeper, Senior Team Captain for
Varsity Basketball – center, power forward, Yonkers Partners in Education

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

All-Section, All-Conference, and All-League for Varsity Basketball,
National Honors Society, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90,
Business Honors Scholarship at Mercy University

Community Service and Work

My Brother's Keeper Thanksgiving Food Drive, organized a clothing
drive for a young family in Ghana, Volunteered at toy drives

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Basketball, football, gaming, and editing; a strong leader; passionate
about community service and lifting up others. Values having balance
in life, listening to others, and communicating; is ambidextrous. Favorite
movie: Like Mike.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Mechanical Engineering, Business and Management

Accepted – SUNY Delhi, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Elmira College,
Manhattan University, Mercy University, Baruch College, St. John's
University



CHARLES E. GORTON HIGH SCHOOL



Marcos A. Astudillo **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 100.04

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP World History, CL Medical Terminology, CL Office Technology, AP U.S. History, CL Writing and Research, CL College Reasoning

School Activities

Creator's Club, P-TECH Club, Student Advisory, Senior Committee Treasurer, Skills USA Club President and Treasurer, Fall-O-Ween, Yonkers Partners in Education, College and Career Fair, College Door Decorating Contest, Relay For Life

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Sophie Davis Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program Certificate, National Honor Society, Math Honor Society,

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Certified Medical Office Assistant in the Administrative Field, Certified Medical Anatomy and Physiology

Community Service and Work

The Peter Chema, Sr. Community Center

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Video games, attending concerts, vinyl records

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology/Pre-Med

Accepted – University at Buffalo, University at Albany, SUNY Oneonta, New York Institute of Technology, University of New Haven, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Camden, and Newark



Noelia G. Flores **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.18

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP English Literature and Comprehension, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP U.S.

History, CL Anatomy and Physiology, CL Statistics, AP Psychology, CL Writing and Research

School Activities

Fall-O-Ween, Talent Show helper, Photography/Art/Yearbook Club, Creator's Club, Dungeons & Dragons Club, Soccer Team, Manager of the Wrestling Team, White Plains Hospital Internship

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, Principal's List

Community Service and Work

Church Food Drive volunteer, Retail Worker at Ludel's Uniform Store

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Loves collecting stickers and Pokémon cards and playing video games. Likes to cook and bake, and draw—especially bugs and flowers. She and the Valedictorian have known each other since Pre-K. She's also double-jointed.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Molecular Biology or Mathematics

Accepted – Mercy College, Muhlenberg College, Pace University, Monroe University, CUNY John Jay College, CUNY Baruch College, CUNY York College, SUNY Oneonta, University at Albany, University at Buffalo, SUNY Cortland, Stony Brook University, SUNY Oswego, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY Farmingdale, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Purchase, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Farmingdale



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



Samuel Arturo Rodriguez Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 101.31

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP Chemistry, AP World History, AP Biology, AP English Language and Composition, AP U.S. History, AP Spanish Language and Culture

School Activities

Baseball, President of Academy of Scientific Research (2021-2025), Lincoln High School Bass for Choir, My Brother's Keeper Fellow, Captain of Latino Americano Dance Team, Student Body President (2021-2025), Podcast Club, JV Baseball Team

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National AP Scholar with Distinction, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Dominican Association Scholarship, Mayor's Day of Thanks Community Service Award, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Principal's List, NYS Attorney General Letitia James' Triple C Award

Community Service and Work

Mayor's Day of Thanks, The Robert Halmi, Sr. Academy of Film and Television Open House, Yonkers Neighborhood Watch Initiative Halloween Fair, YFT Riverfest Book Fair, Heath Fair at Yonkers High School, Lincoln High School Faculty Feud, Lincoln High School Student/Staff Basketball Game, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Research Internship, Science Barge Research Internship

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Dancing, baseball, volleyball, writing poetry, listening to and playing music, building LEGOS, playing mystery games and Wordle; is interested in Neuroscience and Genetic Engineering; aspires to participate in spoken word/rap/hip-hop clubs in college. Enjoys playing the trumpet, especially jazz. Created a video game for a research project centered around cognitive attention in adolescences.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biochemistry

Accepted – Binghamton University, Stony Brook University, University at Albany, Rutgers University, University of Pittsburgh, University at Buffalo, City College



Liban Abeed Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 97.93

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP World History, AP Chemistry, AP English Language and Composition, AP U.S. History, AP Biology

School Activities

Vice President and Cofounder of the Film Club, Math Honor Society President, ROBLOX Developmental Workshop

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Math Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, Nation Social Studies Honor Society, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Fort Bend Independent School District Academic Excellence Award, Principal's List

Community Service and Work

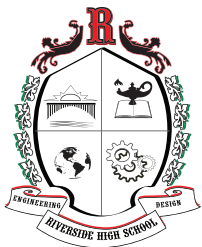
Internship with Sarah Lawrence College for The Center for the Urban River at Beczak, Tajweed Institute, ISGH Masjid Hamza, Hoops for Homelessness Charity Basketball Game, George Bush High School 2nd Chair Violist, Local Mosque Volunteer

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

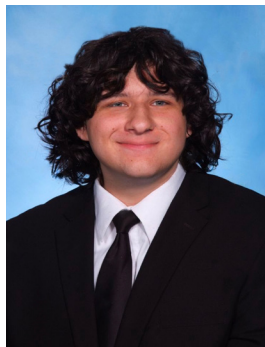
Bilingual in English and Bangla, advanced Microsoft Office and Google Apps user, violist, and enjoys graphics design

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology (BS)

Accepted – Binghamton University, Stony Brook University, Fordham University



RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Ian J. Cavalluzzi **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 100.91

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP U.S. History, CL Intro. Mech. & Elec. Tech., AP
U.S. Government and Politics, CL Computer Draft
& Design, CL Computer Network & O.S., CL College

Algebra & Trigonometry, CL Writing and Research, CL Pre-Calculus

School Activities

Captain and founding member of Yonkers Partners in Education's FRC
Robotics Team, Treasurer and manager of 11th Grade Fundraising
Committee, Envirothon, Riverside Newsletter Tech and Writer, Varsity
Track, Riverside High School Unified Council, Yonkers Partners in
Education Science Research Program

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Rensselaer Medal, Second Place in Engineering at Westchester and Putnam
County Science and Engineering Fair, Creative Research Approach Award at

WESEF, National English Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society,
National Honor Society, National History Honor Society, American History
Recognition Award, FIRST Robotics: Team 9509 Rookie Inspiration Award,
Bedford 2030: 1st Place in the Bedford Greenlight

Community Service and Work

Groundwork Hudson Valley, Goodwill NY/NJ Day Habilitation
Programs, Yellowstone National Park, Junior Achievement Program

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

I really enjoy biking around the city, rollerblading, 3D printing,
engineering, basketball, and plants and hydroponics. I'm passionate
about robotics and want to develop Swarm robotics systems after
college. I also want to develop assistive technology.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Computer & Electrical Engineering (Robotics Focus)

Accepted – Rochester Institute of Technology, Binghamton University,
Stonybrook University



Mesyah-Eloheem Thomas-Harvey **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.25

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP U.S. History, CL Computer Hardware &
Software, CL Intro to Computer Information
Systems, CL Computer Networking &

O.S., CL College Algebra & Trigonometry, CL Writing and Research,
CL Pre-Calculus

School Activities

Varsity Track 7 Field (2021-2025), My Brother's Keeper advisor,
tutoring, Junior Achievement member

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Principal's List, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, American History
Recognition Award, National English Honor Society, National Technical
Honor Society, National Honor Society, National History Honor Society

Community Service and Work

Youth Advisory Council, Fuller Center, PAL Book Giveaway, Junior
Achievement, Yonkers Partners in Education, Fordham Talent Search,
library volunteer, concession stand and food truck worker

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Running, gaming, hanging out with friends, sports. I love my
community. I love food. I'm very competitive. I am grateful for small
things. I'm very observant.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Cybersecurity

Accepted – Northeastern University, University at Albany, Fordham
University, Rutgers University, Mercy University, University of
Connecticut, Manhattan University



ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES



Alexandra Morgan Daley **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 103.14

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

CL English 11/R, CL Health, CL Modern Drama, CL U.S. History, CL Applied Communications, CL Biology, CL

Composition and Literature I, CL Drawing and Painting, CL Economics and Government, CL College Algebra & Trigonometry, CL Foundations of Education, CL Composition and Literature II, CL Business Law

School Activities

Roosevelt High School Varsity Volleyball Team Captain, Yonkers Police Cadet Program Squad Leader, Yoga Club, Ice Skating, Class of 2025 Committee, Varsity Lacrosse, Unified Basketball Team

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Principal's List, Academic Achievement Award, Adversity, Achievement and Resilience Award, Student of the Month for Chemistry, Student of the Month for Geometry, Superintendent's Honor Society

Club 90, Yale Book Award Recipient, Outstanding Student of the Italian Language - WCIAO, The Society of Irish American Lawyers Scholarship, National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, Italian National Honor Society President

Community Service and Work

School 22, Family School 32, Freshman Orientation at Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies, Winter Wonderland Event, Shadow Program at Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies, Clothing Drive and Prep, Yoga Club with the A-Team at Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies, the Junior Achievement Program, Office Administrator at NHPA in White Plains, Office Assistant at Raymond Opticians

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

I enjoy listening to music, any form of crafting, playing volleyball, and baking. I also love spending time with family and friends.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Early Childhood/Childhood Education with a concentration in Psychology

Accepted - Marist University



Andres Arroyave **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 101.96

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

CL English 11/R, CL Health, CL Modern Drama, CL U.S. History, CL Applied Communications, CL Economics and

Government, CL Composition and Literature I, CL Physics, CL Business Law, CL College Algebra & Trigonometry, CL Composition and Literature II, CL Spanish Cp C Language

School Activities

Roosevelt Varsity Soccer Team Captain, Unified Basketball Team

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Harvard Book Award Recipient, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List, Varsity Soccer All-League Award, National Honor Society

Community Service and Work

Volunteer at White Plains Youth Soccer Camp, Yonkers Partners in Education Fellow, Seasonal Worker at Stew Leonard's, Clothing Drive Volunteer, Westhab Community Center

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

My passion for soccer will continue to grow as I play for Pace University. I also enjoy building computers and keyboards.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Computer Science

Accepted - Pace University



SAUNDERS TRADES AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Jogita Dutta Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 98.63

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP World History, AP English Language
and Composition, CL Pre-Calculus P/T, AP
Computer Science Principals, CL Writing

and Research, CL Calculus P/T

School Activities

Coding Club, Yonkers Partners in Education, Robotics Club – Treasurer,
Skills USA – Co-Captain, Google’s Code Next Connect Program

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Honor Society, Rosemarie Ann Siragusa Citizenship Award,

Harvard Book Award Recipient, Google {Code Next}, Superintendent’s
Honor Society Club 90, Principal’s List 2021-2025

Community Service and Work

Math Tutor for Yonkers Partners in Education, Journalist for Yonkers
Partners in Education: Our Voices Heard

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

I enjoy baking and cooking. I can speak 3 languages: English,
Bengali, and Hindi.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Cybersecurity

Accepted – University at Albany



Fathi M. Ali Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 98.21

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

AP World History, AP English Language
and Composition, CL Pre-Calculus P/T,
CL Forensics, CL Constitutional Law, CL

Writing and Research, CL Calculus P/T

School Activities

Yonkers Partners in Education Science Research Scholar, Regeneron
PMPD High School Rotational Talks, Hamilton Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Honor Society, Superintendent’s Honor Society Club 90,
Principal’s List, High Honor Roll, 3rd Place at Somers High School
Science Fair in Medicine and Health

Community Service and Work

Westchester Parks Foundation, Intern at Untermyer Gardens
Conservancy, Assistant to Wise Distributor

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Enjoys playing standard and Turkish chess, swimming, reading,
painting, basketball, playing video games, gardening, and
researching climate change, bioplastics, and rheumatoid arthritis;
has a passion for movies and documentaries; enjoys spending time
with family.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biomedical Sciences (Pre-Med)

Accepted – Ithaca College, New York Institute of Technology, Pace
University, University of Connecticut, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY City
College, CUNY Lehman College



YONKERS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL



Vivian Li **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 103.05

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

AP Chemistry, AP World History, IB Biology 11 HL, IB English A: Literature 11 HL, IB History 11 HL, IB Math Analysis 11 HL, IB

Psychology SL, IB Spanish B 11 SL, IB Theory and Knowledge I, IB Biology 12 HL, IB Biology Lab 12 HL, IB Math Analysis 12 HL, AP Statistics, IB Spanish B 12 HL, IB English A: Literature 12 HL, IB Theory and Knowledge II, IB History 12 HL

School Activities

FRC Robotics Marketing Director, Newsletter Club Vice President, International Gala Club, Science Olympiad, Student Council, Medical Program at Taipei University

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

First-Gen College Board Recognition, National Merit Commended

Rensselaer Medal, National Prep Scholar, National QuestBridge Match Finalist, Seal of Biliteracy, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List (2020-2024) Science Olympiad Regionals Medalist, Math Honor Society, Science Honor Society, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society

Community Service and Work

Tutor at Kumon, Volunteer at Northern Westchester Hospital, Hosts STEM Workshops at the Riverfront Library, Volunteer English Teacher at Ruei Fong Elementary School in Taiwan, English Tutor for Chinese Immigrants

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Crocheting plushies, cooking Chinese food, badminton, Pilates, playing Word Hunt, listening to true crime podcasts

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Neuroscience/Biology

Accepted – Amherst College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Binghamton University, SUNY Stony Brook University, SUNY University at Buffalo



Jaden Pradeep **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 102.49

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

AP World History, IB English A: Literature 11 HL, IB History 11 HL, IB Italian Language B 11 SL, IB Math Analysis 11

HL, IB Physics 11 HL, IB Psychology SL, IB History 12 HL, IB Math Analysis 12 HL, IB Physics Lab 12 HL, IB Physics 12 HL, IB English A: Literature 12 HL, IB Italian Language B 12 SL, IB Social and Cultural Anthropology SL

School Activities

FRC Robotics Control Director, Chess Club Founder and Captain, History Bowl Member, Science Olympiad Physics Lead, Church Choir Member

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Presidential Scholarship, Science Olympiad Astronomy 4th Place

Medal, History Award: Certificate of Merit, FRC Charged Up Regional Winner, Math Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, National Honor Society, History Bowl Nationals Qualifier, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90

Community Service and Work

FLL Hudson Valley Tournament Moderator and Referee, Crestwood Library Chess Club Helper, VBS Teacher, Green Team

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

I am a left-handed individual. I am a fan of the sweet and savory varieties of food. I enjoy reading novels—Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint is one of the best things I've ever read! I am a fan of MMA, chess, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Magic the Gathering, programming, and Dungeons and Dragons.

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Computer Science or Electrical and Computer Engineering

Accepted – Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Binghamton University, Stony Brook University, University at Albany



YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Elvis Halilaj **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 102.30

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

CL Health, CL World History, CL Composition and Literature I, CL Economics and Government, CL Introduction to Business, CL Italian CP C1, CL Pre-Calculus, CL College Algebra & Trigonometry, CL Composition and Literature II, CL Forensics, CL U.S. History, CL Basic Calculus, CL Italian CP C2

School Activities

Varsity Swim Team, Varsity Soccer, Student Government, Cooking Club, Art Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Mu Alpha Theta, Italian Certificate of Merit, National Honor Society, Italian National Honor Society, Principal's List

Community Service and Work

Volunteered at a church near Grammercy Park, Front End Clerk at Stop & Shop

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Drawing, swimming, and weightlifting; conversational in Albanian

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Mathematics

Accepted – SUNY University at Buffalo, Buffalo State University, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Ithaca College, Stony Brook University, University at Albany, SUNY Old Westbury, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Plattsburgh, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Purchase



Alexandra P. Armas **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 102.03

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) Courses

CL Health, CL World History, CL Composition and Literature I, CL Economics and Government, CL Italian CP C1, CL Pre-Calculus, CL Composition and Literature II, CL Forensics, CL College Algebra & Trigonometry, CL Basic Calculus, CL Italian CP C2

School Activities

President of Project Impact, Vice President of Eagle Eats, Yonkers Partners in Education Fellow, Environmental Club, Treasurer of Senior Siblings, Community Outreach Program

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Principal's List, Certificato Di Merito, Holodomor Writing Competition – Honorable Mention, Candidate for the New York Seal of Biliteracy, Mu

Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Yonkers Historical Society, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90

Community Service and Work

Saint Barnabas Hospital Volunteer, Volunteer at the Riverfront Library, Blood Drive Volunteer, Ronald McDonald House Charity Volunteer

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Creative writing, reading, and cooking; enjoys collecting enamel pins and art prints

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Nursing

Accepted – CUNY Hunter College, CUNY Lehman, CUNY Staten Island, SUNY Delhi, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Plattsburgh, SUNY University at Buffalo, SUNY Stony Brook University, SUNY Binghamton, Emmanuel College, Iona University, Mercy University, Molloy University, Pace University, Rutgers University, St. John's University, University of Connecticut, Villanova University

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio, President

Gail Burns, Vice President

Kevin Cacace

Dr. John C. Castanaro

Sheila Greenwald

Amjed I. Kuri

Rosemarie P. Linton

Lawrence R. Sykes, Esq.

Anibál Soler, Jr.

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Stephanie McCaskill

Associate Superintendent

Student Support Services

Barack Obama School for Social Justice

Jamell Scott, Principal

Gorton High School

Jamie Morales, Principal

Lincoln High School

Ian Sherman, Principal

Riverside High School

William Shaggura, Principal

Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies

Edward DeChent, Principal

Saunders Trades & Technical High School

Jeremy Rynders, Principal

Yonkers Middle/High School

Dr. Sandy Hattar, Principal

Yonkers Montessori Academy

Dr. Eileen E. Rivera, Principal