

CLASS OF 2017



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Valedictorians and Salutatorians Celebration

April 20, 2017



PROGRAM

Welcome	RoseAnne Collins-Judon Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction
Pledge of Allegiance.....	RoseAnne Collins-Judon
National Anthem	Lincoln High School Students
Greetings.....	Rev. Steve Lopez President, Board of Education
Remarks	Dr. Edwin M. Quezada Superintendent of Schools

Breakfast

PRESENTATION OF HONOREES

Gorton High School
Gail Joyner-White, Principal

Lincoln High School
Ian Sherman, Principal

Palisade Preparatory School
Dr. Michelle Yazurlo, Principal

Riverside High School
Dr. Don Solimene, Principal

Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies
Edward DeChent, Principal

Saunders Trades and Technical High School
Steven Mazzola, Principal

Yonkers Middle/High School
Michael Shapiro, Principal

Yonkers Montessori Academy
Dr. Eileen E. Rivera, Principal

Closing.....	Jade Sharp Principal District Guidance – Arts Education
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CHARLES E. GORTON HIGH SCHOOL



Marielis George **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.06

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses: AP Chemistry,

AP United States History, AP World History, AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP Calculus, AP Spanish Language

School Activities

National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Student Council President, Math Honor Society Treasurer, Varsity Volleyball Captain, Varsity Softball Captain, Wolf's Den Treasurer, Lighting/Tech Crew for school performances, Unified Yonkers Student Leadership Council – Gorton meeting organizer, Girls' Basketball Team manager, Principal's Assistant supported student management office, Freshman Orientation tour guide

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Consulate General of New York for the Dominican Republic - Meritorious Student 2016, Star Student, Dedicated Service Award, County Executive Astorino Challenge in Education

Award, Pathfinder of the Year 2016- Seventh Day Adventist Church, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Today's Student Tomorrow's Teachers mentored and taught children in Grades 2 -4, SHINE tutor for Grades K-6, , Camp Berkshire first aid response for GNYC; Greater New York Conference Events, GOAL Program group leader, CPR and First Aid Certified

Hobbies and Interests

Adventist Youth, Pathfinder Club, Adventurer Club, Volunteer Work; softball and volleyball, self-motivated and extremely organized, leadership skills, bilingual in Spanish

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology/Biochemistry

Accepted – SUNY Cortland, The College of Saint Rose, Mercy College, Hofstra University, Iona College, The College of Westchester, La Sierra University, New York Institute of Technology, Keystone College, Cedar Crest College, University of Bridgeport, Andrews University, Hendrix University, Quinnipiac University



Aleeza Joy C. Toribio **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.12

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

AP English Language, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP World History, AP English Literature, AP United States History

School Activities

Medical Program, Wellness Center Student Ambassador, National Math Honor Society President, Smart Scholars Program, Freshmen Orientation Student Leader, Iona Liberty Partnership Tutor

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Star Student, Academic Excellence in Medical, English and Math, Citizen Certificate in Art, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2014-2017

Community Service and Work

Summer Pre-K Camp, Senior Citizen BBQ, Medical Program volunteer, Teacher's Helper, Caretaker

Hobbies and Interests

LGBT Rights Activist, CPR Certified, volunteer work, working with children, drawing, teaching, mathematics, excellent writing skills, fast learner, self-motivated and artistic

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology

Accepted – Quinnipiac University, CUNY Baruch College, CUNY City College of New York, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY University at Albany



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



Paola L. Ferreira **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 96.26
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

AP World History, AP English Language, AP Chemistry, AP United States History, AP English Literature, AP Calculus, AP Biology

School Activities

Yearbook Club, National Honor Society President, Student Government Senior Advisor, Hand in Hand Club Co-founder, Maine Stormwater Management and Research Team

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

RPI Science Award, AP Scholar with Honor, Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, NFTE Business Competition 1st Place,

Commended Lancer, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Key Club Vice President, Habitat for Humanity, The GO Project Volunteer, JCY Summer Reading Buddies Program, Westchester Family Court Intern

Hobbies and Interests

Tennis, filmmaking, exploring New York City, traveling, DIY projects, wants to get involved with Doctors Without Borders

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Neuroscience

Accepted – Fordham University, SUNY Binghamton University



Alexis Bates **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 95.29
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses: AP

Chemistry, AP English Literature, AP Calculus

School Activities

National Honors Society, Beta Club, Bio-Tech Club, Future Farmers of America, Student Government, Future Career and Community Leaders of America

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Harvard Radcliffe Book Award, Student of the Month, Superintendent's Honor Society

Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work
Beta Club, Habitat for Humanity

Hobbies and Interests

Reading, loves nutrition research and exercising to keep healthy, softball, road trips, has lived in 3 different states: Washington, Alabama, and New York

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Neuroscience

Attending – Ohio State University



PALISADE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Yanerlis E. Perez DeLeon **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point
average of 98.94
Advanced Placement (AP)
and College Link (CL)

courses: AP Calculus, AP English Language,
AP Biology, CL Forensics, CL English,
CL Eco/Government

School Activities

Summer Collegiate Academy, Independent
Science Research, African American Men
of Westchester Business Skills Olympics for
Morgan Stanley, Varsity Volleyball Setter

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Meritorious Dominican Student, Manhattan
College Summer Engineering 4th place in
Structural Contest, School Science Fair 1st
Place, Yale Book Award, Superintendent's
Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List
2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Yonkers Clean Up Day, nursing home
volunteer, assisted with book inventory at the
Yonkers Riverfront Library, Party City store
associate

Hobbies and Interests

Exercising, editing videos, volleyball,
developed two PSA's for Westchester County
of Health, obsessed with Chipotle, plans on
attending graduate school

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Business

Accepted – Mercy College, Pace University,
Iona College



Jolaynie D. Bonito **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point
average of 96.57
Advanced Placement (AP)
and College Link (CL)
courses:

AP Biology, AP English Language,
AP Calculus, AP Psychology, CL EMS

School Activities

Orchestra upright bass player, Spoken Word

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Meritorious Dominican Consulate Award,
Italian Certificate of Merit, AP Scholar
Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club
90, Honor Roll and High Honor Roll and
Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Volunteer CPR trainer, school community
service

Hobbies and Interests

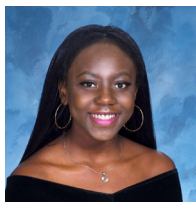
Playing the upright bass

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Business Administration

Accepted – CUNY Lehman College, CUNY
Brooklyn College



RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Samantha G. Mensah Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 94.35
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses: AP English

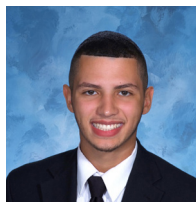
Literature, CL Economics/Government, CL Sociology, CL Psychology, CL Pre-Calculus, CL Composition and Literature, CL Emergency Medical Systems

School Activities

Student Government, School Newspaper, Literary Magazine, Yearbook Senior Editor, Anti-Racism, Regeneron Sci2Med Academy, Kess Designs Model, Senior Committee, South Africa Cultural Association, Junior Achievement, Cosmetology, Dance, Basketball, Track & Field

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Harvard Book Award, Elmira Key Award, National Society of High School Scholars, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll and High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2013-2017



Anthony Rodriguez Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 93.52
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

AP English Literature, CL Psychology, CL Sociology, CL Composition & Literature, CL Pre-Calculus, CL Economics/Government

School Activities

Gateway Cardio and Weightlifting, Senior Committee, National Honor Society

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Yale Book Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll & High Honor Roll 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

CLUSTER's study buddy program, Junior Achievement, Riverside High School office helper, Learning Ambassador - read stories to children at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, Stew Leonard's employee

Hobbies and Interests

Journalism, creative writing, poetry, make-up, music, dancing, church usher, experimenting science research and development, cleaning, cooking, shopping, photography, modeling, fashion, enjoys playing video games, inspires to become one of the best surgeons in the world, speaks Twi, born in Ghana, emigrated to the United States 5 years ago

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Bio-Chemistry and pursue a medical career

Accepted – Hofstra University, Marist College, Elmira College, Ithaca College, Mercy College, Concordia College, Monroe College, Mount Saint Vincent, CUNY City College, SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Westchester Community College

Community Service and Work

Greyston Foundation community garden, Hudson Valley Groundwork, X20 Xavier's on the Hudson busboy

Hobbies and Interests

Music, playing the guitar and ukulele, rapping and singing, enjoys playing video games, exercising, men's fashion, New York Knicks fan, loves basketball, strong work ethic, aspires to be a New York Knicks announcer or head coach

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Business Management

Accepted – Mercy College, SUNY Westchester Community College, SUNY University at Albany



ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES



Cynthia J. Paz

Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 98.67

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

AP Environmental Science, CL Statistics, CL United States History/Government, CL Composition & Literature, CL Composition & Literature 2, CL Business Law, CL Basic Calculus, CL Drawing & Painting, CL Economic/Government, CL Public Speaking

School Activities

National Honor Society, Multicultural Club member, Spanish Honor Society, Class president

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Human Rights Essay Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll & High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Habitat for Humanity, Tutor, Junior Achievement, Geico receptionist

Hobbies and Interests

Reading, volunteer work, tutoring, first person to go to college in her family

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Pre-Medicine

Accepted – Columbia University, New York University, Fordham University



Elisabeth Salazar

Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 96.45

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

AP Environmental Science, CL United States History/Government, CL Composition & Literature, CL Composition & Literature 2, CL Economics/Government, CL Basic Calculus, CL Business Law, CL Introduction to Marketing, CL Public Speaking, CL Statistics

School Activities

National Honor Society Treasurer, Spanish Honor Society President, Multicultural Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Human Rights Essay Award, Yale Book

Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Sarah Lawrence College Beczak Educational Center, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement tutor

Hobbies and Interests

Volunteering, reading, first person to go to college in her family

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology or Nursing

Accepted – Concordia College, College of Mount Saint Vincent, St. Thomas Aquinas College, Iona College, St. John's University, Hofstra University, Mercy College



SAUNDERS TRADES AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Akacia W. Dunkez

Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 99.66

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

AP World History, AP United States History, AP Psychology, CL Writing and Research, AP Chemistry, CL Basic Calculus

School Activities

Track & Field, Sarah Lawrence College writing workshop, Spanish tutor for autistic students

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Recognition from Mayor Mike Spano, Assembly Members, Yonkers City Council, and Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins for Human Rights Contest, awarded a

scholarship to Sarah Lawrence College to attend writing and theater classes, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

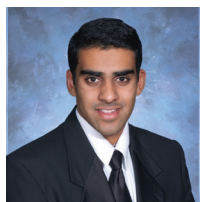
Groundwork Volunteer worked on outdoor parks for senior citizens, community gardens and helped rebuild recreational areas, Abundant Life Church volunteer – helped at senior citizens programs

Hobbies and Interests

Painting landscapes with watercolors, creating banners using photo shop, reading, running the track, playing the acoustic guitar

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Pre-Medicine and Neuroscience

Attending – SUNY University of Albany



Shawn Abraham

Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 98.9

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

AP United States History, AP World History, AP Statistics, CL Basic Calculus, CL Writing and Research

School Activities

Robotics Team treasurer, SkillsUSA, Key Club, UNICEF, fundraising for school clubs

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Innovation and Creativity Award from Rochester Institute of Technology, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Hudson River Museum of Westchester Junior Docent Program, church youth group leader, City of Yonkers Annual Senior Picnic volunteer

Hobbies and Interests

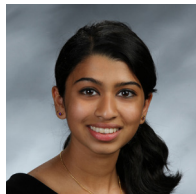
Reading short stories, repairing broken computers, Junior Docent at Hudson River Museum – facilitated workshops and assisted adults and children at the museum, enjoys traveling to see different cultures and people

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Mechanical Engineering

Accepted – Manhattan College, New York Institute of Technology, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Polytechnic Institute



YONKERS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL



Shaina E. George
Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 103.68

International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses: IB English

Literature 11 & 12, IB Spanish 11 & 12, IB Theory Knowledge I & II, IB Math Studies, IB Biology HL 11 & 12, IB History HL 11 & 12, IB Physics, IB Psychology, AP Chemistry, AP World History, AP Calculus

School Activities

CASE Club (College Applicants Self-Empowerment Club) President, HOSA Club (Health Occupational Students of America) Public Representative, Newspaper Club staff writer and editor, DNA Learner's Club secretary, CUNY Sophie Davis Physician Assistant Program Pipeline Program Society, National Honor Society, Web Design

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Union College Presidential Scholarship, Virginia

Commonwealth University - Presidential Scholarship, St. Louis University Vice Presidential Scholarship, University of Rochester Susan B. Anthony & Frederick Douglass Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll & High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

New York Medical College – research assistant to Dr. Friedman, Sacred Heart Church catechist, Lawrence Presbyterian Hospital volunteer

Hobbies and Interests

Rock-climbing, playing the piano, Indian classical and Bollywood dancer, choreographer and performing in the Gala, badminton player

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology-Medicine

Accepted – University of Rochester, St. Louis University, Washington University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Union College, Sierra College, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, CUNY City College of New York, CUNY Queens College, CUNY Baruch College, CUNY Brooklyn College, St. Bonaventure University



Lilli Hong
Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 102.93

International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses: IB English Literature

11 & 12, IB Spanish 11 & 12, IB Theory/Knowledge I & II, IB Math Studies, IB Psychology, IB Biology HL 11 & 12, IB History HL 11 & 12, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus

School Activities

DNA Learners Club Vice President, Ecology Club Vice President, Chemistry Tutoring Club Vice President, Key Club member, Newspaper Club member, Stage Crew, HOSA Club Club (Health Occupational Students of America) member, Blood Drive committee, Sarah Lawrence College Summer Research Program CUNY Sophie Davis Health Professions Mentorship Program, The Community Corps

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Honor Society, Science National Honor

Society, Math National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in the Study of Mathematics and Science, National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Recognition, University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Nominee Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Thanksgiving Food Drive volunteer, Yonkers Clean-Up Day volunteer, Groundwork Hudson Valley Science Barge, Riverdale Hebrew Home volunteer

Hobbies and Interests

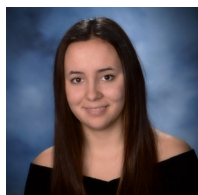
Playing the piano, drawing, reading, writing, running, baking, enjoys listening to pop and rock music, watching TV, Netflix, Broadway shows, animated and drama movies, science documentaries, has a twin brother, and once ate a cricket and a frog

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology

Accepted – University of Pittsburgh, SUNY Binghamton University, SUNY Stony Brook University



YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Amanda Precht **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.51
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses: AP

English Literature, AP English Language, CL Basic Calculus, CL United States History and Government, CL World History, CL Spanish, CL Introduction to Business, CL College Algebra

School Activities

Yonkers Varsity Girls' Golf Team Captain, YMA Peer Mentoring Program, Yonkers Varsity Swim Team, Condors Swim Team, Westchester Business Olympics, New York State School Music Association, Manhattan College Physics Program, Students Inside Albany Program, Sarah Lawrence College Writing and Science Research programs

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, AP Scholar Award, United States History Award, League of Women Voters Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll & High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

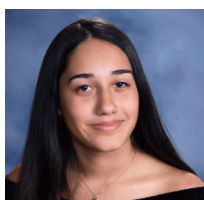
Convent of Mary the Queen – assisted senior citizens, Metropolitan Professional Golf Association - The First Tee of Metropolitan volunteer, Wiz Girls and the Sky's the Limit events volunteer, Tudor Woods Pool head lifeguard

Hobbies and Interests

Swimming, playing golf, reading, playing the piano, baking

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Industrial and Systems Engineering

Accepted – Manhattan College, Clarkson University, SUNY Stony Brook University



Melanie Quinones **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 95.05
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:

CL Basic Calculus, CL United States History Government, CL Spanish, CL Introduction to Business, CL College Algebra, AP English Literature, AP English Language

School Activities

Student Government, Art Club, Prom Committee leader, YMA Newspaper writer, Student Government News leader, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Peer Mentoring, Manhattan College Physics 1 Lab, Student Tutor, Boys' Baseball Team manager

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Italian Language and Culture award, Student

Art Exhibit winner, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll & High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2013-2017

Community Service and Work

Thanksgiving Food Drive, Teacher's assistant, Food Bank volunteer, Toys for Tots, raised money for cancer research, collected winter clothing for people in need and pajamas and toys for children, helped cleaned the woman's shelter in Pennsylvania, volunteered at a Pediatric Office and at Yonkers Department of Social Services

Hobbies and Interests

Drawing, listening to music, swimming, outdoor activities, spending time with friends and family, bilingual in Spanish

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology pursue a career in Pediatric Medicine

Accepted – Utica College, Mercy College, Eckerd College

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Principal, District Guidance and Arts Education

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