

CLASS OF 2018



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Valedictorians and Salutatorians Celebration

April 19, 2018



PROGRAM

Welcome	RoseAnne Collins-Judon Assistant Superintendent Supervision, Curriculum and Instruction
Pledge of Allegiance.....	RoseAnne Collins-Judon
National Anthem.....	Yonkers Middle High School Ernest C. Chando, Jordan A. Hernandez Marcos G. Hidalgo, Zakiya Rowe Avid Williams, Music Teacher
Greetings.....	Rev. Steve Lopez President, Board of Education
Remarks	Dr. Edwin M. Quezada Superintendent of Schools

Breakfast

PRESENTATION OF HONOREES

Yonkers Montessori Academy
Dr. Eileen E. Rivera, Principal

Yonkers Middle/High School
Michael Shapiro, Principal

Saunders Trades and Technical High School
Steven Mazzola, Principal

Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies
Edward DeChent, Principal

Riverside High School
Dr. Don Solimene, Principal

Palisade Preparatory School
Dr. Michelle Yazurlo, Principal

Lincoln High School
Ian Sherman, Principal

Gorton High School
William Shaggura, Interim Principal

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



Fabiha Bushra **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 96.98
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP Psychology, SUPA English

School Activities

National Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, Photography Club, Senior Committee

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Star Student for Medical Academy, Smart Scholar, National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists Award of Excellence, Academic Excellence in Social Studies Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Community service in and outside of Gorton; helping teachers, tutoring younger students

Hobbies and Interests

Cooking, reading, trilingual in English, Bengali, and Urdu

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology

Accepted – Binghamton University, Fordham University, St. John's University, University at Buffalo, CUNY City College of New York, SUNY University at Albany, SUNY New Paltz



Anila George **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 95.64
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP Psychology

School Activities

National Math Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Reading Club, Environmental Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Star Student in Math and Science, Citizenship Award, National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists Award of Excellence, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List, 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

St. Thomas Church - assisted in feeding the poor and maintaining their garden, school community service, Medical Internship at St. Joseph's Medical Center

Hobbies and Interests

Reading, watching dramas, listening to music, poetry, violin, badminton

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology (Pre-Med)

Accepted – Pace University, Brooklyn College, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY University at Albany



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



Laura A. Rodriguez **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 96
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:
AP Chemistry, AP World History, AP
Biology, AP English Language, AP
U.S. History, AP English Literature

3rd Place in Cellular and Molecular Biology, NFTE
Competition - 1st Place, Superintendent's Honor
Society Club 90, Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Junior Achievement High School Heroes, Internship at
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals - established laboratory skills,
executed experiments to help fight against infectious
diseases, researched and analyzed the complement system

Hobbies and Interests

Baking desserts, singing, playing volleyball, jigsaw puzzles,
traveling and spending quality time with family

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Accounting

Accepted – Fordham University, Pace University, St.
John's University, CUNY Baruch College, CUNY
Queens College, SUNY University at Albany

School Activities

Honors Choir (Alto), All City Choir, National Business
Honor Society President, Young Science Achievers
Program, National Honor Society Secretary, Varsity
Volleyball Team Captain

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF)
Learson Team Project Award, Greg Horace Award,
Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) –



Dominique A. McCormack **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 95.11
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses: AP
Biology, AP Chemistry, AP
United States History, AP English
Literature, AP Art

Community Service and Work

Assisted church with community clean up,
Thanksgiving drive, and toy drive

Hobbies and Interests

Designing Art, writing, creating new project based
ideas, playing video games, reading novels and comic
books. Enjoys going to church, dining out, spending
time with family and friends. Loves to travel, and has
traveled to Jamaica, Mexico, and The Virgin Islands.
Would love to travel to Paris to experience their culture
and to Atlanta, Georgia to visit World Changers
Church, one of the largest churches in Georgia.

School Activities

National Honor Society, Gateway Afterschool Program,
Art Club, Black Culture Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Cecilia Myers Scholarship, National Honor Society
Award, Italian Proclamation Award, Superintendent's
Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and
Principal's List 2014-2018

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Computer Engineering and Project Management

Accepted – Hofstra University, Manhattan College,
SUNY Purchase



PALISADE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Jessika E. Cokely
Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 97.02
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP Biology, AP English Language, AP Psychology, CL EMS, SUPA Forensic Science

School Activities

National Honor Society, Band – flute, Choir, Relay for Life Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Yale Book Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Yonkers Relay for Life, Cashier at ShopRite

Hobbies and Interests

Reading, dancing, listening to music, writing; enjoys babysitting, would like to become a Vlogger in college

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Communication

Accepted – Manhattan College



Natalia G. Kastsaridis
Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 96.42
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP Biology, AP English Language, AP Psychology, CL EMS, SUPA Forensic Science

School Activities

Softball team captain, Basketball team co-captain, National Honor Society, Student Government Junior Class President, College courses at Yale University, Science Research class on Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, People to People Student Ambassador, Getting Prepared for Success Scholar, The National Society of High School Scholars

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Academic Achievement Award, Best Sportsmanship Award for Softball and Basketball, Merit Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Planted flowers and park clean-up in Northern Ireland, made peat bricks in Southern Ireland, Relay for Life, Parkinson's Unity Walk, organized a clothing and canned food drive, Untermyer Performing Arts Council Assistant Event Coordinator, Camp Rays Summer Camp Counselor, Hudson River Museum Junior Docent, Seishin-Do Karate School Assistant Instructor

Hobbies and Interests

Drawing, painting, cosmetology, Shotokan Karate, Certified Scuba Diver, McLean Heights Senior Recreational Softball Team, plays 4 different sports and 5 different instruments and has traveled to 5 countries in 3 week

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Molecular and Cellular Biology

Accepted – Adelphi University, SUNY University in Cortland



RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Maria L. Salazar Hernandez
Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 98.35
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:
CL Economics/Government, CL
Composition and Literature

School Activities

Yearbook Committee editor, National Honor Society,
daily morning announcements

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's
List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Mantial de Vida Church Childcare helper, customer
service representative at a pet shop

Hobbies and Interests

Learning different languages, reading, watching
television and movies, listening to music, spending time
with friends, tri-lingual in English, Spanish and French

**College Acceptance - Plans to major in
International Affairs**

Attending – Bard College



Dariana Colon Maceo
Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 95.33
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:

School Activities

Dance Club, Fashion Club, Science Fair Competitions,
Día de la Raza performer

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

High Achievement Academic Medal, Dominican
Republic Independence Day Scholarship,
Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll,
High Honor Roll and Principal's list 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Primera Hispanic Church – assisted in decorating church,
Pathfinders Club, Riverside High School tour guide

Hobbies and Interests

Singing, dancing, listening to music, reading, helping
her mother with cooking and caring for young siblings

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Medicine

Attending – College of Westchester



ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES



Pamela Kuffour **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 97.09
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:
CL College Readiness, CL Health,
CL Physical Education, CL United
States History/Government,

CL Composition and Literature I and II, CL
Economics/Government, CL Introduction to
Marketing, CL Drawing and Painting,
CL Pre-Calculus, CL Global History 1648 - Present,
AP Environmental Science

School Activities

National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Italian Honor
Society, Community Unity Club, High School Heroes, Student
Government Vice President, Modeling Academy

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Honor Society Award, English Honor Society

Scholarship, Junior Achievement High School Heroes
Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High
Honor Roll and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, Autism Awareness Carnival,
Junior Achievement High School Heroes, National Honor
Society events, Old Navy sales associate and cashier, Michaels
Arts and Craft Store sales associate and cashier, Noerr
Programs DreamWorks – elf at the North Pole

Hobbies and Interests

DIY projects, poetry, visiting New York City, watching
YouTube videos, enjoying nature, spending time with niece;
an aspiring model, interested in obstetrics and pediatrics,
watching doctors from around the world perform surgeries

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Pre-Medicine/ Pediatrics

Accepted – Johns Hopkins University, Stony Brook
University, George Washington University



Jenna Suriel Urbaz **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 96.4
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:
CL Drawing and Painting,
CL Economics/Government,
CL Business Law, CL Pre-Calculus,
CL Public Speaking

School Activities

National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Softball

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

ACDY Scholarship, Dominican Honors Merit Award,
Certificate of Merit, Superintendent's Honor Society Club
90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Attended track meets and volunteered to hand out
water, assisted in raising funds for a member of
Roosevelt who passed away, as well as raising funds for
the devastation in Mexico and Puerto Rico, Michaels
Arts and Craft Store sales associate, cashier and
classroom teacher to young children during their store
events, accounting firm assistant

Hobbies and Interests

Softball, playing the violin/viola, watching legal shows,
born in the Dominican Republic, emigrated to the
United States at age 3

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Criminal Justice and Sociology

Accepted – SUNY Cortland, SUNY New Paltz



SAUNDERS TRADES AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Nicola M. Altomare **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.6
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:
AP World History, AP United States
History, AP Statistics, CL Basic
Calculus, CL Writing and Research

School Activities

National Honor Society President, SkillsUSA –
Contestant in Electronics Technology, First Robotics
Team 2344 captain/lead mechanic/coder, Varsity
Baseball captain/catcher

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

NY State Regents Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor
Society Club 90, Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Afya Foundation – refurbished medical equipment to
send to countries in need, Blythedale Children's Hospital
– organized parties for disabled and sick children, coached
little league baseball, organized a Family Fitness night and
food drive with Westhab at Family School 32, Con Edison
Van Nest –Engineering Aide Internship, Bryn Mawr Boys
and Girls Club basketball referee, 21st Century Sports
baseball camp counselor

Hobbies and Interests

Playing baseball, basketball, soccer, fixing electronics,
assisting teachers and administrators fix their computers and
smartboards, take part in many Italian traditions such as
making and jarring sauce, making sausage and prosciutto

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Electrical Engineering

Attending – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Rushi V. Joshi **Salutarian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.49
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:
AP World History, AP Statistics,
AP Chemistry, CL Writing and
Research, CL Basic Calculus

School Activities

National Honor Society, UNICEF, Track and Field

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

NY State Regents Scholarship, Achievement
Awards from City of Yonkers Mayor's office and
Westchester County Executive for community service,
Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor
Roll and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

St. Joseph's Medical Center – served elderly patients
and interacted with them, taught new volunteers
protocol, lead organizer for community health fair
and Walk-a-thon which raised funds for the Nature
Conversancy, Gujarati class teacher at BAPS temple –
taught students to speak, read and write Gujarati, also
taught SAT classes

Hobbies and Interests

Baseball, football, badminton, cricket, reading books
and articles, enjoys serving his community

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Economics

Attending – Dartmouth College



YONKERS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL



Melody-Susan J. Kulaprathazhe **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 101.8
International Baccalaureate (IB),
Advanced Placement (AP) and College
Link (CL) courses:

IB English Literature 11 and 12,

IB Spanish 11 and 12, IB Theory Knowledge I and II, IB
Math Studies, IB Biology HL 11 and 12, IB History HL 11
and 12, IB World Religions, IB Social Culture Anthropology,
IB Business Management, AP World History

School Activities

National Honor Society, National Math Honor Society,
National Spanish Honor Society, National Science Honor
Society, Historical Society president, DNA Learner's Club
president, School Newspaper Club editor and contributor,
National History Bowl Varsity and Junior Varsity, Yonkers
Partners in Education Fellows Program, Sophie Davis Health
Professions Mentorship Program, Girls Bowling Team

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

University of Pennsylvania Cheryl and Curtis Probst
Scholarship, National Merit Commended Scholar, Fulbright



Tiffany L. Gonzalez **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 101.45
International Baccalaureate (IB),
Advanced Placement (AP) and
College Link (CL) courses:

IB English Literature 11 and 12,

IB Spanish 11 and 12, IB Theory/Knowledge I and II,
IB Math Studies, IB Biology HL 11 and 12,
IB History HL I and II, IB Art Design, IB Social Culture
Anthropology, AP World History, AP Calculus

School Activities

National Honor Society, National Math Honor Society,
National Spanish Honor Society, National Science
Honor Society Student Council representative, National
History Bowl, DNA Learners Club, Film Club vice
president, Band (1st saxophone), Students for the Arts,

Scholarship to Sarah Lawrence College's High School Writers
Workshop of Summer 2017, Colombia University Book
Award, Groundwork Hudson Valley Science Barge Award,
Yonkers Historical Society Volunteer of the Year Award,
Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll
and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Sherwood House Electronic Inventory Project, Habitat for
Humanity, YPIE peer tutor, altar server at St. Peter and
Paul and St. Ursula Parish, Internship at the New York
State Division of Human Rights, Multiplex Movie Theatre
cashier, local stationary store cashier

Hobbies and Interests

Reading books, watching movies and TV shows on
alternate history, calligraphy, coding, graphic design,
making and editing videos, nail art, wrote a six-page story,
"Rosie" in 3rd grade, wrote two 90 page assignments,
wants to meet Malala Yousafzai and Amal Clooney

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Sociology

Attending – University of Pennsylvania

Community Corps, Powderpuff Flag Football

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Merit Finalist, Yonkers Historical Society
Volunteer of the Year Award, Yonkers Historical Society
Award in American History, Yonkers Human Rights
Commission Essay Contest Winner, Superintendent's
Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Yonkers Historical Society, Sarah Lawrence Summer
Science Program, Student Council, Community Corps,
Geometry tutor

Hobbies and Interests

Medicine, music, movies, has 2 turtles and a hamster

College Acceptance - Plans to major in History and Science

Attending – Harvard University



YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Jennifer M. Medina **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.62

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

AP English Language, AP World History, AP Environmental Science, AP English Literature, CL Spanish, CL Economics/Government, CL Basic Calculus

School Activities

School newspaper writer

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, National Spanish Honor Society, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), March of Dimes, St. Lucy's Parish lector, Intersession Fundraiser volunteer at YMA

Hobbies and Interests

Reading dystopian fiction novels, writing short stories, baking for family events, listening to alternative rock music, wants to study in England

College Acceptance - Plans to major in English

Accepted – Iona College, Mercy College, Pace University, CUNY Lehman College, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY City College of New York



Alexis M. Steadman **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 96.51

Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP World History, AP English Language, AP English Literature, CL Italian, CL Economics/Government, CL College Algebra

School Activities

National Italian Honor Society, Art Club, Softball Team, Legacy Foundation, Photographer and Video for School

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Italian Language and Culture Award, Passport to Yonkers Art Exhibit winner, Westchester County Legislator's Award, Certifico di Merito Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2014-2018

Community Service and Work

Yonkers Parks Department – help cleaned community, Orlando Animal Care, Disney – working with animals behind the scenes at the safari, YMA Team Building Activity – organizer and host, Summer Program Karate Instructor at Kai Martial Arts, Hallmark - customer service, financial management and inventory control

Hobbies and Interests

Reading novels, writing short stories, watching college football with family, softball, soccer, brown belt in karate, interested in playing for the University of South Florida soccer team

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Integrative Animal Biology to become a Veterinarian

Attending – University of South Florida

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Andrea Coddett
Deputy Superintendent

RoseAnne Collins-Judon
Assistant Superintendent, Supervision, Curriculum and Instruction

Jade Sharp
Principal, District Guidance and Arts Education

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