

CLASS OF 2021

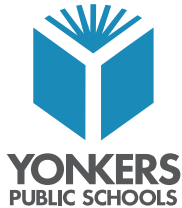


YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**VALEDICTORIANS
& SALUTATORIANS
CELEBRATION**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 • 9:00 A.M.
Westchester Manor • Hastings-On-Hudson, NY





Innovation • Inspiration • Excellence for All

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April 21, 2021

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Valedictorians and Salutatorians,

Congratulations! You maintained your focus and persevered since March 2020 to earn **your** outstanding accomplishment, the top academic achievers of the Class of 2021. The COVID-19 global pandemic required you to adapt to remote learning and social distancing vastly altering your final years in high school. Because of this unprecedented journey, each day brought new challenges to overcome and information to process. The 2020-2021 school year has taught you and your families, along with your school administrators, teachers and peers, invaluable life lessons. Embrace what you have learned, celebrate your resilience and be enormously proud of your achievements.

With the success of the COVID-19 vaccines, there is a renewed sense of hope in a world that has redefined the meaning of 'normal.' You are about to begin a magnificent future with unique opportunities yet to be defined in this new world. As Superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools, I am confident you have the tools and tenacity necessary to complete your postgraduate studies or join the workforce or military. With the continued commitment and encouragement of your principals, 12th grade assistant principals, school counselors and teachers, you navigated the college application process simultaneously with your graduation requirements. Take a moment to thank these outstanding Yonkers Public Schools' educators who continue to be there for you. Like myself, they are confident you will succeed in your future endeavors.

The Class of 2021 overcame extraordinary challenges through creativity and determination. Equipped with these experiences, I believe you, the valedictorians and salutatorians of the Yonkers Public Schools, will change our world in miraculous ways. As you venture out, remember to give back to your community through civic involvement and volunteering. Most importantly, always remember to thank your parents, guardians and mentors for their love, support and faith in you.

Congratulations – Felicidades – Mabrouk

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada

PROGRAM

Welcome and Remarks	RoseAnne Collins-Judon Assistant Superintendent Supervision, Curriculum and Instruction Secondary Administration
Pledge of Allegiance	Lizbeth M. Colon Salutatorian Saunders Trades & Technical High School
National Anthem	Mariana Capistran Valedictorian Saunders Trades & Technical High School
Greetings.....	Rev. Steve Lopez President, Board of Education
Remarks.....	Dr. Edwin M. Quezada Superintendent of Schools Mike Spano Mayor, City of Yonkers

PRESENTATION OF HONOREES

- Gorton High School – William Shaggura, Principal
- Lincoln High School – Ian Sherman, Principal
- Palisade Preparatory School – Dr. Robert Vicuña, 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 – Jade Sharp, Principal
- Yonkers Montessori Academy – Dr. Eileen E. Rivera, Principal

Closure.....	RoseAnne Collins-Judon
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CHARLES E. GORTON HIGH SCHOOL



Malik J. Hylton **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.60

School Activities

Smart Scholars Program Member, Scrubs Club Member, Fordham Talent Search Program Member, YPIE Scholar and Ambassador

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

New York State Senate Citizenship Award 2020, Columbia University Scholar of Academic Excellence, Student of the Quarter in Mathematics, Social Studies, Foreign Languages and Medical Arts, National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Science Award of Excellence Nominee, Mercy College Center for Stem Education Academy Scholarship, Seton Hall University Scholarship, Manhattan College Scholarship, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Services Scholarship, Pace University Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Restoring life Tabernacle Church of God of Prophecy Food Bank Volunteer, private academic tutor, ShopRite cashier

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Basketball, Volleyball, acoustics technician, plays piano and drums, proud Christian

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Pre-Medical

Accepted — Pace University, Fordham University, Seton Hall University, Manhattan College, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Services, CUNY Hunter College



Mariel R. Camagay **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.51

School Activities

YPIE Scholar, Varsity Softball: Shortstop, Left field, Center field and Pitcher, Varsity Volleyball Setter, Track and Field Long-Distance runner, Yonkers Wrestling and Yonkers Force Videographer

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Sports, Volleyball, Softball, grandfather motivates her to be successful in school!

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Nursing

Accepted — Adelphi University, Iona College, Mercy College, Pace University, University of New Haven, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY Lehman College, CUNY City College, CUNY Baruch College, SUNY University at Buffalo

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

University at Buffalo Pride of New York Scholarship, Pace University Honors Opportunity Scholarship, Pace University Legacy Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



Kleanthis D. Plakas **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.91

School Activities

National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, History National Honor Society,

Math National Honor Society Treasurer, School Band trombone player

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Sunrise Senior Living Nursing Home Volunteer

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Video games, board games, card games, Anime, can recite the alphabet backwards in under 30 seconds

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Bio-Chemistry

Accepted — College of Mount Saint Vincent, Mercy College, University of Connecticut, Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY Binghamton University



Ledia Hoxhaj **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 97.59

School Activities

National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Social Studies National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Volunteer Babysitter, employee at Dunkin Donuts

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Drawing, Mathematics, Science, helping others and spending time with friends, bilingual, born in Albania

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Bio-Chemistry

Accepted — Iona College, Manhattan College, Fordham University, SUNY Stony Brook University, SUNY New Paltz



PALISADE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Shemar C. Forbes **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.17

School Activities

YPIE Quaran Times Layout Editor, Director of Communications and Reporter, YPIE Film Program Director, Editor and Videographer, YPIE Tech Squad Specialist - Yonkers

NNORC and Ambassador, Sarah Lawrence College - Robotics Researcher, African American Men of Westchester Team Member, Young People's Assembly attendee, Empress Cadet Program - Phoenix Empress Cadet

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

New York State Senate Citizenship Award, Hamilton New York City Student Competition 2020, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

St. John's Riverside Hospital - Pharmacy Aide, Teacher's Assistant, Yonkers YWCA Junior Committee member

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Enjoys writing and photography, movies and technology, born in the Bronx, NY spent early years in Montego Bay, Jamaica, moved back to New York at the age of 6, has 2 baby siblings

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Anthropology

Accepted — Mercy College, Manhattan College, Manhattanville College, Trinity College, Ramapo College of New Jersey, The College of New Jersey, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Montclair State University, CUNY Lehman College, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY Baruch College, CUNY City College, CUNY Brooklyn College, SUNY Stony Brook University, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Binghamton



Raheemat Y. Traore **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 97.75

School Activities

National Honor Society, Senior and Junior Class Committees, Empress Emergency Service Program - Empress Cadet, YPIE

Scholar, Sarah Lawrence Summer Research Program

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

CPR Certification Award, Emergency Medical Service Award, New York State Citizenship Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll, and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Teacher assistant, Student Tutor, Community Mosque clean up

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Sewing, cooking, baking, reading, grew up in Ghana, West Africa, immigrated to the United States at 14 years old, speaks three languages, devise solutions to improve care in underprivileged societies

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Global Public Health

Accepted — Pace University, Manhattan College, CUNY City College of New York, CUNY Lehman College, CUNY Brooklyn College, CUNY Hunter College, SUNY Buffalo State College, SUNY University at Buffalo, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Stony Brook University



RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Onoriode Obaro-Best Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 95.73

School Activities

National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Yearbook Club, Junior Achievement, Senior Committee, Varsity Volleyball Setter, Mu Alpha Theta President

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

University of Vermont Trustees Scholarship, SUNY University at Buffalo Pride of New York Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

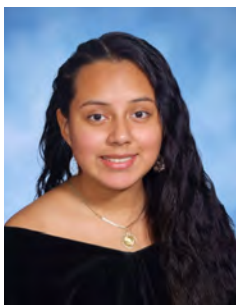
HK Maker Lab Program volunteer, math tutor, worked at Stew Leonard's and Red Lobster

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Loves performing playing the flute and clarinet, enjoys puzzles and Sudoku

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Computer Science or Industrial Engineering

Accepted — University of Vermont, SUNY University at Buffalo, SUNY Polytechnic Institute



Evelyn Yahaira Rios Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 95.05

School Activities

YPIE Entrepreneurship Summer Program, YPIE Regeneration Science Research, YPIE Envirothon, Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program, Junior and Senior Committee, Junior Varsity Soccer Team, Junior Varsity Track Team

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll and High Honor Roll 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Museum School 25 teacher assistant, Junior Achievement Teacher of the Day program, Yonkers Board of Education Parent Academy volunteer, Westchester Parks Foundation volunteer, Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra volunteer, Summer Reading Buddies, coat check at local restaurants

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Loves music, enjoys reading to diverge from the present, enjoys debates to hear both sides of a controversial topic, an environmentalist with a goal to find a solution to plastic pollution and fought to ban single-use plastic bags before New York's official ban

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Chemical Engineering/ Environmental Studies

Attending— Northeastern University



ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES



Jaylene E. Anderson
Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 101.38

School Activities

National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, Yearbook Club Cover Artist and Photographer, Spanish Club Secretary,

Sarah Lawrence Fulbright Program Scholar, Lehman Art Gallery artist, Monroe College Jumpstart Program, Comparative Religions and Cultures Program participant, Girls Inc. of Westchester Virtual Summer Program digital media producer and poet, Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program Summer Institute participant, YPIE activities: Scholar, STEM Science Researcher and Teacher Assistant, Cartoonist, Actress and Editor, Tech Squad Specialist, Mental Health Advocate

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Intermediate Science Research Certificate of Recognition, Fulbright Scholarship and Sarah Lawrence Writing Institute Certificate of Excellence, 2019 Human Rights Essay Contest Winner, High School Youth Service Award, New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit,

Meritorious Student Award, YPIE Summers Scholars Program Certificate, Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Program Summer Institute Certificate of Achievement, Manhattanville College Merit Scholarship, Student of the Month Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Christian Love Tabernacle Sunday Charity Aide and Church Dance Ministry, Roosevelt High School library assistant, Grinton I. Will Public Library volunteer, responsible for siblings' care and schoolwork, "during this hectic time."

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Enjoys writing short stories and poems, drawing comic strips, creating films, reading the bible, watching TV shows on Netflix and Hulu Plus, an aspiring writer who wants to be a novelist and an English professor

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Creative Writing and Education

Attending — SUNY Purchase College



Salem A. Murshed
Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 100.42

School Activities

National Honor Society, Project Good Works treasurer, Save the Children of Syria, Spring 2019 Gala committee, Fordham Talent Search Program, YPIE Scholar

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Student of the Month Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Tutor for Grades Kindergarten through 8th, Arabic tutor, In School community service, Grinton I. Will Public Library Page

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Enjoys cooking and baking, reading and writing, hosted virtual Zoom classes to teach the Arabic Alphabet and read Islamic stories, first generation college student whose parents are from Yemen

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Hospitality

Accepted — Pace University, Fordham University, College of Mount Saint Vincent, Manhattan College, Monroe College, Concordia College, Iona College, CUNY City College of New York, CUNY Lehman College, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY College of Staten Island, CUNY Brooklyn College



SAUNDERS TRADES AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Mariana Capistran **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.06

School Activities

National Honor Society, Italian American Club, YPIE Scholar, Empress Yonkers Cadet Intern, CUNY School of Medicine Sophie Davis Health

Mentorship program intern, New York University Collegiate Seminar Program participant

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

St. Joseph's Church Fundraiser, Michael's sales associate, Camp Hudson camp counselor

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Fashion, medicine, playing volleyball and softball, enjoys music, writing, pop culture, creating podcasts, singing, dancing, working out, shopping, Mexican roots, bilingual, attended a cadaver lab presentation and held a human lung, shadowed a doctor for a day, born during a blizzard the day before Valentine's Day and is youngest of three siblings

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Undecided

Accepted – Sacred Heart University, St. Lawrence University, Manhattan College, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY Lehman College, CUNY City College of New York, CUNY Baruch College, CUNY Brooklyn College, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice



Lizbeth M. Colon **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.00

School Activities

National Honor Society, Key Club Vice President, Dominican Club Secretary, Italian Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Estudiante Meretorio del Consulado Dominicano, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Primera Hispanic Seventh Day Adventist Church - cleaned and decorated church, managed sound system, holiday food distribution, Real Estate Agent assistant, elementary school tutor, babysitter

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Cooking, baking, traveling, exploring different cultures, listening to music, spending time with friends, watching movies, learning new things, Pathfinder Club in Primera Hispanic Church Teen Leader, bilingual English and Spanish

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Mathematics Education

Accepted – Mercy College, Manhattan College, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY Lehman College, CUNY City College, CUNY Brooklyn College, CUNY Queens College, SUNY Buffalo State College, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Stony Brook University, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Oswego



YONKERS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL



Alice W. Wong
Valedictorian

Weighted grade point average of 104.30

School Activities

Science National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Robotics Team Director of Motion, Science Olympiad Vice-Captain, Film Club Director, Audio Visual

Club, International Gala, HOSA Club, CASE Club, Coding Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021

Community Service and Work

Taught science to elementary students, AP Chemistry tutor, Robotics events volunteer, Julie Kupersmith, M.D. P.C. volunteer

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Competitive horseback riding at the national level, piano, singing, song writing, Kung Fu, R statistical programming, Filipino and Indian dance, creative writing, theater, video games, fluent in Fujianese, favorite composers to play are Liszt and Chopin, favorite game Red Dead Redemption II

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology

Accepted – Northwestern University, SUNY Stony Brook University, SUNY Binghamton



Gabrielle M. Schnorbus
Salutatorian

Weighted grade point average of 103.01

School Activities

National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Italian National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, Science Olympiad Captain, Italian Club, Audio Visual

Club, Talent Show, Track Team, Mathletes, Steminists, Gay Straight Alliance Club, Debate Club

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Rachel Carson Healthy Planet Award, National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation, Science Olympiad Awards

Community Service and Work

Volunteer Club member, English and AP Chemistry tutor, organized middle and elementary school science lessons, mural painting at San Andres Church, Private tutor for AP Chemistry and Trigonometry, Groundworks Hudson Valley employee, Northwestern Mutual Intern

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Flying trapeze/circus arts, singing, writing music, playing guitar/ukulele, biking, hiking, rock climbing, gardening, drawing, and writing, love reading books on the AI Revolution and Horror, was a competitive wrestling Mixed Martial Arts fighter, loves Stephen King, interested in sustainability in fashion and green, ethical practices that promote healthier labor

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Economics /Business Management and Environmental Sciences

Accepted - Manhattan College, Manhattanville College, SUNY Stony Brook Honors College



YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Pashka Durgaj **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.76

School Activities

National Honor Society, Italian National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Art Club, Environmental Club

Community Service and Work

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park with Appleseed Expeditions volunteer

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Enjoys singing, plays piano and drums, illustration, painting, makeup artistry, creative writing, partial photographic memory

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Mechanical Engineering

Accepted — Manhattan College

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2017-2021



Elizabeth Zita Radko **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.14

School Activities

National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Art Club, Environmental Club, Drama Club actor, director, writer and set designer

Community Service and Work

City of Yonkers Youth Court, Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

Hobbies and Interesting Facts

Piano, singing, sketching, musical theater, fluent in Japanese, Vogue Magazine model, background actor in The Back Up Plan and Gossip Girl

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Forensic Science and Biology

Accepted — Hofstra University, University of New Haven Honors Program, Pace University, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Presidential Service Award, Hofstra University Provost Scholarship, University of New Haven Presidential Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2017-2021

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RoseAnne Collins-Judon

Assistant Superintendent

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Ian Sherman, Principal

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Dr. Robert Vicuña, 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

Jade Sharp, Principal

Yonkers Montessori Academy

Dr. Eileen E. Rivera, Principal