

CLASS OF 2019



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Valedictorians
and Salutatorians
Celebration
April 3, 2019**



PROGRAM

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

BREAKFAST

Musical Interlude	Yonkers Middle High School Chamber Choir Vanessa Appau, Soloist Avid Williams, Music Teacher
-------------------------	--

PRESENTATION OF HONOREES

Gorton High School
William Shaggura, 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
--------------	--



CHARLES E. GORTON HIGH SCHOOL



Elliot J. Nelson **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 97.11
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL)
courses:
AP Psychology, AP English Literature, AP World
History, SUPA English

School Activities

Junior Varsity Track & Field

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

President's Award for Academic Excellence, Superintendent's Honor Society
Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

Participated in school holiday events, spoke at City Hall Meetings in Yonkers and New York City, YMCA — created and distributed care packages, Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center Youth Health Educator, Maps Corps Field Researcher, Two Bridges Neighborhood Council Data Analyst, American Eagle Sales Associate, Bronx Lebanon Art Intern, Freelance Model

Hobbies and Interests

Modeling, creative fashion directing, fashion photography and performed spoken word, politics and activism, cooking, favorite authors James Baldwin and Bell Hooks

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Urban Studies/Health Administration

Accepted — Alfred University, SUNY Buffalo State, Long Island University, Louisiana State University



Melissa Joy M. Canosa **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 96.01
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL)
courses:
SUPA English

School Activities

National Honor Society Mentor, Junior Achievement, Smart Scholar, Junior Committee, Gateway Program, Photography, Year Book designer, Musical Theatre, Choir, Girl Scout Troop member, CREED Club (Campaign for Real, Equitable Economic Development), Volleyball, Basketball

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Dean's Scholarship, Alumni and Friends Scholarship, President's Scholarship, Star Student in English, Health and Graphics/Art, Science Fair Medalist Top 15, Gateway Achiever Academic Award, Gateway Most Outstanding Student, Award of Excellence in Medical, Yale Book Award, Volleyball Tournament 2nd place, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List, High Honor Roll 2016-2019

Community Service and Work

Church volunteer, Church Choir, Student Teacher — Orphanage Class, Girl Scout — Clean the Green, School community service, Babysitting, H-Mart cashier, Dunkin Donuts cashier/customer service

Hobbies and Interests

Volleyball, basketball, martial arts, Taekwondo and Karate, singing, dancing, sketching, drawing, cooking, traveling, writing poems, solving math problems, watching medical movies, fixing computers, favorite subject math, strong interest in a career in the Medical field, born in the Philippines and emigrated to the United States 2 years ago, fluent in Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Ilocano, Batangueño, and Japanese, working student who is responsible for room and board

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Nursing/Medical Assistant/Physical Therapist

Accepted — College of Mount Saint Vincent, Concordia College, Mercy College, Iona College, Monroe College, Manhattanville College



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



Anjali John **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 95.91
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link
(CL) courses:
AP Chemistry, CL Step Up English

School Activities

National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Latino Americano Club member, Program for Scientific Inquiry, Virtual Enterprise Competition, Lincoln Design Company, Alexander Hamilton Poetry Writing Event

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Math Student of the Month Award, Art Achievement Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Principal's List 2017-2019

Community Service and Work

Sarah Lawrence College CURB, Chemistry Tutor, CUNY City College of New York Intern – epidemiology research, India Café hostess

Hobbies and Interests

Drawing, painting, creating art pieces, JAVA computer programming, values her family and friends, finds happiness in helping others, emigrated to the United States 2 years ago, fluent in Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Aeronautical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering

Accepted – Franklin & Marshall College, Clarkson University



Brian Garcia Hernandez **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 95.75
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link
(CL) courses:
AP English Language, AP Chemistry, AP
United States History, AP English Literature,
AP World History

School Activities

National Honor Society, Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, Lambda Alpha Beta Gamma president, Science National Honor Society secretary, Yonkers Brave Varsity Football, Junior Achievement - High School Heroes, Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership, Science Fair Competitions - YSAP, WESEF, Tri County Science and Technology Fair, Gateway Program, Youth to Youth, Yonkers Partners in Education, Lads to Leaders, Columbia S-PREP Program, Sarah Lawrence Writing Program

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Pi Day Poster Contest 1st place winner, Gettysburg Address Recital Award, Lab Coat Award, Lads to Leaders 1st place 10th grade speech, 2nd place "Winner Circle" speech, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

The Walking Believers Church - soup kitchen, pantry and clothing donations, book and toy drive for children, church and community cleanup, Gateway student mentor, Yonkers Coalition Youth to Youth consultant

Hobbies and Interests

Reading, video editing, creative writing, chess, video games, watching Netflix, Sudoku, listening to music, attended 11 different schools - 5 in Mexico and 6 in the United States, CPR certified

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Chemistry/Chemical Engineer

Accepted – University of Michigan, University of Florida, University of Colorado Boulder



PALISADE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



William Ross Walls **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 94.83
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
CL Emergency Medical Services, SUPA English, SUPA Forensic Science

Community Service and Work

Westchester Cadet Squadron Civil Air Patrol, participated in Memorial Day services and parades, provided food and clothing to homeless families of Westchester County

Hobbies and Interests

Basketball, video games, exploring the world, weight lifting, Taekwondo Black Belt, 1st Lieutenant Cadet Squadron Commander, leadership academy, gymnastics and flying lessons, self-motivated, goal is to be a Hometown Hero and make the City of Yonkers a better place

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Business Management with a minor in Psychology

Accepted – Manhattan College

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Wright Brothers Community Service Award, Billy Mitchell Community Service Award, Bausch & Lomb Science Award, Manhattan College Dean's Award, Perfect Attendance Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2015-2019, Palisade Preparatory School Class of 2019 Homecoming King



Rewan Alrabadi **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 94.73
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
CL Emergency Medical Services, SUPA English, SUPA Forensic Science

Community Service and Work

Palisade Avenue Cleanup, distributed Thanksgiving food baskets, Emergency Medical Responder Student, Junior Docent Volunteer, Virgin Mary Orthodox Church - Teen Society of Youth Organization, Palisade EMS Cadet Program - volunteered time to raise awareness on diseases or disorders and help in state of emergencies

Hobbies and Interests

Certified EMS First Responder, volunteering around the community, gaming design computer skills, fluent in Arabic

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Pre-Medicine

Accepted – Pace University, College of Mount Saint Vincent, Manhattan College, Manhattanville College, Monroe College, St. John's University

School Activities

National Honor Society, Varsity Basketball, Hudson River Museum Junior Docent Program, Sarah Lawrence Research Program, Yonkers Partners in Education, Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute, Ridge Hill Academy, Palisade Preparatory EMS Cadet Program

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Khalil Gibran Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2015-2019



RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Francis Andre B. Loquellano **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.25
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL)
courses:

AP World History, AP United States History,
CL Computer Hardware & Software, CL
Introduction to Computer Information Systems,
CL Composition & Literature, CL Computer

Networking, CL Operating Systems, CL Economics/Government, CL Writing
and Literature, CL Sociology, CL Psychology

School Activities

National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society president, Junior
Achievement, Young Veterans Club member, Yonkers Partners in Education
Scholar, Actors' Guild Club member

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Harvard Book Award, Russell Sage Award, Yonkers Historical Society
Recognition Award, SUNY Albany Multicultural Recognition Award, Yonkers
Public School CTE Student of the Year, Superintendent's Honor Society Club
90, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

St. Matthews Parish volunteer - sings and plays the guitar, Riverside High
School Blood drive, Young Veterans Club, Museum School 25 letters to Santa,
Housing Works Bookstore and Cafe - collected books for women's rights and
advocated for AIDS patients, YMCA Operation Backpack - filled backpacks with
school supplies for underprivileged children

Hobbies and Interests

Theater, chorus, photography, writing, art, composing music, has lived in 4
different places - Philippines, Illinois, New Hampshire and New York

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Computer Science

Accepted - CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY Hunter College,
CUNY Baruch College, SUNY University at Albany



Zoe Manalo **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 95.92
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL)
courses:

AP World History, AP United States History, CL
Computer Hardware & Software, CL Computer
Networking, CL Elements of Geometry, CL
Operating Systems, CL Programming Logic, CL
Writing and Literature, CL Statistics

School Activities

National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, Social Studies National
Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, Junior and Senior Committee
treasurer, FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics competition, school photographer,
represented class for Parkland shooting victims special assembly, Science
Steam Team member, Yearbook editor, Shared Decision Making member

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Princeton Book Award, School of the Art Institute of Chicago Scholarship,
Hofstra Dean's Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor
Roll & High Honor Roll 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

School community service — school store and photographer, Starbucks barista

Hobbies and Interests

Photography, reading, plays the ukulele, piano and guitar

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Photography and Cyber Security

Accepted — School of the Art Institute of Chicago



ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES



Naomi Joyce **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 99.66
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link
(CL) courses:

AP Environmental Science, CL College
Readiness, CL Health, CL United States
History/Government, CL Composition
& Literature I and II, CL Economics/

Government, CL Introduction to Psychology, CL Drawing & Painting,
CL Pre-Calculus, CL Business Law

School Activities

National Honor Society President, English National Honor Society Vice
President, Multi-Cultural Club Vice President, Culinary Club member

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Dominican Scholar Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90,
Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

Junior Achievement High School Heroes, National Honor Society volunteer,
school community service – teacher's aide, tutor, Actors Conservatory
Theatre ACT Junior Troupe, Grinton I. Will Public Library aide, and Café L'ami
barista/clerk

Hobbies and Interests

Musical theatre, journaling, foreign languages and cultures, documentary
enthusiast, would love to travel to Russia to see the Mariinsky Ballet and
Bolshoi Ballet

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology

Accepted – Penn State University, Pace University, Iona College, Manhattan
College, Marist College, Marymount Manhattan College, Mercy College,
Monroe College, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York Institute of
Technology, CUNY Baruch College, CUNY the City College of New York,
CUNY Lehman City College, CUNY Hunter College, CUNY John Jay College of
Criminal Justice, SUNY Binghamton University, SUNY Stony Brook University



Bhavya Gaur **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.6
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link
(CL) courses:

AP Environmental Science, CL Introduction
to Psychology, CL Economics/Government,
CL Business Law, CL Pre-Calculus, CL
Composition & Literature I and II, CL
United States History & Government

School Activities

National Honor Society Vice President, English National Honor Society,
Italian National Honor Society, Varsity Soccer, Culinary Club member, Multi-
Cultural Club President, Drama Club director and performer

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Future Scientists and Technologists Award, Global Navigators Scholarship,
Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, Superintendent's Honor Society
Club 90, Principal's List 2016-2019

Community Service and Work

Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, Grinton I. Will Public Library, Nursing Home
Gold Crest Care Center, Junior Achievement, Hudson River Museum Junior
Docent, Café L'ami barista

Hobbies and Interests

Badminton, drawing, photography, Palmistry, self-motivated, creative,
dexterous and adaptable, fluent in Hindi

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biochemistry

Accepted – Penn State University, Pace University, CUNY City College of
New York, CUNY College of Staten Island, CUNY Lehman City College, CUNY
Hunter College, SUNY Binghamton University, SUNY University at Albany



SAUNDERS TRADES AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Esha Hafeez **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 100.36
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link
(CL) courses:

CL Pre-Calculus, CL College Algebra with
Trigonometry, CL Basic Calculus, CL Writing
& Research

School Activities

National Honor Society President, Unified Yonkers School District Student
Leadership Council Vice President, Track and Field, Volleyball Club, Youth to Youth
Club member, Muslim Association Club member, SkillsUSA, KPMG Girls Who Code,
Annual Google Hackathon, Saunders Student Council, Honors Committee volunteer

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Gooroo Hackathon at WeWork Best Prototype Award, 11th grade
Architecture Residential Design 1st place winner, 10th grade Architecture
Park Project 1st place winner, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90,
Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

Honors Committee school's administrator volunteer, AFYA Foundation
volunteer and data entry clerk, Groundworks Hudson Valley Science Barge
volunteer, Grinton I. Will Library summer reading pal and page, Yonkers
Federation of Teachers assistant, Monroe College Jumpstart Program

Hobbies and Interests

Painting, drawing, sketching, shopping, baseball, track, volleyball, movies,
shows, donating clothes, traveling, visiting airports, listening to pop and
Bollywood music, going to the gym, hanging out with friends, reading to
younger kids, knowledge of AutoCAD, Python JavaScript, HTML, CSS and
other coding languages, created two architectural models, emigrated to the
United States at the age of 3, reads Arabic, fluent in Urdu

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biology, Pre-Medicine

Accepted — Pace University, St. John's University, Mercy College, SUNY
Purchase College



Cindy Mata **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 98.43
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link
(CL) courses:

AP World History, AP Statistics, CL Writing
& Research

School Activities

National Honor Society, Youth to Youth President, Fashion Club member,
SkillsUSA, Virtual Enterprise CEO

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

ByteHacks Hackathon Domain.com Prize Winner, Superintendent's Honor
Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

Youth to Youth, Fab Scrap - re-using and repurposing wasted textiles, Special
Needs Care volunteer, Kumon Math and Reading Center tutor, Yonkers
Federation of Teachers assistant; AT&T Girls Who Code, Mathematical
Modeling at Mercy College, WAVE #BuiltByGirls participant

Hobbies and Interests

Photography, reading, woman's empowerment, knowledge of Python, HTML,
CSS and other coding languages, competed in multiple coding competitions,
attended over 30 concerts in the past 3 years, fluent in English and Spanish

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Computer Science

Accepted - CUNY Macaulay Honors College



YONKERS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL



Liubov A. Samborska **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 103.14
International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP World History, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, IB English Literature 11 & 12, IB Spanish 11 & 12, IB Theory Knowledge I & II, IB Biology HL 11 & 12, IB History HL 11 & 12, IB Math Studies, IB Physics, IB Psychology

School Activities

National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Kars4Kids Club founder and president, DNA Learner's Club vice president, Science Olympiad Team, Varsity Soccer, Columbia Science Honors Program, Badminton Club, PowderPuff Football, HOSA Club member, Mathletes Club member

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

QuestBridge Prep Scholar, QuestBridge National College Match Finalist, Science Olympiad Regional and Invitational Medals, Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, Yonkers Public Schools Holiday Card Contest winner, AP Scholar, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

Summer Science Research Academy teacher's assistant, Humane Society of Westchester, Groundwork Hudson Valley Science Barge and GEAR UP Program junior mentor

Hobbies and Interests

Drawing, painting, listening to music, jogging, likes Disney movies and the Musical Hamilton, fluent in Ukrainian, Russian and English

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Chemistry or Neuroscience

Accepted — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Binghamton University, SUNY Stony Brook University



Maria J. Kulapurathazhe **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 102.63
International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP Chemistry, AP World History, AP Calculus, 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 I & II, IB Physics, IB Psychology

School Activities

National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Science Olympiad member, Varsity Soccer Team, Badminton Club co-founder and captain, Columbia University Synthetic Biology member, Manhattan College Engineering Awareness Program participant, ACE Team project manager and International Gala dancer

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

National Merit Commended Scholar, Rochester University Fredrick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award, Manhattan College Engineering Structural Competition top 10, City of Yonkers Martin Luther King, Jr. Video Contest winner, Science Olympiad Medalist, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

Summer Science Research Academy, Hudson River Museum Junior Docent, Yonkers Tech Fair volunteer, NYS Division of Human Rights Intern, Yonkers Coalition for Youth Intern

Hobbies and Interests

Dancing, Reading, playing badminton and soccer, participating in any outdoor activity, spending time with family and friends

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Biomedical Engineering

Accepted — University of Buffalo Honors College, University of Rochester, SUNY Stony Brook University



YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY



Anna V. Calderon **Valedictorian**

Weighted grade point average of 97.79
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP English Language, AP Environmental Science, AP English Literature, CL Italian, CL Economics/Government, CL Basic Calculus, CL World History, CL United States History/Government

School Activities

National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Student Government member, Art Club member, Drama Club member, Senior Committee member, Debate Club member

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Rensselaer Medal, SUNY Stony Brook Presidential Merit Scholarship, SUNY Stony Brook Valedictorian Scholarship, American History Recognition Award, Outstanding Student of Dominican Heritage Award, Westchester County Board of Legislators Award for Outstanding Achievement in Italian, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll & High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2015-2019

Community Service and Work

Technology teacher assistant, music student mentor, YMA Buddy program, YMA Student Government holiday fundraising for young orphans

Hobbies and Interests

Reading, piano, musical theater, Actors Conservatory Theater member since the 5th grade, fluent in English, Spanish and Italian

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Earth Science/ Environmental Science

Accepted – SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Binghamton University



Albion Lajqi **Salutatorian**

Weighted grade point average of 97.59
Advanced Placement (AP) and College Link (CL) courses:
AP Environmental Science, AP English Language, CL Italian, CL United States History/Government, CL Basic Calculus, CL World History

School Activities

National Honor Society, National Italian Honor Society, Making a Difference Club member

Community Service and Work

Performance Rehabilitation Physical Therapist Assistant, technology teacher assistant, Tomolino's Restaurant busboy, Animal Shelter volunteer, Nursing Home volunteer

Hobbies and Interests

Soccer, baseball, spending time with family, good public speaker, determined to work hard and excel in college

College Acceptance - Plans to major in Civil Engineering

Attending – Manhattan College

Awards, Honors and Scholarships

Manhattan College Presidential Scholarship, American History Recognition Award, National Italian Honor Society Award for Academic Excellence, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll & High Honor Roll & Principal's List 2015-2019

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rev. Steve Lopez, President
Judith Ramos Meier, Vice President
Andrea Brown
Kevin Cacace
Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio
John Jacono
Pasquale Mondesando
Dr. Ammir Rabadi
Edgar Santana

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada
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

Royal Regency Hotel
165 Tuckahoe Road
Yonkers, New York 10710