

Senior Showcase

CLASS OF 2018

As high school seniors in the Diocese of Camden graduate and the next step in their life’s journey “commences,” the Catholic Star Herald asked several young men and women about their time during these past four years, what they would say to future high schoolers, and what’s next. These nine are a snapshot of who you will find in the halls of South Jersey Catholic Schools.

The Star Herald will feature additional students online over the next two weeks.



VERONICA LUCIAN,
BISHOP EUSTACE, PENNSAUKEN
High School Activities: Choir, Softball, Soccer, Track and Field, Literary Magazine, Philosophy and Ethics, National Honor Society, Life Teen
Plans for the Fall: United States Military Academy

Favorite High School Memory: “During my senior year, a small group of my classmates and I met once a week for breakfast and morning prayer. Growing together in faith is something I will always treasure.”

Advice for incoming freshmen: “Don’t get caught up in what you think high school is ‘supposed to be.’ It is what you make of it. If you keep Jesus at the center, I promise things will turn out beyond what you can ever imagine. When it gets tough — and it will — turn to your faith. When things are going great — and they will be — turn to your faith. Always make sure that at the end of the day you can look in the mirror and recognize that person staring back at you.”



JACK BANNAN,
HOLY SPIRIT HIGH SCHOOL, ABSECON
High School Activities: Band, Mock Trial, School Musical, Tennis, Boy Scouts, Academic Challenge Team
Plans for the Fall: The University of Notre Dame

Favorite high school memory: “Being on the stage in my school’s productions and being part of a great cast of friends. I will never forget my first performance in ‘Oliver!’ freshman year and seeing the large crowd of people as I was on stage. I also loved playing Pinocchio in this year’s production of ‘Shrek’ and having a lead for the first time.”

What he appreciates about Catholic school: “I appreciate the religious-filled atmosphere with an emphasis on our faith. Our faith also binds us all as a family and that’s what I enjoy about this school — that we are not just some students, but a family in our school and in our faith.”



ARJUN MATHUR,
ST. AUGUSTINE PREP, RICHLAND
High School Activities: Medical Club, Hermit Ambassadors Service Club, Model United Nations, Pep Band, National Honor Society, Student Government, Tennis
Plans for the Fall: Georgetown University

What he appreciates most about Catholic school: “The community and the sense of belonging to something greater than myself. This sense of community really motivated me to be the best version of myself every day.”

Someone who made a significant impact on his life: “My Honors Chemistry, AP Biology, and AP Chemistry teacher Ms. Fed. Having spent three years with her, we developed a close relationship. She was always supportive of me and helped develop my love for science.”



THERESA GARDNER,
CAMDEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, CHERRY HILL
High School Activities: Spring Musical, Fall Play, Soccer, Cross Country, Community Service
Plans for the Fall: The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

What she most appreciates about Catholic school: “I most appreciate the fact that our Catholic identity is infused into every element of each day at CCHS.”

Advice for incoming freshmen: “Keep an open mind. Dare to venture outside of your social circle and trust in God.”



ALLYSON MCCORMICK,
OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY, NEWFIELD
High School Activities: Soccer, Lacrosse, Interact Club

Plans for the Fall: Seton Hall University

What she appreciates most about Catholic school: “Attending a Catholic school has taught me to look to God in everything I do and to trust in his plan for me.”

Someone who made a significant impact on her life: “All of my teachers have been great, but Mrs. Susan Cavagnaro (OLMA Class of 1967) is involved with all events and activities and always puts others before herself. Her determination shines through each and every day.”



MITCHELL ASANTE,
ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, HAMMONTON
High School Activities: Student Government, Model United Nations, Speech and Debate Club, Intern for Senator, Boys and Girls Club, National French Honor Society, Soccer, Chess Club
Plans for the Fall: University of Rhode Island

Someone who made a significant impact on his life: “My French teacher Mrs. Meyers! If you are reading this, thank you for all the encouragement, support and belief you have had in me all these years.”

Advice for incoming freshmen: “Try to figure out what your interests are early on and build on that throughout your high school career. Like motivational speaker Jim Rohm said, ‘When you know what you want and you want it bad enough, you’ll find a way to get it.’”



MONICA PATEL,
GLOUCESTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER CITY
High School Activities: Volleyball, Bowling, School Newspaper
Plans for the Fall: Drexel University

What she most appreciates about Catholic school: “Despite not being Catholic, I truly believe that going to a Catholic high school has significantly influenced my character and has shaped me into the person I am today. Having the opportunity to have a Catholic education has taught me morals and values that I will surely carry with me throughout the next chapters of my life.”

Advice for incoming freshmen: “Never take a day at Gloucester Catholic for granted. Take in every moment and never be afraid to try new things and get involved. Make the most out of your high school years because before you know it, it will all be over.”



JOHNNY INTRIGO,
PAUL VI HIGH SCHOOL, HADDONFIELD
High School Activities: Football, Baseball, History Club, Spanish Club, Working at Wendy’s, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society

Plans for the Fall: Stevens Institute of Technology

Someone who made a significant impact on his life: “My Religion teacher from junior year, Mr. Rendfrey. Even though I had him for only one year, he is the only teacher that I talked to about my life outside of school. He took an interest in my life and I will never forget him.”

Advice for incoming freshmen: “Focus. On the first day of school, there should be only one thing on your mind. That one thing is to focus on your studies and on yourself. Strive to be the best student. Strive to be the best athlete. Strive to be the best person. That mindset can go far in life if you stay focused.”



AIDAN SORENSEN,
WILDWOOD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, NORTH WILDWOOD
High School Activities: Tennis, Academic Challenge, Theater, Art Club, National Honors Society, Forensics
Plans for the Fall: Rowan University

What he appreciates most about Catholic school: “I love the small, intimate class sizes and the feeling of assuredness and trust that comes with having a close-knit community of friends and faculty that are all bound by the Catholic and strong, caring moral values.”

Advice for incoming freshmen: “Participate in any-and-all activities available to you, whether or not you think you will like them — you may surprise yourself, and will undoubtedly meet friends to last a lifetime.”