



The Paduan

Saint Anthony's High School
275 Wolf Hill Road • South Huntington, New York 11747 • 631.271.2020 • www.stanthonyshs.org

SPRING PEP RALLY IGNITES SPIRIT FIRST SPRING PEP RALLY IN SA HISTORY

Sophomore Writer: Andrew Soojian
Junior Writer: Nicholas Tonno

Spirit has always been a major part of life at Saint Anthony's. From packed football stands in the fall to winter sports pep rallies that bring students together, school pride has always been something that makes our community unique. However, this year marked something entirely new in the history of Saint Anthony's: the very first Spring Pep Rally. For the first time ever, spring athletes received a pep rally dedicated to celebrating their seasons, accomplishments, and dedication. What many students saw as an exciting event in the gym was actually the result of weeks of preparation, planning, and teamwork from the Student Council. The idea of holding a Spring Pep Rally had never been done before at St. Anthony's, which made this event especially meaningful. Under the leadership of Student Council President Mimma Ienna, history was made.

At Saint Anthony's High School, school spirit and patriotism go hand in hand. While some schools across the country have moved away from traditions such as reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or displaying the American flag, the spirit of America remains strong throughout Friartown. With Memorial Day approaching—a time dedicated to honoring the men and women who sacrificed their lives so Americans could live in freedom—the theme of this year's inaugural Spring Pep Rally was fittingly chosen to be Americana. The entire school day became a celebration of patriotism, school pride, and community.



As the rally got closer, planning was important. One of the biggest discussions during preparation involved figuring out how to safely bring Student Council President Mimma Ienna onto the stage due to her injury. Since the pep rally entrances are so important, the Student Council knew it had to be grand. After discussing different

possibilities Brother Joshua chose to send her in on an electric golf cart. While it may have seemed like a small detail, moments like these showed how much thought and preparation went into every aspect of the event. As the first ever spring pep rally, all planning and implementation was new for Brother Joshua who has been running Pep Rallies for the last 50 years! Every detail had to be considered, discussing what will go on, order of the posters, and the overall organization to make sure the day went smoothly.

The Student Council held a setup day where students hung pennant flags, decorated the cafeteria, and even decorated the golf cart for President Ienna's entrance (since she was on crutches) which was decked out in red, white, and blue streamers and USA letter-balloons that just barely made it underneath the door frame!



Before the pep rally even began, each spring sports team played a role in preparing for their entrance. Throughout either the mornings or afternoons leading up to the pep rally, teams came and created their posters that they would run through on the day of pep rally with the help of student council executive board member Trey Gundy.

The students' love for America combined with Saint Anthony's High School's legendary school spirit made for a very patriotic day. Many students wore red, white, and blue outfits, but most wore outfits that were specifically American Flag themed. Many students also took the opportunity to take pictures in front of the backdrops in the cafeteria. The backdrops had different themes ranging from flags to fireworks, and even more designs. Throughout the entire cafeteria, there were more decorations including red, white, and blue banners strung along the ceiling. In the gym, the same banners were accompanied by red, white, and blue balloons. On the morning of the pep rally, the Stu-

dent Council arrived to begin preparations. While students walked towards the academic wing, student council members stood in each hallway selling leis. The red, white, and blue leis sold for 2 for one dollar. The leis were a fun way to join in the Americana spirit. Once sales ended, the student council moved into early morning setup. Members headed to the gym to begin the stage decorating with the balloons. All of the decorations helped add to the Americana theme and school spirit.

After two short, 25-minute classes and homeroom, students rushed down to the gym, eager to experience the first Spring Pep Rally in school history, a testament to the strong sense of school spirit felt throughout all of Friartown. While the students who entered ran towards the bleachers to make sure they got a seat, the student council was preparing the posters for the entrances. With hands over hearts, the rally began with an extra patriotic National Anthem, with many students joining in singing in thanksgiving for their great country.

Soon, President Mimma Ienna, becoming the first Student Council President in the existence of St. Anthony's to host a Spring Pep Rally, began calling teams to the stage. For the first time, spring sports teams such as Rugby, Spring Track, Baseball, Softball, Boy's Volleyball, Lacrosse, Tennis, and Badminton were recognized at a Pep Rally. When the time came, athletes ripped through the posters as they entered the gym. Behind the scenes, the Student Council quickly replaced each torn poster to make sure every team's entrance went smoothly and stayed on schedule. Alongside Mr. Farrell, members worked to keep transitions organized so that every team had its moment to be celebrated.



During the pep rally, many teams were called to the stage to highlight their
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God Bless America!

PEP RALLY UNITES STUDENTS WITH AMERICANA THEME

successful seasons looking ahead towards the playoffs, including Lacrosse, in which the Friars are highly ranked nationally. Several teams including Varsity Kickline, Cheerleading, and the Step Team were also called to the floor for their performances. It was easy to see that a lot of extra work went into the Spring Pep Rally, as these teams had to create and practice additional dance routines for a third pep rally, which they did not have to do before this school year.



While buzz cuts and pies to the face were slim to none this time around, team walk-ons to the stage involved athletes passing basketballs and footballs to each other, jumping over each other, as well as teammates blowing bubbles together, or using other props and ideas for their walk-on as usual. However, what garnered the most attention and cheers from the crowd was a unique move courtesy of three members of the boys varsity track and field team. When they were called into the gym by their team captains, throwers Nate Blind, Thomas Whidden, and Evan Rojas joined together to form a human helicopter blade. They spun around in the middle of the gym while the student body roared with excitement and looked on with amazement, with the three members of the throwers team eventually running up to the stage to join the rest of the track and field team.



Halfway through the pep rally, the Celtic friars entered to play their music, including an amazing rendition of America the Beautiful, which kept pace with the day's theme. Towards the end of the pep rally, the first ever student-faculty volleyball game was held in the center of the gym. Inspired by the annual student-faculty basketball game, which takes place at the Hawaiian Pep rally every February, the volleyball game was thrilling and one of the highlights of the pep rally. As with the student-faculty basketball game, the Homecoming king, Ruadhán Campion, and queen, Riley Uvena returned to assist with the volleyball game. The crowd cheered from the bleachers, students and faculty faced off in a competitive but entertaining match that quickly became a favorite part

of the day whether students were cheering for their classmates or teachers. Helping keep the excitement alive were pep rally MCs Sean Finnegan and Keira Cameron, who kept the crowd engaged. From announcing the teacher and student teams to hyping up the audience, the two helped the game run smoothly.

At the very end of the pep rally, the seniors presented their senior gift to Brother David. President Mimma Ienna and Senior Riley Uvena asked Brother David to invite all the cafeteria, maintenance, security, and additional staff members who may often be overlooked to come up to the stage for well-deserved applause, recognition, and gifts for all the hard work they do each and every day to keep our school safe, clean, and running smoothly.

The crowd of students gave a round of applause and cheered loudly for the people who help make Saint Anthony's a home. Juniors Joseph McKee, Ella DiazGrandos, Nicholas Tonno, and Dylan Voorhees held mock up signs (replicas of what will be hung in the Main Office Hallway) that contained bible verses as well as the names of each member of the cafeteria, maintenance, and security teams. One sign held the speech written by Senior Riley Uvena. What a fitting gift from the Class of 2026, highlighting the appreciation the students have for each and every staff member.



The date of the first ever Spring Pep Rally coincided with day one of the Saint Anthony's invitational, which is a two day long track meet, and the largest high school track meet in the State of New York. Over 5,000 student-athletes from close to 100 schools across Long Island and New York City come to St. Anthony's to compete in the meet. Like all other spring teams, at the time of the pep rally, the boys and girls track teams were preparing for their championship meets. The rally was a perfect segue into a very busy athletic weekend at Saint Anthony's!



Amid the sea of red, white, and blue that transformed the gym into a celebration of American pride, the strong Americana theme reflected both school spirit and a deep appreciation for our nation's tradi-

tions. The Spring Pep Rally highlighted the importance of patriotism and unity within the school community reminding us all of values of service, gratitude, and pride in one's country. Moments such as these reminded everyone in attendance that patriotism can be expressed through respect, school pride, and community involvement.



The Pep Rally brought students and faculty together in celebration of both their school and their country. A love and respect for one's country encourages all of us to value our freedoms, opportunities, and democratic principles upon which our nation was founded. Patriotism inspires individuals to contribute positively to our communities, honor those who have served the country, and work together toward the common good. In times of celebration and challenge alike, a strong sense of national pride helps unite Americans from different backgrounds under shared values and traditions. Patriotism ultimately serves as a reminder that the continued success of our country depends on all of us, upon unity, respect, and a shared commitment to preserving the ideals of freedom and democracy for future generations.



From creating posters weeks in advance to organizing, selling leis, setting up balloons, replacing ripped posters, and coordinating entrances, Student Council played a major role in bringing the Spring Pep Rally to life at Saint Anthony's. As the pep rally came to an end one thing came to mind, that one person's idea and perseverance led to this pep rally's existence. Their teamwork behind the scenes helped transform an idea into reality, to honor Spring sports with their very own Pep Rally. This established a new tradition at Saint Anthony's, one that future students will continue to celebrate. The first Spring Pep Rally showed that change can happen and that you can help make the future you want to see. God Bless America!

*Special thanks to all of the writers of **The Paduan** for a successful year, in particular, our Seniors! -Mr. Farrell*

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Anthony Caiazza, '26

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Brother David Anthony Migliorino, OSF
Principal

Brother Joshua DiMauro, OSF
Assistant Principal, Dean of Student Activities

News BRIEFS

Black and Gold Golf Outing

On Monday, May 4th, Saint Anthony's hosted the 36th annual Tony Trombino Golf Classic. This impactful event was spread across 3 distinct courses on the north shore of Long Island. Mill River Country Club, The Pine Hollow Club, and The Brookville Country Club. Each year, Mr. Don Corrao works tirelessly to put this outing together. The golfers arrived to there assigned clubs early Monday morning, where Saint Anthony's students handed out some SA Golf Merch.



Even before the golf began, it was clear everyone was excited to be there and excited to tee off. This event's primary goal was to raise funds for the upcoming school year, to allow for more opportunities for our students. One of the highlights of the evening was the live auction. There were some very exclusive items auctioned off, and the live auction alone raised nearly \$100,000! Joe Valentino was the honoree this year and he and his family were a huge benefactor of this event. During the dinner, he pledged to donate 4 years of tuition to one student who does not have the financial means to attend Saint Anthony's High School. The Saint Anthony's community is so thankful for all of the generosity of this event!

Senior Writer: Anthony Caiazza

Election 2026-2027: Ready for a New Year!

The Student Council recently held its annual elections for the 2026–2027 school year. The elections for executive board positions including President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer took place on March 26. Following this, class-level elections began shortly after and concluded on April 23. The weeks leading up to each election were filled with anticipation, excitement, and canvassing among candidates. Students actively campaigned for their desired positions, sharing their ideas for improving school life and increasing student involvement. Hallways were lined with posters, and conversations around campus reflected the growing interest in the outcomes.



The elected student council executive board members for the coming year are; President Joseph McKee, Vice President Dylan Voorhees, Secretary Nicholas Tonno, and Treasurer Ella DiazGranados. The selected Class Presidents for each grade level were; Senior: Euro Vincent, Junior: Sofia Gross, and Sophomore: Justin Bhokal. Congratulations to the winners and wishing them the best of luck in the coming year.

NHS INDUCTION

NEW STUDENTS SWORN-IN TO ALVERNIAN CHAPTER

Sophomore Writer: Ava Giella

On May 6, 2026, the annual National Honor Society induction ceremony took place, and it was truly an inspiring and memorable event that honored and celebrated the achievements and qualities of many exceptional students. The auditorium was filled with excitement and pride as new members were inducted into this high honor, symbolizing their desire to become a part of this great society as well as displaying their hard work and empathetic nature. It also reveals their commitment to maintain and uphold the core values of leadership, service, scholarship, and character.

The families of the new members of the NHS were filled with profound pride and excitement, and the students were eager to take on new responsibilities, experience a strong sense of unity and grow as individuals who can positively impact their community and school.

To begin the ceremony, all new students being inducted into NHS were called up by each row and were called to walk the stage with pride as they worked so hard to be in this honorable position. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and pure pride as the students approached Brother David. As each inductee walked the stage, they received a certificate, signifying their entry into the society. It also emphasized their hard work and their commitment to the NHS main values. The students were also given a pin to represent the NHS

that they can wear proudly on their uniform blazer. The pin served as a reminder of the responsibilities they carry as members of the National Honor Society.



After the students were inducted, they sat back down in their rows with smiles and everyone's proud expression highlighted the glory and significance of this moment for students, families, etc. This was a moment marking great accomplishments, yet also a promise to uphold the core values of the NHS.

During the induction, the current senior leadership members passed down their leadership roles to the incoming seniors, (current juniors). The transition of the board and its great responsibilities, not only marked a new and pivotal chapter for the NHS society, but it also reinforced the significance of leadership and the continu-

ation of meaningful roles. The hard-working seniors put great trust in the incoming leaders with the responsibility to maintain and keep the values of the society, and to encourage their peers. This transfer of mentorship emphasizes the importance of guiding others and carrying forward the legacy of integrity and service that the NHS represents.

Brother David gave a heartfelt and impactful speech that resonated greatly with everyone present. He underscored that kindness and character are much more important than outward appearances and grades. He also emphasized that being hard-working and honesty are very important, even in circumstances when those qualities are difficult to follow. His words of great wisdom reminded all that the way they treat others leaves an everlasting impact and impression whereas superficial aspects like clothing and certain grades of ours are forgotten over time. He uplifted students to keep integrity, empathy, and compassion, prioritized in their daily life and with interactions with others. Building up these great morals and qualities can take you far!

The induction ceremony was more than just a celebration of success, it was rather a strong and powerful reminder that the true idea of leadership comes from the internal greatness of character and compassion. The event inspired students to put their main priority into developing their character traits focused on services and respect for their community.

HARMONY AND TALENT AT SPRING CONCERTS

STUDENT PERFORMERS SERENADE SOLD OUT CROWDS

Freshman Writer: Lily Gentile
Sophomore Writer: Jenna Caniano

The Spring Concert is a celebration of talent, music and performance each year, culminating a semester of practice, rehearsal and hard work. Concert Weekend began on Friday evening with the Choral Concert under the direction of Brother Joshua, Mr. Farrell and Dr. Park.

Our Saint Anthony's Chorus put together yet another phenomenal performance for this spring season! Coming off of a major success with their Christmas Concert, the near 600-person choir struck again to bring us a symphony of sound and joy. As always, they never disappoint. As one last hurrah for our senior singers, this Spring Concert was one to remember.

After tireless preparation (both during and after school), the immense chorus stood together in the gym to warm up, added some finishing touches, and prepared to immerse the audience into a world of song. From animal noises to makeshift massages, the chorus completed a full range of preparations in their arsenal. Pumped up and energetic, the chorus began to enter into the vast auditorium, with the traditional Marian Gregorian Chant of "Ave Maris Stella".

As senior section leaders Leah Sudentas (Soprano), Emma Burke (Alto), Ruadhán Campion (Tenor), and Sean Brady (Bass) led the chorus through the ancient hymn, the singers, adorned in Red, White and Blue ties, cummerbunds, ascots, corsages and boutonnieres, merged onto the risers; eight rows at once, ahead of the audience. In the soft blue light, the choir finally stilled, and the concert began.



Contrasting the graceful opening, the chorus dove straight into Beethoven's "Welten Singen," a powerful German oratorio of the turmoil of Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his Crucifixion. The chorus effortlessly handled the song's force and inspired the audience. From there, they quieted into the delicate "Va Pensiero," a gentle yet moving piece by the opera *Nabucco* by Giuseppe Verdi which to this day is valued by many Italians as a national hymn of Italy. If that amazing transition wasn't grand enough, the choir ended off their first half with several other stand-out performances, including Mozart's "Lacrymosa," the joyful "River in Judea," and "I Believe," a classic amongst chorus alumni that incorporates the "Ave Maria."

At 'half-time,' the chorus filed back into the gym for a quick break, picking up water—and some surprise props—along the way. While they prepared, the Brooklyn Brass and Junior Harpist Carrie LaBarca engaged the audience in a fantastic instrumental performance, bringing them into a new world of harmony.

Following the brief intermission, the chorus proudly stepped back on the risers to the Gregorian Chant of "Veni Cre-

ator Spiritus," led once again by the senior section leaders. Once the hymn concluded, the singers embarked on the jazzy journey of "Swingin' With the Saints," a soulful cut-time number. After that, it was the moment everyone had waited for... the props! Singing a compilation of songs from the well-known musical "Oliver!" that our theater company had performed just last year, the chorus donned sunhats with colorful ribbon and bowler hats. With selections ranging everywhere from the rowdy "Oom-Pah-Pah" to the heartfelt "As Long as He Needs Me," the choir took the audience on a beautifully sung series of emotions. And, of course, the Spring Choral Concert wouldn't be one if it didn't have the "spring-switch." It was time for some girls versus boys action!



The girls kicked off their rendition of Aretha Franklin's hit, "Respect," and sang it with sass and attitude like only Aretha could between their excellent choreography and the shining halos they put atop their heads. The number was amazingly exhilarating and daance-worthy.

Then, with precision, the girls and the boys switched positions on the risers with the boys down below so they could dive into "Sweet Caroline," pulling on their white gloves and flashing ties. With both charming dance moves and empowered vocals, the boys brought their A-game to the classic tune.

Moving closer to the end, the girls and boys joined back together for an impressive and soulful rendition of "Higher and Higher." With everyone in their glowing glasses and the lighting reflecting the same excited atmosphere, the chorus finished off their unique program with a grand bang that had the audience wanting to stand up and dance in the aisles. Special thanks to Dr. Buehler for her choreography and dance moves!

To close the concert, the chorus joined in singing "America the Beautiful," a wonderful dedication to our country. As the curtains split apart to reveal our nation's flag, the choir ended on their high note of the night, leaving the audience in monumental applause.

After a heartwarming speech from Brother David, giving the well-earned thank-yous to the faculty, staff, and students involved with the concert's making, the audience ended their choral journey for the night. Especially, he gave thanks to the seniors for their dedication over these past four years, which have helped make the chorus—and our school—into what it is today.

Continuing the musical weekend, our instrumental ensembles took to the stage on Saturday, April 25th with a packed auditorium. Wearing patriotic attire, the students performed their Spring Concert unforgettable music after having spent months of dedication on perfecting these songs. Multiple different groups such as the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Pipe Band, Symphonic Band, and Orches-

tra all played separate songs that demonstrated their skills and talent.



The Percussion Ensemble, led by Mr. Trumpy, opened the concert with two memorable pieces, "Hidden Dreams" and "Serengeti". Their first song, "Hidden Dreams" composed by Matthew Curley, filled the auditorium with an echoing sound created by quick notes on instruments like the bells and xylophone. The body of the piece transitioned to an engaging, rhythmic groove. "Serengeti", is an easy, fast-paced song that was composed to sound like traditional African drums. Both of these songs require about 13-15 students and show how well they worked together to perform lively and high-energy music.

Following the Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band took to the stage to perform multiple unforgettable songs and solos. They performed "Remember Me" from the movie *Coco* which begins in a slow style and eventually transitions to a faster tempo. Some students got to show their individual talent through their solos. During the song "Nostalgia", Jeanette Cestare was featured playing the oboe and Christienne Cagampan was featured playing the clarinet. The Concert Band's final piece was "Volatus". "Volatus" is a bold, dynamic piece for the concert band that ended their part of the concert with the audience in high spirits.



The Jazz Band, Orchestra and Symphonic Band, each conducted by Mrs. Avellana played a multitude of songs. Some of the most memorable songs being "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Mambo" and a Beatles medley. Pirates of the Caribbean being one of the most popular and widely performed modern symphonic scores was a thrilling piece to listen to for everybody in the audience. Each ensemble had their unique instrumentation and sound captivating the audience.

The Saint Anthony's Pipe Band also known as the "Celtic Friars" played traditional Scottish and Irish bagpipe music. The Pipe Band is led by Mr. Saxer and Mr. Boyd. The music provided the transition for all the band to gather together for the finale of "America the Beautiful". Brother David then addressed the seniors as this was their last concert playing with St. Anthony's. The Spring Concert demonstrated the talent, dedication, and hard work that all the students and teachers have put into the music program here at St. Anthony's.

COME FROM AWAY

THEATRE COMPANY WOWS AUDIENCES

Sophomore Writer: Lilah Carden

"Because we come from everywhere, we all come from away". This lyric highlights the central message of St. Anthony's Theater Company's Spring musical 2026, "Come From Away" - a tale focusing on finding belonging in unknown places, and how far unconditional love and empathy can extend. The story takes place in the after effects of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is a true story following 7,000 passengers who were unexpectedly stranded in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland due to their plane to Dallas being diverted. There are two distinct groups of cast members in this show - the plane people, and the Gander residents. The cast did an outstanding job of nailing down the Newfoundland accent, so it was very simple for the audience to differentiate who was a local, and who was a newcomer.



There truly wasn't a weak link in this cast - from the ensemble to the leads, each cast member brought their own distinct flavor and individuality to the show. Across the board, it was also very impressive how quickly the cast members could flow between the mix of intense, emotional scenes, and the more light-hearted, comedic scenes. On the more emotional side, junior Gabriella Gallardo delivered a hauntingly beautiful vocal performance during the song, "I Am Here". Gabriella portrayed a mother, by the name of Hannah, whose son was a fireman in New York City. She couldn't get in touch with him for days, and began to assume the worst. The lyrics highlight her growing frustrations and helplessness with being stuck in Gander, as she's unable to search for her son herself.

On the other hand, sophomore Kasey Geiger, portraying the role of Dolores, did an excellent job being the comedic relief during most scenes, such as when she began belting out a drunken rendition of "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion, during the bar scene, where the plane people have one last night of fun with the Gander residents.

To gather further insight on what it was like to be a part of this show, I spoke with senior Lucia Connelly, who portrayed Beulah Davis, a Gander resident and school teacher, who was a key contributor in ensuring all the plane people were fed and comfortable. Our conversation went as follows:

Q: What drew you to wanting to participate in this show? Was it the rich history, the want to just perform on the St. Anthony's stage again?

A. For me, it was a combination of both. Being a part of the shows here has brought me so much joy so being a part of one last St. Anthony's cast wasn't an opportunity I was gonna pass up. Additionally, my dad was a police officer during 9/11 so the themes in "Come From Away" just hit that much harder. I'm so grateful that I can be part of something so incredible and meaningful, especially in my senior year.

Q: What has been the most difficult part of the rehearsal process, and how did you, or the cast as a whole, overcome this? Was it a certain dance number, a technicality issue?

A. I think it was keeping the energy up. For the month of March, we had long, exhausting rehearsals basically every day so it took a toll. But we always hyped each other up and our directors filled every rehearsal with a lot of laughs and dance parties. The Newfoundland accents weren't a piece of cake either.



Q: Why would you recommend fellow Friars to join the St Anthony Theatre Company in future productions?

A. They are like my second family. Whether you've done 10 shows or none, you will be welcomed with open arms. Everyone is so talented that you will just spend every rehearsal in awe of your fellow cast mates. The entire Company is insanely supportive and willing to help you with whatever you're struggling with, whether it be lines or dancing. And being able to perform the show you've been working on for months in front of an audience is a catharsis I can't even describe! I have made friends that have changed my life and I couldn't be more grateful for every single person who helps put these shows on. So join our family!

As Lucia explained, the St. Anthony's Theater Company are really a family- luckily, before the seniors are all off to their post high school endeavors, the family has one more night left together; the Hunting-Tony's which will take place on Modnay, June 8! The Hunting-Tony's is a high school theater awards night, at which the St. Anthony's Theater Company has been nominated for ten awards! Way to go!



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. Kathryn Raia
with Sophomore Andrew Soojian

Paduan: How many years have you been working at St. Anthony's and what classes do you teach?

Mrs. Raia: This is my 2nd year at St. Anthony's, but my 22nd year teaching history. This year I am teaching sections of Global 9 Honors and Global 10 Honors.

Paduan: Where did you work before SAHS?

Ms. Raia: I worked for 20 years at Our Lady of Mercy Academy. I taught many different classes such as AP, Study Skills, and online courses too. I also started my PhD in Holocaust and Genocide Studies in 2025. Before Mercy, I student-taught at our sister school, St. Francis Prep in Queens.

Paduan: What was it like coming to St. Anthony's from Mercy and having a classroom that wasn't full of just girls?

Ms. Raia: Coming from an all-girls school at Mercy, to the coeducational environment at St. Anthony's High School was definitely a huge adjustment. The classroom dynamic was very different from what I was used to. There is a lot more energy and activity in both the classroom and the hallways. I really appreciate the personality and spontaneity that a co-ed environment brings, and now I can't imagine it any other way.

Paduan: What is your favorite memory from working at St. Anthony's?

Ms. Raia: There are so many great memories, but some of my favorites are the completely unplanned moments, like when a class goes off on a hilarious tangent, a student says something unforgettable, or everyone somehow ends up laughing in the middle of a lesson. Those are the moments that make school feel like a community.

Paduan: What do you like most about SAHS?

Ms. Raia: My top reason is my students... [they are] kind hearted, academically focused, and laugh at my jokes. I am so grateful to be back at the high school where I graduated from, (Shout out to class of '99) and able to teach with some of the Brothers who inspired me to be the person and educator I am today. In the Social Studies Department, I have the honor of working with an amazing group of dedicated teachers who are committed to their students, and always willing to support and inspire one another. The students and community here make this such a special place that I'm genuinely excited to walk through the doors every morning.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. Maureen Evans
with Junior Nicholas Tonno

Paduan: How many years have you been at Saint Anthony’s?

Mrs. Evans: I have been at Saint Anthony’s since September of 2021.

Paduan: What is your role in the Brother David’s office?

Mrs. Evans: I manage all requests for meetings and phone calls that come through the Principal’s Office as well as assist Brother David with all of the many daily/weekly/monthly events and activities that he plans and attends throughout the school year.

Paduan: Are you a Saint Anthony’s Alumna?

Mrs. Evans: No, I did not attend Saint Anthony’s High School. I attended a Christ the King High school in Queens. But, my daughter Molly, Class of 2017 and my son Joseph, Class of 2021 both attended Saint Anthony’s. I was proud to work with the Mothers’ Guild during my time as a parent.

Paduan: Is there anything you can tell us about working so closely with Brother David?

Mrs. Evans: Everyday brings something different - Brother David always makes himself available to everyone so we are very busy!

Paduan: What is a typical day for you?

Mrs. Evans: The first thing I do in the morning when I arrive is check my email and phone messages, as well as review Brother David’s calendar for the day. I have weekly/monthly tasks that I am responsible for as Brother David’s assistant so I facilitate those as well as answer phone calls, manage/schedule meetings for any Faculty/Staff/Student/Parents who want to meet with Brother David.

Paduan: What is the most important/special part of Saint Anthony’s to you?

Mrs. Evans: The most special thing about Saint Anthony’s to me are the students/faculty/staff that make up our school community and getting to witness our faith carried out in big and small ways everyday.

THE HOLIEST OF WEEKS

Senior Writer: Anthony Caiazza

As we all know, the core of Saint Anthony’s is its faith---profoundly displayed during our Holy Week services. Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week and has a dual focus: the joyful entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the solemn beginning of His Passion. Following Palm Sunday is Spy Wednesday, observed with a Tenebrae service. This service reflects the sorrow and betrayal that Christ endured, entering into the darkness of His suffering and death. Once every candle is put out, the chapel falls into darkness, and the congregation slams books on the pews resembling the earthquake that happened when Jesus died on the cross.



Holy Thursday is a deeply important Mass because it remembers the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Eucharist. At that meal, Jesus gave His Body and Blood to the apostles and commanded them to “do this in memory of me,” which is why Holy Thursday is also connected to the institution of the priesthood. At Saint Anthony’s, we also follow the tradition of the washing of the feet, when Jesus washed the feet of His apostles showing humility, love, and service. He was teaching the apostles that true leadership means serving others.

Good Friday is a day of mourning, as this is when Jesus expires on the cross. This year, Juniors Aarav Kumar, Anthony

Sguera and Jonah Aloni were chosen to chant “The Passion of Christ according to John”. Following this, a cross is placed at the base of the sanctuary so that everyone gathered made venerate the crucifix. Following the Passion, the congregants completed the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Student Center.



The final service of Holy Week is the Easter Vigil. This Mass begins in total darkness and silence, and slowly transitions into beautiful music and lights. Before the procession begins, a fire is lit outside the chapel. From this fire, the Paschal Candle is lit, signifying the beginning of the Easter season. This year, the *Exsultet*, the Easter Proclamation, was chanted by Ruadhán Campion, Anthony Caiazza, , and Mark Whaley. The Mass continues with readings and psalms, followed by the Gloria, accompanied by hundreds of bells. Finally, the congregation is invited to renew its baptismal vows, realizing again the promise of Easter in the Risen Christ. One of the highlights of the week, in the annual return by many alumni who come back to sing with the Schola, showing that the music and traditions of Saint Anthony’s continue even after graduation. The Holy Week Services are always the highlight of our liturgical year and are holy reminder of our profound faith for students, faculty and families.

FRIARS LACROSSE DOMINATES

[Taken in part from *Newsday*]
Saint Anthony’s sits at #1 on the Top 10 Rankings in both Boys and Girls Lacrosse according to Newsday. The boys (12-4) wrapped up their season with a 13-12 win over Chaminade in the state CHSAA Class AAA championship game on May 13 delivering the boys their seventh straight state title.



The winning tradition did stop there. The girls program capped off their season by also securing its sevent straight CHSAA Class AA title in a 13-4 victory over Kellenberg on May 16. Emma Speed (65 goals, 23 assists) and Anna Christie (54 goals, 11 assists finished with 88 points each and the team ending with an 18-1 record.



54TH TRACK INVITE

Every spring, St. Anthony’s hosts one of the most highly anticipated athletic events of the season: the Spring Track Invitational. This Invitational is known for its size, competition, and energy. The invitational welcomes schools and student-athletes from across New York, bringing together some of the region’s strongest track and field programs for an exciting weekend of competition. Held over the course of two days, the St. Anthony’s Track Invitational has become recognized as the largest high school track meet in all of New York.



Each year more than 5,000 student-athletes from nearly 100 schools across Long Island and New York travel to St. Anthony’s to participate. Athletes compete in a wide range of events, ranging from sprints and long distance races to relays, hurdles, jumping competitions, and throwing events. For many participants the meet served as a benchmark for the season right before the championship. Like many other teams, the St. Anthony’s spring girls and boys track teams worked every day in advance to prepare for the invitational. Athletes focused on the upcoming events and worked tirelessly to make sure they would pre-form to the best of their abilities. The invitational has become a proud tradition of St. Anthony’s as it continues to strengthen St. Anthony’s presence in the sports world.

Junior Writer: Nicholas Tonno

QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

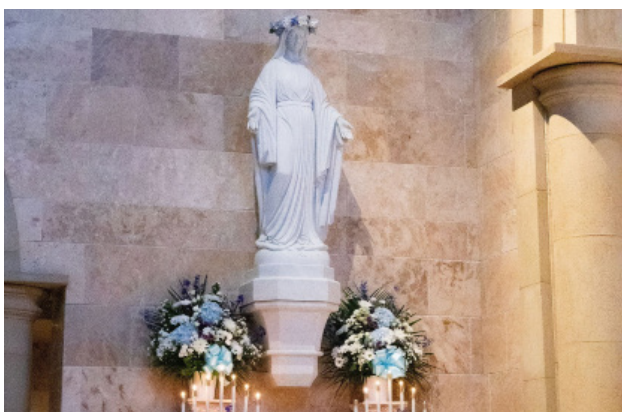
MAY BEGINS WITH TRADITIONAL CROWNING OF MARY

Sophomore Writer: Ashley Caiazza

On Tuesday, May 5, St. Anthony's High School celebrated the annual May Crowning, a meaningful Catholic tradition honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May. The celebration brought together students, faculty, and staff in prayer and reflection while continuing one of the school's longstanding traditions.

In the Catholic faith, the month of May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and the May Crowning serves as a way to honor her faith, humility, compassion, and devotion to God. Mary plays an important role in the Catholic Church because she is seen as a model of faith and obedience. We as Catholics admire Mary for her willingness to trust God and accept His plan, even during uncertain times. She is often viewed as a symbol of love, kindness, strength, and guidance. Throughout history, Catholics around the world have prayed to Mary for comfort and support, and many traditions within the Church are centered around honoring her.

The May Crowning is one of the most well-known Marian traditions and has been celebrated in Catholic schools and churches for generations. During the May Crowning ceremony, a flower crown is placed upon the statue of Mary in the Grotto at the side of our building. Flowers are used because they symbolize purity, beauty, and new life, all qualities that are associated with Mary. Crowning Mary as "Queen of Heaven" reminds Catholics of her special place within the Church and encourages members of the community to reflect on her example of faith and compassion.



The celebration at St. Anthony's began with a Holy Mass in the chapel. Students, faculty, and staff gathered together in prayer, creating a peaceful and reflective atmosphere. The Gregorian Schola sang throughout the Mass, adding to the beauty of the service through music and worship. Their singing helped create a sense of unity and made the ceremony even more meaningful for those in attendance. The readings and prayers focused on faith, gratitude, and the example Mary sets for the Catholic community. During the homily, students were reminded of the importance of kindness, humility, and trusting in God, values that Mary represents within the Catholic faith. The chapel was filled with a sense of reverence as students participated in the Mass together. Although the school year can often feel busy and

stressful, the ceremony gave everyone a chance to slow down and reflect. Many students appreciated the opportunity to come together as a community and take part in a tradition that has been celebrated at Saint Anthony's over the decades. The atmosphere throughout the service was calm and respectful, showing the strong faith community present at St. Anthony's.



After the Mass concluded, students, faculty, and staff processed outside to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on the side of the property. As the procession followed the cross and moved outdoors, hymns and prayers continued. Those present gathered around the statue while songs honoring Mary were sung. The highlight of the ceremony was the crowning of the statue of Mary. A flower crown was carefully placed on the statue's head, symbolizing honor, love, and devotion to the Blessed Mother. This moment was especially meaningful because it represented not only respect for Mary, but also the values of faith and community shared throughout St. Anthony's. As students watched the crowning take place, many reflected on the importance of faith within their own lives and within the school community as a whole.

The May Crowning is more than just a yearly school event. It is a reminder of the strong traditions and values that are central to Catholic education. The ceremony encourages students to reflect on qualities such as compassion, service, humility, and trust in God. It also highlights the importance of coming together as a faith community through prayer and worship.



This year's May Crowning was a beautiful and memorable celebration for everyone who attended. From the Mass in the chapel to the outdoor procession and crowning ceremony, the event reflected the strong spiritual traditions of St. Anthony's High School. The ceremony served as an important reminder of Mary's role within the Catholic Church and of the values that continue to guide the St. Anthony's community each day.

MULTICULTURAL

DAY

Junior Writer: Maya Williams

Every year St. Anthony's High School hosts its annual Multicultural day, a highly anticipated after school event. The event is designed to celebrate the diversity of cultures within our school halls. This event is ultimately a celebration of cultures which offers students with unique backgrounds an opportunity to share distinct elements of their heritage, traditions, and authentic cuisine. Such opportunities remind us as a student body we are diverse and full of many different perspectives.

Getting involved in this event is incredibly straightforward. Long before the day of the event, colorful posters are displayed around the school featuring a Google Classroom code; by joining this classroom students interested in being involved with a table can easily fill out an online form to specify the country they wish to represent and the particular food items they are willing to bring. This registration process also provides an amazing opportunity to meet other students who share the same culture. It creates an environment of collaboration and a sharing of cultures and experiences.



This year the event took place in the student center. There were twenty seven tables representing different countries from every corner of the globe. Each table was decorated in bright colors from different national flags. Some students chose to wear traditional clothing which contributed to an authentic feel in the representation of culture.

The atmosphere in the student center was nothing short of electric when the students arrived to learn about cultures and try new foods. Sounds began filling the room varying from laughing, conversations, and many different kinds of music. The tables each had their own speakers to share traditional songs and beats; my favorite being kompa from the Haiti table. Beyond sound the student center was filled with an aroma of spices, baked goods, and savory dishes.

This year instead of one performance there were two. Zsa-Zsa O'Brien, a sophomore, performed an Irish step dance wearing an intricately designed dress. After, the Step Team performed in their jerseys while wearing flags from their cultures. Both performances cultivated a great round of applause. Students from every grade were in attendance to learn about cultures and watch the performances.

The afternoon not only showed the diversity in our school, but gave students the ability to learn from their peers. This event set up the opportunity to learn and embrace other cultures. A Step Team performer and the Puerto Rico table head Annalissa Fuentes said "Running a table on multicultural day can be very stressful, but it is always worth it. You get to share what makes your culture special with the rest of Saint Anthony's community!"-- what a beautiful representation of what this event truly means to our school.

ART ON DISPLAY AT SPRING SHOW

HACKY SACK!

“Art opens up what is possible.”
Pope Leo XIV

Over two days in late April, students, faculty, and families gathered in celebration of creativity and talent at this year’s annual Spring Art Show, which transformed the school’s concourse hallways and art rooms into a vibrant showcase of imagination and artistic expression. The event featured countless of student-created works ranging from paintings and drawings to photography, sculpture, ceramics, and digital media.

Throughout the evening, visitors admired the impressive collection of artwork created by students from every grade level and artistic background. Each display highlighted the dedication, originality, and hard work that students invested throughout the school year. From detailed portraits and colorful paintings to innovative mixed-media pieces, the exhibition demonstrated the incredible range of artistic ability within the school community.

The Art Department worked for weeks preparing the exhibit, carefully arranging each piece to create a professional gallery atmosphere. Teachers praised students not only for their technical skills, but for expressing themselves through art. Visitors received meaningful glimpses into the ideas and emotions behind the students’ artwork. Family members and classmates gathered proudly around the displays, taking photos and congratulating the artists on their accomplishments.

Student musicians performed through-

out the event, creating an energetic and welcoming atmosphere that added to the celebration of the arts.

Attendance at the Art Show high, including of course Brother David, our principal, reflecting the continued support for the school’s fine arts programs. Many attendees commented on the professionalism of the exhibit and the extraordinary level of talent displayed by the students.



The annual Art Show once again proved to be more than just an exhibition — it was a celebration of creativity, dedication, and the importance of artistic expression within the school community. The show reflected the enduring value of the arts in our Franciscan education and the meaningful role creativity plays in enriching our school community. As guests departed for the evening, they left inspired by the remarkable work and passion of the student artists who made the event such a memorable success.

Freshman Writer: Juliana Carey

As I walk down the halls of St. Anthony’s I cannot get past countless groups of students in the halls, the Gym and the Student Center. The Hacky Sack craze has boys and girls tossing around a small sack with their feet during free periods since late Easter Break. Hacky Sack was a game started back in 1972 by Mike Marshall and John Stalberger. These two Americans got this idea from the Native American game quite similar to Hacky Sack that involves tossing and kicking a ball with their feet. This game originally was called “hacking the sack” which later developed into what we know it as today, Hacky Sack. This game caught the attention of many people because of how simple and fun it is to play.

From the looks of it St. Anthony’s has definitely become obsessed with this foot-bag game. With sacks of varying color, bounce, and size, all Hacky Sack games are different and each game a new experience. One trick many people use is when they balance the sack on their foot, back, or knee. Hacky Sack has become increasingly popular due to the no cell phone rule and has given students a new way to socialize. Fox5 News even came to interview students here at school playing hacky sack in the Gym at the height of its popularity. It allows students to branch out and discover a new hobby. There even has been a leaderboard posted to give schools a fun new game to compete with other schools in. They are socializing and staying active while doing it. Even though it may be hard to walk the halls of St. Anthony’s with all these Hacky sackers, these students are making great connections and having fun.

CHALLENGER CARNIVAL 2026

Junior Writer: Antoniette Uhler

An immense amount of energy filled the student center this past April as dozens of student volunteers and special needs children attended Saint Anthony’s annual *Challenger Carnival*. This event, initiated by Challenger Athletics, is designed for special needs children (ages 5-21), to bond with others, express their talents, and let out their energy! The carnival, followed by the Challenger Camps in the summer, is an event that both the participants and volunteers alike look forward to attending due to its inspiring atmosphere.

Founded in 2013 by Raymond Samson and the DeSimone brothers, Challenger Athletics serves to provide special needs children the opportunity to grow in physical activities through their mission of “independence, confidence, and self-esteem through socialization and non-competitive sports”. Their activities are hosted around the state in different locations such as schools and parks. However, the Challenger Carnival itself is hosted each year on Saint Anthony’s campus. Organized by the National Honor Society executive board and Mr. Washington, the Carnival included a broad variety of activities for the children. Bouncy houses, arts and crafts, a petting zoo... any activity that you can think of was present in the student center.

When the children arrived on campus, the Fathers’ Guild helped match them to a group of National Honor Society members. Once everyone said their hello’s, the children were off running! They were greeted with friendly faces all around, whether that had been from the volunteers, other

participants, or even Brother David who was walking around with an alpaca.



Though each child had their own interests, the day was pretty much the same for everyone. The bouncy houses attracted almost anyone. Certain ones had two entrances, which allowed the children to race against one another. Others had basketball hoops where the children could bounce as they dribbled. Right next to the bouncy houses were the football goals, so of course everyone went running there after. The children could choose to throw either footballs, beanbags, or frisbees into the goals. After they were tired with testing out their aim, they ran to the badminton nets and played on teams with their new found friends! These activities not only allowed the children to express themselves, but to meet new friends with similar interests and lifestyles. Soon after when everyone was tired, they headed down to the arts and crafts center in the fishbowl to color and get their face painted.

Though events like these positively affect the participants...they also serve as inspiration for the volunteers and over-all community. In our regular day-to-day life, it can be easy to be ignorant to certain issues such as this. If it doesn’t affect us

directly, we tend to overlook challenges like these. Being a part of events that are bigger than yourself truly lights an inspirational fire that encourages us to continue volunteering. Along with this, it left a lingering feeling of encouragement in the parents. At the carnival, parents are required to be present. Most choose to sit in the bleachers, and keep watch on their children in case anything was to happen. But of course, as any good parent does, they watched their child regardless if they needed the extra supervision or not. Seeing their child smile while interacting with others through a series of activities brought a smile to all their faces.



As the day wrapped up, the children and parents left the student center with big smiles on their faces, happy that they attended. A collective feeling of belonging filled the volunteers as they realized the impact they left on the children. After everything was cleaned up, there was still one thing that everyone was looking forward to... the Challenger Camps during the summer! The children will be able to come back to Saint Anthony’s and partake in all the same activities for multiple days throughout the entire summer. Needless to say, this year’s carnival was an overwhelming success.