

**PLAINFIELD ACADEMY FOR THE
ARTS AND ADVANCED STUDIES**

9th Commencement Ceremony

Class of

2022

Congratulations!

**JUNE 24, 2022
1:00 PM**



PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PAAAS ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Aurora J. Hill

Acting Principal

Ms. Brenda Noble

Acting Vice Principal

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Diana Mitchell

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Mark A. Williams

Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Rashon K. Hasan

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dr. Elizabeth Filippatos

Executive Director of Student Services

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Josely M. Castro, *President*
Mrs. Hanae Wyatt, *Vice President*
Mrs. Lynn Anderson-Person
Mr. Eric Andrews
Mrs. Willie P. Hembree
Ms. Carmencita Pile
Mrs. Sarah Virgo
Mr. Victor Webb
Mrs. Jacqueline D. Workman

SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

Christopher Godoy, *President*
Jasmine Hughes, *Vice President*
Zoe Sylvester, *Secretary*
Eva Woolard, *Secretary*
Xavier Francis, *Secretary*
Derick Aguirre, *Treasurer*

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM 2022

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POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

Ms. Sang Lee
Sir Edward Elgar, Amadeo Mariscal Lopez

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mr. Othell J. Miller

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Vocal Studio Seniors
Ms. Leah Getz, Director
"Star Spangled Banner"
Francis Scott Key

OPENING REMARKS

Mrs. Aurora J. Hill
Acting Principal

WELCOMING MESSAGE

Ms. Josely M. Castro
President, Plainfield Board of Education

PLAINFIELD CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Barry N. Goode
Council President

PAAAS ART PROJECT FEATURING SENIORS

Mr. Gregory Williams, Director
"Footprints"
Wayne Shorter

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

Eva Woolard

SALUTATORIAN ADDRESS

Nataly Zelaya Menjivar

PAAAS ART PROJECT FEATURING SENIORS

Mr. Gregory Williams, Director
"Moontrane"
Woody Shaw

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES AND DIPLOMAS

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS

Dr. Diana Mitchell

SENIOR VOCAL MEDLEY

Senior Vocal Studio
Ms. Leah Getz, Director
"The Climb", "I'll Always Remember You", "History"
Miley Cyrus, One Direction

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Brenda Noble
Acting Vice Principal

PAAAS FACULTY AND STAFF

Administration

Aurora J. Hill
Brenda Noble

Child Study Team

Rivca Zacharia

Custodial Staff

Bradley Brown
Roderick Drakeford
Karl Gregory
Vince Parks
Desmarie Thomas

Guidance

Lisa Bergamotto
Denise Krok
Tiana Mayes, S.W.

ELA

Taryn Aguirre
Vanita Bentley
Corey Carter
Allison Hartpence
Hayley Newman
John Pearson
Adriana Ramirez

Math

Chauncey Carter
Roger Cavallo
Amber Ho
Arlen Klinger
Keli Leunes
Changyun Liu

Nurse

Glen Johnstone

Performing Arts

Leah Getz
Kristina Horn
Sang Lee
Othell Miller
Gregory Williams

Physical Ed

Amy Mahler
Felix Romero
Edward Yapczenski

Science

Ava Dawn Clarke
Daniel Gold
Matthew Krywy
Aiswarya Mahadevan
Michael Pisani

Secretarial Staff

Revonda Christmas
Jeremy Lewis

Security

Ronnie Thomas
Renee Tucker

Social Studies

Nicholas Ahr
Scott Caffrey
Samantha Gueli
Francis Nelson
Joel Plummer

Special Education

Vincent Barracato
Joseph Clark

Teaching Assistants

Billie Ann Collins
Donald Davis
Lien Moysam
Quinta Whitaker

Technology

Rida Fugawala
Joey Panchenko
Gregory Thomas

TV Production

Paul D'Amico

Visual / Graphic Arts

Archana Kamani
Jennie Maxham

World Languages

Carol Afriyie
Marlon Mendoza-Rodriguez
Gloria Villaquiran



— CLASS OF 2022 —

Gisel Abarca Σ
Derick Aguirre $\alpha \Sigma \phi$
Stephanie Aliaga
Emily Alvarado Ruiz
Edwin Alvarenga
Lashae Barnett-Peters
Jadriel Beniquez α
Valery Beraud
Kelly Calderon $\alpha \Sigma$
Dilennis Cepeda
Bryan Chavez Σ
Maya Chavez Velazquez $\alpha \Sigma \phi$
Justin Chen ϕ
Steven Condezo Σ
Mirta Contreras Mejia $\Sigma \phi$
Nick Cruz $\Sigma \phi$
Dana Damacela $\alpha \Sigma$
Melqui Deleon-Calderon
Jennifer Diaz $\alpha \Sigma \phi$
Kayla Durden
Yaritza Escobar Σ
Omolara Falana $\alpha \delta \phi$
Xavier Francis
Mercy Galdamez
Janice Garcia Σ
Brinly Garcia Pineda α
Christopher Godoy $\alpha \delta \Sigma \phi$
Lizbeth Gonzalez Pilataxi $\alpha \Sigma$
Edith Guadarrama $\alpha \Sigma \phi \gamma$
Jennifer Guallpa Paguay $\alpha \Sigma \phi$
Brayan Guardado Castro Σ
Simone Harris
Elizabeth Hillhouse
Jasmine Hughes $\alpha \phi$
Angela Jimenez Σ
Brandon Johnson
Leon Jones
Kennedy Law α

Oswaldo Lopez
Lailah Lopresti
Keyry Luna Castro
Daniel Marin Martinez Σ
Jennipher Menendez
Emely Montesdeoca Arequipa $\alpha \Sigma$
Shaniah Murrell
Angel Nolasco Rosales $\alpha \Sigma$
Jose Nolasco Rosales $\alpha \Sigma$
Dana Oliva $\alpha \delta \Sigma \phi$
Angelo Ortega
Wilian Ortiz Orellana Σ
Isabela Paredes
Tamyra Pettiford α
Solange Portal $\alpha \Sigma$
Joceline Portillo $\alpha \Sigma \phi$
Jonathan Ramirez
Yeimy Rivera Lopez $\alpha \Sigma$
Gabriela Rivera Martinez $\alpha \Sigma \gamma$
Romerci Rosario
Bilal Rose
Makari Slaughter
Micah Solomon α
Jennifer Supe Palan Σ
Zoe Sylvester δ
Genevieve Terry
Khouidia Thiaw
Timothy Tolentino Σ
Daniela Vargas α
Jose Vargas Σ
Jasmine Villalta Orellana $\alpha \Sigma$
Dyana Watkins
Efae Wheeler Faulks
Tristen Williams
Eva Woolard $\alpha \phi$
Brianna Yarde α
Karoline Zabaleta Garzon α
Nataly Zelaya Menjivar $\alpha \Sigma \phi$

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KEY

α National Honor Society

Σ Seal of Bilteracy

γ National Honor Society for Dance Arts

δ Rutgers Upward Bound

ϕ National Student Clearing House

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



To the PAAAS Graduating Class of 2022:

Congratulations to you for reaching this very significant milestone in your life! The last 12 years have flown by like lightning. I am positive many of you remember the first day of school, when your parents dropped you off in Pre-K or Kindergarten. For some of you, the high school years will be remembered as the “best-time” of your life. For others, the high school years will be viewed as a time of growth, strength, and opportunity. Google Classroom, Schoology and Zoom will forever be etched into your mind as a new way of learning and receiving information. During your five- ten- or twenty-year class reunion, you will always reminisce about how you survived the COVID-19 years and how the world was forced to change its daily norms.

You now carry a new responsibility as an alumnus - representing the Plainfield Public Schools Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies. It is truly an honor to graduate from one of the U. S. News and World Report Best High Schools.

Graduation is only one of the finish lines you will cross in life. There are even greater opportunities ahead. Several of you chose to continue your education at some of the finest colleges and universities. A few of you chose to serve our country in the military. Several of you chose entrepreneurship to offer unique products and services and a few will choose to begin your careers as skilled professionals. No matter what path you chose: set your next your goal on the finish line and take the necessary steps to plan and finish strong. Most importantly, seek counsel from coaches and mentors who have forged pathways ahead of you.

For those of you who will leave Plainfield upon graduation, I wish you all the best life has to offer! Explore the world and everything “good” it has to offer. The world is your playground; go play in it! You deserve the best! Plainfield will be waiting for you when you return.

Congratulations graduates and looking forward to seeing you on Broadway!

Dr. Diana Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools

A Champion for Students

MENSAJE DEL SUPERINTENDENTE

A la Clase Graduanda de PAAAS de 2022:

¡Felicitaciones por alcanzar este hito tan importante en sus vidas! Los últimos 12 años han pasado volando tan rápido como un rayo. Estoy segura de que muchos de ustedes recuerdan el primer día de clases, cuando sus padres los dejaron en Pre-K o Kindergarten. Para algunos de ustedes, los años de la escuela secundaria los recordarán como el "mejor momento" de su vida. Para otros, los años de la escuela secundaria serán vistos como una época de crecimiento, fortaleza y oportunidad. Google Classroom, Schoology y Zoom quedarán grabados en sus mentes por siempre como una nueva forma de aprender y recibir información. Durante su reunión de clase dentro de cinco, diez o veinte años, siempre recordarán cómo sobrevivieron los años de COVID-19 y cómo el mundo se vio obligado a cambiar sus normas diarias.

Ahora tiene una nueva responsabilidad como ex alumno: representar a la Academia de Artes y Estudios Avanzados de las Escuelas Públicas de Plainfield. Es un verdadero honor graduarse de una de las mejores escuelas secundarias, de acuerdo al U. S. News and World Report.

La graduación es solo una de las metas que cruzarán ustedes en la vida. Hay oportunidades aún mayores por delante. Varios de ustedes eligieron continuar su educación en algunos de los mejores colegios y universidades. Algunos de ustedes eligieron servir a nuestro país en el ejército. Varios de ustedes eligieron el espíritu empresarial para ofrecer productos y servicios únicos y algunos elegirán comenzar sus carreras como profesionales. No importa el camino que elijas: establece tu próxima meta en esa trayectoria de metas y tome las medidas necesarias para planificar y terminar con fuerza. Lo más importante es buscar el consejo de entrenadores y mentores que han abierto tu camino.

¡Para aquellos de ustedes que dejarán Plainfield después de graduarse, les deseo todo lo mejor que la vida tiene para ofrecer! Explora el mundo y todo lo "bueno" que te ofrece. El mundo es tu patio de recreo; ¡ive a jugar en él! ¡Te mereces lo mejor! Plainfield te estará esperando cuando regreses.

¡Felicitaciones a los graduandos y espero verlos en Broadway!

Dra. Diana Mitchell, Superintendente de Escuelas

¡Una campeona de estudiantes!

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Abarca, Gisel	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Aguirre, Derick	<i>New Jersey Institute of Technology</i>
Aliaga, Stephanie S	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Alvarado Ruiz, Emily A	<i>Plainfield Rescue Squad & Union County College</i>
Alvarenga, Edwin G	<i>Work Force</i>
Barnett-Peters, Lashae D	<i>Ramapo College of New Jersey</i>
Beniquez, Jadriel	<i>North Carolina A&T</i>
Beraud, Valery	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Calderon, Kelly N	<i>Montclair State University</i>
Cepeda, Dilennis	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Chavez, Bryan J	<i>Rutgers University - Newark</i>
Chavez Velazquez, Maya	<i>Montclair State University</i>
Chen, Justin	<i>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</i>
Condezo, Steven	<i>Work Force</i>
Contreras Mejia, Mirta L	<i>Ramapo College of New Jersey</i>
Cruz, Nick J	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Damacela, Dana M	<i>New Jersey City University</i>
Deleon-Calderon, Melqui	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Diaz, Jennifer L	<i>Middlesex Community College</i>
Durden, Kayla J	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Escobar, Yaritza L	<i>Union County College</i>
Falana, Omolara H	<i>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</i>
Francis, Xavier C	<i>Union County College</i>
Galdamez, Mercy	<i>Middlesex County College</i>
Garcia, Janice J	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Garcia Pineda, Brinly Y	<i>Union County College Honors Program</i>
Godoy, Christopher	<i>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</i>
Gonzalez Pilataxi, Lizbeth A	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Guadarrama, Edith	<i>Rutgers University - Newark</i>
Guallpa Paguay, Jennifer	<i>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</i>
Guardado Castro, Brayan A	<i>Stockton University</i>
Harris, Simone L	<i>Clark Atlanta University</i>
Hillhouse, Elizabeth	<i>Work Force</i>
Hughes, Jasmine D	<i>Hampton University</i>
Jimenez, Angela J	<i>Orange Coast College</i>
Johnson, Brandon A	<i>Ocean County Community College</i>
Jones, Leon Z	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Law, Kennedy E	<i>Prairie View A&M University</i>

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Lopez, Oswaldo J	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Lopresti, Lailah	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Luna Castro, Keyry Y	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Marin Martinez, Daniel	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Menendez, Jennipher N	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Montesdeoca Arequipa, Emely	<i>Work Force</i>
Murrell, Shaniah A	<i>Lincoln Technical Institute</i>
Nolasco Rosales, Angel J	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Nolasco Rosales, Jose E	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Oliva, Dana V	<i>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</i>
Ortega, Angelo E	<i>Work Force</i>
Ortiz Orellana, Wilian	<i>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</i>
Paredes, Isabela A	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Pettiford, Tamyra D	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Portal, Solange D	<i>Rutgers University - Camden</i>
Portillo, Joceline V	<i>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</i>
Ramirez, Jonathan J	<i>Work Force</i>
Rivera Lopez, Yeimy J	<i>Middlesex County College</i>
Rivera Martinez, Gabriela E	<i>Rutgers University - Newark</i>
Rosario, Romerci	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Rose, Bilal N	<i>United States Marine Corps</i>
Slaughter, Makari S	<i>The New School</i>
Solomon, Micah K	<i>Montclair State University</i>
Supé Palan, Jennifer N	<i>Union County College</i>
Sylvester, Zoe M	<i>Delaware State University</i>
Terry, Genevieve M	<i>Kean University</i>
Thiaw, Khoudia	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Tolentino, Timothy J	<i>Kean University</i>
Vargas, Daniela E	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Vargas, Jose J	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Villalta Orellana, Jasmine M	<i>Saint Peter's University</i>
Watkins, Dyana N	<i>Montclair State University</i>
Wheeler Faulks, Efae J	<i>Union County College - Cranford</i>
Williams, Tristen R	<i>Jackson State University</i>
Woolard, Eva M	<i>Drew University</i>
Yarde, Brianna A	<i>Caldwell University</i>
Zabaleta Garzon, Karoline	<i>Raritan Valley Community College</i>
Zelaya Menjivar, Nataly M	<i>Rutgers University - New Brunswick</i>

PAAAS SENIOR AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH NATALY ZELAYA MENJIVAR
MOST IMPROVED JOCELINE PORTILLO

EXCELLENCE IN ACCOUNTING WILIAN ORTIZ ORELLANA
MOST IMPROVED LASHAE BARNETT-PETERS

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE JUSTIN CHEN
MOST IMPROVED ANGELA JIMENEZ

EXCELLENCE IN PHYSICS JUSTIN CHEN & NATALY ZELAYA MENJIVAR
MOST IMPROVED DERICK AGUIRRE & CHRISTOPHER GODOY

EXCELLENCE IN AP U.S. HISTORY CHRISTOPHER GODOY

EXCELLENCE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION JUSTIN CHEN
MOST IMPROVED BRYAN CHAVEZ

EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH NATALY ZELAYA MENJIVAR
MOST IMPROVED TIMOTHY TOLENTINO & JASMINE VILLALTA ORELLANA

EXCELLENCE IN SPANISH DERICK AGUIRRE & WILIAN ORTIZ ORELLANA
MOST IMPROVED DANIEL MARIN MARTINEZ

EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE & ECONOMICS JUSTIN CHEN
MOST IMPROVED BRAYAN GUARDADO CASTRO

EXCELLENCE IN DANCE EDITH GUADARRAMA & GABRIELA RIVERA MARTINEZ
MOST IMPROVED ISABELA PAREDES

EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS MAYA CHAVEZ VELAZQUEZ, STEVEN CONDEZO,
JENNIFER GUALLPA PAGUAY, SOLANGE PORTAL, NATALY ZELAYA MENJIVAR
MOST IMPROVED KAROLINE ZABALETA GARZON

EXCELLENCE IN GRAPHIC ARTS NICK CRUZ
MOST IMPROVED GISEL ABARCA

EXCELLENCE IN PIANO DERICK AGUIRRE
MOST IMPROVED OSWALDO LOPEZ & DANA OLIVA

EXCELLENCE IN THEATER JADRIEL BENIQUEZ
MOST IMPROVED MAKARI SLAUGHTER

EXCELLENCE IN TV PRODUCTION EMILY ALVARADO RUIZ, CHRISTOPHER GODOY,
JOCELINE PORTILLO & DYANA WATKINS
MOST IMPROVED LEON JONES

EXCELLENCE IN VOCAL MUSIC BRINLY GARCIA PINEDA & BRANDON JOHNSON
MOST IMPROVED JASMINE VILLALTA ORELLANA

EXCELLENCE IN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC JUSTIN CHEN & KENNEDY LAW
MOST IMPROVED MICAH SOLOMON

EXCELLENCE IN ROBOTICS WILIAN ORTIZ ORELLANA & EYA WOOLARD
MOST IMPROVED OMOLARA FALANA & KHOUDIA THIAW

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD GENEVIEVE TERRY & MAYA CHAVEZ VELAZQUEZ

**“WE ALL TAKE
DIFFERENT
PATHS IN
LIFE, BUT
NO MATTER
WHERE WE
GO, WE TAKE
A LITTLE OF
EACH OTHER
EVERYWHERE.”**

-TIM MCGRAW

PAAAS

**PLAINFIELD ACADEMY FOR THE
ARTS & ADVANCED STUDIES**



*Unify
Persevere
Create*