

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



**THERE IS ONLY
ONE!**

Dear Prospective Student,

The choice of a high school is probably one of the most difficult decisions you have had to make in your life to date. There are so many good schools, numerous fine programs and countless opportunities. How are you to make this choice? Information is the key. The more you come to know about a particular school, the better able you will be to discover which one will be the best for you.

We have produced this booklet to help you become acquainted with *The Roman Catholic High School*. There is only one Roman. Founded in 1890, Roman is the oldest diocesan high school in the United States and has been providing an outstanding education for young men ever since. Only at Roman will you meet students from every neighborhood and section of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. Over 170 different elementary schools are now represented in our diverse student body. This includes students from Catholic, public, charter and private elementary schools as well as homeschool students. No matter where you are from, no matter your background, every student is welcomed here at RCHS!

Only at Roman will you find a program that prepares so many for college. Over 96 percent of our students attend some of the most prestigious local colleges and universities as well as those from throughout the nation. If you are college bound – Roman would be the school for you!

Examine our co-curricular and extra-curricular programs. Only at Roman will you find 17 varsity sports teams. From wrestling to crew, from rugby to bowling, from swimming to lacrosse, Roman teams are well-coached, competitive and a force to be reckoned with! Only at Roman will talented musicians and singers find a home to develop their talents and hone their skills. Our programs are widely recognized for their quality and high level of performance. Community service opportunities abound at Roman. Helping the poor and elderly, defending life, and improving the environment, Roman students are committed to creating a better world.

Every student wants to make new friends, be challenged, experience innovative programs and achieve their dreams. Only at Roman is all this possible. Roman is a very special place to spend your high school years. So, ask questions, examine our course offerings, and review our sports and activities. The more information you gather, the quicker you will come to know, there is only one Roman Catholic High School – and you belong here!



Father Bongard

Rev. Joseph W. Bongard '77
President/Rector



Our Founder

Thomas E. Cahill was born on May 27, 1828 to immigrant parents. Although he possessed promising academic potential, Cahill was not able to continue his formal education past the 6th grade level. Times were tough, and Thomas' family needed him to work to assist with household expenses.

Demonstrating a remarkable entrepreneurial spirit, Cahill would go on to found several small businesses, eventually establishing the Knickerbocker Coal & Ice Company. With drive, commitment and determination, Cahill's hard work eventually paid off. He and his wife, Sophia, became exceedingly prosperous.

After his death at the young age of 50, Thomas Cahill bequeathed his entire fortune for the establishment and endowment of The Roman Catholic High School. It was Cahill's wish that no young man would ever be deprived of a values-based, high school education as he was. As Thomas and Sophia were not blessed with children, students of Roman Catholic have always been known as "Cahillites" – that is, Sons of Cahill.

Our Mission

Founded by Thomas E. Cahill in 1890 as the first free Diocesan high school for boys in the nation, Roman Catholic continues its tradition of excellence as it strives to offer a comprehensive academic curriculum within a disciplined Catholic environment. Enriched by its cultural, racial, and religious diversity, Roman Catholic provides a community where each young man can learn to appreciate and respect the uniqueness of others, while becoming a man of personal integrity. Roman Catholic High School strives to bring the Gospel values of Jesus Christ to its students, while forming a Catholic community which embodies the Christian spirit of service to all.



THERE IS ONLY ONE!



Construction of The Roman Catholic High School began in the summer of 1886 on the corner of Broad & Vine Streets. Many Civil War veterans labored for the next four years crafting a building that would become the first, free diocesan high school in the nation. When it finally opened in 1890, Roman Catholic was almost immediately recognized as a unique and special place. Now, for well over a century, Roman Catholic High School has been providing a rigorous, engaging Catholic education to young men from throughout the Delaware Valley.



Located in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, Roman is a true regional Catholic high school, not a neighborhood school, but rather, a school of neighborhoods. In this diverse environment, Roman provides a quality, college preparatory education to students with high expectations.

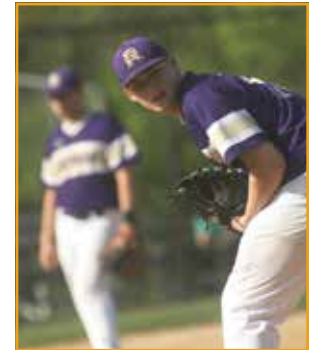
The numerous athletic programs, along with a wide range of extra and co-curricular activities, allow students to explore, expand and grow into well-rounded young men. Roman students form a true brotherhood that is unrivaled. As they experience our history and prepare for their future, students develop a unique sense of pride as they prominently display the colors of Purple and Gold.

Once a student becomes a part of this great legacy and tradition of excellence, he quickly comes to understand there is only one... Roman Catholic High School.



There is only one:

- First diocesan Catholic high school in the country.
- Catholic high school in Center City Philadelphia for boys.
- School that has a dedicated fine and performing arts building.
- School that has students from 90 different zip codes.
- School that is located within walking distance of Reading Terminal, City Hall, Independence Hall, and much more!
- School with a field on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.
- School with a partnership with La Salle University Scholars Program.
- School with a partnership with Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Kimmel Center, Philly Pops and Museum of the American Revolution.
- School that has students traveling by bus, subway, trolley, train, regional rail, car and Uber!
- School building that is historically certified.
- School that offers six World Languages, using a state-of-the art World Language Lab.
- School to have their Mock Trial teams win all major tournaments in one year: University of Pennsylvania, La Salle University, and University of Pittsburgh and the City Championship!
- School that arranges internships with Center City law firms, real estate companies and the District Attorney's Office.



There is only one... Roman Education

Since it first opened, Roman Catholic High School has been paving the way for secondary education in the Philadelphia region. Roman provides a college preparatory curriculum for all students, regardless of their academic level. With creativity and high expectations, Roman creates an environment where students can dream big dreams and craft an individual path to success. Only at Roman are students truly challenged in and out of the classroom to develop into life-long learners. By the time of graduation, Roman students have acquired the training and skills necessary to thrive and flourish in college life and beyond.

Roman is accredited by the State of Pennsylvania and the Middle States Association Commissions on Secondary Schools

On average, **96%** of Roman graduates attend post-secondary institutions

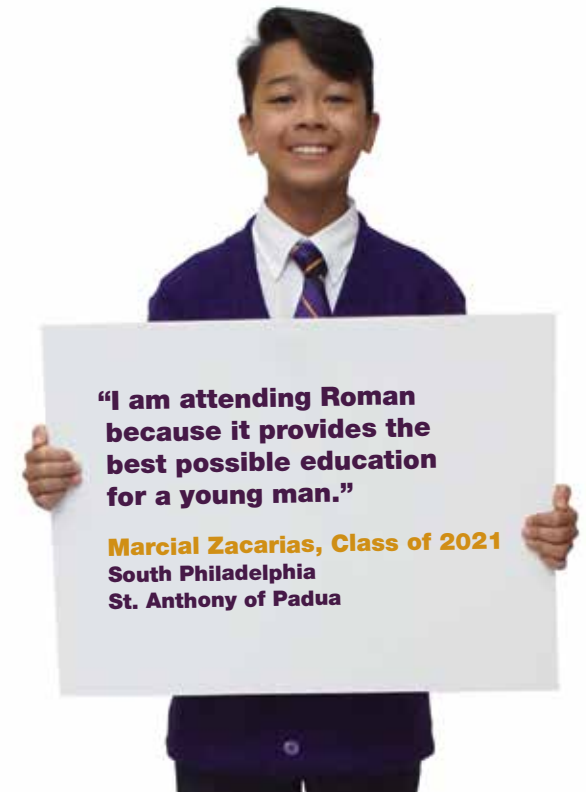
Roman offers **9 Advanced Placement courses**, including AP Psychology which has had a 100 percent passing rate for 12 years, and **33 Honors courses**

In recent years, the graduating classes of Roman Catholic have averaged **\$22 million** in college grants and scholarships



Roman offers **six world languages** and four years of art and music classes

Over the past four years, Roman has had a total of **30 perfect scores** on the National Latin Exam



"I am attending Roman because it provides the best possible education for a young man."

Marcial Zacarias, Class of 2021
South Philadelphia
St. Anthony of Padua



Electives

In addition to our core-curriculum, Roman offers many diverse and intriguing electives for our students to become truly well-rounded individuals.

English: Advanced Placement Language & Composition, Advanced Placement Literature & Composition, Critical Reading & Composition, SAT Prep Course

World Languages: Spanish, French, Italian, Latin, Ancient Greek and Mandarin Chinese

Science & Health: Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Physics I, Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, Environmental Science, Engineering, Introduction to Sports Medicine, Physics

Business: Computer Programming, Financial Fitness for Life, Accounting I, Coding, Business Economics, Business Law, Entrepreneurship, Information Technology

Art: Advanced Placement Studio Art, Studio Art I through IV, PAFA Program, Digital Photography

Music: Music I through IV, Choral Music I through IV

Social Studies: Advanced Placement American History, Advanced Placement Comparative Government, American Government, Introduction to Psychology, Advanced Placement Psychology, Comparative Government

Mathematics: Advanced Placement Calculus, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, SAT Prep Course

Undergraduate: Several intro college credit courses taken at La Salle University

68% of our AP students over the last five years have recorded a passing score (the worldwide average is 61%)



"I chose Roman to gain the greatest high school experience I could possibly imagine."

Joshua Artis, Class of 2020
New Castle, Delaware
St. Francis de Sales



"The one word I would use to describe Roman is family. I feel at home here."

Ryan Frank, Class of 2020
Mayfair, Northeast Philadelphia
St. Matthew



"My experience at Roman has been remarkable. I've had incredible opportunities to do things that I wouldn't have had at any other school and that's made my experience truly unique."

Daniel Kleinkurt, Class of 2019
Fox Chase, Northeast Philadelphia
St. Cecilia

Faculty

Roman's faculty embraces the following mantra: "personal responsibility." They expect a great deal from their students personally, academically, and spiritually. Roman teachers play an integral role in the lives of their students, always being available to assist them. Only at Roman, are teachers simultaneously friends and mentors, creating lessons that are engaging, exciting and thought-provoking. The faculty is comprised of more than 50 seasoned and professional educators.

RCHS faculty by the numbers:



There is only one... Roman Athletic Experience

Roman has a long-standing reputation for excellence in athletics. Over the years, the athletic program has grown to now include every sport the Philadelphia Catholic League offers, from baseball to volleyball. Roman has a program for all types of athletes. We offer 17 varsity sports and, including freshman and JV levels, we field a total of 35 teams!

For Roman, the city forms our campus and that is reflected with our athletic facilities being located throughout Philadelphia, from River Field next to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to Boyce Field in Roxborough to FDR Park in South Philadelphia. Only at Roman can a student-athlete truly develop as a young man physically, mentally and socially while fostering a sense of independence that is critical to future success.

- In 2018, the basketball team won the Philadelphia Catholic League and the State Championship finishing nationally ranked at 26!
- Roman is the only high school in the Philadelphia Archdiocese to offer every league sport!



105

Roman Championships

71

Philadelphia
Catholic League Championships

12

City
Championships

3

State
Championships

Since 1890

The Cahillites have Won:



9

Football
Championships



5

Bowling
Championships



63

Basketball
Championships



6

Baseball
Championships

Roman reigns supreme

- In 2016, Roman won three PCL Championships: Soccer, Basketball and Crew.
- In 2017, Bowling won the PCL Championship!
- In 2018, a Roman wrestler placed 7th in the PIAA State Tournament.
- Roman's 4x100 track team had the 3rd best time in the state two years in a row.
- In 2018, the indoor 4x200 relay team won the PCL Championship.
- The outdoor track 4x100 and 4x800 relay teams both won the PCL Championship in 2018.
- Roman's soccer team has competed in four consecutive PCL Championship games, winning it all in 2016.
- 55% of our student body is involved in athletics.

Sports

Baseball	Golf	Soccer
Basketball	Ice Hockey	Swimming
Bowling	Indoor Track & Field	Tennis
Crew	Lacrosse	Volleyball
Cross Country	Outdoor Track & Field	Wrestling
Football	Rugby	

Intramural Sports

Basketball
Soccer
Ultimate Frisbee



**THERE IS ONLY
ONE!**



5 Track & Field
Championships



6 Ice Hockey
Championships



5 Swimming
Championships



2 Soccer
Championships



4 Crew
Championships

There is only one... Extracurricular Roman Experience

Along with competitive athletic programs, Roman offers a wide array of extracurricular activities. Students, who get involved make new friends, learn new skills and make a difference in the lives of others. In the Cultural Clubs, students learn about different customs and traditions. In service organizations, students engage the elderly, young children and the less fortunate, helping to bring joy and happiness to their lives. Whether it is writing an article for the school e-newspaper or literary magazine, representing the school as a student ambassador, acting in a musical or serving Mass at the Cathedral, only at Roman can you be exposed to so many opportunities to learn and grow. At Roman, every student is expected to get involved and is challenged to use and develop their talents, to become active and engaged in the life of the school.



In 2018, Roman's music department performed in Walt Disney World.



In 2018, students traveled to the United Kingdom for summer break.



Extracurricular Activities

- Ambassadors
- Asian Cultures Club
- A.S.I.S.T. (Alumni-Student Intergenerational Service Team)
- Aspira
- Band
- Big Brothers
- Chess Club
- Community Service Corps
- Dances (Homecoming, Soph Hop, etc.)
- Intramurals
- Italian Club
- Jr. AOH
- Literary Magazine
- Mock Trial
- National Honors Society
- Pro-Life Club
- Roman Robotics
- SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
- School E-Newspaper – *The Cahillite*
- Student Council
- Technology Club
- Television Studio
- World Affairs Club
- Yearbook



Technology Club



Television Studio

Religious Activities

- Service Programs
- Daily Mass
- First Friday Mass
- Grief Group
- Kairos Retreat (Seniors)
- Peer Ministry
- Penance Services
- Rosary Club
- Spiritual/Personal Counseling
- Underclassmen Retreats
- Vocation Discernment



THERE IS ONLY ONE!



Roman's nationally ranked Mock Trial team has won five consecutive City Championship and have been State Finalists four times!



Chess Club



Community Service Corps

There is only one... Howard Center for the Arts



In November of 2015, Roman Catholic High School announced the Vision of Promise Campaign – a four-phased, \$25 million, transformational initiative to provide innovative programs and updated facilities for our students. This new reimagined 21st Century campus, designed for a 21st Century education, focuses on the original school building, in continuous use since 1890.

The Howard Center for the Arts fulfilled Phase 1 of the Vision of Promise master plan. Located just off the Avenue of the Arts – North, The Howard Center provides space for Roman's Fine and Performing Arts programs. The Center hosts rehearsal space for music and choral students, along with private, individual lesson rooms. Included in the Center, are dedicated choral and ceramic studios, along with classroom space for drama and mixed media. Space is also allotted for a Computer-Aided Design (CAD) lab and a Digital Photography classroom. A major component of the design is the creation of a small Black Box Theatre. All of the Performing Arts, Music, Choral, and Drama Programs practice, perform, and exhibit their artistic works in this intimate setting. Advanced technologies are integrated throughout the Howard Center. Only at Roman will students be provided with the latest supports for developing and refining their artistic abilities. With construction completed in the Summer of 2018, The Howard Center was dedicated and opened in September 2018.



Ceramics Classroom



Digital Lab



Main entrance to the Howard Center for the Arts



Rendering of the main corridor of The Howard Center for the Arts.



Band Room



Black Box Theater

There is only one... School in the Center of it All!

All Roads lead to Roman

Only at Roman do students travel to school from all over the Delaware Valley, which gives Catholic High a rich geographic diversity. Located in the center of Philadelphia, Roman is accessible from all areas of the city and surrounding counties by way of mass transit: bus, subway, El and Regional Rail. All SEPTA, PATCO and NJ Transit lines are within walking distance of the campus. For many students, arranging their own travel is a part of the maturation process in growing from a boy to a young man. Undoubtedly, Roman is a true destination. Students attend Roman not because they have to, but because they want to! With all this, Roman has a unique student population that is diverse, committed and self-reliant.

Only at Roman...is the City your campus

Roman's location is prime for after school activities involving art, music, food, sports and social events. Only at Roman is learning and living beyond the classroom taken to a new level due to our close proximity to Philadelphia landmarks and educational institutions such as the Franklin Institute, National Constitution Center, Reading Terminal Market, The Barnes Foundation and so many more. Roman has established educational partnerships with the Drexel School of Medicine at Hahnemann Hospital, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Museum of the American Revolution affording students opportunities in advanced science and art offerings. The Purple and Gold is a familiar sight on Center City streets as students explore and learn in the City of Brotherly Love!



"Being in the city helps me to be independent. Every morning, it is my responsibility to get myself to school by way of the train and every afternoon I have to get myself home."

Sean Hamilton, Class of 2020

"Since starting at Roman, I have been exposed to so many different people, ideas and ways of living."

Anthony Kafel, Class of 2020



**THERE IS ONLY
ONE!**

There is only one... Roman Tradition

Now it is your time to learn just how there is only one...Roman Catholic High School!

The best way to experience the uniqueness of Roman is to plan a visit to our campus. You can schedule a shadow day to understand what a typical day is like for a student at Broad and Vine. You and your family should plan to attend events such as our Open House, Student Discovery Day, and/or Visitation Day. Roman students display their talents in concerts, Fine Arts Festivals as well as numerous sporting events. You and your family are most welcome to attend and witness our Cahillites in action. The more you learn about Roman, the more you experience our history, and meet our students, the quicker you will come to understand there is Only One Roman Catholic High School. We welcome you to become part of the Roman community!

Roman students are some of the hardest working young men in all of the Delaware Valley. They rise early and get home late after long, active and engaging days throughout Roman's expansive urban campus. Whether learning in the classroom, competing on the court, cheering in the stands, performing on the stage or giving back to the underprivileged, Roman students put their best effort forward and always display a great sense of Roman "pride." After four formative years at Roman, our students are attending some of the finest colleges and universities both locally and from across the nation. When at Roman you will know that your present and future is very bright!

We want you to join our Roman brotherhood and learn that only at Roman can you truly reach your full potential! We look forward to meeting you soon!



"My years at Roman were very formative and I learned a lot about myself. Through attending Roman, I developed a strong character, long-lasting friendships, and a great sense of humor."

Matthew Anticoli, RCHS Class of 2016
Cornell University, Class of 2020,
Majoring in Sociology
Neighborhood: Abington, Pennsylvania
Grade School: Our Lady Help of Christians



"Going to Roman helped me develop my sense of self and become more outgoing. I came into high school very shy but through Roman's extracurricular activities and community, I learned to come out of my shell and become more comfortable with myself."

Anthony Nguyen, RCHS Class of 2015
Stanford University, Class of 2019
Majoring in Chemical Engineering
Neighborhood: South Philadelphia
Grade School: Sacred Heart of Jesus School



"Roman had some of the most dedicated and passionate faculty members that I've ever encountered. Their kind nature gave me a deeper respect for those teaching me that I still draw on in my college career. Roman also taught me a great deal about diversity and how to thrive in an environment where no one can really relate to my story and vice versa. It really gave me a new outlook on life and the world around me."

Raushaun Williams, RCHS Class of 2015
Drexel University, Class of 2020
Majoring in Biological sciences
with a minor in Neuroscience
Neighborhood: West Philadelphia
Grade School: Our Lady of Lourdes

There is only one... Pathway to Success

Colleges and Universities that Roman graduates are currently attending:

University of Akron
University of Alabama
Albright College
Alvonia University
American University
Arcadia University
Bentley University
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Boston University
Bucks County Community College
Cabrini University
California University of Pennsylvania
The Catholic University of America
Centenary University
Century Community and Technical College
Chestnut Hill College
University of Chicago
Christendom College
Christopher Newport University
The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina
Clarion University
Clemson University
Community College of Philadelphia
Cornell University
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley College
University of Delaware
DeSales University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Eastern University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Full Sail University
Furman University
Gannon University
The George Washington University
Georgetown University
Gwynedd Mercy University
Hampton University
University of Hartford
Hawaii Pacific University
Hofstra University
Holy Family University
Howard University
Immaculata University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Iona College
James Madison University
John Paul the Great Catholic University
Kean University
Kent State University
Keystone College
King's College
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
La Salle University
Le Moyne College
Lebanon Valley College
Lehigh University
Lewis University
Liberty University
Lincoln University
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Loyola University Maryland
Lycoming College
Manor College
Marquette University
University of Mary Washington
University of Maryland
Marywood University
Mercer County Community College
Mercyhurst University
Merrimack College
University of Miami
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Minnesota State University
Misericordia University
Monmouth University
Montclair State University
Montgomery County Community College
Moravian College
Morgan State University
Mount Saint Mary's University
Neumann University
New England College
The College of New Jersey
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina Central University
Norwich University
University of Notre Dame
Ohio State University
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia University
University of Pittsburgh
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

University of Richmond
Rider University
Rosemont College
Rowan University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
University of San Diego
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Leo University
Saint Peter's University
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
The University of Scranton
Seton Hall University
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern Maine
Spring Hill College
Stanford University
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
St. Cloud State University
St. John's University
SUNY College
Susquehanna University
The University of Tampa
Temple University
Trinity College
Trinity University of Asia
Tulane University
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy
Unity College
The University of the Arts
Ursinus College
Valley Forge Military College
University of Vermont
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic University and State University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Union University
Washington College
Washington and Jefferson College
Wayne County Community College
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
West Virginia University
Western New England University
Wheeling Jesuit University
Widener University
Williamson College of the Trades
Youngstown State University
York College of Pennsylvania



For additional information, contact:

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