

Empowering young women since 1927

TEPEYAC TIMES

· OPPORTUNITY · UNITY · SERVICE · EXCELLENCE ·

VALEDICTORIAN, EILEEN LIMON

On the morning of Friday, May 8th, one of our seniors was featured on a segment of WBEZ. Eileen is this year's Class of 2020 Valedictorian. We are so proud of Eileen. She worked hard, dedicated herself and has blossomed over her four years at Tepeyac.

It wasn't always easy for Eileen. At nearly four years old, Eileen Limon wasn't talking at all. And when her mother would call her by name, Eileen wouldn't respond. The Chicago girl had just been diagnosed with autism, and it wasn't clear what lay ahead. Her unique story has inspired so many. After her interview with WBEZ, other television stations like ABC7 and Univision began to reach out to interview Eileen. Her story has been shared on many social media platforms to encourage others. Eileen also had the opportunity to be a part of Chicago's first ever virtual graduation ceremony.

Eileen is a perfect example of a Tepeyac girl with an "Everything is Possible" attitude! This fall she will be attending Lawrence University. There is no doubt that she will accomplish whatever she sets her mind to.



PARKING LOT BACCALAUREATE

On Saturday, May 23rd we celebrated our Class of 2020 with a beautiful parking lot Baccalaureate ceremony. The celebration was FANTASTIC and our seniors really enjoyed themselves. We had great weather, great decorations, cars decorated and some of our neighbors even came out to cheer on the soon to be graduates. The seniors enjoyed seeing each other and their teachers, hearing the Valedictorian and Salutatorian speeches and receiving their many awards and medals including a special token, a personalized lawn sign. Some of the seniors even safely posed for quick photos. This senior class is the first class to celebrate Baccalaureate from our parking lot, in such a special way, under these circumstances.

We are so proud of this senior class not only for this achievement but for persevering as they finished their year in an unprecedented way. We are excited to ultimately celebrate graduation when it is safe to do so and to see all of the great things they will accomplish in college and careers. These young ladies have worked hard and are ready for the next journey.



"Tepeyac is so important to me because of all the amazing friendships I've made through my 4 years. The countless memories I will forever cherish including having the most reliable teachers."



Arisbeth Godinez
Class of 2020
Arrupe College of Loyola
University Chicago

"Receiving an all-girls education has been by far the greatest blessing. I've learned that working hard and never giving up on my dreams and passions has been the greatest advice received by teachers and my peers these past years."



Ariana Guzman
Class of 2020
American University

"Tepeyac has given me so many experiences that have helped shape me. With the help of my teachers and my classmates, I have become a better version of myself."



Alyssa Ocasio
Class of 2020
National Louis University

¡CREEMOS! 2020 RESULTS

The numbers are in and our Virtual ¡Creemos! Was a huge success! This year has been unusual and difficult to say the least. However, something beautiful came from all of the hurt, tragedy, and imbalance - extraordinary generosity. Hundreds of dedicated Tepeyac supporters gave gifts and many new donors joined them to provide scholarships and assistance for our families, who have a greater need than ever for not only tuition assistance, but assistance with basic needs like food and home cleaning supplies.

¡Creemos! Usually raises funds for the next school year, but we raised over \$100,000 more than we normally do at this event, which afforded us the ability to help our families immediately with emergency scholarships as well as other needs.

We raised \$135,000 more than our annual goal for ¡Creemos!

Thank you for spreading the word and every generous gift.

You really are making a difference!

359
GUESTS
VIEWED THE
LIVE EVENT

117
FUNDED
A
STUDENT

91
DONORS MADE A GIFT IN
ADVANCE

54
DONORS GAVE TO OUR
CAROL BROWN
GIVING TREE



**CLASS OF
2020**

100%
OF THE SENIORS IN
THE CLASS OF 2020
ARE OFF TO COLLEGE
IN THE FALL

\$5.3 M
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AND FINANCIAL AID

SERVICE TO FAMILIES

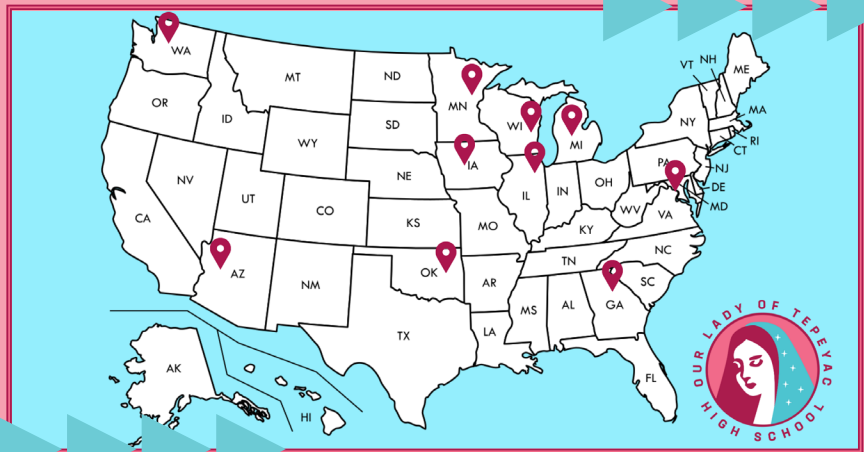
Tepeyac stands together with families during these trying times by offering additional scholarship support, hot meals distributed once a week, grab and go breakfast and lunch 3 days a week, catered meals in June. For some families directly affected by Covid-19, teachers rallied together to provide groceries and dinners. Gift certificates for groceries and drug store necessities were available.

Even though the building was closed, our outreach to families never stopped. We used a variety of approaches to reach out to families, knowing that not everyone can be reached by phone or email. There is a legend at Tepeyac, "We are a 24/7 school that serves not only the student but her family; meeting them where they are and doing everything in our power to fill the gaps." During these difficult weeks and months, Tepeyac Together is a continuation of our mission



STUDY NEAR, GO FAR

This year many of our seniors are spreading their wings and traveling far for college. To name a few of the many colleges they will be attending this fall; Grand Canyon University in Arizona, Cameron University in Oklahoma, Agnes Scott College and Clark Atlanta University in Georgia, American University in Washington D.C., Wenatchee Valley College in Washington, Loras College in Iowa, St. Olaf College in Minnesota, Lawrence University in Wisconsin, Hope College in Michigan, and many wonderful local colleges such as National Louis University, Dominican University, St. Xavier University, City Colleges of Chicago, Arrupe College of Loyola and many more.



77%

ARE THE FIRST IN
THEIR FAMILY TO
ATTEND COLLEGE

29%

ARE THE FIRST IN
THEIR FAMILY TO
GRADUATE
HIGH SCHOOL

WE ARE
PROUD OF
EACH AND
EVERYONE OF
THEM

THE BEST OF E-LEARNING

Teachers made the best of remote learning days. They were in contact with students via email, ZOOM, Google Classroom and Plus Portal. They conducted classes through Google Classroom, as well as face-to-face using ZOOM and Google Hangouts. Our gym teacher engaged students by sending workouts for students to do alone or with their families!

"I enjoyed my eLearning days and loved that I could email my teachers because they were always available. It was fun to see each other via screens," shares Leslie, a rising Sophomore. Leslie was a student of Ms. Ochoa, one of our Math teachers. Ms. Ochoa teaches Freshwomen and Sophomores. Her class included many interactive sessions to keep her students motivated. She used different platforms to engage them, such as FaceTime (with parent permission), Whiteboard and Sketchpad. She started the days by inviting her students to share creative quotes to motivate each other. Ms. Ochoa shares, "This was a good experience where we all found new ways of collaborating with each other and having a sense of humor to make our days brighter."

Although Ms. Ochoa admits that she missed her students on the third floor, she is glad that they came together via a buddy system that she implemented where students encourage one another to stay focused, organized, and help each other solve problems together.

In addition, Advisors reached out to their advisees to check in and help students with updates and progress with homework assignments. They were available for support - either academically or emotionally. The seniors also met with Mrs. Dumas-Gray, our College Readiness Director, in terms of planning and making decisions as to their Fall college plans.

We were continuously in touch and looking for more virtual based learning opportunities to support our students. Though it was a difficult transition for some students (and teachers!), the students finished the school year strong! 93% successfully completed their courses for 2019-2020! We're working with the remaining girls over the summer to complete their missing coursework. Tepeyac leaves no one behind.



SUMMER READING



Tepeyac kicks off Summer with GREAT Summer Reading Novels!

At Tepeyac, we take our books seriously. We care about social issues, and believe in educating ourselves about issues through complex characters. From Starr Carter in *The Hate U Give* and Emoni Santiago in *With the Fire on High* to Hermione Winters in *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* and Julia in *I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, Tepeyac's Summer Reading 2020 has books filled with passionate female protagonists that experience life in the 21st Century with pride in their roots and hope in their souls. We want our students to understand how the world works, both at home and in cities and countries miles away, and ask questions about how to solve the social issues discussed within the pages.

Summer Reading at Tepeyac ranges in topics from race relations and gender inequality to the immigrant experience in America to mental health struggles to the tragic genocide in Cambodia and memoirs of a child soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These topics are difficult, but they are real, and we believe we must educate our students on the realities of the world and equip them with the skills to help solve these issues, to be a part of the global conversations.

SUMMER READING STATS:

10

MINORITY AUTHORS

8

OF THEM PEOPLE OF COLOR

7 of those 8

WOMEN

5 novels

TALK ABOUT THE HORRORS OF
GENOCIDE IN CAMBODIA AND
THE HOLOCAUST

7 novels

TALK ABOUT
RACE AND
RACE RELATIONS

10 novels

HAVE FEMALE PROTAGONISTS
BETWEEN THE AGES OF
14 AND 17

GIVING A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE TO THESE SOCIAL ISSUES THAT ARE OFTEN UNDERREPRESENTED

10 out of the 19 novels

HAVE WON DISTINGUISHED AWARDS, SUCH AS THE PULITZER PRIZE, THE CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD,
AND THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD.

GRAD SHOUTOUT '16

Alondra Villanueva, c/o '16, first-generation student earns her Bachelor's degree!

Alondra from the class of 2016 recently closed her undergraduate chapter. She did not anticipate the end of Senior year to look like this; she made it to the finish line regardless. She graduated from Hope College with a major in Psychology and a minor in Neuroscience. Alondra has moved out to Cleveland, Ohio to continue preparation for Medical school. She is getting ready to start classes as a post-baccalaureate student at Cleveland State University, preparing to apply to medical school. Tepeyac is so proud and excited to celebrate her college graduation.

"None of this would have been possible without the countless support, love, encouragement, and opportunities that Tepeyac offered as soon as I walked through those doors freshman year. I have a lot of respect and love for the school and for everyone in it because you all supported and helped me grow and develop into the strong independent woman I am today! I believe in myself now because you all believed in me then...so a huge thank you and hug to everyone at Tepeyac and blessings and lots of encouragement to my new incoming Tepeyac sisters, " shares Alondra.

Most recently Alondra went through the hiring process to work as a PCNA (patient care nurse assistant) at the Cleveland Clinic. We are glad to share that she was hired and ready to learn and make a difference there.



SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Summer is still happening for Tepeyac students! Our young women are participating in amazing programs, working, volunteering, and building skills virtually and in person this summer. Here are a few of the organizations and programs Tepeyac students will be involved in this summer:

- After School Matters
- Girls Who Code
- Northwestern University Documentary Program
- One Summer Chicago - Youth Employment Program
- Open Center for the Arts - Digital Art Program
- Paws Chicago - Youth Volunteer
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum - Teens Exploring & Explaining Science and Nature
- Pilsen Alliance - Summer Youth Organization Institute
- Prospanica Chicago - Summer Enrichment Program
- University of Chicago - Summer Writing Program

