

Roman Catholic High School



*Where Boys with Dreams
become Men of Vision*

“The opportunities at Roman are endless. I have been pushed to leave my comfort zone and expand my interests. Roman’s dedicated faculty and staff always make sure we are doing our best.”



Dear Prospective Student,

Every young boy has dreams—dreams about their future, dreams of an exciting career, dreams of a better world. What are your dreams? What is it that you hope to achieve? Do you dream about starting your own business, becoming an engineer, computer programmer or doctor? Do you have dreams about serving the community as a police officer, firefighter, medical professional or teacher? Do you dream about improving the environment, becoming a famous musician, artist, lawyer or actor?

Roman Catholic High School is the place where boys with dreams, become men of vision. For over 130 years, young boys have entered the doors of Roman to begin a journey of discovery, to make new friends, to try new things, and to learn the skills necessary to achieve big dreams. As you begin the process of choosing a high school, ask the hard questions. What programs are available? How rigorous are the academics? What electives are offered? Will I fit in? Will I be welcomed? The more you come to know about Roman, the more you experience our community, the easier it will be for you to discover that Roman is the school that will help you to achieve your dreams.

We have produced this booklet to help you become acquainted with The Roman Catholic High School. By providing an outstanding education, Roman has enabled generations of boys to achieve their dreams. At Roman, you will 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 boy with the will to excel and the dream to make a difference is welcomed here at RCHS!

For dreams to become a reality, higher education is critical. At Roman you will find a program that will prepare you for the rigors of college life. Over 96 percent of our graduates attend some of the most prestigious colleges and universities both locally and nationally. If you are college bound –Roman is the school for you!

For dreams to come true, you must follow your passion. At Roman you will 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! At Roman, musicians, singers, and artists find a home to develop their talents and hone their skills. Our programs are widely recognized for their quality and high level of performance. We all dream of a better world and community service opportunities are abundant at Roman. Helping the poor and elderly, defending life, and improving the environment, Roman students are committed to creating a world in which every person is respected and loved.



Roman is a very special place to spend your high school years. We have committed and caring teachers, passionate and devoted coaches, and alumni that remain faithful and loyal. If you as a boy are dreaming big dreams, Roman is the school which will help you become a man of vision!

Father Bongard

Rev. Joseph W. Bongard '77
President/Rector



Sean Flaherty '21

The Dream

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. 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 dream 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.



The Vision



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.

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 big dreams and 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 that Roman is the place where dreams become a reality.

Building the Vision

- Roman has a dedicated fine and performing arts building, The Howard Center for the Arts.
- Roman has students from over 90 different zip codes.
- Roman is located within walking distance of Reading Terminal, City Hall, Independence Hall, and much more!
- Roman has an athletic facility on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, River Field.
- Roman students participate in La Salle University's Transformational Scholars Program, earning college credits.
- Roman partners with the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Kimmel Center, Philly Pops and Museum of the American Revolution.
- Roman has students traveling by bus, subway, trolley, train, regional rail, car and Uber!
- Roman's school building is historically certified.
- Roman offers Four World Languages, using a state-of-the-art World Language Lab. (French, Italian, Latin, Spanish.)
- Roman arranges internships with local businesses, Center City law firms, real estate companies and the District Attorney's Office.

“Academics are challenging, but I know they are preparing me for college. The range of electives has helped me broaden my aspirations for a career choice. I believe I have learned what it takes to be successful in education beyond high school.”

Vision

Roman Academics

Roman has been setting the standard for secondary education in the Philadelphia region since its doors opened over 130 years ago. Roman offers a college preparatory curriculum that is designed to challenge students at all academic levels. While allowing creativity and setting high expectations, Roman creates an environment where students can dream big and craft

their own individual path to success. Our students are able to explore new possibilities throughout the school day as they are challenged in and out of the classroom to develop into life-long learners. As students approach graduation, they will have gained the experience and skills necessary to thrive and flourish in college and beyond.



Lucas Cheng '23





to Succeed

RGHS faculty by the numbers:

3
Doctoral
Degrees

30
Master's
Degrees

16
Roman
Alumni

22:1
Student Teacher
Ratio



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

Roman offers **10 Advanced Placement courses**, including AP Psychology which has had a 100 percent passing rate for 13 years, and 46 Honors courses.

For the Class of 2020, **73%** of test takers met or exceeded the SAT's Benchmark for college readiness for Evidence Based Reading and Writing.

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

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

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

Electives

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

English: Advanced Placement Language & Composition, Advanced Placement Literature & Composition

World Languages: Spanish, French, Italian, Latin

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

Business: Advanced Placement Macroeconomics, Computer Programming, Accounting I, Coding, Business Economics, Business Law, Entrepreneurship, Information Technology

Art: Studio Art I through IV, PAFA Program, Digital Photography, Digital Videography.

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

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

Mathematics: Advanced Placement Calculus, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, Advanced Placement Statistics

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

Faculty

The faculty at Roman is comprised of men and women who love teaching, and love their students. They are skilled and demanding, yet compassionate and understanding. They recognize the importance of holding their students accountable for doing their individual best. The faculty expects a great deal from their students personally, academically and spiritually. They are always available to assist them on their journey, acting simultaneously as mentors and friends.

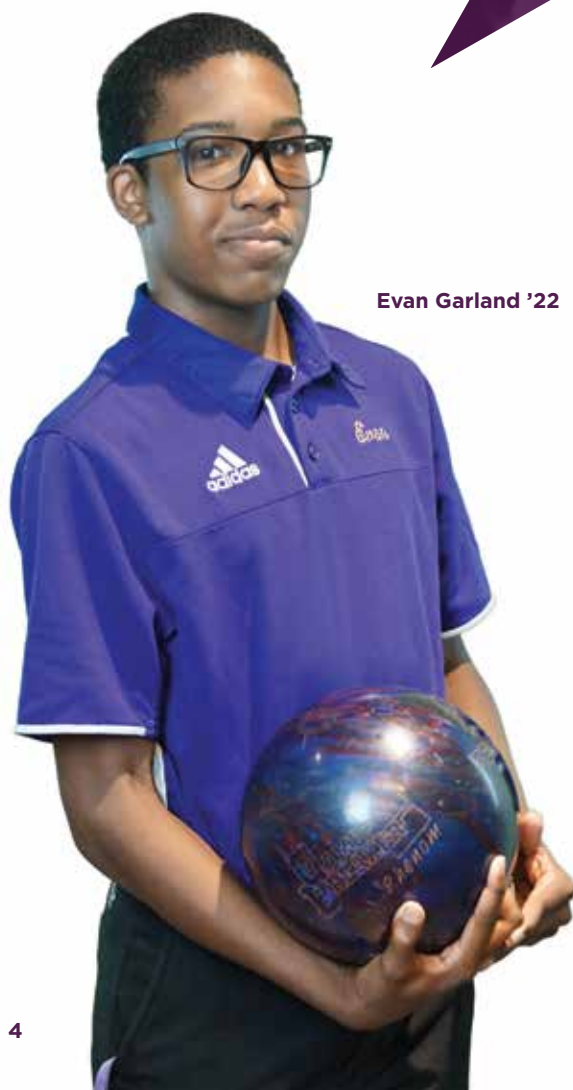


“My coaches are second to none. Roman coaches are terrific role models and we work together to achieve our goals. While everybody wants to win, our coaches demand our best effort and promote character and teamwork.”

Vision

Roman Athletics

Roman's athletic program has had a long-standing reputation for excellence. Our athletic program is designed to help student-athletes develop their skills physically, mentally, and socially while fostering a sense of team work, independence and self-reliance. The athletic program is home to 35 teams, including multiple freshman programs and 17 varsity sports. Roman takes advantage of all that the City of Philadelphia has to offer with our athletic facilities being located throughout the City and beyond.



Evan Garland '22



109**Roman Championships****73****Philadelphia Catholic
League Championships****14****City Championships****3****State Championships**

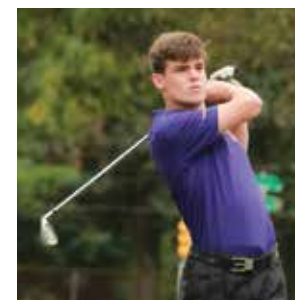
to Win!

Championships won by team

65 Basketball**9** Football**6** Baseball**6** Bowling**5** Swimming**5** Track & Field**3** Soccer**6** Ice Hockey**4** Crew

Roman reigns supreme

- Roman is the only high school in the Philadelphia Archdiocese to offer every league sport!
- Bowling has won the PCL Championship in 2017 and 2019.
- In 2018, a Roman wrestler placed 7th in the PIAA State Tournament.
- In 2018, the indoor 4x200 relay team won the PCL Championship and in 2019, the Track and Field Team won the 4x100 and the 4x800 at the PCL Championships. Roman's 4x100 track team had the 3rd best time in the state two years in a row.
- In 2018, the basketball team won the Philadelphia Catholic League and the State Championship finishing nationally ranked at 26! The basketball team has won three out of the last five PCL Championships including the most recent one in 2019.
- In 2018, a Roman soccer player was named a National All American, as the team won the City Soccer Title.
- Roman's soccer team has competed in six consecutive PCL Championship games, winning it all in 2016.
- Over 55% of the student body is involved in athletics.

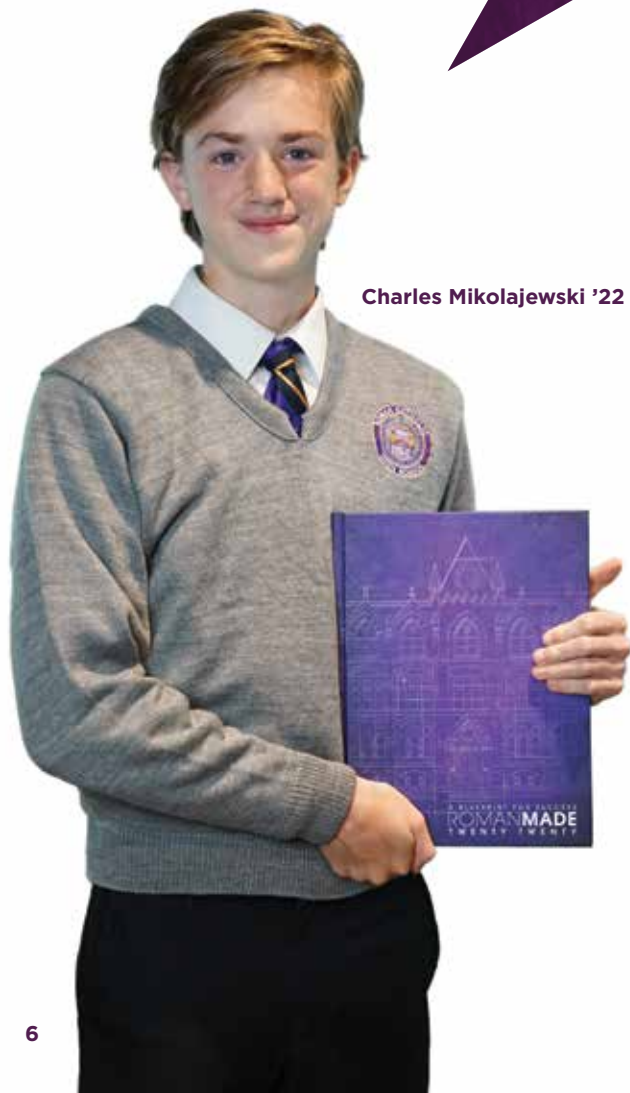


“I have become more confident since getting involved. Joining a couple clubs and student groups has really helped me become the man I am today. I challenge you to get involved in the many activities that Roman offers as it will make your high school experience much more enjoyable.”

Vision

Extracurricular Activities

Do you have the dream of becoming an engineer, lawyer, or maybe the next big film director? Roman's wide variety of extracurricular activities will help guide you on the path to success. Students that get involved learn new skills, make new friends, and also help to 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 a sense of joy and compassion 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, your dreams can become reality as you are exposed to so many opportunities to learn and grow. At Roman, every student is encouraged to get involved and is challenged to use and develop their talents, to become active and engaged in the life of the school.



Charles Mikolajewski '22

Extracurricular Activities

Ambassadors
Anime/Gaming Club
Asian Cultures Club
A.S.I.S.T. (Alumni-Student Intergenerational Service Team)
Aspira
Band
Big Brothers
Black Student Union (BSU)
Chess Club
Chorus
Community Service Corps (CSC)
Dances
Digital Photography Club
Digital Video Club
Engineering Club
Environmental Club
Intramurals
Italian Club
Jazz Band
Jr. AOH
Literary Magazine
Mock Trial
National Honors Society
Play On Philly Music
Pro-Life Club

Rock Climbing Club
Roman Robotics
Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
School E-Newspaper – The Cahillite
Student Council
Technology Club
Television Studio – RCTV
World Affairs Club
Yearbook

Religious Activities

Service Programs
Daily Mass
First Friday Mass/
Prayer Service
Grief Group
Kairos Retreat (Juniors & Seniors)
Notre Dame Summer Program
Peer Ministry
Penance Services
Rosary Club
Spiritual/Personal Counseling
Underclassmen Retreats
Vocation Discernment



to Discover

- **Center City Campus, consisting of 3 independent buildings**
- **Fully air-conditioned classrooms, cafeteria and gym**
- **Athletic facilities located throughout the City**
- **State-of-the-art Wellness Center**
- **Mock Trial Courtroom**



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*** is a unique building housing Roman's entire Fine and Performing Arts programs. The Center contains rehearsal space for music and choral students, along with private, individual lesson rooms. There is a dedicated ceramic studio, along with classroom space for drama and mixed media. The Howard Center is also home to a Digital Media lab which contains the latest technology for our Digital Photography and Video programs. One of the highlights of the Howard Center is the Black Box Theater which has hosted many assemblies and performances. All of the Performing Arts, Music, Choral, and Drama Programs practice, perform, and exhibit their artistic works in this intimate setting. With integrated, advanced technologies, the Howard Center is a distinct facility that provides students with the latest supports for developing and refining their artistic abilities.

Last year, Roman unveiled a ***Mock Trial Courtroom***. Modeled after prototypes of leading national Law Schools, Roman's courtroom was designed by the award-winning architectural firm, STRADA of Pittsburgh. Roman Catholic currently boasts the largest Mock Trial Program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our team has won the City Championship for the past six consecutive years. There is no other school in the City of Philadelphia which has its own Court Room to practice, honed legal skills and host regional competitions.

Another recent addition to the Campus was the building of a ***Wellness Center***. Located in the ***McSherry Annex***, the ***Wellness Center*** consists of two distinct fitness facilities, one for building body strength and conditioning and the other focused on fitness and cardio health. Containing numerous free weights and bench-presses, as well as over 35 fitness machines, including treadmills and Stairmasters, the ***Wellness Center*** offers the opportunity for athletes and non-athletes alike to focus on their personal fitness and well-being throughout the school year.



“Traveling to and from school every day has helped me gain a sense of independence and confidence. On my journey, I get the full experience of traveling into the city and meeting new people which I would not have received from a neighborhood school.”

Vision

The Journey to Broad and Vine

Our students come from over 90 different zip codes, representing practically every neighborhood in the City and throughout the Delaware Valley. This 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.

The Vision of your future...

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 Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Museum of the American Revolution and the University of the Arts, which afford students unique opportunities to connect with history, science and the arts. The Purple and Gold is a familiar sight on Center City streets as students explore and learn in the City of Brotherly Love!

Julian Ciurlino '22



Sebastian from
South Philadelphia



Matthew from
Jenkintown



Ronan from
Flourtown



Quadir from
Mount Airy



James from
Bucks County



Malachi from
Delaware County



Ryan from
Port Richmond



Shayne from
Glenside



Duc-hieu from
Northeast
Philadelphia

to Achieve!



Are you interested in exploring Roman Catholic for yourself?

The best way to experience the uniqueness of Roman is to plan a visit to our campus. You can schedule a Private Tour 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 that Roman is the school for YOU! 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 as well as your future will be very bright!

We want you to join our Roman brotherhood and learn that only at Roman can you enter as a boy with dreams and leave as a man with vision! We look forward to meeting you soon!



*Since 1890, more than 20,000
men have graduated from
Roman Catholic High School!*

The Vision Continues

With Roman's rigorous academic program, graduates are well prepared to continue their academic pursuits. 96% of Roman graduates matriculate to some of the most prestigious local and national colleges and universities. Here is a sampling of recent acceptances:

University of Akron
University of Alabama
Albright College
Alvernia 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
Columbia 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
Yale University
Youngstown State University
York College of Pennsylvania



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