



*Roman Catholic
High School*

*Where
Independence
is Born!*



Dear Prospective Student,



Philadelphia is recognized as the "Cradle of Liberty." It was here, in this City, that our nation was founded, that those words of the Declaration of Independence were written, debated, and finally announced to the world. In the heart of every young person is the desire to be free, to choose their own path, to pursue their own destiny.

Within walking distance of Independence Hall, Roman Catholic High School was founded for just such a purpose. It is universally recognized that education is the key to true freedom and liberty. To grow in knowledge of the arts and sciences is to be set free to explore a world of truth and beauty. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, "If a person expects to be ignorant and free, he expects what never was and never will be."

From the time its doors first opened in 1890 until the present, Roman has been providing a faith-based educational environment where young boys begin a journey of self-discovery, where they learn new ways of thinking, discover hidden talents and abilities, and forge new friendships. Roman provides so many opportunities to try new things and to learn new skills.

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 become the young man God created you to be.

We have produced this booklet to help you become acquainted with The Roman Catholic High School of Philadelphia. By providing an outstanding education, Roman has enabled generations of boys to grow in self-reliance and stand on their own two feet. At Roman, you will meet students from every neighborhood and section of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. Over 175 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 desire to make a difference is welcomed here at RCHS!

As Roman strives to prepare you for a life of promise, higher education is critical. At Roman, you will find a program that will enable you to embrace 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!

Roman is a unique and 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. For a bright and promising future, Roman is the place *Where Independence is Born!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Father Bongard".

Rev. Joseph W. Bongard '77
President/Rector

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.



Built on the Foundation of Self Reliance

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 Cahill's family needed him to work to help make ends meet.

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

After his death at the age of 50, Thomas Cahill bequeathed his entire fortune for the establishment and endowment of The Roman Catholic High School of Philadelphia. It was Cahill's belief that a strong, values-based, secondary education was essential to forming young men capable of protecting and expanding the freedoms enjoyed in this land. As Thomas and Sophia were not blessed with children, students of Roman Catholic have always been known as "Cahillites" – that is, Sons of Cahill.

Welcome to Roman!

In the City where Independence was born, Roman has been a cornerstone of Secondary Education for over 130 years. Construction of The Roman Catholic High School of Philadelphia began in the summer of 1886 on the corner of Broad & Vine Streets. Many Civil War veterans labored over the next four years, crafting a building that would become the first, free diocesan high school in the nation. When it 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 for young men throughout the Delaware Valley. Located in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, Roman is a true regional 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 aspirations of unlocking their true potential and exploring the world around them. The numerous athletic programs and a wide range of



extra and co-curricular activities allow students to discover, 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 he can truly be himself.

- Roman is the oldest archdiocesan high school in the United States.
- Roman has a dedicated fine and performing arts building, The Howard Center for the Arts.
- Roman students represent over 175 elementary schools, coming from 90 different zip codes.
- Roman is located within walking distance of Independence Hall, Carpenter Hall, Reading Terminal Market, City Hall, the Barnes Foundation, Eastern State Penitentiary, The Franklin Institute, and much more!
- Roman athletes practice football, lacrosse, and rugby on River Field, located on the historic Benjamin Franklin Parkway.
- Roman Students participate in La Salle University's Transformational Scholars Program and Saint Francis University's Partnership for Excellence Program, earning transferable College credits during high school.
- Roman has educational partnerships with Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Kimmel Center, Play on Philly, and the Museum of the American Revolution.
- Roman has students traveling by bus, subway, trolley, train, regional rail, car, and Uber!
- World Languages are taught in a state-of-the-art language lab.

Christopher '22

Travels 15 miles from Fox Chase to Roman



“Roman Catholic students have endless opportunities to become involved. The extremely dedicated faculty and staff have pushed me to leave my comfort zone, develop new interests, and achieve a strong sense of independence. I feel I am well prepared for my college journey.”



Knowledge is Power

When Roman opened its doors over 130 years ago, it set the standard for secondary education in the Philadelphia region. Roman offers a college-preparatory curriculum that is designed to challenge students at all academic levels in order to better prepare them for their collegiate studies. Allowing for creativity while setting high expectations, Roman creates an environment where students can explore their interests and craft their own individual paths to success. Students are challenged each day inside and outside of the classroom to develop into life-long learners. As students approach graduation, they have gained the experience and skills necessary to thrive and flourish in college and beyond.



Benjamin '23

Travels 16 miles from Fort Washington to Roman



“Roman has a rigorous curriculum, and the faculty has high academic expectations for every student. They are preparing me for both my collegiate and career goals. There are many interesting and challenging electives available, and the excellent faculty goes above and beyond to ensure that students are successful during their time at Roman and beyond.”



Providing Opportunities

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, Public Speaking

World Languages: Spanish, Italian, Latin

Science & Health: Advanced Placement Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, Engineering, Introduction to Sports Medicine, Physics, Fitness for Life

Business: AP Macroeconomics, Accounting I, Coding, Business Economics, Business Law, Personal Finance/ Entrepreneurship, Information Technology Fundamentals

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

Music: Music I through IV

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

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

Undergraduate Programs: Qualifying students are eligible to earn transferable college credits through the partnerships Roman has established with La Salle University's Transformational Scholars Program and Saint Francis University's Partnership for Excellence Program

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

Faculty

Roman's faculty is comprised of seasoned, degreed educators who set high expectations for each student. With a passion for their academic disciplines, the teachers engage and challenge every young man, no matter his academic ability, to do his personal best. The faculty holds their students accountable – for their behavior, their performance, their growth. Teachers expect a great deal from their students personally, academically, and spiritually. The goal is that each student becomes the very best version of himself. Roman teachers play an important role in the transition of our young men into Roman gentlemen. They are always available for assistance, acting simultaneously as role models, mentors, and friends.



Darnell '22

Travels 32 miles from Wilmington, Delaware to Roman



“After transferring to Roman last year, I immediately felt welcomed both in the classroom and on the court. The coaching staff and my teammates were very helpful as I learned to navigate my way from Delaware each day. My coaches are second to none. They are phenomenal role models and are helping me to become the best student-athlete. They demand my best effort each day.”



Strength in Athletics

Growing strong in mind and body enables a young man to become self-reliant, self-possessed, and ready to take on the world. Roman's athletic program consists of 17 Varsity sports, offered at three levels – including many freshman teams. As the City is our Classroom, the City is also our playground, as our athletic teams use facilities located throughout the Philadelphia region.

With over 55 percent of the student body engaged in team sports, Roman's athletic program is specifically designed to help student-athletes develop their skills physically, mentally, and socially while fostering a sense of personal accomplishment and autonomy.



Roman Reigns Supreme

- In 2021, the Golf Team captured the AOP Championship
- In 2021, the Track and Field Team was home to the PCL MVP, the District 12 Champ in the 400 meters, and had four 1st Team All-Catholic members.
- In 2021, the Crew Team had two quads compete in the Scholastic National Crew Championships.
- In 2019, Bowling won the PCL Championship.
- 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 soccer team has competed in the last seven consecutive PCL Championship games and in 2018 a Roman soccer player was named a National All-American, as the team won the District 12 Title.



Roman's Crew Team was crowned City Champion in the Varsity Lightweight Quad Division in 2021.



Creative Freedom



While each young man at Roman has his own unique talents and traits, success and failure are a part of the process of unlocking these abilities.

Roman's wide variety of extra and co-curricular activities help guide each student down the path of self-discovery and self-expression. Students who get involved learn new skills, make new friends, and help make a difference in the lives of others. In the cultural clubs, students learn about different customs and traditions. In service organizations, students engage in helping the elderly, young children, and the less fortunate, bringing a sense of joy and compassion to their lives. In the academic clubs, students hone their mastery of mathematics and science. And in the art clubs, students are guided to express their creativity and emotions. At Roman, every student is encouraged to get involved and is challenged to use and develop his talents to become active and engaged in the life of the school.

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
Chess Club
Chorus
Dances
Digital Photography Club
Digital Video Club
Intramurals
Jazz Band
Jr. AOH
Literary Magazine
Mathletes
Mock Trial
National Honors Society
Respect-Life Club
Roman Robotics
SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
Student Council
Technology/Business Club
Television Studio-RCTV
World Affairs Club
Yearbook

Service Programs

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



Nicholas '22

Travels 3 miles from South Philadelphia to Roman



“Getting involved at Roman has enhanced my high school experience. I have become more confident, met new people, and broadened my interests by participating in clubs and activities. I highly recommend that new students get involved as soon as possible.”



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. The Howard Center is also home to our Digital Media lab for our Digital Photography and Video programs, as well as a Black Box Theater which hosts a variety of assemblies and theatrical performances. 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, providing students with creative support for developing and refining their artistic abilities.

- Roman currently has the largest Mock Trial Program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Nationally ranked and recognized, our team has also won the Mock Trial City Championship for the past eight consecutive years. The teams practice in the James McGrannery Courtroom, a fully functioning courtroom designed by architects of leading Law School facilities. Unique to High

School programs, the McGrannery Courtroom enables team members to practice in a “real-life” setting, while developing their public speaking abilities, refining courtroom etiquette, and further developing their legal skills.

- The McSherry Annex is home to Roman’s Wellness Center. Comprised of two separate facilities, one for free weights and the other for cardio workouts, the Center contains state-of-the-art workout machinery and weight equipment. All athletic teams use this facility for agility and strength-training. The Wellness Center offers the opportunity for both athletes and non-athletes to focus on their fitness and well-being during the school year.

The most recent addition to the Wellness Center is a dedicated erg room. Designed specifically for Roman’s award-winning Crew Program, this new facility allows for year-round conditioning of our student-athletes, improving their flexibility, mobility, and performance on the River.



Troy '23

Travels 10 miles from Mt. Airy to Roman



“Traveling to and from school every day has helped me develop a stronger sense of independence and confidence. During my journey, I experience all that Center City has to offer, and I have had the opportunity to meet a diverse group of people, which would never have been possible if I attended a neighborhood high school.”



Becoming Self-reliant

Our students travel to school from all over the Delaware Valley, which gives Catholic High a rich geographic diversity. Located in the heart 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. 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.

Determining your Path

Every student is unique and deserves the opportunity to grow and explore. Roman provides an environment where students are nurtured, challenged, and mentored – to explore new ways of thinking, of growing in self-discovery. Roman students form a true brotherhood, where individual character, honesty, and accountability is essential to forming an independent and promising future.



Anthony Kafel '20, Notre Dame University

“Roman gave me the tools necessary for the next steps in life. I have found college life is very challenging. Yet the personal discipline and academic skills needed to excel in my class work, studies, and personal life started at Roman. I owe the school, my fellow classmates, and faculty a debt of gratitude for the success I’ve had so far, and hopefully for the success that will come in the future.”



Claudio Hassan '19, Temple University

“Through my four years at Roman, I’ve learned that many times failure is truly the best teacher. There have been times when I’ve struggled academically, socially, and athletically. But the Roman teachers and coaches were always there, offering support, guidance, advice and at times, tough love that have bolstered my growth in self-confidence. I have learned from my mistakes and achieved beyond my expectations.”



Amondo S. Clayton '17, West Chester University

“Roman prepared me not only for college but for life. In college, I was prepared to be a student activist and leader of many clubs and organizations. The curriculum and procedures practiced in my time at Roman helped me be successful at the next level. My career will be one dedicated to serving the underprivileged and underserved in the technology field.”

Exploring Roman Catholic High School for Yourself

The best way to experience the uniqueness of Roman is to visit our campus. You can schedule a Shadow Day to understand what a typical day is like for a student at Broad and Vine. You can attend an Open House, Student Discovery Day, and Visitation Day to learn about all the programs that Roman offers its students. You can attend a Roman concert, Fine Arts Festival or athletic event to see first-hand the talents, skills, and abilities of some of our students. The more you learn about Roman, experience our history, and meet our students, the quicker you will come to understand what it means to be a Cahillite. We welcome you to become part of the Roman community! Roman is a school of diversity where every student is welcomed, and every student has a place.

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 on 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 less fortunate, Roman students put forth their best effort and always display a great sense of Roman Pride.



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



For additional information, contact:

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RCHS1890



Roman Catholic High School

After four years of academic, spiritual, personal and athletic formation at Roman Catholic High School, young men are prepared for a bright and promising future. Here is a sampling of the Colleges and Universities that Roman Graduates enrolled:

Albany College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences
Alvernia University
American Academy McAllister
Institute of Funeral Service
Arcadia University
Arizona State University
Assumption College
Automotive Training Center
Bentley University
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Boston College
Bryn Athyn College of the New Church
Bucks County Community College
Cabrin University
California University of Pennsylvania
Camden County College
Castleton University
Catholic University of America
Centenary University
Champlain College
Chestnut Hill College
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
Clark Atlanta University
Colgate University
Community College of Beaver County
Community College of Philadelphia
CUNY New York City College of Technology
Curtis Institute of Music
Delaware County Community College
Delaware State University
DeSales University
Drexel University
East Stroudsburg University of
Pennsylvania
Eastern University
Elon University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fordham University
Full Sail University
George Washington University
Goldey-Beacom College
Gwynedd Mercy University
Hampton University
Haverford College
Hawaii Pacific University
Hofstra University
Holy Family University
Immaculata University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Iona College
Iowa Western Community College

Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
Jefferson University
Johnson & Wales University
Juniata College
Kennesaw State University
King's College
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
La Salle University
Lafayette College
Lebanon Valley College
Lehigh University
Lincoln University
Lock Haven University
Los Angeles Pierce College
Loyola University Maryland
Lycoming College
Manor College
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania
Marymount University
Marywood University
Mercyhurst University
Michigan State University
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Monroe College
Montgomery County Community College
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
Mount St. Mary's University
Muhlenberg College
Neumann University
Niagara University
Norfolk State University
North Carolina A & T State University
North Carolina Central University
Northern Michigan University
Orleans Technical College
Pennco Tech
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pennsylvania State University
Pitt Community College
Providence College
Regis University
Robert Morris University
Rosemont College
Rowan College at Burlington County
Rowan College of South Jersey
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
Saint Joseph's University
Salem Community College

Seton Hall University
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Simon Fraser University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Tallahassee Community College
Temple University
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
The New School
The Restaurant School at
Walnut Hill College
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of the Arts
Towson University
Trinity College
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy
University at Buffalo
University of Chicago
University of Delaware
University of Maryland
University of Miami
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
University of New Haven
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of the Sciences
Ursinus College
Valley Forge Military College
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University
Virginia Union University
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
West Virginia University
Widener University
Wilkes University
Williamson College of the Trades
Wilmington University
Xavier University