

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!

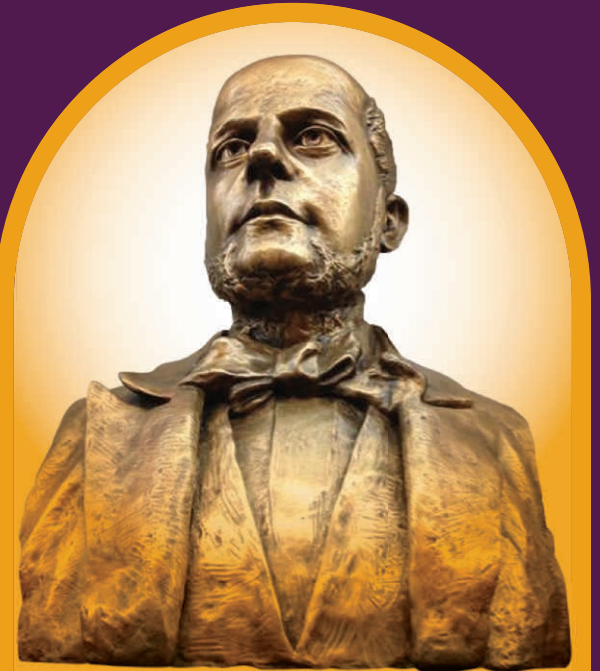
Roman is a unique and special place to spend your high school years. We have committed and caring teachers, passionate and devoted coaches, and alumni that remain faithful and loyal. For a bright and promising future, Roman is the place *Where Independence is Born!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Curry Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. John Curry
Principal

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.