

June 4, 2021

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School,

This is not the time for us to fret about the woes of the pandemic. This is the time to celebrate the courage and tenacity of 115 Cristo Rey Philadelphia Seniors who will graduate today.

The Class of 2021 began their Cristo Rey experience at our original home in Logan, so their journey started in the grit and tight spaces of 5218 N. Broad Street. In the fall of 2019, they began their junior year in our new home in Tioga, but then, seven months later, on March 13th, 2020, we sent them all home for what we thought might be a few extra days of spring break. Who could have imagined how quickly and completely their lives would change? Who could have imagined how they would adapt and persevere!



They struggled with all of us to make the best of virtual school. But they did not give up. For work, they pivoted into virtual consulting teams, and they worked with their Work-Study partners to analyze tough and timely business issues like “How to Diversify your Talent Pipeline.”

They did their best to stay connected – mostly via zoom, but sometimes in awkward, socially distant, mask wearing gatherings at school – for sports or clubs, or sometimes, for no reason at all.

They confronted unimaginable challenges, but they did not lose sight of their purpose. 100% of the class of 2021 were accepted into an outstanding group of colleges including: Boston College, Dartmouth, Drexel, Emory, Georgetown, Howard, Immaculata, La Salle, St. Joseph's, Temple, Thomas Jefferson, Notre Dame, West Chester, Yale and 34 others.

The experiences of the last four years have helped to build character in all of us. The class of 2021 has overcome extraordinary challenges, and we believe that their resiliency and confidence will serve them well in college and beyond. They have lived the mantra of our school, and I believe they have adopted it as their own:

We Believe. We Dream. We Lead. We Serve.

Everyone in the Cristo Rey community hopes and prays our graduates have learned to appreciate their own goodness and their enormous potential to do good for themselves, their families, and our community.

We are grateful that they have become part of our lives, and we are hopeful that they will remain in our lives forever. We will miss them as they move on to college, but we will never forget them.

Sincerely,

John McConnell

Live Stream Graduation Tonight

Graduation will be in-person for the Class of 2021 and their families at La Salle University's McCarthy Stadium. Please join us via live stream to celebrate our graduating seniors! Click below to watch on our website.

Friday, June 4th, 2021 at 7:00 PM

