



## Loughlin JV Girls Volleyball Wins 2025 City Championship

by Nyla Santoni '28



JV Volleyball members proudly display their awards. They are flanked by Athletic Director Edwin Gonzalez (left), with Coach Miguel Cordero, Assistant Coach Alex Diaz '24, and Athletic Director Angela Proce (far right).

The Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School JV Girls Volleyball team has done it—they are the 2025 City Champions! After a season filled with dedication, teamwork, and perseverance, our Lady Lions brought home the title and made the entire Loughlin community proud.

From the very first practice of the season, the girls showed what true commitment looks like. Every serve, dig, and spike came from hours of hard work and determination. The team didn't just show up to play—they showed up to grow.

Of course, the road to victory wasn't always easy. Like any great team, the Lady Lions faced their share of challenges—tough games, injuries, and moments of doubt. But instead of letting those obstacles slow them down, they used them as fuel to become stronger players and even better teammates. Each setback became a setup for a comeback.

Their unity, resilience, and passion for the game were evident in every match leading up to the championship. With strong leadership from their coaches and incredible teamwork on the court, the JV Lady Lions proved that heart and hustle can take you all the way to the top.

Congratulations to our JV Girls Volleyball Team on an unforgettable season and a well-deserved championship win! Your hard work, determination, and school spirit have truly made Bishop Loughlin proud. #LoughlinPride #CityChamps #GoLions

## Loughlin's Annual College Fair

by Haylay Farrow '26

On October 8, Loughlin held its annual college fair. Students were able to speak to the 50 college representatives giving information to their respective schools—and even chat with the Navy and Marines! Students of all grade levels were able to learn more about colleges and begin their planning for the future. Among the many colleges participating were Hofstra University, Adelphi University, Mount St. Mary college, La Salle University, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, Quinnipac University, St. John's University, Molloy University, Hunter College, Brooklyn College, and the University of Mount St. Vincent. Ms. Sylvia Reyes of Guidance was the main coordinator of the event and she was pleased with both the college turnout (an increase over last year's) and the participation of the college-bound students.

## The NYC Marathon Band Celebrates 47 years of tradition and music

by Najah Fleming '26

As marathon runners made their way through Fort Greene, the streets were filled with energy and excitement. For the 47th year in a row, Bishop Loughlin's Marathon Band kept spirits high by performing the Rocky theme song for four hours straight, ending the day with *New York, New York*. The tradition has become a big part of the NYC Marathon and one of the most memorable moments along the route. Led by music coordinators Mr. Maffei, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Pexton, and Mr. Grandchamps, the band showed off their musical talent and their school spirit.

"Every year it's getting better," said Mr. Maffei. "The level of musicianship keeps rising. When you do this marathon, it's like your whole life flashes in front of you—it's a life lesson. The students only get better. Everybody says the youth today are this or that, but they're great. I used to do this on my own, but now there are so many people helping. It's fascinating."

The students' dedication was clear as they played nonstop for hours, cheering on every runner who passed. This is an example of Loughlin's strong sense of community and love for music. For the three years I've played for the marathon, I've really enjoyed being a part of the runners' experience and encouraging them. "It was a fantastic, high-energy day. We had a blast," said Mr. Pexton.

As the last runners went by and the final notes of *New York, New York* echoed through the streets, one thing stood out—the Loughlin Marathon Band continues to be a symbol of pride, tradition, and the unstoppable spirit of Brooklyn.

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We at the *Jamesonian*, along with our school's administration, thought there should be a dedicated place where we can celebrate the best of Loughlin, wherein events that pertain to students are commemorated or addressed. To that extent, the *Jamesonian* hopes to include not only articles about school-wide events but stories within the classroom, thoughtfully written opinion pieces, and human interest stories of students and staff, especially since we are all part of the Loughlin family. Naturally, everything may not be included and we regret any omissions. If you know of someone who is doing something distinctive either in or out of the classroom, seek us out.

The *Jamesonian* hopes to be around for a while, and we would love to hear from you.

—The *Jamesonian* Staff

## Bishop Brennan Visits Loughlin



On Wednesday, October 29, Bishop Robert Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, visited Loughlin and blessed Bishop Loughlin's newly installed synthetic turf, The Brian C. Connolly '73 Field. Later, he met with some of our students in a banner day filled with community and school spirit.

# The Lunch Line Dilemma

## It's time for a change at Loughlin

by Zion Gibson '27

You know the scene. The bell rings for lunch, the hallway fills with the familiar rumble of hungry students, and we all make the pilgrimage to the cafeteria. We line up, stomachs grumbling, ready to refuel for the rest of the day. But for many of us, that feeling of anticipation is quickly replaced by a different kind of rumble: *the anxiety over the price of a meal.*

Let's be real, Loughlin. Our school lunch isn't the villain in this story. The pizza has its fans, the salads are a solid option, and let's be honest, who can resist the siren call of the chicken tenders and fries? The real issue lies in the cost. Day after day, watching the total add up at the register can feel like a mini-financial crisis. A main, a side, a drink—it adds up faster than a pop quiz you forgot to study for.

We've all done the mental math. "If I buy the hot lunch today, can I still afford a snack later?" or "Maybe I should just skip the drink." No student should have to make these calculations. School is challenging enough without the added stress of wondering if you can afford to eat a full meal.

This brings us to the other side of the coin. Because the prices are high, we're often

pushed toward the most cost-effective *feeling* choices. A heaping portion of fries feels like more "bang for your buck" than a smaller, greener side salad. It's an understandable choice! When your budget is tight, you go for what fills you up. But this creates a cycle where the most frequently purchased items are often the least nutritious. We're not saying the tenders and fries need to go—they're a beloved part of our school culture! But shouldn't the healthier options be just as accessible and affordable?

**Watching the total add up at the register can feel like a mini-financial crisis. A main, a side, a drink—it adds up faster than a pop quiz you forgot to study for.**

This isn't just about complaining. This is about our community's well-being. A school should be a place where every student can thrive, and that starts with having the energy to focus in class. How can we be expected to conquer calculus, analyze Shakespeare, or run that last lap in gym if we're either hungry or financially stressed from buying lunch?

So, what can we do? We're not asking for the moon. We're asking for a conversation.

We propose that the administration reviews the current lunch pricing structure. Could we introduce more combo deals that include a healthy side and a drink? Could we consider a small, across-the-board price reduction to ease the burden on every student's wallet? Perhaps even a "Meal of the Day" at a discounted rate?

We love Bishop Loughlin. We're proud to be Lions. Part of that pride comes from knowing our school cares for its students

in and out of the classroom. By taking a fresh look at lunch prices, we can ensure that no one has to learn on an empty stomach and that everyone can afford to be part of the cafeteria conversation. Let's make the lunch line a place of excitement again, not anxiety. Let's work together to find a solution that feeds both our minds and our bodies, without breaking the bank.



# Project Lead the Way

## Loughlin celebrates an inspiring White Coat Ceremony

by Najah Fleming '26



White Coat recipients and proud teachers Ms. Lamarque (left) and Mr. Santiago (right)—along with guest speaker Halle Primus '19.

On November 20, 2025, Bishop Loughlin held its annual Project Lead The Way White Coat Ceremony to honor the dedication and success of students in the Biomedical Sciences program. The event celebrated students who showed strong interest in scientific learning and hands-on exploration.

Morgan Johnson '?? and Carter Regis '?? were recognized for earning the highest averages in the PLTW course. Both of them gave speeches about their experiences in the program. They spoke about the challenge of the labs, the excitement of medical case work and the ways PLTW helped them grow as learners. Their words encouraged other students to stay focused and to appreciate the value of the program.

Brother Dennis gave a speech encouraging students to work hard make the most of their opportunities and give back to the school so that future students could achieve success just like them. Mr. Santiago also spoke about the importance of perseverance, dedication and taking what students learned in PLTW to continue pursuing their goals in science, medicine and the community.

The ceremony featured guest speaker Halle Primus '19. She served as Vice President of the National Honor Society, was part of student government and provided a student reflection at the first White Coat Ceremony. She took three Biomed courses, played JV Volleyball and was a basketball manager, winning two Freshmen City Championships and a varsity championship in 2019. She went

on to attend Virginia Commonwealth University where she participated in community projects and joined the Homecoming Committee. Later she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain University in Chicago, served as president of the Student Government Association and was active in the American Cancer Society. Currently she works as an Aesthetic Nurse Injector at Diverse Aesthetics Medi Spa and as a Registered Nurse at Robert Wood Johnson Barnabus Health including cardiac post intensive care at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

I also received my white coat and it was a proud moment for me. Being in the PLTW Biomedical Sciences program has inspired me in many ways. I enjoyed the

case studies and the chance to think like a real investigator. Since I want to become a forensic psychologist, the work we did in class helped me build those skills. Learning about cancer was one of the topics that interested me the most and it motivated me to look for more opportunities. Because of that interest I completed a summer internship with SHARE Cancer Support and it helped me understand how important cancer research and support work truly is.

The PLTW White Coat Ceremony showed how much the program has shaped students and helped them discover new goals and future careers. For many of us PLTW became more than a class and it inspired a deeper passion for science and helping others.

# New Teachers

## Mr. Lee and Mr. Grow

by Camille Miles '29 and Hayley Farrow '26

The *Jamesonian* recently interviewed Mr. Lee, a new science teacher and Mr. Grow, the new theology teacher here at Loughlin.



**Jamesonian: How long have you been a teacher and where did you teach before coming to Loughlin?**

*Mr. Lee: I've taught for three or four years. And before coming to Loughlin I was at City College teaching as a lab teacher's assistant.*

**Jamesonian: What stands out about Loughlin in your teaching experience?**

*Mr. Lee: It seems like a pretty broad student base in terms of people's interests, and it's interesting how the faculty and students interact with each other. It's pretty nice and it helps promote student engagement.*

**Jamesonian: If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?**

*Mr. Lee: Consistency and diligence are key to learning any skill and improving in anything. If you're not consistent you won't gain experience that you need to, and you need diligence to excel.*

**Jamesonian: What does teaching meant to you?**

*Mr. Lee: It's collecting all the knowledge of a subject into something digestible. It's pulling together the knowledge of something and then giving it to someone else for them to understand.*

**Jamesonian: Do you have any ambitions while teaching at Loughlin?**

*Mr. Lee: I would like all of my students to come away with some of the information I'm trying to teach. I know science is not easy and you're not going to use all the information, but I think it's important for all people to understand what they're learning and if they tried, they could learn more information on the subject. I think a lot of times people find science intimidating and I want people to know it's something that's accessible if you put the work in.*

**Jamesonian: How long have you been a teacher?**

*Mr. Grow: A little over a four months now.*

**Jamesonian: Why did you become a teacher?**

*Mr. Grow: I have wanted to be a teacher for a long time. Not only do I really enjoy the subject that I teach, Religion and Theology, I really desire to. A lot of teaching is just imparting knowledge, but with my teaching it's more of sharing an experience of somebody else or of God. Sharing an experience of people's hearts touches more than just information of the brain. I really like not only what I teach but what it does for the students and how it impacts them.*

**Jamesonian: What is your favorite experience so far at Loughlin?**

*Mr. Grow: I can't say I've had a favorite experience since there's all sorts of experiences. I really enjoyed listening to the musicians and watching the dancers at the Concert Spectacular and in the beginning of the year for the freshmen when they had those. Being able to watch the students come alive in a way that they love and that they're passionate about. I like the energy. I've been to a few volleyball games and I like the energy for that as well. And then the best moments like probably being a teacher when I can really connect with one of the students on some sort of experience they've had about their life, with God, or school in a deeper way. Those are always beautiful moments.*

**Jamesonian: If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?**

*Mr. Grow: The greatest adventure you can go on is the discovery of your own heart. And in order to do that, you have to approach your own heart with a lot of kindness and patience.*



## Reflections on Christmas

by Sarae Robinson '29

Quite often, Christmas is considered one of the most enchanting and exciting days of the year, and it is supposed to be accompanied by glowing lights, decorated trees, delicious meals, and mounds of presents. For wealthy and fortunate people, it can be a time of extravagance when the latest phones, expensive shoes, trendy clothes, and high-priced gifts are given without much regard for the cost. Everything looks flawless and cheerful, and it can appear that this is what a "real" Christmas should be. Until now, movies, adverts, and social media have been propagating this notion and making it feel that the more money you spend, the more the holiday is made special.

This emphasis on material things can very easily take the focus off of what Christmas is really supposed to be.

On the other hand, for many other people, Christmas is a very different thing. There are families that have a hard time just buying groceries or paying for the heating and electricity, and gifts may be out of the question entirely. Kids in such circumstances may not fantasize about video games or branded products but rather ask

for the most basic things, such as a warm coat, a full meal, clean clothes, or a safe and cozy place to sleep. The ordinary things that many people get every day without even thinking of them can mean the whole world to the ones who are less fortunate. Sometimes, just being with the family, sharing a little meal, or having a warm home for a night could be more precious than any costly present.

This difference is an abrupt and unforgettable lesson that Christmas ought not to be a matter of money or the price of gifts but rather a time to be thankful, show love, and connect with others. By witnessing that people celebrate the holiday in completely different ways, we can reflect on our own privileges and be thankful for what we already have. Minor works of benevolence, such as giving to a food bank, supporting a neighbor, or inviting someone to be a part of your holiday plans, can have a great effect. The truth is that even a nice word or a simple gesture of love can bring warmth and hope to a person who feels forgotten in the holiday season. Ultimately, the most valuable presents cannot be found in shops but in love, empathy, and gratitude for the simple and ordinary things that are the truest of life.

## Loughlin Visits Natural History Museum

by Camille Niles '29 and Flora Williams '29

On Monday November 17, the entire Class of 2029 went on a trip to the Museum of Natural History. It has become an annual trip, organized by Mr. Micah Effron, and always provides a learning experience for our newest students. Students got to experience the insect exhibit, learn about archeological evidence, dinosaurs and other creatures. The students took the train and got off at 81st street, a unique train station featuring unique animal themed mosaics and fossil displays on the walls.

They also got to take a look at the new, stunning \$465 million dollar Richard Gilder Center for Science, designed like a canyon. They also got to enjoy an immersive experience called "Invisible Worlds" showing how all life on Earth is connected.

Overall, this trip truly was a very special outing for the students of Loughlin allowing their brilliance and expressiveness to be put into action, to which all class of 2029 are grateful for.

# Christmas Show

## A great start for Christmas Break

by Staff

The Bishop Loughlin Christmas Show offered excellent entertainment, whether you attended the evening, or the daytime show. Some highlights, of which there were many, include the Violin Class (fairly new to Loughlin) performing *Silent Night*, followed by an incredibly talented Alumni Band with *Winter Wonderland*.

The audience was treated to several numbers from all the student bands—

Sophomore Band, Junior Band, Senior Band, Advanced Band, and the Small Band. The Chorus and Small Band singers also performed. The various dance groups were well-presented, with Modern Dance, House Dance, Latino Dance, and the Steppers all giving spirited performances. Elijah Fraser '26 and Kingston Pauyo '27 shared the role of master of ceremonies and sang with the Small Band.



# Concert Spectacular Shows the Loughlin Spirit

by Mia Hilton '29



Left, Performing Arts, including a surprise appearance from Leo the Lion, provided the entertainment. Right, Lions and visiting students on the field.

Bishop Loughlin held its annual Concert Spectacular on October 10. This Concert Spectacular was held for invited local Catholic schools and lasted from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In addition to the concert, schools enjoyed participating in several athletic activities on the new field. These activities brought many students from different schools together, while demonstrating that Bishop Loughlin is a school that has something for everyone, with greater involvement leading to a better outcome. The entire faculty and staff were on hand, with Leo the Lion making a surprising appearance. Some of the schools that were there included St. Peter Catholic Academy, St. Clair, St. Bartholomew Catholic Academy, St. Elizabeth Catholic Academy, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Academy, Brooklyn Environmental Exploration School MS664, Brooklyn Excelsior Charter, Brooklyn Jesuit Prep, Brooklyn Scholars, Epiphany Lutheran school, Midwood Catholic Academy, Our Lady of Trust Catholic



Cheerleaders show that school spirit.

Academy, PAVE Academy and Riverton Street Charter School. Some of the activities that were on display (with the assistance of team players) were soccer, basketball, flag football, lacrosse, softball,



baseball, track and field and bowling. At 10:15 all moved on to the auditorium to see the concert portion of the show.

The performance began with a beautiful prayer, followed by Chorus and Small Band performing *Hallelujah* and *Glory Say Yes*. We then moved to modern dance to Senior and Advanced Band playing from *Moana*. The small band took over with *Made for Me*, with singers Hanna Bowels '29, Elijah Jerome '26, Ja'Nan Ryan-McKay '29 and Alanah Puncan '29. Step then performed, with a spirited *003 Chant*, followed by House Dance, Advanced Band, and Latino Dance.

To finish off, there was a rousing performance of the school song. Every performance was synchronized, and a lot of energy was brought by the players and returned by a grateful audience; overall, the day showed what Bishop Loughlin as a school was all about. It was a happy, spirited time for all.

# First Open House Shows Loughlin at its Best

by Nyla Santoni '28

In September, we proudly hosted our annual Open House event, where we welcomed prospective students and their families to tour our campus and get a firsthand look at what makes our school so special.

Families had the opportunity to explore our brand-new turf field, learn about our many accomplishments, and discover the wide variety of extracurricular activities and clubs we offer. Whether you're interested in dance, drama, debate, service, or something else, there's a place for you here.

But beyond trophies and calendars, what shone brightest was the spirit of belonging. We shared how students support each other week-in and week-out, forging friendships, mentoring younger peers, and treating the school as a second home. In the Lion's Den, we believe high school should be more than just earning grades—it should be a holistic experience of growth, connection, and opportunity.

That evening, our guests saw firsthand what makes our school a place where every student can belong, contribute, and flourish.

# Track and Field

## A busy Fall and Winter for our runners

by Noah Brown '29

As Track and Field begins with the outdoor season and continues through the winter with its indoor season, it's safe to say these Lions are always on the move. From the most recent to this year's earliest, here are some event highlights.

On January 11 at the Molly Stanner Games, the Lady Lions brought home five medals, with sophomore Makayla Parke '28 placing first in the 55-meter hurdles and our varsity girls shuttle hurdle relay team of Makayla Parke '28, Jada Elcock '27, Chelsea White '26, and Lahzai Robinson '28 placing second.

On January 10 at The CHSAA Brooklyn and Queens Sectionals Championship in Staten Island, the freshmen and sophomore Lions brought home two MVP plaques and eight medals—five gold medals, one silver, and two bronze. Brooklyn/Queens freshman MVP Amare Wickham '29, placed first in the 300-meters and first in the 400-meters. Sophomore MVP champion Caiden Romeo '29 placed first in the 300-meters and first in the 600-meters. Sophomore Alijah Lilies '28 placed first in the 55-meters and second in the 300-meters.

On January 9 at The Officials Hall of Fame Meet, held at the Armory Track and Field center, the Lady Lions brought home three medals, with Promise Terry '29 coming in second place in the 200-meters and Kiersten Haggins '29 placing third.

On Saturday, December 6 at The Staten Island High School Track & Field Relays, the Lions brought home a meet record, a New York number one time, and a total of 21 medals—four gold, 11 silver, and six bronze. The varsity girls 4 x 2 team of Tomi Olusanya '26, Kiersten Haggins '29, Morgan Bass '28, and Promise Terry '29 set a new meet record and are ranked number one in New York. The freshmen Lady Lions 4 x 2 relay team of Dakota Alston '29, Nylah McNamee '29, Jamya Abdur-Rashid '29 and Jailyn Reid '29 came in second place while making their indoor high school debut. Our sophomore lady Lions 4 x 4 relay team of Makayla Parke '28, Olivia Dorsonne '28, Alexis Taylor '28, and Zanai Millington '28 placed second. In the two person high jump relay Promise Terry '29 and Chelsea White '26 placed second.

Earlier in the fall season, the Loughlin Track and Field and Cross Country season was filled with exhilaration and achievement—especially for our freshmen Lady Lions. On Saturday October 25th, at The CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Sectional Championship, we congratulated our freshman medalists Dakota Alston and Nylah McNamee, who both brought home a championship medal. Among the other athletes, Denver Sledge '29 finished

her first freshman championship—with a personal best performance. This was a nice way to end the outdoor season for our freshmen Loughlinites. At another event, held at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York, our freshmen Lady Lions brought home six medals. The Freshmen Cross Country Relay Team was led by Promise Terry and followed by Dakota Alston, Jamya Abdur-Rashid, Nylah McNamee, and Kiersten Haggins. Additionally, Denver Sledge '29 placed third and medaled in the freshmen girls 1500-meter run.

On Friday, October 10, our freshman team attended the five-hour Athlos Track & Field Meet/Concert at Icahn Stadium. This event was hosted by four-time Olympian and 23-time Grand slam champion Serena Williams and her husband Alexis Ohanian. Our Lady Lions had a great time witnessing Olympians compete for the Athlos crown, as well as seeing numerous celebrities.

Finally, our freshman traveled to the Bronx to compete at the Annual Manhattan University High School Invitational Cross Country Meet on Saturday, October 11. The first to cross the Edward J.J Bowes Finish line was medalist Promise Terry '29—followed by Dakota Alston '29, Jamya Abdur-Rashid '29, Nylah McNamee '29, and Denver Sledge '29.

Discipline, hard work, and dedication have helped the track and field teams accomplish their goals this year!

Thanks to Coach Mary Mells for her contributions to this article.

A few young Lions and their medals. Left to right, Promise Terry '29, Kiersten Haggins '29, and Amare Wickham '29.

