CRISTO REY
PHILADELPHIA
HIGH SCHOOL

President's Newsletter

April 16, 2026

Friends of Cristo Rey,

All throughout the year, we celebrate our Blue Pride Student-Athletes and their achievements both on and off the field, court, track, and this year, chess table. Our Blue Pride Athletics programming continues to grow year after year. Our Spring Sports are in full-swing and 209 students participated in at least one sport this year. Of the total number of Student-Athletes, 76 are multi-sport athletes, which is a 33% increase from the 24-25 School Year! Our Spring Blue Pride Student-Athletes boast an average GPA of 3.21 and are excelling in both the classroom and at work!

Our teams are winning championships, and our athletes are breaking records, but more importantly they are "in the arena... striving valiantly and at their best, know the triumph of high achievement and at worst, fail while daring greatly…" as Teddy Roosevelt said! Below, you'll meet a handful of our Class of 2026 Student-Athletes and hear about how their involvement in Blue Pride Athletics has shaped their Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School experience!

Laila Alexander | Soccer, Basketball, Baseball – Manager
Work-Study Placement | Wawa
"Being a Student-Athlete to me means balancing and holding myself to Academic and Athletic excellence. Prioritizing my classwork and homework along with practices and training. Being a Student-Athlete at Cristo Rey Philadelphia has impacted me in more ways than one - it has built my character on and off the court and field and it has shaped me into the leader I am today. Every loss was a lesson and every moment a memory."

Asaf Berrios | Soccer, Chess, Baseball
Work-Study Placement | Comcast
"Being a Cristo Rey Philadelphia Student-Athlete truly showed me the importance of balancing sports and academics. It helped me assimilate into the Cristo Rey Philadelphia community and build bonds with others that I will never forget. Being a Student-Athlete taught me how to lead a team, be a role model, and mentor other students who were in my position when I was a freshman."

Quamere Jordan-Upsey | Indoor Track & Field, Track & Field
Work-Study Placement | Cencora
"Being a Student-Athlete means you know what it takes to be a student and an athlete; it means you know where the line between school and sport ends and begins. For me, being a Student-Athlete has made me realize that every hour, out of the 24 in a day, counts, so I use my time wisely."











Tran Le | Volleyball
Work-Study Placement | Zarwin Baum
“As a Student-Athlete, I've learned that sometimes being a leader means acknowledging and adapting to everyone’s personal strengths and values. Being a part of the Volleyball team means that I am learning and growing as a team member, leader, and confidant. This team has made me feel loved and belonging at Cristo Rey Philadelphia, and I am so excited to see it grow.”

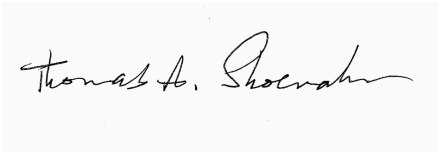
Oscar Perez-Rojas | Soccer, Cross Country, Track & Field
Work-Study Placement | St. Joseph's University Athletics
"Being a Student-Athlete to me, means being someone who looks to inspire others and put my best foot forward for everything. Cristo Rey Philadelphia gave me my first real families: the Soccer and Track teams. They both welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like somebody at school. I also feel like it pulled me closer to God, I believe I play under God’s image and I pray before anything sports related now. Through my four years I have learned that being a Student-Athlete is not easy, that there will always be challenges inside and outside of class and sports, but you must keep your head in place and stay committed to everything you do."

Sang Pham | Basketball – Manager
Work-Study Placement | Villanova University Men’s Basketball
"To me, being a Student-Athlete means patience, adjustment, peace, endorsing, and embracing. It meant the world to me to be able to play the sport that I love and be at peace with doing the thing that is my escape from everything. Freshman and Sophomore year, I played on the Boys' Basketball team. As much as I developed as a basketball player, I developed as a young man, because of the lessons I learned. Junior year, I made the decision to stop playing so I could work closely with Villanova Men's Basketball as my Work-Study placement. It was difficult at first, but now, understanding and looking back at everything, that was my favorite memory as a Student-Athlete, because without the Coach Sample's guidance and my decision, I wouldn’t be where I am now."

Our mission at Cristo Rey Philadelphia requires us to nurture and challenge our young people to reach their fullest potential. Our Student-Athletes are challenged to be their best athletically and academically, while also learning teamwork and leadership. Cristo Rey Philadelphia Student-Athletes are building character and life skills through their hard work in the classroom, workplace, the sports field, track, and court. I am very proud of these young men and women and greatly appreciate the support you provide to give them these opportunities. They are are certainly on their way to incredible post-secondary opportunities, having received acceptances from Villanova University, Princeton University, Temple University, New York University, St. Joseph's University, Virginia Commonwealth University, The University of Pennsylvania and more!

We have a busy Spring ahead of us and I hope you’ll take a chance to join us on the field or track at some point. Our Blue Pride Athletics Instagram has up-to-date information regarding schedules and Student-Athlete achievements! Please be sure to follow us.

In Blue Pride,



Tom Shoemaker

President & CEO
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

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