

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCAULEY CLASS OF 2009

On Saturday, May 24, 2009, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School held their 53rd commencement ceremony. Family and friends of the 361 graduates gathered for the outdoor ceremony on the east lawn of the campus

In addition to the distribution of diplomas, the ceremony included speeches from the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Student Speaker and Faculty Speaker. The Valedictorian is the student with the highest GPA in the graduating class. McAuley is pleased to announce that this year there were two students who achieved this honor, Christine Durco of Evergreen Park and Hannah Pienton of Beverly.

During her time at McAuley, Christine was in the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and was a Math and Spanish tutor. She is an Illinois State Scholar and a Presidential Award of Excellence winner. Christine played on the McAuley softball team for three years and was on the all-area softball team and the all-conference softball team. Outside of McAuley, Christine plays club softball and is a volunteer basketball coach to third and fourth graders. Christine attended Central Junior High in Evergreen Park and will be attending Vanderbilt University.

Hannah was also a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. She is an Illinois State Scholar, a Presidential Award of Excellence recipient and an officer in both the Writing Club and the Equinox Literary Magazine Staff. Hannah

also attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, a 10-day program introducing high school students to the world of medicine. She attended Christ the King Grammar School in Beverly and will be attending Villanova University.

The Salutatorian, Lyssa Chavka of Orland Park, achieved the distinction of having the second highest GPA in the graduating class. Lyssa was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, Student Ambassadors, and was Captain of the Math Macs Team. She was a tutor, a eucharistic minister and a member of SADD. Lyssa was named an Illinois State Scholar, a Presidential Award of Excellence winner and a Vicariate V Youth Leadership Honoree. Outside of McAuley she volunteers at Christ Hospital, participated in the Peacebuilders Initiative and is an active member of the Quest Youth Group at St. Michael in Orland Park. She attended St. Michael's Grammar School in Orland Park and will be attending the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Each year, the graduating class selects one student and one faculty member to speak at their commencement ceremony. The speakers for the Class of 2009 are Nedaa Sweiss of Palos Heights and Social Science teacher Mary Kay Menke. Nedaa was in NHS, was a Student Ambassador Leader, an Illinois State Scholar and a Presidential Award of Excellence winner. Nedaa will be attending University of Chicago.



Mother McAuley's
2009 Graduation
Speakers (left to
right) Hannah
Pienton, Christine
Durco, Mrs. Mary
Kay Menke Lyssa
Chavka, and Nedaa
Sweiss.