

CRISTO REY PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL

## **IMPACT REPORT** 2024



# **CRISTO REY PHILADELPHIA NISSION & VALUES**

Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, a college preparatory, Catholic school for students of all faiths, nurtures and challenges young people to recognize and realize their full potential as they learn to love others, grow in their faiths, and serve the common good.



#### Dear Friends of Cristo Rey,

Letter from the President November 2024

Each year, we select a theme that serves as our guiding mantra. For the 2023-2024 school year, our focus was: Talk About It, Be About It. This theme reflects our commitment to living out Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School's values and mission in everything we do. In addition to our faculty and staff embodying these principles, our goal is that our students and graduates will carry what they have learned within our walls and share it beyond them. When our community of teachers and staff are united in our values and mission, our students thrive - benefiting from both our example and the holistic curriculum and resources designed to nurture and challenge them to reach their fullest potential. In short, we must *Talk About It* and *BeAbout It* so our students can do the same as they step into the broader world.

In the following pages, you will discover how we invest not only in our students, but also in our educators, reinforcing our commitment to building a strong and supportive community. You will hear directly from our Student Leaders about what it means to them to lead with integrity, knowing that the next one to lead is watching. You will hear from team members at

Comcast, one of our longest-standing Work-Study Partners, about the growth, hard work, and resilience that they have witnessed in our students and the development of the unique Work-Study experience that our students receive there. I am proud of what we have accomplished over the last 13 years and more determined than ever to continue growing our impact. As educators, mentors, and advocates, we are committed to redefining what it means to serve the common good. We are seeing our students take their educational, professional, spiritual, and emotional learning well past their time at Cristo Rey Philadelphia, making a lasting impact on our community that will benefit many generations to come.

We appreciate your support in our endeavors and hope our 2024 Impact Report gives you some insight into just how special our mission is.

In Blue Pride.

Thomas A. Shoemahn

Thomas A. Shoemaker President & CEO



#### SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Thomas A. Shoemaker President & CEO

Flannery O'Connor, EdD Principal

Evelin Román Director of Admissions & Engagement

Kate Reilly Director of Advancement

Porsha Colter Vice President, Corporate Work-Study Program

Linwood R. Green III Vice President. Finance & Operations

**Rich Pugh** Director of Student Life

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# WHO ARE WE?

### TOTAL ENROLLMENT **527** STUDENTS

### \$10,194 AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME PER CAPITA

THE CLASS OF 2028

LIGION	
RACE/ INICITY	

FEEDER SCHOOLS CLASS OF 2028

• Christian (Non-Catholic)	46%
Catholic	28%
<ul> <li>Does not identify</li> </ul>	11%
• Muslim	<b>9</b> %
• Other religion	6%

<ul> <li>Black/African American</li> </ul>	67%
<ul> <li>Hispanic/Latino</li> </ul>	27%
<ul> <li>Two or more races</li> </ul>	3%
<ul> <li>Asian/Asian American</li> </ul>	1%
<ul> <li>Non-Hispanic White</li> </ul>	1%
American Indian	1%
Alaska Native	
Charter school	42%
Catholic school	
	34%
<ul> <li>Public school</li> </ul>	14%
• Private Non-Catholic	<b>9%</b>

- Private Non-Catholic school
- Cyber school

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS (2023-2024)

#### 95%

Average daily attendance

### 92%

Students retained (Oct. 1, 2023 to Oct. 1, 2024)

### 274

Students achieved a 3.0 or greater

#### 100%

Students attended a retreat

#### 74%

Students participated in at least one athletic or extracurricular activity

### 53%

Students from the Class of 2025 participated in college immersion or study abroad programs

Student Demographics are from the 2024-2025 school year.

1%

## ACADEMICS

### **INVESTMENT IN TEACHERS: INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING**

At Cristo Rey Philadelphia, our approach to student learning is based on a model of high expectations and high support. Over the past few years, we have taken intentional steps to build a system of high support for our educators, knowing that doing so enhances both teaching skills and student outcomes. By refining the instructional practices of our teachers, we are fostering a learning environment where our students can thrive and prepare for the rigor of collegiate academics. We have adopted the Skyrocket Framework for Teacher Coaching to guide our efforts and keep the experience consistent for all educators. This framework provides a structured approach to observing student behavior and identifying key areas where teacher actions can drive the most improvement. Educators who engage with this framework develop expertise quickly, mastering both the content and analysis of classroom dynamics to foster growth and uphold high standards.

Cristo Rey Philadelphia also welcomed a full time Instructional Coach to the Academic Team during the 2023-2024 school year. As a result, 85% of teachers received student mastery coaching. Building on this investment, we have hired a second coach for the 2024-2025 school year who specializes in STEM curriculum to provide both content knowledge and skill development. Instructional Coaching enhances teacher effectiveness, supports ongoing professional growth, and reaffirms our commitment to prioritizing our educators.

> 36 Teachers

192 Coaching Meetings







#### Humanities

our Sophomores.

speaking skills.

## INTERACTIVE LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

Every Cristo Rey Philadelphia classroom is a dynamic learning environment. Our teachers are creating spaces for students to thrive, challenging them to engage deeply with the material. We encourage our teachers to build an atmosphere where students can process what they are learning through discussion, written analysis, and projects that require the application of real-world skills. Hands-on learning - whether it is reciting a rhetorical speech from Roman times, crafting poetry during a workshop with our Poet in Residence, or collaborating on projects in the Deloitte Foundation Innovation Lab - guides our students' growth in the classroom and empowers them to take ownership of their learning in ways that resonate with them.

Our Humanities Curriculum was developed by Sean Conard and Thomas Trainer, two highly skilled, long-time Cristo Rey Philadelphia educators. Their curriculum integrates History and English to challenge and engage

In the Ancient Rome unit, students trace historical events alongside Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Julius Caesar. Mr. Conard and Mr. Trainer note that this approach emphasizes a connection between historical concepts and storytelling, sparking students' curiosity of the world around them. At the end of the unit students deliver rhetorical speeches as if they were Roman Senators by applying rhetorical devices, historical knowledge, and public

#### English

In English classes, faculty combine literacy and collaboration to instruct students. Freshman English faculty Aly Seechok and Jasmynn Brown host a Poet in Residence in their classrooms each year as part of a three-week Poetry unit. Poetry challenges our students to experiment with complex metrical structures while encouraging vulnerability and creativity.

Last year, Ms. Seechok and Ms. Brown welcomed 2021 Philadelphia Poet Laureate Trapeta B. Mayson. whose project Healing Verse explores identity, equity, freedom and confidence through poetry in support of mental health, to campus. Ms. Mayson prompted students to ask themselves. "Who am I? How do I fit into the world?" She encouraged students to listen to their inner voices and memories, both positive and negative. Ms. Mayson concluded her residency with an Open Mic event on campus.

Classroom experiences like this cultivate genuine student connection to their work and unlock deeper self-expression. This exploration ignites a lifelong passion for poetry among some of our students like Oyewumi Oyeniyi '24 who was named Youth Poet Laureate for the City of Philadelphia in the Fall of 2023.

#### Engineering

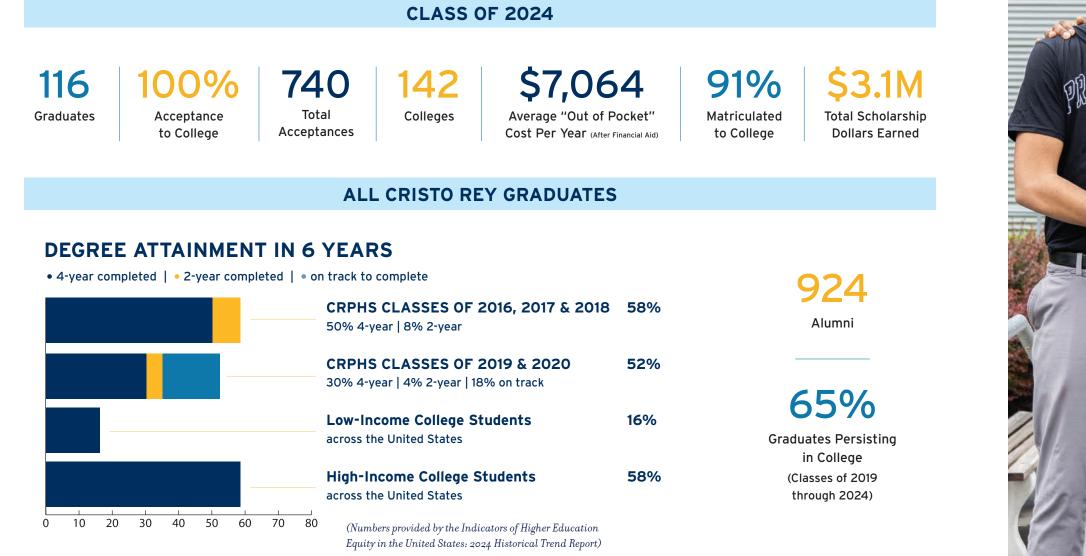
Our Engineering class, a project-based course developed by faculty from the Henry Samueli School of Engineering at UC Irvine, is available to Seniors. It encompasses multiple engineering concepts, including problem-solving, analysis, and design while also empowering students to navigate complicated software programs and equipment with ease.

Using industry-standard equipment, like 3-D printers, and programs, students define, build, and test a series of mini-projects focused on various aspects of engineering, from basic electronics to computer-aided drafting.

Our year-long engineering course wraps up with a capstone project. Students interview faculty and staff to identify problems in their classrooms and offices and create solutions. such as storage, chargers, or even drones. Their projects have a long-term impact at school and are utilized around the building well after their creation.

# **COLLEGE ACCESS & PERSISTENCE**

### **BY THE NUMBERS**





## **PREPARATION TO AND THROUGH**

Cristo Rey Philadelphia commits to ensuring that our students are supported in their journeys to and through college. The College & Career Counseling Team does this by providing opportunities, in dedicated class time and through summer programming, for our students to have access to a wide range of experiences prior to college. During College & Career Counseling class, Juniors and Seniors build their college lists, complete applications, write college essays, and apply for scholarships and financial aid, all while exploring the career paths available to them.

Students parse out additional interests by participating in summer immersion programs. Fifty-three percent of the Class of 2025 participated in a summer program, including Study Abroad experiences spanning six continents.

#### STUDENT DIPLOMACY CORPS

#### JOSE SUAREZ-SALINAS | CRPHS, Class of 2025

"I applied to SDC because I was nominated by my counselor, Mr. Austin, and was told I would be a good candidate for it. He said it would be a great opportunity to make new connections and that was one of my favorite parts of my experience.

I enrolled in a program where I studied LatinX migration and how immigration is affecting immigrant lives. We learned about the tenuous journey of crossing the border and the process of becoming a United States citizen. I enjoyed the relation to my own life, because I learned about the sacrifices my parents have made for me and my younger brother. I have been able to understand how fortunate I am to be an American citizen. Heading into my Senior year this program challenged me through the long essays that I had to complete, which pushed me to improve my writing and proofreading skills. It also gave me the opportunity to understand the workload I will face in college."





# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

#### MAKING IT AS A MAROON

#### VICTOIRE EHINNOU | CRPHS, Class of 2024. University of Chicago, Class of 2028

This Fall, we checked in with 2024 graduate, Victoire Ehinnou, who just began her freshman year at University of Chicago. For those who know her, it is no surprise that Victoire is thriving! She is attending UChicago on a QuestBridge Scholarship, which matches students like Victoire, at no cost, to fifty of the best universities in the nation. On campus, she is a member of EKA House, the assigned student organization in her dorm, and is studying Economics. Thus far, her experience at UChicago is similar to her time at Cristo Rey Philadelphia. She is a part of a supportive community that engages with her learning and success. Upon arrival, Victoire thought she was going to be swimming in a sea of intelligent people. While that is certainly the case, she says, "Everyone is asking me about my

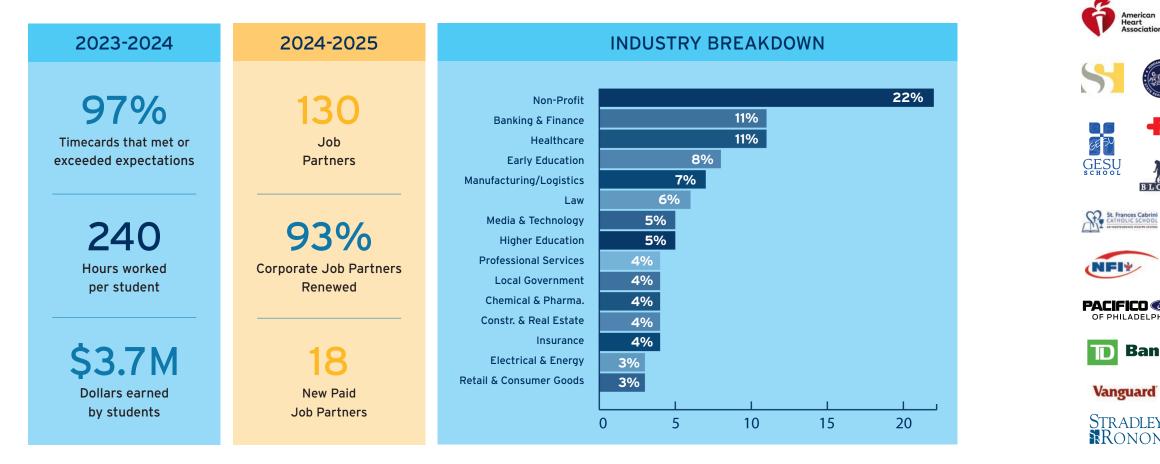
experience. The Work-Study Program sets me apart from other students. Every time I meet someone, their mindset is so different and it is cool to meet so many people coming from different places. We are all learning from each other, and everyone is successful in their own way."

Prior to her arrival on campus, she spent a week in New York City for Career Exploration Week. Organized by UChicago, she visited eight companies across different industries and had the opportunity to network and build connections, a skill she honed here at Cristo Rey Philadelphia. She plans to use the resources provided to her to plan her internship for next summer and work experience during her college years. As a dedicated member of multiple athletic teams, a National Honor Society member, and Student Ambassador, her rigorous preparation at Cristo Rey Philadelphia, not only in the classroom and workplace, but also in this community, prepared her tenfold for her adventures in the Windy City.

# WORK-STUDY

## FOSTERING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

The Corporate Work-Study Program is a cornerstone of the Cristo Rey model. This unique experience not only shapes students' postsecondary and career paths but also prepares them to become future leaders in the workforce. Under the mentorship of Work-Study supervisors and team members they encounter in the workplace, our students are developing professional skills, preparing them to enter the workforce with confidence.



## 2024-2025 Work-Study Partners

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## **RECOGNIZE & REALIZE**

How One Supervisor is Nurturing and Challenging our Students in the Workplace

Claire Stachura's (pictured front row, second from left) involvement with Cristo Rey Philadelphia through Comcast's Work-Study Program spans eight years and is filled with stories of growth, cultivation, and successful outcomes. However, Claire's introduction to the Cristo Rey Philadelphia Work-Study Program began in 2015 at Cozen O'Connor, another founding Job Partner. She oversaw the program upon her arrival at Cozen O'Connor in her role as Office Coordinator and managed the four Cristo Rey Philadelphia students who worked there. During her time at Cozen O'Connor, she honed her skills on how best to connect with our young people and pair them with dynamic and engaging supervisors who would challenge and nurture them.

After transitioning to Comcast in 2016, Claire quickly realized how much she missed her involvement with the Work-Study Program and the incredible Cristo Rey Philadelphia students she had met. One year in, she was walking by the Tech Bar and noticed a handful of our students unboxing laptops. She then began a journey to understand who oversaw the Cristo Rey Philadelphia Work-Study Program at Comcast. Claire offered her support to the program team, and shortly thereafter things began to move quickly. Attending her first Signing Day with Comcast in the Fall of 2017, she began to understand the program's reach and realized that Cristo Rey's impact on the Greater Philadelphia business community was more significant than she had realized.

Simultaneously, Claire's mentor at Comcast was encouraging her to become more involved within the company. She took some time to explore exactly how the Cristo Rey Philadelphia Work-Study Program fit

within the ecosystem of Comcast. The program had support from Senior Executives, but her leadership gave it the structure it needed. Over the next seven years, she cultivated the program and ensured that it was a meaningful experience for both student-workers and supervisors. During the pandemic, our students worked as consultants for Comcast researching improvements for various business initiatives with a focus on increasing engagement from young people today. Claire's involvement managing the Work-Study Program was outside the scope of her roles at Comcast over the years – whether that was in Operations, Event Production, or Program Management. She believes that her experience with the program aided in her professional development and, ultimately, her pursuit of a role that could encompass her passion for working with our students and helping to shape the future workforce of Philadelphia.

Today, Claire's role is Manager, TPX Career Experiences, overseeing the Cristo Rey Philadelphia Work-Study Program, in addition to partnerships with Cristo Rey schools all over the country, and other early career programs. She manages 4.4 supervisors who are paired with 4.4 students across Comcast's Philadelphia campus. She onboards our students, manages their goals and growth, and ensures their experience at Comcast is enriching and transformative. Thanks to Claire and Comcast, students are building their professional networks, receiving exposure to new industries, and gaining valuable mentorship as they prepare for college and careers. Claire's dedication, along with all of our supervisors across Job Partners in the Work-Study Program, empowers Cristo Rey Philadelphia to build the future workforce of our city and nurture the leaders of tomorrow.



NYLA DEMPS CRPHS. Class of 2021 Emory University, Class of 2025



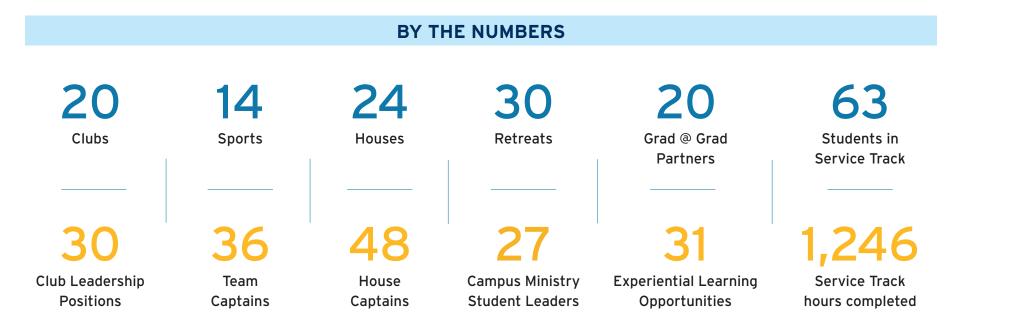
While at Cristo Rey, I had the privilege of interning in the Content Acquisition department at Comcast. As a firstgeneration student, working in an environment filled with driven professionals broadened my perspective on the value of higher education and made me passionate about going to college. As an intern, I was not only able to develop the necessary transferable skills but also learned about others' college experiences which inspired me to attend the NYU Pre-College Program and navigate the college application process with confidence. Now, during my Senior year at Emory University, I am excited to have accepted an offer to return to Comcast as a Core Technology Associate, a program introduced to me by mentors who have guided me along the way. Having already experienced Comcast's culture, I'm confident this is the right place for me to grow my career. - Nyla Demps

Comcast's team of 2024-2025 Student-Workers pictured with Cristo Rey Philadelphia Board of Trustees Member and Comcast Executive Charlie Herrin (pictured front row, right). 77

# STUDENT LIFE

### **CULTIVATING LEADERS**

The Student Life Team at Cristo Rey Philadelphia strives to provide each student with ample opportunities to explore and hone their innate strengths and build foundational social skills. The team facilitates countless ways for students to find their communities and step into leadership roles, whether they are introverts or extroverts. Through participation in athletics – through varsity teams or club sports – or as spiritual leaders among their peers, students are encouraged to lead in ways that resonate with their unique strengths. For those drawn to advocacy, activism, or creative pursuits, there are platforms to express themselves as makers, tinkerers, researchers, and inventors. Students who find fulfillment in nurturing and caring for others can engage as gardeners, caretakers, and supportive friends. With a wide array of clubs and extracurricular activities available, every Cristo Rey Philadelphia student has the chance to explore their passions, be a leader, and make a meaningful impact within the school community.





**ATHLETICS** Kennith Volcy, Class of 2024 **Computer Science** Temple University, Class of 2028

As I reflect on my leadership of the Cross Country and Track & Field teams, being a leader was something I never really wanted to be. However, as my Senior year progressed, I realized that being a leader is not just telling people to do things or acting in a certain way. Being a leader is leading by example and that is how I could be a leader. Being an example to the grades below me of how one should conduct themselves. Being an example of what they could become! Being a leader gave me a reason to be my best self every day – always pushing myself to do well in not only my classes and clubs, but also in my sport, even if I was tired. I was always thinking, in the back of my mind, that if I were to be a leader I needed to be an example of one. Looking back at my time being a team captain, it taught me an important lesson: there are many ways to lead and inspire someone to be their best self.



**CAMPUS MINISTRY STUDENT LEADERS** Yaretzy Lorenzo Class of 2025

Being a leader in the Campus Ministry program has been a privilege, as it has allowed me to advocate for the personal growth of others. For the past year, I have witnessed the academic. vocational, and spiritual growth of Cristo Rev Philadelphia students and it motivates me to always be the best version of myself at school and on retreats. Campus Ministry Student Leaders have cultivated a safe space within the team and our community. and it is something that I cherish dearly. My role as a student leader never feels like an obligation; it is a passion. I enjoy seeing my community thrive, it brings me true joy to be a part of that positive change, whether in school or beyond. Campus Ministry has encouraged me to go beyond Cristo Rey Philadelphia after graduation. continuing to succeed as a leader.



CLUBS Jonax Sanchez, Class of 2024 Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering University of Virginia, Class of 2028

Being the leader of both the STEAM and Gardening clubs at Cristo Rey Philadelphia during my Senior year was an exciting experience. For the Green Schools Initiative, both clubs worked on creating sustainability through 3D-printed pots made with recycled plastic filament. We placed the pots in various spaces around the school. Our project was successful and we were recognized by the Mayor's Office for our contribution. Both clubs meant a lot to me, because they exposed me to various resources and opportunities at Cristo Rey Philadelphia. Gardening taught me both practical and soft skills, like patience, growth, and resilience. It made me realize that, just like plants, we flourish when nurtured. However, unlike plants, our growth is continuous. STEAM Club, meanwhile, showed me the joy of giving back! We hosted workshops monthly for middle schoolers throughout the area and I was able to pass on all the skills I had learned.



GRAD @ GRAD, SERVICE TRACK **Miguel Romero-Huerta** Class of 2025

Servitude, enjoyment, compassion, and hope are just a few of the feelings that I have experienced during my service at Catholic Charities. Through Catholic Charities I have learned that service comes in many forms. Service is the act of showing *agape love* – the Love of God. The only reason I was able to experience service at Catholic Charities was because of Service Track. Service Track is an opportunity for our students to understand the importance of helping others and how we can make a difference. As a Christian, Service Track is a blessing for me to understand how I can become a more virtuous person and help people who need it the most. Service Track is a great opportunity for not only me, but for hundreds of students who seek a career that not only involves service, but also makes a change in the world.



For the Reyes and Castro-Gomez children, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School is a family affair. The three siblings – Miguel, Genesis, and Jennifer – have each traversed the halls of Cristo Rey Philadelphia building connections with their classmates and educators, learning in the classroom and on the job, and growing into the incredible people they are today.

Finally, for Jennifer Castro-Gomez, Class of 2026, there was only Cristo Rey Philadelphia. She always knew she would become a member of the Blue Pride community and is thrilled to follow in her siblings' footsteps. She often seeks guidance from big sister Genesis regarding Academics and Work-Study, because she knows her sister is the expert confidant on both fronts. Although the Work-Study Program is why she, ultimately, chose to attend Cristo Rey Philadelphia. During her Junior year, she is looking forward to building her college lists and figuring out her path during her College & Career Counseling classes.

Miguel, Genesis, and Jennifer are connected through their shared experience and have found that Cristo Rey Philadelphia not only had a transformative effect on their education, but also their relationship as siblings.

With over 60% of our applicants referred by family and friends, we often hear stories like that of the Reyes and Castro-Gomez family. We are so proud of our community and thankful to our families for entrusting the education of their students to us over and over again.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

**MIGUEL REYES** CRPHS, Class of 2019 Pierce College, Class of 2023

#### **GENESIS CASTRO-GOMEZ** CRPHS. Class of 2023 La Salle University, Class of 2027

**JENNIFER CASTRO-GOMEZ** CRPHS, Class of 2026

Miguel Reyes, Class of 2019, learned about Cristo Rey Philadelphia as an eager eighth-grader looking for a unique, challenging, and intentional college preparatory experience when a student walked into his classroom. This student was wearing a Comcast quarter-zip and explained how his weekly routine differed from that of the average high school student in Philadelphia. After four years of hard work in the classroom and on the job at WSFS Bank as a student, Miguel went on to and graduated from Pierce College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology. He continues his employment at his former Job Partner, WSFS Bank, today.

Genesis Castro-Gomez, Class of 2023, was introduced to Cristo Rey Philadelphia because of her older brother; however, all she knew was the old school at 5218 N. Broad Street. When she walked into 1717 W. Allegheny Avenue, she was captivated. She had the choice between another high school and Cristo Rey Philadelphia but chose to attend Cristo Rey because of the vibrant community and the Work-Study Program. She saw what this type of education did for her brother, and she was determined to experience it herself. She knows she has been set up for success because of her time at Cristo Rey. Her different Work-Study placements from Haverford Trust to FMC taught her skills, like communication and networking, she now uses regularly as a Nursing Major at La Salle University. She expects to graduate in 2027 and hopes to become a Labor and Delivery, Pediatric, or NICU nurse.

# HORIZONS AT CRISTO REY



### **AN EXTENSION OF OUR MISSION**

Horizons at Cristo Rey serves elementary-age children from our North Philadelphia community year-round through a 6-week summer program and an after school initiative three days a week during the academic year. Our commitment to our neighbors continues to grow, as our Horizons site will eventually expand to serve 135 students from kindergarten through 8th grade by 2028. We offer out-of-school time activities tailored for our youngest neighbors, engaging students with enriching and intentional curricula designed to enhance their academic, social, and emotional outcomes. It is clear how the Horizons model supports the Cristo Rey Philadelphia mission by aligning with our commitment to promoting educational opportunities through innovative teaching and local partnerships. We are so proud to extend this mission to our youngest learners.

Swimming is a cornerstone of the Horizons program nationwide, and our long-standing partnership with the Greater Philadelphia YMCA and their Columbia North branch makes it possible for our students to swim twice a week. This life saving skill is incredibly valuable, as it not only promotes physical activity, but also fosters confidence and resilience. While swimming may not be an academic subject, its benefits extend beyond the pool. Students learn to navigate challenges, build self-esteem, and commit to their goals, finding joy in their progress each week. Through this combination of skill-building and social-emotional learning, swimming becomes a transformative experience for our students.

For more stories and information about Horizons at Cristo Rey, please read our 2024 Summer Impact Report.

75

Students in 2024 Summer Program

78%

Student retention from 2023 Summer Program to 2024 Summer Program 7:1

Student to Teacher ratio

100%

Students leave with swim skills

4.5

Hours of academic enrichment per day

35%

Staff are Cristo Rey alumni or current student





## **MISSION FUNDING**

Thanks to the continued support from our network of donors, foundations, corporations and organizations, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School is fortunate to have maintained a strong financial position in fiscal year 2024.



#### **FISCAL YEAR 2024**

Total Gift Revenue:	Gift Revenue: \$ 12,437,109	
Philanthropically Funded Work-Study Revenue	\$	757,500
Work-Study Contract Revenue	\$	2,970,125
Fundraising Revenue	\$	8,709,484

Please note that the above shows pre-audited figures. Final audited figures are available upon request.

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1717 West Allegheny Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19132 215.219.3943 | www.cristoreyphiladelphia.org | connect@crphs.org

