



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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St. Paul Catholic High School Announces 54th Commencement Exercises and its Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Bristol, CT – May 17, 2023 – Commencement exercises for the Class of 2023 will be held on Friday, May 26 at 6:30 pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford. A celebration of the class will be held with family, friends, faculty, staff, and administration. The valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2023 will give their commencement speeches that evening as well.

The St. Paul Catholic High School Class of 2023 valedictorian and salutatorian were announced last week at St. Paul's annual Academic Awards Night. Lila Alderete '23 has been named Valedictorian of the Class of 2023. Lila has chosen to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, NY in August where she will major in Computer Science.

She is the daughter of Melissa Durstin of Winsted and Jorge Alderete of NJ.

Lila received a Summa Scholar award which represents the top 5% of students within the Archdiocese of Hartford. Lila has been involved in Student Government, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Math & Data Analytics Team and captain of the Tennis team. She managed to balance her academic, club and sports responsibilities throughout her four years at St. Paul very well.

Her advice to students, "Challenge yourself to go outside your comfort zone to discover new passions, talents, or experiences. By doing so, you will grow into the individual you are meant to be and embrace who you are."

Lila's favorite class at St. Paul was AP Computer Science. This course sparked my interests for coding, problem solving, and innovation. After completing this course, I was confident that I wanted to chase my new found love for computer science in college.

Calista Oria '23 was named Salutatorian of the Class of 2023. She is the daughter of Voltaire and Eaos Oria of Torrington.

When asked about what advice she would give to a St. Paul student, she said “The high school experience consists of both highs and lows. Be patient with yourself when faced with adversity, and savor every happy memory you make.”

Calista held the position of Vice President for National Honor Society, and was also involved in Student Government, Blue Key Club (Student Ambassador), World Language and Culture Club, Kids Kicking Cancer Club as well as Captain of the Cross Country and Tennis teams.

Her favorite class was Music Theory. “Being that music is a huge aspect of my life, learning about the fundamentals behind music creation was very engaging for me. I especially loved analyzing the chords found within the varying genres of music that exist today!”

On Tuesday she was recognized as an Archdiocesan Summa Scholar by the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Calista will attend Cornell University in Ithaca, NY this fall majoring in Industrial and Labor Relations.

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St. Paul Catholic High School, established in 1966, is a coeducational secondary school of the Archdiocese of Hartford, serving over 400 students from over 35 communities in central Connecticut, China, and South Korea. Our vision, to be a truly great Catholic high school, is achieved by living our core values of Faith, Character, Community, Excellence, and Service.

For more information, or to set up an interview, please contact Melissa Lindquist in the Office of Advancement at 860-584-0911 x430 or mlindquist@spchs.com.