Superintendent's Message

It has been nearly two weeks since we published our last newsletter and so many things have happened. On Saturday, May 18th, I attended my third and last NYMA Ring Hop held at Eisenhower Hall at West Point. I took the opportunity to have several photo ops with many cadets and staff members. These pictures will bring beautiful memories of NYMA for years to come. (pictured top right)

Last weekend was also NYMA's annual Alumni Weekend. I had the honor to meet over sixty alumni (pictured bottom right) and deliver the 2019 State of the Academy. The following are some of the highlights shared with all the participants.

Currently over 100 cadets are enrolled in our school and 21 of them will be graduating on June 8th. Cadets from the Class of 2019 have been accepted to University of Hartford, Siena College, Stetson University, Hampton-Sydney College, Florida Southern College, George Mason University, St. Louis University, University of Massachusetts, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Rochester, Rollins College, Wabash College, Adelphi University, Rutgers University, Michigan State University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Iona College, Academy of Art University, Kean University, Beloit College, New York Institute of Technology, Drew University, Pace University, Hofstra University, Suffolk University, American University, San Jose State University, University of Iowa, Whitman College, Denison University, Seaton Hall University, Seattle University, Nichols College, Sara Lawrence College, College of St. Rose, and Stony Brook University.

Currently we have over 50 full-time employees including administration, faculty and staff, plus a few part timers.

Under the guidance of Ms. Maria Reeves, Dean of Academics, we are offering a comprehensive academic program including the following core courses: English, history, mathematics, science, foreign language, art, health, and physical education (through team sports). Additionally, we offer a number of electives. This year, we offered two college courses, College Writing and Biology, and administered a total of 29 Advanced Placement exams. We have a complete application on file with SEVIS, the system that issues visas to international students, to grow our Post Graduate Program with the international market. Once approved, we will have the ability to offer more college courses and increase our enrollment.

We've filled the two required JROTC positions, Senior Army Instructor and Army Instructor. With the assistance and coordination of our Commandant of Cadets, Joseph Naseef, we passed the JROTC Program for Accreditation (JPA), for the first time in six years. Our cadets participated in a number of local parades and community events.

Combining three sports seasons, we had the following sports teams: Cross Country, Soccer, Girls' Volleyball, Cheerleading, Bowling, Wrestling, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Golf, Ultimate Frisbee, Baseball, Boys' Tennis, and Girls' Tennis. Our Boys' Basketball Team won back to back NEPSAC Championships for the first time in NYMA history. Also, for the first time in NYMA history, the Girls' Basketball Team won the same Championship. One of our star athletes has been awarded a full athletic scholarship by the College of St. Rose - Division II, another one of our star athletes has been awarded a full athletic scholarship by Monmouth University Division I, and finally a third star athlete has been awarded a full athletic scholarship by the University of Colorado - a High Major/Power 6 Conference Division I University.

We have been actively assessing the conditions and status of all aspects of the school including capital improvement, building repairs, and technology upgrades. We sincerely thank the NYMA Board of Trustees for supporting our capital needs by replacing a number of roofs, installing new fire alarms, renovating the gymnasium, upgrading bathrooms, and doing many capital improvement projects. Between the time NYMA was purchased by Research Center on Natural Conservation in 2015 and last month, we have spent nearly 2 million dollars on capital projects. I am very happy to share other good news with you. On May 29, the entire quad will be paved so when you return to NYMA the next time, you will get to see our Corps of Cadets march on a brand-new quad.
Between last summer and winter, we successfully ran multiple sessions of short programs, serving over 700 participants, bringing nearly one million dollars of revenue to the school.

Despite all the progress we made in the past three years, we are still struggling with enrollment and faced with financial challenges. During the 2017-2018 school year, NYMA had a total of 3.035 million dollars and 4.333 million dollars of expenses, resulting in nearly a 1.3-million-dollar operational deficit, not counting all the capital projects. This year, our revenue is likely to increase by a million dollars but our expenses are expected to increase by a million as well. That said, I encourage our alumni to help your alma mater in any way you can. For example, the average tuition received is only about half of the full amount. Many cadets, especially star athletes with outstanding academic backgrounds, received a large amount of scholarships or financial aid. We welcome alumni to help NYMA's recruitment by donating to the scholarship or financial aid fund. Although nearly two million dollars have been put into capital projects, our 130-year campus is still in desperate need of more upgrades. That's another area I hope to see supported by the alumni.

On Sunday, I enjoyed watching all the alumni and our cadets march from the quad to the parade field together. What a wonderful scene! (pictured right)

Memorial Day is an important time to remember all the great sacrifices the men and women of the Armed Services made to defend our way of life. On Monday, May 27th, the Corps of NYMA Cadets will participate in the Cornwall Memorial Day Parade.

Final exams will start soon! Please remind your cadets to study hard in preparation!

Dean’s News

It’s been a very busy two weeks on the NYMA campus. At the closing of the last newsletter, we were finishing up the administration of all of our AP exams. This year, 22 of our students took AP exams in 7 different subject areas. That number is slightly over 20 percent of the student body. I am currently working on increasing the amount of AP course selections that will be offered for next year. Be sure to complete your child’s registration paperwork for next year so that I can include them in the scheduling projections for next year’s classes.

The 4th and final marking period will be closing on Wednesday, May 29th. All assignments must be handed in by that date. May 30th and 31st will consist of class review periods and final exams will begin the following week. All students must have their fines cleared by the business office and tours marched and cleared by the Commandant’s department in order to be able to take final exams.

Today, the Academic Office sent out invitations to the parents or guardians of cadets that will be receiving academic awards. We will begin the award ceremony at 5:30 pm with dinner, followed by the award presentations. Please join us in celebrating your child’s achievements. The teachers will be presenting the individual awards which always makes it very special and unique. Please RSVP so that we can set a place for you and tell the chef you are coming.

The Athletic and Commandants Awards Dinner took place last Friday as a kick off to our Alumni weekend. I’m sure the hosts of that event will be highlighting recipients of their awards but I was compelled to mention just a couple of them. Nathan Kratman (pictured left) was the recipient of the Coach Les McMillen MVP Baseball Award which is given to the most outstanding player of the season. It should also be noted that Nathan was chosen for the first team of the HVAL All-Star Selections. I specifically mention this award because Coach Les McMillen was a beloved NYMA coach and employee for over 30 years and just passed away last year. This award is a wonderful honor to a man that is greatly missed.

The second highlight for me was the tribute that Coach Rahn gave to the girls’ basketball team. Six of the eight girls on the team are from European countries. These courageous, academically and athletically gifted girls left their home countries to pursue their dreams. Coach Rahn reported that between them, the three seniors have had over 30 college offers for free education based on their athletic and academic success. Isabel Sanchez has accepted a Division II scholarship to the College of St. Rose. Saule Kaupyte has accepted a Division I scholarship to Monmouth University and Zuzia Kulinska has accepted a Division I scholarship to the University of Colorado which is a High Major/Power 6 Conference. This group of girls brought a certain kind of joie de vie to campus that we haven’t seen in a while. We will miss them terribly and wish them all great success in all of their future endeavors. It was a wonderful evening and Coach Rahn and Commandant Naseef did a great job of incorporating visiting Alumni into the event.

Pictured bottom right, from left to right: Gianna Whritenour, Patryca Pawlata, Maimouna Samba, Zuzanna Kulinska, Saule Kaupyte, Isabel Sanchez, Hailey Cascioli and Flera Vinerte.
We love when our recent graduates visit as well. Former First Captain, Nigel Petti Fernandez and Brandon Fooks stopped by to pay us all a visit. They are both doing very well in college which makes their “NYMA moms” very happy. (pictured above, 1st row, 1st image)

The next morning, Superintendent Jie Zhang delivered the yearly State of the Academy address to the Alumni. (pictured above, 1st row, 2nd image) We gathered in the chapel to hear her speak about the achievements and challenges of NYMA during the past year, as well as the future direction of the school. (pictured above, 1st row, 3rd image) Ms. Zhang, Mr. Naseef and I then opened the floor for a question and answer period. The Alumni expressed their gratitude to Ms. Zhang for the contributions she has made to the school.

Saturday evening, we celebrated our annual Ring Hop at Eisenhower Hall West Point. (pictured 2nd row, 1st and 2nd image) The weather was beautiful so we were able to take advantage of the lovely scenery for pictures. Thanks to Nick Mishkovski, the Director of Facilities, for transporting the life-size NYMA class ring to the event once again this year. This is not an easy task.

The next morning the Alumni gathered in the chapel for a memorial service. It is tradition that after the service they form up into a formation and march around the quad with the current cadets. (pictured 3rd row, 1st and 2nd image) Mr. Naseef surprised them with a 21-gun salute (pictured bottom row, 1st image) and they began their march around to nostalgic cadence. Our cadets did an amazing job with the tribute under the guidance of SGT Blum.

Last week the NYMA cadets presented Mr. Naseef with the trophies they earned during their raiders competition. The cadets were presented with awards by CSM Almeida for their individual and team participation and achievements in this competition. (pictured bottom row, 2nd image)
Every year, the final project for Ms. Simon's studio art class is an installation project. They are site-specific projects deliberately created for, and then placed in an intended, meaningful area. Cadet Avars received permission to paint a mural outside of the JROTC classroom. (pictured right, 1st image) It will be an amazing addition to that stretch of hallway. We were so excited about it that we asked the maintenance department to repaint the wall so that he would have a fresh palate on which to paint, lasting for many years to come.

Cadet Vinerte chose to wrap the banisters with strips of paper filled with poetry and lyrics that are meaningful to her. The prose hangs also from the balcony. The paper is beginning to show signs of wear and tear but it was her intention to have it do just that, placing it in high traffic areas for that specific reason. (pictured above, 2nd image) Seeing the placement of these projects all around campus reminds me that we are quickly approaching the end of the year.

An additional, dare I say, project of Flera’s, was to cover the sign that reads “Courageous and gallant men have passed through these portals” with a sign that read WOMEN. (pictured above 3rd image) In NYMA’s behalf, it was originally an all-boys academy and only began admitting girls in 1975. We do love your fire though Cadet Vinerte.

Happy Birthday to all of our cadets with May Birthdays!!!

From the Athletic Department

The spring sports season has come to an end here on campus. The Boys Baseball Team lost to Marvelwood in the first round of the playoffs despite solid efforts from the team and specifically Cadet Nathan Kratman. The Girls Tennis Team lost to the number one overall seeded Storm King Team. The Ultimate Frisbee Team lost to Oakwood Friends Academy by the score of 15-1. Cadet Karif Isaacs played a tough game for The Knights. Boys tennis was in a heated competition with Marvelwood and lost by one set. Cadet Rueben Zhang had a great showing and his teammates stepped up to the occasion. Unfortunately, The Knights dropped the match and were eliminated from further playoff contention.

Not only did the sports season come to an end last week but we had a great weekend with the Alumni. The turnout was wonderful and watching the Alumni comeback and interact with our current cadets was priceless. We had the Commandant's Dinner on Friday in the Mess Hall. Mr. Rich Thorn and his staff did an amazing job catering to the students, teachers, administrators and families. During the dinner the JROTC awards were presented to the cadets as well as all of the athletic awards for the year. On Saturday the Junior and Senior cadets enjoyed a wonderful night of dancing and having fun on the campus of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Congrats to Zuzia Kulinska (pictured below, 1st and 2nd image) and Saule Kaupyte (pictured below, 3rd image) on their recent college commitments. Both of these young ladies have accepted full athletic scholarships and they will continue their academic and athletic careers at the next level. Zuzia is headed to the University of Colorado where she will compete at the highest level of Division I Basketball in the Big 12 Conference. Saule is headed to Monmouth University where she will compete at the Division I level on the MAAC conference. We are so very proud of the both of you!

Go Knights!
From the Commandant

This week was one of the most rewarding weeks since assuming the role of Commandant. Last weekend was Alumni Weekend and it was truly humbling to talk with so many awesome men and women that are forever connected to the history and tradition of our great school. I talked with graduates from 2010, 2001, 1989, 1969, 1958 and many more. I hope each year this event gets bigger and better.

Also, over the weekend we had our annual Ring Hop. (pictured top right, 1st and 2nd image) This is when our Seniors get presented their class ring and is also our Junior/Senior Prom. It was great to see the cadets dance and interact with each other in a different setting.

During our weekly community meeting we recognized our RAIDER team (pictured bottom right, 1st image) for a job well done at Fort Dix the week prior. Additionally, we promoted our Lady Knight superstar Cadet Kulinska. (pictured bottom right, 2nd image) She has been a hard worker and leader both on and off the basketball court. Our last big push is to focus on the Memorial Day parade in Cornwall and then graduation. Let’s finish strong! GO NYMA!!!

Counselor’s Corner

As we look forward to college and career readiness, students should think about what interests them (or even what doesn’t interest them) and use the time during the summer to explore their interests. Students should be on the lookout for summer volunteer opportunities or camps where they can participate and get some great experience. Even if our cadets are not getting paid or they are not there on their own free will, challenging your cadet to think about what they learned will be invaluable.

Aspiring collegiate athletes should make sure that they begin registration with the NCAA Clearinghouse if they have not done so already. This is a two-part process. The first is to create the account which will provide you with a NCAA number. The second is to transfer it to a certification account and input your school courses and collegiate interests. The second part costs money so if your student is not yet in 11th grade, I would start by just creating the account. Reach out if you have any questions about this.

At this time, if you are an international family and you have not submitted an official translation of your student’s transcript to us, please work on getting that as soon as possible. Most schools require an official (stamped and certified copy) translation regardless of whether or not we have put the grades on our NYMA transcript. NCAA, for example, is very particular and requires that or the students are not eligible. Please take some time to double-check that you have this done. It is usually more cost-effective for you to get these translations done in your home country.

At the end of the year, the Academic Office will be working hard to get all of our seniors’ transcripts out to their respective selected colleges. Congrats to all of the class of 2019 for getting this far. There are only a few weeks left. Push it until the end!! You can do this!!

From the Activities Coordinator

This Friday cadets will be enjoying a night out at Weirs ice cream stand located in Washingtonville New York. Also offered this weekend is an outdoor movie on Sunday evening from 8 to 10 PM. Cadets are also very excited for the upcoming kayaking field day events that will happen on June 7th.
Art Spotlight

We are so close to the end! Our artists are finishing up their final projects. These pieces are meant to be placed in specific areas on campus.

Cadets Hurtado and Lee collaborated on this beautiful Keith Haring/tattoo-inspired mural outside of the art room. It brings everyone joy as they walk down the hall! (pictured top row, 1st image)

Cadet deBree was inspired by Marvel and Stan Lee. You can see his steady hands as he fills in the stencil. He has been surrounding Stan Lee with other Marvel icons... fun to see! (pictured top row, 2nd image)

Cadet Yang is busy creating her screen-printed T-shirts. She has been taking orders from staff and cadets for her amazing work. (pictured 2nd row, 1st image)

You can see Cadet Kasujja working in a tiny area of the table. This artist created an engineering marvel in the form of a cardboard Jeep! He has been diligently working on this sculpture for over two weeks. It’s simply marvelous! (pictured 2nd row, 1st and 2nd image)

Cadets Edmondson and Saveliev teamed up to create an airplane window with a collage, strategically-placed behind the shade. They never gave up on their piece and it took inventive thinking to create the moving shade. I couldn’t be more proud! (pictured 3rd row, 1st image)

Cadet Maldonado completed his cardboard boat based on the Titanic. Our artist is currently designing a stand to hold his piece upright! I am so proud of Maldonado for overcoming the struggle and tedious nature of cutting cardboard to perfect this piece. He almost gave up in the beginning and I am so glad he stuck with it! (pictured 3rd row, 2nd image)

Cadets Ren and Felix Fan finished their Installation projects designed for Mr. Cooper’s Physics Class. They created a mixed media television with compartments for Mr. Cooper to place assignments for the day. They also decorated his back wall with fun quotes, rules, and pictures of Physicists and Mathematicians. (bottom row 1st and 2nd image)

ATTENTION! We are having an Art Show this coming weekend starting Friday night during Academic Awards Dinner in the Mess hall! Every cadet that has had an art class this year will have a piece in the show! We have so many pieces, I’m enlisting the help of cadets to put it together for community service hours. I can’t wait to see all your hard work on display!