

Good evening,

On behalf of President Karsten, the administration, faculty, staff, students and overall Molloy community it is my pleasure to welcome you this evening to our Accepted Student Open House. My name is Darius Penikas, and I have the honor of serving as Principal of this wonderful school.

Congratulations on being accepted to Molloy! This year we again had approximately 2,000 applicants for only 400 spaces... receiving an acceptance letter really is a great accomplishment. It is our sincere hope that you now take the next step and register to be a member of the class of 2023.

Our goal this evening is to provide you with another look inside Molloy, an opportunity to get to know the wonderful faculty, staff, administrators, and STUDENTS who make our community the dynamic and special place it is. We feel that this is the best way to answer the main question of this evening...why Molloy?

Molloy is a great school that offers a unique high school experience. Our curriculum is designed to both challenge and inspire students. We seek to be leaders in pedagogical, technological, and curricular innovation and to present our students with a program of studies that will ignite a lifelong passion for learning. In the last few years we have launched multiple academic initiatives designed to provide our students with a truly one of kind experience. The most recent development is our upcoming partnership with Amazon and our upcoming designation as an Amazon Future Engineers school. This partnership will revamp our introductory computer class to make it a true introduction to Computer Science. While knowing how to use the Microsoft suite of products is important, we feel that a knowledge of binary code, algorithmic thinking, and coding using languages such as Python are core skills for future leaders. In addition to this robust introduction to Computer Science, we offer 2 Advanced Placements CS courses, a college credit robotics course, and computer graphics. Our partnership with Amazon will also allow our students to access Amazon Web Service Educate.

This program allows students to take self-paced courses of study that culminate with Amazon certificates in the areas of cloud computing, cybersecurity, and machine learning. These are not student certificates, these are the actual certificates the company issues and uses to make decisions on internships and hiring.

In addition to our Computer Science program, we are working with Virtual Enterprises International to bring in a student-centered business course where students envision, design, and then run their very own virtual business. New courses in Marine Science, Accounting, Video Production and Broadcasting, and Theater Arts will also be added to our catalogue next year. Freshmen will have the opportunity to qualify for an Advanced Life Science course and we are exploring the possibility of an introduction to Latin or Mandarin course.

These specific offerings fit well into our recent trend of expanding the opportunities our students have through partnerships with Universities, companies, and organizations. While I don't have time to list all the specific partnerships and initiatives on this stage, I can sum up by stating that our philosophy is simple. Our students are extremely impressive, and we feel a duty to create an academic program that will challenge them to reach higher than they ever imagined.

A complete education, however, is not simply academic. Above all, we are a Catholic, Marist school. The Molloy experience is designed to help students learn about themselves, their relationship with God, and to develop a sense of meaning in their lives. A comprehensive education involves spiritual, emotional, and personal development. School wide Liturgies, a stellar retreat program, over 60 clubs and activities, a competitive and highly successful athletics program, and unique guidance offerings encourage students to learn about themselves and develop friendships that last a lifetime. Through service, community, prayer, and reflection Stanners learn to be thankful for what they have and the importance of

developing their God given talents... so they can become the leaders who will shape our future.

The most compelling argument for Molloy is our student body. I am continually impressed by how supportive, positive, aware, and kind our students are. From making sure all Freshmen are included and supported during a softball game at Freshman camp to the overwhelming numbers who sign up to tutor children at a local homeless shelter to the support and encouragement they provide one another during peer groups... our students provide an example for every new class of the importance of kindness and dignity. At Molloy, you or your child will be in a peer group that really cares about academic success and truly values compassion and concern for one another. But don't take my word for it... I have asked some of our seniors to be attend this presentation and at this point, I would like to introduce you to one of our amazing Stanners..... please welcome.... Senior Sydney Bryant.

Thank you Sydney...

I would now like to address several things:

First, I would like to explain how this evening will work. We have given out maps of the school which I will ask you to take out now. These maps show you both the layout of the school and where you will be able to meet faculty and staff who can answer any questions that you have about any particular subject. As you can see, we have three floors with an odd and an even side. All of the odd rooms are on one side and even rooms on the other. Our goal is to allow you to personalize your experience this evening. The specific route of your tour and the number of stops you choose to make is totally up to you. If you are very interested in our Science Olympiad team, then be sure to stop room 218. If you are interested in meeting some of our coaches, rooms 208, 212, and 216 are for you. I recommend you take some time to pick out 5- 10 stops you wish to make and then, if one is crowded, simply move on to another one on your list and come back later. You will find signs near the doors and there are students on all floors who are there to help you.

At one end of our library you will find a computer research lab. We have a bank of computers set up for those who wish to register this evening. I would like to remind everyone that registration is on line and must be done using the code that can be found in your acceptance email. To secure your spot, registration should be completed by February 1st.

Next, I would like to invite all of you to stop by the cafeteria for some refreshments before your leave. Mr. Karsten (our President), I, Mr. McCleary (our AD) and some teachers will be there so that you can ask any unanswered questions. In addition, a number of our students have volunteered to be on hand to provide a current student perspective on attending Molloy. I would like to do briefly introduce these students to you:

Alexandra Celedon- Alex is one of our seniors who is a PGL, a Stage manager for our theater group, a retreat leader, a freshman camp counselor and is a member of our SMILE (something more in life's experiences) guidance group. One of the reasons she is up here tonight is that she chose Molloy even though we didn't have the best open house cookies. As involved as she is, Alex finds time to be a tremendous student and will attend Brown University in the Fall.

Andrew Visiglia- Andrew is a man of many talents. He is a member of our baseball team, a PGL, a Campus Ministry, and plays the clarinet in our band. He is torn between studying engineering or business and has already been accepted to schools such as Binghamton and Fairfield but is waiting to hear from Cornell.

Billy Kanellopoulos- Billy, whose "Better Billy" speech at the Fall Open House will live on in Molloy lore for years to come, is the president of both the Model UN and Greek clubs. He is involved in theater, a PGL, and a member of the St. Marcellin Champagnat society. Billy is interested in studying Finance and is waiting to hear from Georgetown, Williams, and BC among others.

Sarah Doyle- Sarah is a true renaissance woman. She is a member of the track team, a contributor to The Stanner, a volunteer at Briarwood Shelter, a counselor at multiple camps up at Esopus and a member of our student Liturgy committee. She will be attending Barnard in the Fall where she intends to study English and Political Science.

Geraldine Ciacio- Geraldine is a Campus Ministry Leader, a Freshman camp volunteer, a member of the Italian Club as well as a member of the National Honor Society. Geraldine has already been accepted and has committed to the prestigious Doctor of Pharmacy program at SJU.

Olivia Sakitey- is another example of very well rounded Stanner. A forward on our Varsity basketball team, she also makes time be a peer tutor and is a member of the NHS. Olivia wants to pursue CS and participated in a Girls Who Code camp last summer. She has already been accepted to the Engineering program at the University of Michigan and while she likes Michigan she is still waiting to hear from Northwestern, Northeastern, and the University of Chicago before making her final choice.

Danielle DePasquale- Danielle is reporter and a four-year member of the Stanner and a member of the NHS. She volunteers to work with adults with developmental disabilities both through the local Lifespire program and Esopus special camps for children and adults. She wants to study occupational therapy and has already been accepted to competitive programs at universities such as Scranton and NYIT but is still waiting to hear from a few more schools before making her final decision.

Jamani Fowler- Jamani is a member of our school's basketball team and is very active with the Rising Stars Foundation. Through this organization Jamani volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House and a local Alzheimer's foundation. For college, Jamani is thinking about going west and is waiting to hear from Cal Poly Ponomo and Cal St. Fullerton among others.

Nicole Khrimian- is a pole vaulter who is also a member of our TV broadcasting club, the NHS, a PGL and a volunteer at Lifespire. She is interested in studying Biology and is waiting to hear from a list of schools that includes Georgetown, Binghamton, and Northeastern.

Julia Giacone- is involved in almost too many activities to mention. She sings for both our chorus and the National Children's Chorus. She studies karate and is the Associate Co-Editor of the school newspaper. In addition, Julia volunteers at an organization called Families With Children from China where she mentors young girls who are adoptees. Julia intends to study international relations and

journalism and is waiting to hear from a list that includes Vassar, Stonybrook, and Sarah Lawrence.