

# SAINT ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

## **St. Anthony High School to Close Doors June 30**

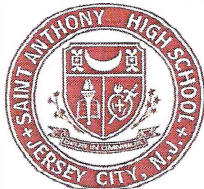
*Inability to Sustain Fundraising Efforts, Dwindling Enrollment Cites as Reasons*

**Jersey City, April 5, 2017** -- After months of consultation with the Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, today the Board of Trustees of Saint Anthony High announced it would not be possible for the School to meet the prescribed requirements of the Archdiocese to remain open. Accordingly the School will close at the end of the current school year. Despite a valiant effort by faculty, staff and stakeholders of the storied urban Catholic high school, Saint Anthony's has been unable to build enrollment or provide for a long-term financial support to sustain itself as a viable educational institution beyond the end of this current school year.

In announcing the decision, President Bob Hurley said: "Those of us who have been involved in Saint Anthony's – members of the Board, the staff and faculty, parents, alumni and other supporters – had weathered challenges to continue to remain open in years past. But even with the financial and moral support that we have received, it has become more and more clear that maintaining the school was becoming too difficult. We have decided, then, to look toward the best interests of the students now with us and help them find alternate Catholic school choices for the remainder of their high school years."

In fall 2016, Saint Anthony's administration undertook a significant fundraising initiative designed to provide a long-term source of tuition assistance and financial stability for the school. However, even after a cooperative effort with the Showtime cable television network that included a series of special programs about the school, the response from potential donors was not sufficient to meet the existing obligations of the school during this current year.

In addition, only 11 students to date have sought to enroll in Saint Anthony's freshman class for September 2017, resulting in a projected total enrollment of some 140 students for the coming fall. Over the last ten years, enrollment at Saint Anthony's had gone from 263 to 160.



---

175 Eighth Street • Jersey City, NJ 07302  
Office of Development • 201-653-5739

# SAINT ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL

## ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

A number of factors over more than a decade contributed to the drop in enrollment at Saint Anthony's. Fewer school-age children in urban settings, the rising cost of education, and the significant expansion of free charter schools competing for this smaller group of students all placed Saint Anthony's in a less competitive position to attract the kind of students that it had served traditionally.

In addition to general fundraising sources, Saint Anthony's has been able to meet its annual operating costs over the past decade only after the Archdiocese absorbed close to \$2 million costs for such major areas as pensions, insurance and healthcare for staff and operations expenses.

Said Bob Hurley, President of Saint Anthony's: "Saint Anthony's was successful in three key areas. We gave students, first and foremost, the gift of Catholic faith and values to serve them throughout their entire lives. We enabled urban students to graduate high school within four years. We gave them the tools to attain the goal of a good college education.

Virtually every graduate of Saint Anthony has gone on to attend college – even those who were not athletes. My biggest disappointment over the closing of the school will be that, if the current students can't attend another Catholic school, they will not continue to benefit from these gifts."

In the coming days, school administration and the Archdiocesan Schools Office will work with parents of St. Anthony students to assist with the transition to other Catholic schools within the Archdiocese. Current faculty members will be placed on a preferred eligibility list for positions at other Archdiocesan schools.

St. Anthony High School was founded in 1952 as parish high school affiliated with St. Anthony Parish in Jersey City. It became a private Catholic high school in 1992 under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Newark. St. Anthony High School's sought to educate the young men and women entrusted to its care according to the Catholic philosophy of life by the development of human and Christian values that would enable them to take their places in the community as intelligent, spiritually vigorous, cultured, vocationally prepared, and open-minded Americans.

For more information please call St. Anthony High School President, Bob Hurley, at 201-653-5143.

####



---

175 Eighth Street • Jersey City, NJ 07302  
Office of Development • 201-653-5739