

VERB features

JUNE 2021



From the Desk of Paul W. Hosch

VERBUM DEI
HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Friend,

After 4 years of perseverance in both school and Corporate Work Study, the Class of 2021 Eagles are about to soar on to new beginnings. The Verbum Dei community could not be prouder of this class of seniors who have spent the last 14 months of studying and applying to colleges all from home during the pandemic. This past year they have persisted through illness, social injustice, economic downs, and isolation. And now, it is the time for celebration!

On May 19th we held our annual Commitment Day Celebration virtually. The students were able to get creative and announce where they were furthering their education while also thanking their parents, teachers, Adopt-A-Student parents, Corporate Work Study supervisors and anyone who aided them in reaching their goals. Some students got very creative in their announcements. If you missed it you can still watch it on www.verbumdei.us.

We also invited Dr. Frank Luntz, a board member and noted pollster to moderate a roundtable with 4 alumni who answered questions from graduating seniors. Dr. Luntz asked the Alumni how Verbum Dei prepare them for where they are now. 2020 Alum and current LMU student Jesus Estrada mentioned that CWSP helped prepared him to network with professors and others at college. Senior Kameron Banner who has committed to St. John's University in Minnesota asked, "How has your journey impacted your mindset since the age of 18?" 2009 Alum Christopher Lewis, who is currently getting a PHD at The University of Missouri, shared that his original idea of what he wanted to be at 18 compared to now has changed in the past 12 years and he encouraged all the seniors to remember that this journey is a marathon, that all chances are valuable and to allow yourself to be open to what comes your way.

Clifford Peeples, 2015 Alum, who graduated from Howard University and now works at Boeing as a computer engineer, shared that he felt that leading up to leaving for college he believed he didn't deserve to be where he was, but once he arrived on Howard's campus, he felt elated and embraced his blessing. Clifford reminded the Class of 2021 that everything you have is because you have earned it.

2018 Alum Angel Tobar, who is now at Whitter College communicated that he learned how to be a "Man for Others" at Verbum Dei. With the values learned here he now hopes that in 5-10 years he will be done with his masters and working with young people of color to be exposed to college and show them what more there is in the world and what they can accomplish.

over, please...



Joshua Sanchez is excited to share that he chose The University of Southern California from the 18 schools he was accepted to!



Dr. Frank Luntz introduces Alumni, Jesus Estrada, LMU; Christopher Lewis, University of Missouri, PHD Candidate; Clifford Peeples, Boeing Corporation; and Angel Tobar, Whitter College

Frank closed out the conversation by congratulating the class of 2021 and challenged them to become the change they wish to see, to remember that nothing is given to them, and they must go out and get it as they have already taken that first step.

This is Verbum Dei's 14th graduating class in a row to have 100% accepted into college, a HUGE accomplishment for what they have had to overcome since March of 2020. Without their parents, staff and faculty, mentors, and supporters like you, these young men would not be where they are today and where they will be in the future. These gentlemen are setting an example with Verb's underclassmen, in their own, families and communities that they can thrive and succeed in any environment with the support of concerned citizens.



Jonathan Ayala shares that he has committed to Loyola Marymount University.

Our joy for the seniors should be shared by you, our donors, as you have supported Verbum Dei and made education accessible to some who might not have had the opportunity. We thank you for believing in us and the class of 2021's dreams. We hope you are proud of the positive changes you are making in a very specific and measurable way—supporting education in an area where it's most needed that has produced exceptional results. Thank you for making this all happen!