

# RITE NOW @ ROP



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International Women's Day (IWD) is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. It is also a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. Women of the world want and deserve an equal future free from stigma, stereotypes, and violence; a future that is sustainable, peaceful, with equal rights and opportunities for all.

This year, Hillcrest Academy (HCA) students and staff recognized the women that work at HCA. To prepare for the event, we asked for all staff to wear pink or purple to recognize the special women in their life. This celebration kicked off with a raffle for a T-shirt with the statement "The Future is Female. There were several poetry, essay and freestyle presentations from staff members and students outlining the most important women in their life and how that person has shaped them into the person they have become. A video with pictures of staff members at various events engaging with students from the past year was also viewed.

Everyone was given the opportunity to decorate or write a note about the most influential women in their life. These notes are now proudly on display in the dining hall. The ceremony closed out with flowers and chocolates for female staff and cake for the entire site. HCA appreciates our female staff members who are dedicated to improving the lives of youth and being such powerful role models!

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