

# St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School

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## *Press Release*

For Immediate Release:

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### **Two Outstanding Students from St. John the Baptist Qualify for Speech Nationals *Today's Key Issues Presented in Speeches are 'Right on the Pulse'***

**WEST ISLIP, NY** - On March 12, 2011, four students from the Speech Team at St. John the Baptist DHS competed in the National Finalists Tournament at Roslyn High School. The competition was fierce as students presented in the categories of Declamation, Drama and Original Oratory. Two SJB students qualified for the National Speech Tournament to be held in Washington, DC during Memorial Day Weekend. Krystal McLeod (Junior from Bay Shore) received the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for her poignant and moving Original Oratory speech, which discusses the important issues of bullying and Special Education, which are two important issues all schools deal with. Aliyah Rolack (Sophomore from Massapequa) received the 4<sup>th</sup> place award for her Declamation speech by Maya Angelou entitled *On the Pulse of Morning*, first delivered at President Clinton's Inaugural Address. The students were thrilled and tears of joy were shared with fellow teammates.

"We are so proud of both Krystal and Aliyah because participating and excelling in Speech and Debate activities is a wonderful way for students to develop essential life skills and values. Their speeches were a true testament to the academic excellence at St. John the Baptist, and we are excited that they have the opportunity to compete in the National tournament," said Regina Hall, English Chairperson & Speech Club Coordinator.

About St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School: 1,700 students attend St. John the Baptist DHS, a college preparatory Catholic High School located on the south shore in West Islip. As part of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, St. John's offers a value-centered education that recognizes the unique talents and abilities of each child, while fostering a school environment that challenges students to reach their true potential. Open since 1966, St. John's offers a rigorous curriculum and extensive activity and athletic programs. Students have the opportunity to take numerous Advanced Placement classes and 99% of St. John's graduates continue on to higher education. For Mission Statement and additional information: [www.sjbdhs.org](http://www.sjbdhs.org)



**PHOTO ATTACHED:** Pictured from left to right are Aliyah Rolack, Mr. Walter D. Lace, Principal & Krystal McLeod.

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