

Kennedy Places 26th at 2009 Sectionals

The 2009 NYS Section One Sectionals were held at Felix Festa Middle School in Rockland County for the sixth straight year. Senior Captain Alexandra Panzarino ('10) broke two Kennedy Catholic school records while advancing to the finals in both her individual events. The Lady Gaels' 200 Free Relay Team also made it to the Sectional finals, marking the first Kennedy relay squad to accomplish that feat since 2003. In total, Kennedy scored 23 points, good for a 26th place finish overall.

On Monday, November 2, 2009, Alexandra Panzarino and Victoria Holzinger ('12) each swam in the Sectional Preliminaries in two events. Alexandra once again broke her own Kennedy record in the 200 I.M., qualifying for the finals with a 2:14.35. Panzarino next swam a 0:59.80 in the 100 Butterfly, good for 7th (of 40) overall and a spot in the finals. Holzinger qualified for Sectionals for the first time in the 200 I.M. and did not disappoint, swimming a 2:23.26 (career best) that was good for 23rd (of 32) place. Victoria made Sectional 100 Backstroke time for the second straight year. Again, she had a career best time (1:05.37), as Holzinger placed 23rd of 47.

The Relay Preliminaries took place on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Kennedy's 200 Medley Relay Team of Victoria Holzinger [back], Laura Krasniqi ('11) [breaststroke], Alexandra Panzarino [fly], and Ellen McTigue [freestyle] ('13) finished 19th of 38 teams in a fine time of 2:04.29. The 200 Freestyle Relay Team of Panzarino, Holzinger, Lindsie O'Hagan ('11), and McTigue accomplished something no Kennedy relay team had done in six seasons by qualifying for the finals. They swam a 1:49.89 which was the 16th best time of 38 squads. The 400 Free Relay Team of O'Hagan, Kimberly McCarthy ('13), Krasniqi, and McTigue took more than 20 seconds off the season best time, finishing 28th of 35 with a 4:17.31.

The Sectional Finals were held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at Felix Festa. Alexandra Panzarino had advanced to the finals for the fourth time in her four seasons at Kennedy. Alex swam a strong 2:14.70 in the 200 I.M., good for 10th place and 7 points for Kennedy, while also qualifying for States. Panzarino topped this accomplishment in the 100 Butterfly by swimming a 0:59.58, setting a new school record for the event. Alex came in 7th, meaning 12 more points for the Lady Gaels plus a place in the States in the Butterfly as well as the 200 I.M. In fact, Panzarino became the first Kennedy swimmer to ever qualify for States in two events. The 200 Free Relay Team of Alexandra Panzarino, Victoria Holzinger, Lindsie O'Hagan, and Ellen McTigue then moved up one place in the standings by coming in 15th in 1:49.64 (a season best and narrowly missing the school record), netting 4 more points for Kennedy (thus totaling 23 points, with Alex's 19). All in all, a marvelous showing at Sectionals for the Lady Gaels!