



SAN MIGUEL ACADEMY OF NEWBURGH

A Letter from Our Chairman:

Dear Friends of San Miguel Academy:

Time for celebration! The inaugural class of San Miguel Academy of Newburgh approaches its graduation day in June.

It seems like just yesterday that this group of 12 students and their families took a great leap of faith and agreed to be the trailblazing class for a school founded on the vision of Father Mark Connell and the incredible support of all of you.

The graduating class of 2010's commitment and hard work over the last four years have paid off. Each student now has the opportunity to attend a parochial or private high school. What a great testament to the dedication and efforts of the administration, faculty, volunteers, and of course, the students and their families. The dream could not have been realized without the extraordinary generosity and continued support of our donors. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of San Miguel Academy of Newburgh, congratulations and thank you!

As this school year winds down, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in the future. A new school principal will soon join us (more details will follow) to build upon the great foundation laid by Sister Lois Dee, who will forever be part of the spirit of San Miguel Academy.

Though the class of 2010 will be moving on, we will not be saying goodbye. As per the mission of our San Miguel Program, we will continue our relationship with the boys through high school and hopefully beyond through our graduate support program.

We welcome all of you to attend the graduation celebration on June 10!



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100% of Our Graduates Accepted... Into an Independent Day or Boarding School

Last spring, San Miguel Academy formed a Graduate Support Committee (GSC) to research and analyze high school options available to its first ever graduating class of 2010. At the time, the only known option was Newburgh Free Academy (NFA), the city's local public high school. Like many large, urban high schools, NFA has had its difficulties

with overcrowding, alarming gang and drug violence, as well as an unimpressive graduation rate, particularly for minority students.

Our GSC arranged an Open House for families and began looking into other day school and boarding school alternatives for possible scholarship opportunities for our boys. The com-

mittee devised an individualized strategy to accomplish the important job of high school placement for every one of our students.

An important first step involved preparing the students for the ISEE (independent school entrance examination). An arrangement was made with Princeton Review to

100% Of Our Graduates Accepted: (cont'd from page 1)

come to San Miguel Academy for six consecutive Saturday mornings to acquaint the boys with the test and to teach them relevant problem solving strategies.

Next, we hired a consultant to help the GSC determine those boarding schools that would be appropriate for San Miguel Academy students. Susan Hendricks, formerly the Director of Admissions at The Masters School, Miss Porter's School and Lawrence Academy, met with each 8th grade student to develop an individual and personalized strategy for possible high school alternatives.

Parents of each student made it their priority to meet with Fr. Mark and members of the GSC to discuss the various high school options being pursued. Each family signed a contract to indicate their interest and support in having their son participate in the Graduate Support Program (GSP).

Once schools were identified by Ms. Hendricks, various committee members took to the road to meet with the boarding school administrators. Most of the schools were located in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; one was as far away as Maine. The purpose of these visits was to establish a relationship between San Miguel Academy and the boarding school, and later to attempt to identify an appropriate applicant or applicants. San Miguel had the option of working with a third party program like *A Better Chance*, but chose instead to develop the relationship with the boarding schools directly. We believe that over the long term, it is in our best interest to initiate and maintain the relationship with these secondary schools. We will be overseeing our student's progress at these prospective schools.

In addition to the boarding school option, the GSC engaged in discussions with Our Lady of Lourdes, a Catholic, co-educational high school located in Poughkeepsie, NY. Between Fr. Lagiovane, Fr. Mark Connell and Mr. Kevin Mirabile (Trustee and Past Chair), a financial arrangement was reached whereby a number of our San Miguel students, once accepted, would receive generously subsidized tuition.

The result of all of this hard work on the part of the school, its administrators and teachers, the students and their families and the independent school administrators is that **100% of the 8th grade class has been accepted into a private day school or boarding school alternative in addition to having NFA as an option!** The schools we have had the pleasure to work with include:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Poughkeepsie, NY
- The Harvey School Katonah, NY
- Fryeburg Academy Fryeburg, MA
- The Knox School St. James, NY
- St. Benedict's Prep Newark, NJ
- Perkiomen Pennsburg, PA
- Trinity Pawling Pawling, NY
- The Hoosac School Hoosick Falls, NY
- The Darrow School New Lebanon, NY
- Cheshire Academy Cheshire, CT

A special mention and thank you is due to Ms. Lauren Steers and Ms. Cathy Wooters, who oversaw student applications, financial aid filings and overall communication with each of the schools. Thank you to Fr. Mark and Pat Inglis for making the road trips to introduce the San Miguel program to the schools, and also to Fr. Mark, Shayne Bowman and Kirstin Carillo for bringing multiple students ... to multiple interviews ... over multiple months.

Another key contributor to the success of the GSP is Mr. Tom Grace, who spent months teaching interview skills to the boys and preparing them mentally for the overall admissions process. Along the way, Mr. Grace turned these boys into young men who developed a sense of purpose and a better sense of their own self-worth.

Thank You Graduate Support Committee Members

- Susan Hendricks, Educational Consultant • Ms. Kirsten Carillo • Rev. Mark Connell • Mr. Tom Grace
- Ms. Patricia Burns Inglis • Ms. Lauren J. Steers • Ms. Catherine Wooters

The Class of 2010...Then & Now

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Hats Off to the Class of 2010...

Reflections of Fr. Mark Connell

Angel Cruz



Angel Cruz loves to have the last word! I once told him that this could be a beneficial personal quality if he managed it appropriately. He agreed. What makes this particular feature of his personality so notable is that when Angel first came to San Miguel Academy, he was quite deficient in his English language skills. To witness him manage the English language proficiently as an eighth grader indicates not only an aptitude, but an attitude – to succeed!

Today Angel ranks near the top of his class in academic per-

formance. He has a particular gift for writing, and he has a creative imagination. His mastery of English as a second language is a highlight in his academic career at SMAN.

Angel has emerged as a leader among his schoolmates primarily because of his ready smile and generous spirit. He is upbeat and optimistic in all things. He enjoys cooking and talks about becoming a professionally trained chef some day. He also plays soccer in the midfield position and led our first ever team to a six wins, no losses season.

We are tremendously proud of Angel and his achievement. His character and moral development have won him the admiration of the San Miguel staff.

Presently he is accepted with maximum financial awards to St. Benedict's Prep in Newark and Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. Either school would be lucky to have him.

Angel, do you have anything to say?

Gilberto Garcia

When opening a new school, you have to be prepared to ask parents to take a leap of faith, to trust in a vision and a mission before reality itself. Gil Garcia and his mother took that proverbial leap. **When San Miguel Academy opened its doors in 2006, the first student to enroll was Gil.**

Gil is polite, considerate and respected by both his peers and our staff. He is that all round “nice kid” whom everyone likes. His example has become a role model for our younger students, and I would say Gil typifies what San Miguel set out to do for children at risk in a city in crisis.

At our fundraising dinner this past November, Gil was presented with the “Dr. Joseph Fink Award for Science and Religion.” Gil is not only curious about the natural world, but he is also keen on developing as a spiritual person. Presently Gil is heavily involved in his church youth group. This association has given Gil an opportunity to develop further his leadership skills. Recently Gil appeared on a local radio station to talk about the work he has done with his church.

Gil has been accepted with financial award to Our Lady of Lourdes High School and the Perkiomen School in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. Gil will be joining the class of 2014 at Perkiomen in September. We are tremendously proud of Gil, and we celebrate his daring to become the first enrolled student at San Miguel Academy of Newburgh.



For All that You Have Accomplished...

Brian Luciano

I call him “Lucky.” In fact his name is Brian Luciano. Brian has emerged as one of the top students of the Class of 2010.

Poised and confident, Brian has placed himself on a path of academic success because of his dedication to his studies. He can play soccer or interview with sleuth like curiosity a fellow student on our “Eagle Hour” TV show. Most recently he has taken an avid interest in

our Photo Club activities.

This multi-talented student has responded magnificently to the opportunity given him at San Miguel Academy. He has challenged himself to try new things and to grow as a Christian young man.

Today, Brian has won the esteem of his schoolmates and our entire staff; and his dedication has paid off. Brian has been accepted to Our Lady of

Lourdes High School, The Hoosac School and at the time of printing he was still on the wait list of Avon Old Farms.

Brian will be missed in the halls of SMAN. His kind nature and easy smile have made him a delight. Upon reflection, perhaps we’re the “Lucky” ones.



Kevin Morales

Kevin Morales embodies the spirit of San Miguel Academy. **Kevin is the “gentle giant” of the eighth grade class.**

Most interesting about Kevin is the hidden confidence with which he makes important decisions. Kevin has a keen moral compass which makes him loyal and trustworthy. Kevin is not known for

making bad decisions; a common occurrence for most adolescents.

His compassionate heart is clearly visible whenever his family visits the school. Kevin’s infant brother sprints into his arms to be held by his older brother. This considerate young man has also achieved academically. Kevin has a particular gift for writing and creative expression.

Wishing to remain close to his family, Kevin will be attending Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Remaining a resident of Newburgh will also keep Kevin close to us. His spirit will inspire future generations at San Miguel.



Jason Noguez

Jason Noguez can light up a room with his quick wit and great sense of humor. If we had a vote on “winning personality,” Jason would win hands down.

Jason has a “can do” spirit about all the he undertakes. He is motivated and focused in his schoolwork and on the soccer field. His natural soccer ability

makes him a force to be reckoned with on the field. He is nimble and quick and a regular high scorer for our team. He hopes to play on the professional level one day.

Jason has a natural attraction to things mechanical, and he has taken interest in our Photo Club too. His sense of humor has made him a favorite among his schoolmates and our staff.

Jason has been accepted to Our Lady of Lourdes High School and the Darrow School. With his tenacity and personality, we’ll be waiting to hear about great things happening for Jason.



For Your Determination in the Face of Adversity...

Edwin Ortega

Four years ago, after seeing a brochure for a new school that was about to open, he picked up the phone and called the number on the paper. Edwin Ortega was this brave fourth grader, and he knew even then that he wanted success for his future. When he got all the information he needed, he told his mother, **“I’m going to be somebody some day.”**

Showing steady improvement since being accepted at San Miguel, Edwin has used his natural curiosity and inquisitiveness to advance as a student. He’ll tell you he wants to play professional soccer one day. I remind him to have a plan B just in case. No need to make a choice at this stage of the game. Edwin has



continued to develop his natural soccer skills while becoming increasingly studious.

Presently Edwin has been accepted to Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Trinity Pawling and The Harvey School. Good luck Edwin and remember us when you hoist the World Cup overhead.

Carlos Perez



Carlos Perez is the senior figure of the Class of 2010. With his chronological age come a maturity and a great possibility for leadership. Last summer, Carlos filled the roll of camp counselor in our summer enrichment program.

Carlos has been gifted with many talents. He would like to develop further his innate ability to draw. Along with his artistic skills, Carlos has a well rounded student profile and strong athletic ability. Given the chance, Carlos will do many things well in the future.

Carlos is used to taking care of younger siblings, and so he has a natural capacity for being compassionate and thoughtful. His gentle demeanor wins him many friends, and our staff enjoys his sense of humor.

Carlos has been accepted to the Knox School on Long Island which is well known for its focus on creativity and the arts. We’re all hoping that Carlos will flourish in such a creative environment. He’ll be missed here at San Miguel.

Andres Ramirez

Andres Ramirez may be small in stature, but his many talents loom large. Andres is especially known for his unique brand of drawing and artistry. Inspired by his environs in Newburgh, Andres has turned the art forms of the street into a distinctive brand of expression for himself. We are thrilled that Andres has earned a full financial award to Fryeburg Academy in Maine, where his innate talents will be nurtured and developed.



Andres was the kind of kid we had in mind when San Miguel was first conceived. Underperforming before entering our halls, Andres has catapulted onto a path of academic and professional success. He responded wonderfully to our small and caring environment.

Loved by his schoolmates, all were thrilled the day he brought in his letter of acceptance from Fryeburg. Rushed by the student body, Andres was buried under a sea of boys who were possibly happier than he was about his achievement. His characteristic modesty makes him a favorite among the students and the staff.

Andres will soon be a Mainer but his calming presence will long remain in the home of the Soaring Eagles.

...And for the Content of Your Character!

David Ramos



David Ramos is the eldest of four children. His mother relies on his strong sense of personal responsibility to maintain the family structure. Characteristic of David is his optimistic nature. **His ready smile and thoughtful ways make him a kindly presence in our halls.**

While studying hard, David still finds time to play soc-

cer. This year his midfield skills helped our team to achieve a six wins and no losses season. He's become interested in our Photo Club, and he displays a natural eye for things unusual and beautiful.

David has two more brothers coming up behind him at San Miguel. He has provided each of them with a wonderful ex-

ample of how to rise above the streets of Newburgh.

Well done David. We're proud of all that you've accomplished, and we'll be waiting for your frequent visits as you return from Our Lady of Lourdes High School next year.

Luis Romero

Luis Romero joined the ranks of the Class of 2010 a year after the rest of his classmates. His easy demeanor allowed him to fit in immediately.

It would not be long before **Luis would reveal his intellectual prowess.** His academic achievements are accompanied by his involvement in our Media Club, Science Club and soccer program.

Despite his late start at San Miguel Academy, Luis has taken full advantage of the opportunity given to him. Cooperative and loyal, Luis embodies the spirit of our school.



In reward for his pursuit of excellence, Luis has been accepted to Trinity Pawling and Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Good luck, Luis, in all of your future endeavors.

Brian Silva

He can sing; he can dance; he can play the piano. He plays soccer, and he achieves academically. **Brian Silva is a leader, having been elected the first ever student government president.** Brian's four years at San Miguel Academy have been formative. Brian has diverse interests and has used this opportunity to achieve on all levels – in the classroom, on the playing field, and in his extra-curricular activities. Brian regularly performs in a band whose members include many from his family. Their brand of music is native to Durango, a province in Mexico.

Brian commands the respect and esteem of his schoolmates because of his poised and confident manner. His creative side is often revealed in his writing skills. Brian has an interest in pursuing the arts as a life goal.

Presently, Brian has been accepted to Our Lady of Lourdes High School and The Harvey School. Wherever he spends the next four years, Brian will no doubt rise up as a shining star.



Mount Saint Mary College & San Miguel Academy Form a Working Partnership

“San Miguel Academy students needed individualized attention and focused tutoring in math and English Language Arts,” Shayne Bowman, Dean of Students at SMA recalls. The Education Department at Mount Saint Mary College needed a “live classroom” to provide teacher candidates with hands on experience in applying the latest pedagogy and instructional techniques to students. Between these two programs, an alliance was formed so that each could learn from the other.

Dr. Dolores Berlinghoff, Professor of Education at Mount Saint Mary College (located within one mile of the school) has brought her graduate education classes to San Miguel Academy during its scheduled tutor hour.

With over 50 graduate students in tow, Dr. Berlinghoff directs her soon to be teachers on assessment and instructional techniques. They, in turn assess San Miguel students to determine areas of academic weakness and strategies for improvement. In each of the follow-up

sessions, teacher candidates utilize instructional best practices to raise the academic performance of San Miguel students. The boys gain an understanding of various problem solving strategies that can be used on a daily basis– in and out of the classroom.

The sessions have proven invaluable to our students and to the teacher candidates alike. San Miguel students have shown across the board increases in both math and ELA assessments. The graduate students are learning the valuable skill of planning and evaluating instruction.

Because of the success of the program, Dr. Berlinghoff and Mr. Bowman plan to expand the partnership next semester. According to Antonio, Grade 5, he thinks that’s “...a terrific idea!”

Save the Date

San Miguel Academy Class of 2010 Commencement Exercises

Thursday, June 10, 2010
The Church of St. Patrick
Newburgh NY
Six o'clock in the Evening
Reception to Follow in Church Hall



San Miguel Academy students work together with graduate students from Mount St. Mary College during tutor hour.

San Miguel Academy of Newburgh admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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