



success

2015 SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

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Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

Dear San Miguel Family,

This year we mark our sixth commencement as we honor our 14 graduates from the Class of 2015. These young men will now move forward into high school, many of whom will attend private high schools and boarding schools. We are proud of each one of them!

We also will begin, on July 1, our 10th anniversary celebration. We are **TEN YEARS STRONG!** Our little mission in Newburgh began with a dream, and now, a decade later, we can look back and see the enormous impact our school has had on this troubled city. All of our boys have graduated high school, and 91% have moved on into college. Our students are defying the odds!

Please join us for our commencement exercises on Thursday, June 4, at 6:00 p.m., in St. Francis Church, 145 Benkard Avenue, Newburgh. You will be impressed by our students and by our talented staff who have labored with great dedication on behalf of our mission.

Finally, put Thursday, October 22, 2015, on your calendar. This will be our eleventh benefit gala and our inaugural celebration of **TEN YEARS STRONG**. Please join us as we continue to serve the most at risk children in Newburgh, while breaking the cycle of poverty through education.

Sincerely,
Thomas Crispi
Board Chairman

Introducing the Graduates

Avante Walker



Avante has used his middle school years to develop into a mature and confident young man. We have seen his leadership ability blossom during eighth grade, and we know the best is yet to come. The Marvelwood School, in Kent, CT, will be thrilled when this talented athlete and dedicated student walks onto their campus this September.

Avante will be remembered for his contributions at our Friday morning sing-a-longs, especially his solo performance of "I Am Who God Says I Am." When he's not singing, Avante is active in his church and in the community. In addition he has put his size to good use as San Miguel's goalie in soccer and on the basketball court. His introduction to the sport of lacrosse gives every indication that he can one day excel in yet another athletic event.

Avante is kind and generous, and patient with his schoolmates. He discovered during his middle school years that education is necessary in discovering one's purpose. We know that The Marvelwood School will continue to nurture Avante's potential in the years ahead.



2015 GRADUATE EDITION

Online Giving at www.newburghsanmiguel.org

Na'zeem Dabbs



Na'zeem, better known as Woody, discovered his voice at San Miguel Academy. Upon his entrance in sixth grade he was timid and quiet. Over time, ever gaining in confidence, Woody began achieving in the classroom and striving for new heights. Today he is poised to find success at Excelsior Academy while continuing to develop as a leader in the 21st century. Woody has great integrity because he is both loyal and faithful. The staff relies on his dependability and leadership which serves our younger students as a role model for a Miguel Man.

When he's not studying, Woody is active in our athletic program as a basketball and lacrosse player. He is also growing his strength in our swimming and rowing training exercises. Through all of his experiences, Woody has become a vocal member of our community, growing in confidence, and believing in the future he will forge for himself.

There is some pressure on Woody during high school. He has two younger brothers remaining at SMAN who will be keeping an eye on him and his accomplishments. Woody won't let them down. This steady young man has learned the power of good decision making so we can all be assured of great achievements ahead. Good luck, Woody!



Christian Salinas

Christian is bright young man. Both his classmates and teachers have come to respect his gifted intelligence. One notable characteristic of Christian is that he's not afraid to ask questions or to seek further clarity from his teachers. This curiosity will serve him well in life and especially at his new high school, Our Lady of Lourdes.

Christian has also learned to take risks while at San Miguel Academy. He's grown in strength through our rowing program and our daily calisthenics regiment, meanwhile discovering that he has an undiscovered athleticism.

As an avid reader Christian has expanded his learning potential and language skills. We are sure that the rigors of O.L.L.H.S. will further develop his intellect and God-given talents. He will be remembered by his schoolmates and our staff as a kind person, with a big heart. Christian is a compassionate person in whom we place great hope that somewhere in his future he will learn to ease the sufferings of our world. We await with anticipation his impending success!



Aldair Garcia



Aldair is a soft spoken and focused young man. Before San Miguel, school was not always a friendly place for Aldair. Our individualized approach to education has helped Aldair to discover his true ability to learn and unlock his potential for creativity and insight. Along with the faculty, we join Aldair's volunteer tutor, Mr. Ed Burke, in celebrating this emerging learner. Everyone is excited that Aldair will be continuing his education at The Mount Academy this fall.

Aldair plays soccer, lacrosse, and he's tried his hand at rowing. He's also become an amateur hiker through our Peaks Program.

With the assistance of our nurturing environment, Aldair, as they say, "has come out of his shell." He has developed into a capable learner, building on his God-given strengths. His loving parents have been a source of encouragement for Aldair and they join us in celebrating his achievements, great and small!



Kevin Marin

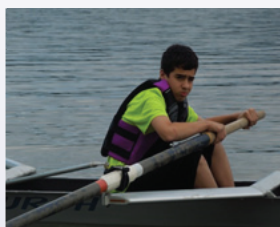


Kevin is a gregarious young man. He has a wonderful sense of humor, and the ability to laugh at himself. The faculty will miss his energetic presence in the classroom, while at the same time enjoying the newfound quiet. So too, Kevin's helpfulness will be missed by many on our staff. Kevin's willingness to help others is a notable characteristic for him.

Most exciting about Kevin's journey through San Miguel is his academic growth and achievement. Kevin has learned the discipline of study which has paid off with his acceptance to St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, NJ. We know that the scholastic atmosphere of St. Benedict's will propel Kevin on an upward trajectory through high school.

When not in school Kevin plays baseball in a local league, while in school, he has contributed to all of our athletic programs with his prowess for sports. His defensive abilities in soccer, basketball, and lacrosse will leave us with "big shoes" to fill next season.

Kevin's smile and energy have filled our halls for four years. He departs with happy memories of his middle school years aside from a painful spill he took on an icy sidewalk two winters ago, which warranted a lengthy recovery. Fortunately, in Newark, his commute and the associated hazards of walking will be eliminated as he will be living where he attends school. We look forward to hearing great things about Kevin Marin in his new role as a Grey Bee!



Alex is known for his strength and resiliency. With a positive attitude, Alex confronts all of the obstacles life has placed before him. This winning attitude has kept Alex focused on his education, which he knows will pay great dividends one day. We are delighted that he will be joining the Class of 2019 at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in September.

Alex also has a work ethic to be admired. Whether it is the classroom or the playing field, our teachers and coaches expect tenacity and grit from Alex. This feisty athlete has contributed to our winning soccer program and his outside shot in basketball has made Coach Fink a happy man. Alex has also participated in our growing lacrosse and rowing programs. Whatever the activity, it is certain that Alex will give full effort.

We have seen tremendous growth in Alex over the past four years. He has gained in confidence during his middle school years which will serve him well as he continues to achieve academically. Above all, we know that this spirited and optimistic young man has the strength of character to reach his goals and become the man he has envisioned. Best wishes, Alex!

Alex Figueroa



Zion Holmes



"God writes straight with crooked lines," so goes the old adage. Tracing the journey of Zion would lead one on a path of many twists and turns. Through it all Zion has remained grounded in determination and perseverance. As he completes his middle school years, Zion is firmly planted on a path to success. On many mornings Zion leads his schoolmates in the school creed. "I will not quit. With God's help, I will not quit," read the closing words. No San Miguel student embodies this missive more than Zion!

San Miguel Academy has become a second home to Zion. Poised and relaxed, Zion's personality shines for all to see. Kind and thoughtful, Zion's sensitive nature has added to our nurturing school environment. These personal attributes will serve Zion well in the years ahead.

On the field of play Zion has contributed to our basketball team, honing his skills for his dream job in the N.B.A. We've recommended a back-up plan for Zion that will include a high school and college academic career. Luckily, he agrees!

For this young man there is a road ahead that will one day lead to a place where success and satisfaction abound. As he follows the lines of God's plan, Zion can be assured of our ongoing support and friendship.



Daniel Ruiz



Upon his arrival to San Miguel Academy, Daniel announced to all who would listen that he was going to be a meteorologist one day. From that day forward Daniel was our “go to guy” for potential snow days. As you can imagine, he was quite busy these past couple of winters. Daniel loves science and has thrived in our S.T.E.M. programming and under the guidance of Mistery Snyder and Fink. Daniel spent one summer at a Department of Environmental Conservation camp in NYS and the past summer at the Loomis Chaffee School in Connecticut, where he has been accepted as a full time student beginning this July as a Kravis Scholar!

When not in the classroom Daniel is an active athlete. He has competed in soccer, lacrosse and rowing at SMAN.

Daniel has made great strides while at San Miguel and he has won the esteem and admiration of his classmates and our staff. He is a curious student and dedicated explorer. As a Grandview Scholar the bar is set high for Daniel, but we are certain that there will be many sunny days ahead for him. Step aside, Jim Cantore, Daniel is on his way!



Among his classmates, Victor has spent the least amount of time at San Miguel Academy, but thankfully, he has also derived the greatest benefit in just two years. Victor learned to be more decisive at SMAN and less combative, and as a result he has gained the ability to problem solve in a more productive manner. This turnaround has come with its own rewards as Victor is our first student to be accepted to Trinity Pawling School, in the Class of 2019.

A versatile athlete, Victor has been a welcome addition to all of our inter-scholastic athletic teams. If that were not enough, Victor is also active in travel teams in local leagues.

Victor is engaged in community service through his local church, and he's serious about helping others. We expect that his faith will continue to inform his decision making as his life moves forward.

With characteristic strength, Victor has learned to surmount the adversity life has placed before him. His competitive nature will keep him focused, both on the playing field, and in the classroom. We trust that TP will continue to nurture all that good within Victor. God bless you!



Victor Garcia

Brandon Miller



“Still waters run deep,” once remarked a wise man. Of wisdom and great character is this young man, Brandon Miller. He is remarkably steady and always prepared to take on the tasks at hand. Adults sometimes think he's a quiet kid, but amongst his friends, Brandon is talkative and funny. In the classroom Brandon is all business. He is organized, neat, and attentive to every lesson. His ability for analytical thought is outstanding and his written expression is excellent. Church Farm School in Pennsylvania will be getting a dedicated student when Brandon arrives there this September.

On the field of competition Brandon was one of the first students to join our rowing program. He is also a great defensive player in soccer and lacrosse. In the community Brandon is a dedicated altar server at St. Patrick's Church, and a model citizen. His classmates look to him for strength, and when needed, serenity.

This outstanding young man has been a vibrant member of our school community for four years. He has achieved many things, and we know he will continue to do so in high school and beyond. As a Grandview Scholar, Brandon will be held to a high standard, of which we know he is capable. God bless Brandon Miller!



Andrew Silva



For a long time Andrew dreamed of a career in soccer. Today, Andrew has expanded his dreams to include a strong education upon which he can build his future. Andrew turned it on in seventh grade and began to discover all that is good about learning. Today he is a dedicated student and a mature young man. When he arrives at John S. Burke Catholic High School in September, we know that he will take full advantage of the opportunities they will provide.

In addition to soccer, Andrew has developed his natural athletic talents on the lacrosse field. His aggressive style and fearless tactics make him fun to watch in any arena. His new coaches in Goshen, NY, will be thrilled when he walks on campus.

Andrew has responded wonderfully to the San Miguel curriculum. He leaves us holding his head high with pride for his many accomplishments. His younger brother, Angel, has a good example to follow as he moves on to grade seven. Make us proud, Andrew!



Kevin Gomez



Kevin is most often seen smiling or laughing around San Miguel Academy. Kevin's bright outlook is a great strength for him, and contagious when he's around others. When it comes to the classroom, Kevin is all business. This serious student has emerged as a gifted thinker and competent reader. His grades have remained on a positive incline since entering our school three years ago. With all his hard work, Kevin

will be joining the freshmen class at The Mount Academy in September.

Kevin has played defense for our Soaring Eagles soccer team, and this spring season he's taken on the challenge of rowing. If sports are in his future at his new high school, it will most likely be the Science Olympiad where Kevin will excel.

Kevin has been a friend to all at San Miguel, most especially our school dog, Owen, with whom Kevin has a special bond. This gentle young man has earned the esteem of his teachers, and the respect of his classmates. As our first student to attend The Mount Academy, we have full confidence that he will represent us well. Good luck, Kevin!



Jordyn Angel



Jordyn continues to evolve as a student even as he strengthens his academic abilities and learning potential. In seventh grade Jordyn had that magical awakening, "when the light went on," and he realized education is a necessary tool for a strong future. His acceptance to Excelsior Academy assures Jordyn, that with continued good decision making, he'll be on a college bound track while acquiring technology skills for the 21st century.

On campus Jordyn's easy style makes him a compliant and courteous young man. On the field of play Jordyn is always ready to perform, with a determination that strives to win. His soccer and lacrosse coaches are especially sad to see such a good defensive player graduate.

Jordyn has much potential yet to be realized. The P-tech high school model at Excelsior will mentor Jordyn on to great things over the next six years. With the light on, and a determined spirit, we know the best is yet to come. Jordyn, lead on!



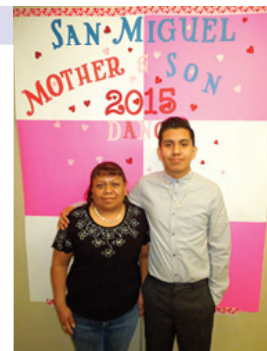
Javier Amigon



Javier Amigon leaves San Miguel Academy with the tools necessary to find success in the years ahead. Adept on things technological, we know that Javier will feel at home at Excelsior Academy beginning this September.

Javier is a product of the 21st century. It would be unusual for Javier not to be in touch with the social networking available on today's smart phones. Sometimes a distraction, we know that when the phone is off Javier is a critical thinker and a capable reader. His steady presence in our Saturday Book Club has helped Javier to hone literacy abilities needed for college success.

Javier plays soccer and lacrosse, and he's grown in his fondness for our Saturday hikes. Later than most, Javier is beginning to understand that education is the ticket to a better future. We know his IBM mentor at Excelsior will see in him the same promise that we have come to recognize.



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Please Save the Date for the

Class of 2015

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Thursday, June 4 — 6:00p.m.

St. Francis Church, 145 Benkard Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550

(contact Cathy Joyce Wooters : cjwooters@newburghsanmiguel.org)

SAVE THE DATE

11th Annual Benefit Gala

Thursday, October 22

6:30 p.m.

Westchester Country Club

