

# Prayers for Cory



Pictured on the right is Cory Arias, SMA Class of 2016, St. Benedict's Prep Class of 2020, Virginia Military Institute Class of 2024. Cory sustained second and third degree burns over 90% of his body after making contact with a utility wire carrying 10,000 volts. Cory is presently in hospital at Westchester Medical Center and making daily strides forward to reclaim his life as a student-athlete. Cory began his rowing career at San Miguel Academy and he continued to develop as an oarsman at St. Benedict's Prep, earning his way onto the Varsity 8x boat.

Cory has garnered esteem from both of his former schools as a gentleman, a dedicated athlete, a kind-hearted friend, and young man with a bright future. To know him is to love him. He's a genuinely thoughtful person, and he has always been seen as a bright light in the San Miguel Program. With great interior fortitude and a loving and caring family, Cory is battling each day to recover his health. His faith is strong, and he's keenly aware that our Lord has a plan for his life.

Please lift up Cory daily in your prayers and thoughts.



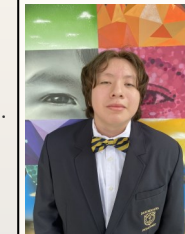
# SUCCESS

2020 SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

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## SAN MIGUEL ACADEMY



CLASS OF 2020



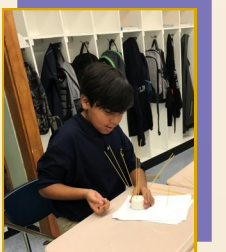
## Introducing the Graduates

### Edgar Bautista



Edgar Bautista joined the class of 2020 in the sixth grade. Though he missed the fifth grade experience in the program, he quickly found his place in the group. Edgar has a fun sense of humor that will be missed in the halls and the classrooms. While at San Miguel Academy, Edgar participated in soccer, rowing, and basketball. He was a great help to the fifth graders in the Robotics Club this year and was a part of other clubs throughout his time here. Edgar will continue his education at NFA West, Big Learning Center. He has dreams of becoming an electrical engineer. With the principles of hard work and perseverance that he has learned at SMA, we know he has the potential to do great things. Best of luck, Edgar!

Edgar is working on a sculpture as part of our S.T.E.A.M. curriculum. This particular project was in coordination with Storm King Arts Center, one of our valued learning site partners.





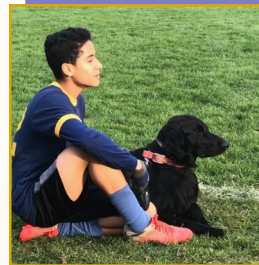
## Christian Recinos



Christian has grown tremendously in his time at San Miguel. He developed leadership skills that aligned with our core values, and was consistent in meeting our daily expectations every single day. Christian has a great sense of humor. Videos of him and Christopher as sumo wrestlers will forever be in the SMA archives. Christian has been called a role model by several of the younger students. He participated in all of our sports teams. When he injured himself this year and his basketball season was cut short, he also joined the Drama Club. Christian's academic achievements and leadership earned him a spot in Suffield Academy's summer program before eight grade. At Suffield he continued to excel, and because of his hard work, Christian will be joining the Tigers at Suffield Academy next year in the Class of 2024! Christian is looking forward to a future career as a lawyer. We

wish you all the best, Christian!

*Christian is pictured during a soccer match against The Harvey School, with the team mascot and faithful canine companion to all of our students, Owen.*



## Alexis Mendoza

Alexis has been a pleasure to have in the classroom this year and watching him grow, both inside and outside of the classroom has been wonderful. Alexis sees himself as an outgoing individual, offering his opinion on most topics and is very positive about his thoughts and ideas. He uses these creative ideas in his projects and has truly impressed the teachers this year with his dedication and ability to be spontaneous and think outside of the box. Alexis is also a student who works hard until he solves a problem or grasps a concept. That dedication in the classroom says a lot about an individual and we hope Alexis brings this unique talent outside of San Miguel Academy when he joins the Class of 2024 at The Mount Academy. Alexis has shown leadership in the lunchroom. As the oldest of his assigned table, Alexis ensures that all the younger students follow directions and he models for them what good



behavior in public looks like. Alexis is a member of the Spanish Club and has enjoyed being on the rowing team, where he has improved greatly since joining in the seventh grade. To Alexis, "Brothers in Blue" means to help everyone in school, steer them in the right direction, and treat them the way you want to be treated, because in the end we are a family. At The Mount Academy, Alexis is looking forward to a variety of opportunities that will allow him to broaden his interests. The San Miguel teachers have watched Alexis grow over the years and we can't wait to see what he accomplishes in the years ahead!



*Alexis is emptying maple tree sap into the collection bin at Fox Hill School. Soon after, he was seen eating pancakes and fresh syrup!*

# Class of 2016 College Placements

Cory Arias - Saint Benedict's Prep 2020, Virginia Military Institute 2024

Anthony Cruz - Saint Benedict's Prep 2020, TBD 2024

Jason Chunchi - The Harvey School 2020, SUNY Albany 2024

Alexis Marin - Our Lady of Lourdes H.S. 2020, NYIT 2024

George Huagui - NFA Excelsior Academy 2020, SUNY Maritime 2024

Edwin Sotelo - Burke Catholic H.S. 2020, Mount Saint Mary College 2024

Larry Coleman - NFA West Street H.S. 2020, SUNY Morrisville 2024

Benjamin Gomez - Our Lady of Lourdes H.S. 2020, Niagara University 2024

Saheed Dabbs - NFA Excelsior Academy 2020, SUNY Orange 2022

Cristhian Cordero - The Mount Academy 2020

Francisco Lopez - NFA Excelsior Academy 2020, SUNY Orange 2022

Leron Fincher - NFA West Street H.S. 2020, SUNY Morrisville 2024

Alex Garcia - Newburgh Free Academy 2020

Jeremy Vidals - Newburgh Free Academy 2020, Arkansas State University 2024



# Class of 2020 High School Placements

Edgar Bautista - Newburgh Free Academy West - Big Learning Program

Jayden Barrera - Church Farm School, Exton, PA

Luis Chirinos - Vermont Academy, Saxtons River, VT

Emanuel Giron-Luna - The Mount Academy, Esopus, NY

Julian Marin - The Harvey School, Katonah, NY

Alexis Martinez - Marvelwood School, Kent, CT

Alexis Mendoza - The Mount Academy, Esopus, NY

Geoffrey Moran - Canterbury School, New Milford, CT

Jonathan Ochoa - Saint Benedict's Preparatory School, Newark, NJ

Steven Palacios - Saint Benedict's Preparatory School, Newark, NJ

Dominick Pineda - Saint Benedict's Preparatory School, Newark, NJ

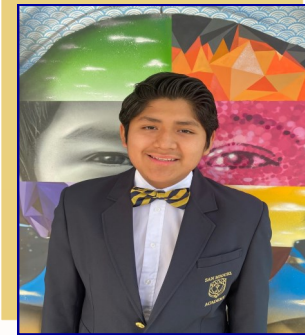
Christian Recinos - Suffield Academy, Suffield, CT

Christopher Recinos - The Mount Academy, Esopus, NY

Jonathan Recinos - Saint Benedict's Preparatory School, Newark, NJ

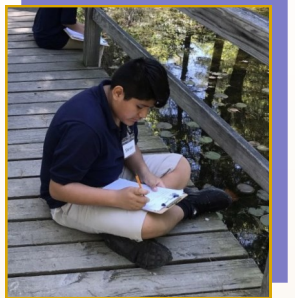


## Steven Palacios



Steven has shown true dedication to his studies over his years at San Miguel. He never gives up and shows the true characteristics of the Creed prayer that we recite together every day. When challenges arise, Steven accepts the challenge and does everything he can to be successful, whether it is improving his writing, trying to figure out a math problem or working on a step to complete a science lab. Steven is an active learner in the classroom who asks many questions and helps his peers when they need it. This leadership skill that Steven shows is an important quality that he will carry into high school. Steven has also taken a big interest in rowing the past two years, as he joined the team in seventh grade. He thinks of rowing as something that truly changed his life for the better. He surprised himself by being able to complete the rigorous tasks that Father Mark presented to the entire team. Steven exhibited the determination needed to push through the weekly practices and work toward achieving new goals. Next year, Steven will be attending Saint Benedict's Prep where he is looking forward to joining their rowing team and making new friends. Beyond high school, Steven is hoping to be wealthy and live in California. All of the teachers at San Miguel wish Steven the best as he has a bright future ahead of him!

*Steven is contemplating the wonders of nature at learning site partner, Mohonk Preserve.*



## Alexis Martinez

Alexis is a hard working and polite young man. He is an SMAN athlete and is an active member of the rowing team. He regularly attends Power Hour before school, demonstrating his dedication to his teammates. Alexis is easy going and has a great sense of humor. When he walks down the halls, you will often hear people greet him by his nickname, State Farm. His favorite club at San Miguel was Robotics. He enjoyed creating robots and programming their movements. While in Robotics, he enjoyed working with other students and was always willing to help the younger students with their robots.

As an 8th grader, Alexis was a leader of our daily calisthenics. He, along with two other boys, led the school in their pre-lunch exercises. He plans to attend college and will begin that journey this fall at The Marvelwood School as a member of the Class of 2024. Marvelwood will offer Alexis the opportunity to continue to develop his knowledge of robotics through their robust courses. Good luck in all your future successes!



*Alex is taking on the role of sous chef during our Saturday Program Cooking Club.*





## Jonathan Ochoa



Jonathan has a great sense of humor. He enjoys kidding around with his classmates, but he is very serious when it comes to learning. As an eighth grader at San Miguel Academy, Jonathan has shown true peer leadership qualities. He is always willing to go above and beyond to set a good example for his classmates, especially for the younger students. He enjoys being on the Crew team, and his afterschool activities include Drama, 3D Printing, and Fitness Club. We are extremely proud to say that Jonathan has been accepted into St. Benedict's Preparatory School. As Jonathan continues toward his goal of becoming an orthopedic doctor, we know that he will excel at St. Benedict's Preparatory School, as he has done at San Miguel Academy. We wish him all the best!

*Jonathan became an accomplished rower during his last two years of middle school. Pictured above, Jonathan is rowing at U.S.M.A. Caufield Rowing Center where we often have the opportunity to work out.*



## Jonathan Recinos

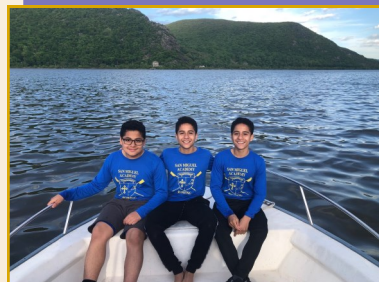


Jonathan is a compassionate and trustworthy student. As an eighth grader at San Miguel Academy, Jonathan has shown true leadership qualities toward his peers. He is always willing to go above and beyond to set a good example for his classmates and the younger students. At San Miguel Academy, Jonathan is involved in many afterschool sports and clubs, including Soccer, Crew, Drama club, Robotics, and Saturday clubs. Jonathan's favorite subjects include History, Geography, and Science. Jonathan has been accepted into St. Benedict's Preparatory School. As Jonathan continues toward his goals of becoming either a Historian, Cosmologist, Entrepreneur, or Filmmaker/Screenwriter, we know that he will excel at St. Benedict's Preparatory School, as he has done at San Miguel Academy. We wish him all the best!



*Jonathan is intent on examining owl pellets during one of the eighth grades' excursions to the Audubon Center in Garrison, New York.*

*Yes, in case you are wondering, we had triplets this year in the 8th grade! Jonathan is a fraternal triplet while Christopher and Christian are identical.*



*Eighth graders line up to thank the ladies who just presented them with a sumptuous Thanksgiving Dinner courtesy of (R-L) Cashie Egan, Cathy Nix, Kerry Brown, Kathy Casey and Daryl Finn. We are always grateful for all that our volunteers do for the boys!*



*Boat One for Eighth Grade accomplished an historic first as they rowed from our home port, Cornwall Yacht Club, to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. It's a 13 mile round trip! The boys are both exuberant and exhausted by the history making event.*



*SMP Board Member, Ann Mara Cacase, invited the 8th graders for the thrill of a lifetime as they joined the New York Giants players on the field for their warm-ups. Saquon Barkley takes a break to pose with the students and Ann.*



*This year the Class of 2020 prepared for their future by participating in a table etiquette lesson put on by loyal volunteers, Betsy Koch and Cashie Egan. Well done, boys!*



*The Classes of 2020 and 2021 are photographed here shortly after attending the funeral for long-time San Miguel Program supporter, Alfred E. Smith IV. Al was a dedicated leader for charitable causes, and we are blessed that our program was among those which received from his support.*





## Julian Marin



Julian Marin is one of many members of his extended family to attend the San Miguel Program. Like the others, he is well on his way to future success. Having been accepted into The Harvey School Class of 2024, Julian will continue to use his creative mind to find his passion in life.

Julian is all smiles. There is never a time when his spirits are not high, and his optimism on the rise. His winning personality makes him a peer favorite, and a delight for our faculty. He has all of the aptitudes to be on a college path, and to achieve whatever goals he sets forth. After Julian passed his swimming competency test, he quickly took to the ergometer machines, getting himself fit and ready for rowing on the Mighty Hudson. Talented in basketball, soccer, and rowing, Harvey coaches will be happy when Julian arrives on campus in September.

As a matter of speculation, none of us would be surprised if Julian ended up on the storied Harvey Rugby team! Reliable and dependable, Julian has all of the personal qualities and family support to make a great life for himself. Harvey School will nurture in him all of the things he's yet to discover about his natural talents and abilities. His story is just beginning. Stay tuned, the best is yet to come!



*Julian reading during our annual observance of Yom HaShoah, at the height of the pandemic. Julian read Pavel Freidman's "I Never Saw Another Butterfly."*



*Julian stands next to a vintage automobile at the Malcolm Pray Achievement Center in Bedford, New York.*

# HIGHLIGHTS



*The Class of 2020 gathered with U.S. Representative Sean Maloney after the funeral of NYS Senator William Larkin.*



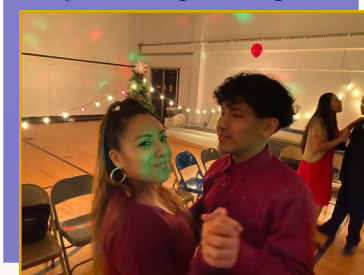
*For the first time in the history of the San Miguel Program the entire Class of 2020 are certified as proficient swimmers and oarsmen! Congratulations Team!*

## Jayden Barrera



Jayden Barrera is a model student and truly defines the grit and work ethic that San Miguel Academy embodies. Jayden's growth since 7th grade is indisputable and did not come easily. Jayden is not one to stay in his comfort zone and this is evident by the way he interacts with everyone. As an upperclassmen, it is easy to neglect the younger guys, but Jayden does the opposite. He is a natural born leader who leads by example. Not only is Jayden a standout on the soccer field and basketball court, he also flexes his intellectual muscle in the classroom. He defines the term student athlete and will be a great fit at the Church Farm School in Exton, Pennsylvania, where he will join the Class of 2024. Best wishes to Jayden!

*Jayden emerged as a great ball handler this year. We look forward to his continued development with the Griffins at Church Farm School.*



*Jayden, ever the gentleman, is pictured with his mother at our annual Mother/Son Valentine Dance.*



## Emanuel Giron-Luna



During his time at San Miguel, Emanuel has flourished. Emanuel has dedicated himself to his studies while always looking to lend a helping hand to his classmates and the staff. You can find Emanuel providing advice to the younger students and helping them make better choices. During Maker Club, Emanuel became an assistant, helping the 5th grade students learn how to code and create digital games. Emanuel has become an avid rower who arrives early to school to get his "Hour of Power" workout in. Emanuel regularly demonstrates the virtues of honor, faithfulness, truthfulness, compassion, and self-governance, making him a consistent candidate for Miguel Man. These traits will position Emanuel for success as he continues his education at The Mount Academy. Emanuel's plans do not stop with high school; he looks to become the first person in his family to ever attend college and to graduate! We know that plan is highly realistic given his character and tenacity. Good luck to Emanuel!

*Emanuel gets a taste of fresh maple syrup at Fox Hill School in Walden, New York.*





## Christopher Recinos



Christopher Recinos is an ideal student in the classroom. He is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure his work is done correctly. Christopher shows great examples of leadership on a daily basis. He is not afraid to give maximum effort, whether it be in the classroom, on soccer field or the basketball court. While most students are excited with a 95 on a test, Christopher will ask himself, “What can I do to do better?” The only thing to equate to Christopher’s enjoyment of sports and school would be his love for nature and the outdoors. Christopher’s ability and willingness to learn new things was perfectly exemplified in one of our final basketball games of the season. Christopher was given a new play to digest with 4 seconds left in the game, with the SMA Eagles trailing by one point. Christopher listened intently, and with confidence, scored the winning basket as time expired! In-

stead of being worked up, he was calm, cool, and extremely focused. This characteristic is typical for Christopher and it permeates all that he does at school. Once he sets his eyes on a goal, he won’t stop until he achieves it, no matter the obstacle. He proved this with his academics by constantly earning an exemplary Lexile reading score and Presidential Honors. Christopher will continue his education at The Mount Academy, where he will continue his winning ways. We wish him all the best!

*Christopher gets some “ups” against Woodstock Day School.*



## Geoffrey Moran

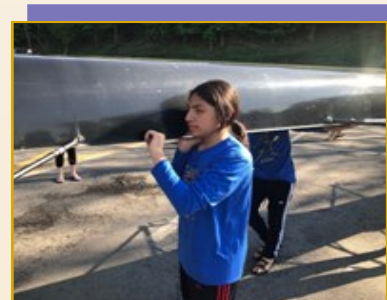
Geoffrey Moran had an awakening one day when he decided to improve the course of his life. Quiet and reserved, Geoffrey was nearly non-verbal during his early years at San Miguel Academy. Then one day, he showed up for rowing practice and quickly realized that the sport required effective communication, as a matter of life or death!

Geoffrey will attest to the fact that rowing changed his entire perspective on who he was and what he wanted to become. This transformation was noticed by most, and soon Geoffrey began to string nouns and verbs together. He emerged as a leader in the rowing shell, among his peers and in the classroom. One of the benefits of his newfound vigor was to improve on his study skills. With a trajectory unlike any other, Geoffrey rose steadily through the ranks,

enough to earn a spot in the Canterbury Class of 2024!

If that were not enough, this boy is one of the most delightful human beings you will ever meet. He is helpful, kind, selfless, and above all, filled with optimism. We have high hopes for Geoffrey Moran and the future opportunities of which he will take full advantage. What a kid!

*Geoffrey, with Catholic Charities Social Worker, Laura Keller. Geoffrey had just returned from a haircut, the proceeds of which he donated to Locks of Love.*



*Geoffrey is an accomplished oarsman. Pictured here he is walking our eight man boat to the shores of the Mighty Hudson. The benefits of teamwork!*

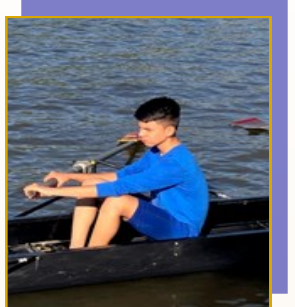
## Dominick Pineda



Driven and talented, Dominick has been an enthusiastic presence during the past four years. Known for his prowess on the soccer field, he also had an impish quality to his character until he realized high school was quickly approaching. Once he turned it around, his grades rose and so did his confidence. Good news came in early March when Dominick was accepted into the Class of 2024 at St. Benedict’s Preparatory School. As a Grey Bee, Dominick will be challenged in the classroom and in the competitive arena. It is certain that Dominick will attempt to step onto the nationally ranked soccer program at SBP, and we are equally sure that Coach White will be glad to welcome Pineda as an oarsman for the Hive. It will be interesting to watch as Dominick has the potential to excel in two sports as he prepares for college. The Pineda family represents the best of the Miguel spirit. Dominick will be joining his cousin, Brandon, at SBP, where they will offer brotherly support to one another. This young man has a bright future if he continues to focus and achieve at his God-given potential. We wish him well in this next chapter of his life!

*Dominick has earned the stroke seat in Boat #1, Ann T. Mara.*

*Pineda being challenged on the pitch at The Brunswick School.*

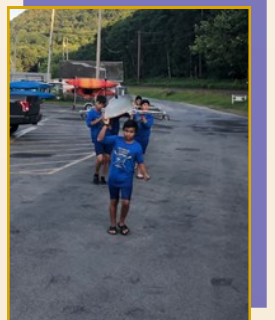


## Luis Chirinos

If you’ve read Daniel Brown’s bestseller, Boys in the Boat, about the USA 1936 Men’s Olympic Rowing Team, pivotal to the entire story of success was coxswain, George Morry. In a similar vein, the SMA Class of 2020 had the benefit of coxswain, Luis Chirinos. Luis is erudite and well spoken, perfect qualities for one entrusted with leadership and motivation. Luis impresses many with his self-assured swagger and precise articulation. Through it all, Luis remains humble. He was looking for an athletic outlet, bored by kicking the soccer ball around. Rowing was exactly what he was looking for! Then someone told Luis that a great coxswain must first be an effective rower, and so he has made it his business to row alongside his teammates at every ergometer practice. The outcome of four years of dedication to his

schoolwork is Luis’ acceptance to Vermont Academy, a first for a San Miguel Academy student! We are thrilled by this assignment, and delighted that Luis will get to lead the rowers at VA. We are more than certain that Luis will seize on everything that is good during the next four years. Best wishes to Luis!

*Luis during his admissions visit to Vermont Academy. Of great blessing Luis will be the first SMP student to attend VA!*



*ra.*

*Coxswain Luis Chirinos, leading our #1 four man boat, named Ann T. Mara.*

