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## SAN MIGUEL PROGRAM



Thursday, September 30th, 2021, 6:30 PM

Westchester Country Club  
99 Biltmore Avenue  
Rye, New York

# IMPACT Award 2021

Marilyn and Rudy† Netek  
Rere Corcoran  
Craig White - Brick City Rowing

graduate edition 2021

SAN MIGUEL  
PROGRAM



# Success

## GRADUATION EDITION 2021

## A Letter from Father Mark

We particularly  
esteem this  
Class of 2021  
because they  
never gave up  
but instead  
coalesced  
into a band of  
brothers who  
supported and  
encouraged  
one another  
each and  
every day.

Every ending is truly a new beginning, and so it is for the San Miguel Academy Class of 2021. They have endured, pressing forward each day, unperturbed by global events, and complied unfailingly with the regulations and changes to their normal routines. Their ability to adapt has paid off as they prepare for the next chapter in their educational lives – high school. We particularly esteem this Class of 2021 because they never gave up but instead coalesced into a band of brothers who supported and encouraged one another each and every day.

These “COVID KIDS” embraced our school’s positive messaging and affirming daily culture and so rose above any obstacle that dared to get in their way. Their grades ascended, their physical strength grew, and their spirits soared higher than any other student in America during this pandemic year. They proved their depth of character during a difficult time and their receiving high school list is a testimony to their grit and grace.

Please join us in celebrating these young men and their families, and even more, our program which stood head and shoulders above many of our nation’s schools which simply caved to the challenges before them. We proved this year why we exist and how we are different from the rest. Your part in sustaining this critical program for a troubled city is to be admired. As we hail the Class of 2021 we do so with deep gratitude for your support and guidance. Thank you!

Our moving up ceremony this year included speakers who continue to journey along their educational path: Na’sah Dabbs, SMA ‘17, Canterbury School ‘21 and Boston College ‘25; the ever-popular Tito Jimenez, that is, Ensign Luis Jimenez, who was commissioned a Naval Officer upon his graduation with honors from SUNY Maritime College; and finally, Cory Arias, who has just surpassed the one year anniversary of his sustaining massive injuries from a jolt of 10,000 volts. Not only surviving, but healing wonderfully in body and soul, Cory continues to inspire many with his strength and humility.

Along with our dedicated faculty and staff, we are grateful to our volunteers and donors who continue to guide our mission by breaking the cycle of poverty through education.

With much gratitude,  
Father Mark







## ADAN AGUILAR

Adan is a man of few words, yet underneath his placid exterior is a determined and strong young man. We have encouraged Adan to use to his benefit his verbal skills, and in 8th grade he seems to have turned a corner. Adan, in fact, has emerged as one of the most mature and self-controlled young men in his class.

Adan's academic progress has been steadily on the incline. Today Adan is above average in all subject areas, and he's well on his way to college as he hones his skills at the Church Farm School in Exton, PA. Church Farm School's nurturing environment will continue to bring out the very best in this young man.

Adan too is a skilled soccer player, but, late in his SMA career he reluctantly gave rowing a try. With no regrets, Adan has turned out to be among our top rowers, executing the sport with near perfect technique. Naturally athletic, we suspect Adan will try multiple new sports during his time at Church Farm.

**Congratulations, Adan, and continue to dig down and find your best self every day.** We are certain that your talents will prosper as you make your way to college.

## MANNY CASTILLO

Manny is the third boy in his family to attend San Miguel Academy. There's a bit of pressure on Manny because both of his older brothers attended Mount Saint Mary College and graduated! We know that Manny has the aptitude to attend college and to achieve any goal that he sets for himself. Gifted intellectually, Manny is above grade level in all subject areas.



When he's not studying his schoolwork, Manny is keen on our engineering program, where he has been seen devising pathways for a robot that he's built on his own. Manny definitely has a math mind, so we imagine that he will continue to excel in S.T.E.M. studies as he enters the 2025 Class at The Mount Academy.

Manny's gentle spirit and kind ways will find a true home in his next learning environment. And like his brothers, it is a sure bet that Manny will make his way into college and earn his degree. Another success story for our program.

**God bless you, Manny!**



## JOSH CERVANTES

Josh is known for his ready smile and amenable personality. Josh is a friend to all because of his likability and calm demeanor. Josh has made a tremendous impact on our rowing program, because when he arrives he gets right to business, always working as hard as he is able, while also encouraging his brothers to do the same. And when practice is over, Josh always wears a smile. We are sure that his positive attitude and optimism will be a big asset to his future endeavors.

Josh works hard in the classroom too, and we are pleased to announce that he will join the Class of 2025 at The Mount Academy in the Fall. It is certain that the support he will receive at TMA will keep Josh focused and successful throughout his high school years.

Josh has embraced every aspect of our program, especially being ready, respectful and responsible in his daily activities. His kind spirit will be missed around here, but we know that he will visit often and also keep in rowing shape using our equipment. With college likely on his horizon, Josh would be wise to continue to develop his rowing skills to perhaps earn a coxswain scholarship in the next four years. **We wish Josh well, and we will miss him here at SMA!**

Our Mission:  
We educate  
and empower  
the young  
men of  
the City of  
Newburgh,  
so they  
might break  
the cycle  
of poverty,  
achieve new  
potential  
and embrace  
lives of  
purpose,  
faith and  
truth.



Josh Cervantes learning the basic stroke from Coach Cory.



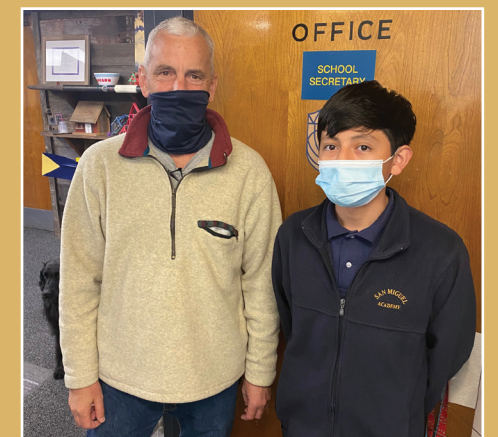
Jaime Ruiz taking some time to dream big!



Carlos Enamorado



Joshua Ruiz with his signature white framed eyeglasses that he wore for his first three years at SMA.



Brandon Rodriguez speaks with Major David Terwilliger (ret. USN) regarding admissions criteria for the United States Naval Academy.



Adan Aguilar with his Mom





# JOSH RUIZ

Josh grew up at San Miguel Academy, as many of us can recall the early days when his uncle, George Huaqui, now a sophomore at SUNY Maritime College, began his middle school career in 2012. Josh was often seen running around our open spaces whenever the family had business at the school. George would sometimes complain that he was tired during his morning classes, blaming Josh for keeping him awake at night. To see Josh graduating this year is a true joy, and we are sure Uncle George will be wide awake for the ceremony.

Josh is a multi-talented athlete. His versatility can be seen on the soccer pitch, the football field, and even rowing in our Boat 3. Josh is hoping that he will be able to walk onto the Milton Hershey High School football team when he joins the Spartans this September.

Josh departs the academy portion of our program knowing that the only disability in life is a bad attitude. Josh is learning that keeping high spirits and a positive outlook are the best ways to reach a goal and conquer adversity. We are sure that Josh’s grit will continue to help him achieve to his potential, especially with given the outstanding support system that is awaiting him at Hershey. **Well done, Josh. Keep up the hard work!**



# AXEL VAZQUEZ

Axel is the gentle giant of his class. Tall, yet unassuming, Axel has a ready smile and peaceful presence. He is friendly and his work ethic is strong. We are glad that he landed a place in the 2025 class of the Newburgh Free Academy Big Learning Program. Here, Axel will continue to receive academic support while exploring the many career options to which he will be exposed. On the day his acceptance was announced into this competitive program, he beamed with joy.

A lover of science, Axel will have ample opportunity to continue hands on learning and further develop his curiosity and problem solving. The fact that Axel works well in a group-based learning situation is a tremendous asset for him. His people skills are guided by his endless patience and ability to put others before himself. **Best of everything, Axel. Your hard work is paying off!**

# Congratulations to all of our Graduates



## Class of 2021

Adan Aguilar  
Church Farm School

Manuel Castillo  
The Mount Academy

Joshua Cervantes  
The Mount Academy

Carlos Enamorado  
St. Benedict’s Prep

Rogelio Giron-Luna  
Newburgh Free Academy West

Alexis Gunera  
Church Farm School

Angel Martinez  
Newburgh Free Academy

George Mendoza  
Millbrook School

Derry Moran  
The Mount Academy

Fernando Robles  
Excelsior Academy

Brandon Rodriguez  
Canterbury School

Jamie Ruiz  
St. Benedict’s Preparatory

Joshua Ruiz  
Milton Hershey High School

Axel Vasquez  
Newburgh Free Academy West

# CARLOS ENAMORADO

On physical strength alone, Carlos would be at the top of his class, but even more important is the depth of his grit. Carlos struggled to settle in and find his way in our program. It took effort to redirect Carlos and to help him to embrace his talents and potential. As he transitioned into 8th grade, Carlos would be the first to tell you that his life was transformed by rowing. It was on the erg machine and in our boats that Carlos was able to find his confidence and direction.



Believing in himself and his natural intelligence didn’t come easy, but it was evident that Carlos was becoming the person he was meant to be. Today he stands tall, leading his brother rowers in Boat 1, and achieving in the classroom at a level he once thought wasn’t possible. With a dedicated staff to support him, Carlos is finding his best self, and we know he will continue to do so as a member of the St. Benedict’s Prep Class of 2025.

This multi-talented young man has benefited enormously from the affirmation he has received with our program and in our care and by the transformative effects of rowing.

**God bless you, Carlos, as you journey forward! The best is yet to come.**



# ROGELIO GIRON-LUNA

Rogelio stands taller than his classmates, and so too are his kindness and sensitivities head and shoulders above the rest. Rogelio’s kind heartedness has made him a compassionate person, willing to always put others before himself. His gentle ways have positioned him to succeed one day in a “helping” profession. His acceptance into the Big Learning High School at Newburgh Free Academy will allow him ample opportunity to explore career possibilities with hands-on experience. This secondary school placement has a track record of success, placing many of our boys on a path to higher education and appropriate careers.

Rogelio is the second in his family to attend our program, and it won’t be long until yet another younger sibling joins our ranks. Older brother, Emanuel, continues to succeed at The Mount Academy, where he will soon be a sophomore student.

**We wish Rogelio all the best in his pursuits at Newburgh Free Academy West Street School of Big Picture Learning.**

# ALEXIS GUNERA

Alexis is known as A.J. around the halls of San Miguel Academy. During his middle school years, A.J. was recognized for high intelligence. A stand out in the classroom, A.J. enjoys math more than any other subject. That is probably why he gravitates to robotics and 3-D printing whenever he gets a chance. However A.J. is not just a bookworm, because he enjoys the outdoors as well.



A.J. has been blessed to spend his summers at Camp Dudley in Westport, NY. There A.J. has been able to develop his interpersonal skills and explore all of the activities available to the boys at Dudley. Together with the many opportunities our curriculum provides for natural exploration, we can easily see A.J. as a future environmentalist, ecologist, or horticulturist. Whatever it is he chooses to do, we know what he will do it with excellence and integrity.

A.J. will be joining the Class of 2025 at Church Farm School in Exton, PA. We are thrilled that two members of the SMA Class of 2021 have earned spots at Church Farm School, one of our valued high school partners.

**Best wishes, A.J., and continue to make us proud!**





## ANGEL MARTINEZ

With dreams of becoming an engineer, Angel loves science, and fortunately he's been able to immerse himself in our outstanding STEM Program at San Miguel Academy. Angel's favorite days were his weekly outings to Mohonk Preserve and Stony Kill Farm, where he was often seen wandering away from his classmates, drawn by a beautiful butterfly or the siting of a red tail hawk.

Quiet and reserved, Angel is by far the most soft-spoken member of his class. That doesn't mean that Angel shies away from the friendly competition of gym class or the 100 pushups that Coach often commands. Polite and kind, Angel has a persona to match his name. He's dutiful in chores around school and helpful to the younger boys when the situation arises.

Angel will depart San Miguel Academy with the confidence that he learns differently from other kids and with the realization that school can be a hospitable place when given support and encouragement. We will continue to advocate for Angel as he continues on in the public system to assure that his learning needs are met always.

**God bless you, Angel!**

## GEORGE MENDOZA

George Mendoza was a bit slow out of the starting gate, though everyone on staff recognized the enormous potential he possessed. As eighth grade drew near, George began to understand that high school was approaching and that our prodding to put on his "best self" was a good idea. George showed everyone how naturally smart he is, including the Admissions Office at Millbrook School



where he will join the Class of 2025 in September, a first for a San Miguel Academy student!

George is a curious learner, so he was naturally drawn to our 3D printing lab and Robotics Program. He has a gifted Math Mind which makes it possible for him to understand concepts often elusive to young learners. George is at his best when he is discovering and creating. He especially excelled during our COVID Summer 2020 Program, conquering the challenge of using a mini drone to carry and deliver a small parcel.

George's SMA journey is a testament that hard works pays off. Even more, George is now ready to take on the wonders of the Millbrook School Zoo and all of the other fantastic opportunities that will come his way at this elite school. **Congratulations, George, and represent SMA with pride!**



## DERRY MORAN

Derry needed a little extra attention to motivate him to focus on his future and to develop his God-given gifts and talents. Thankfully, Derry turned a corner late in the 7th grade, and today he stands tall, ready to take on The Mount Academy in the Class of 2025.

Derry is the middle son of the Moran family to enroll in our program. His eldest brother, Geoffrey, is entering his Fourth Form year at Canterbury School while his youngest brother, Angelino, is a rising 7th grader.

Derry has developed into a highly technical oarsman, and his weight to power ratio is truly impressive. We are certain that Derry's newfound grit will serve him well as he moves on with his academic career. Derry's parents have been supportive of their sons accessing higher education and taking full advantage of all of our extra-curricular activities. Our program can only be successful if each child has a network of support. The Mount Academy will be glad to have Derry as a new student.

**Best of luck, Derry!**

## FERNANDO ROBLES

Fernando Robles is known for his thoughtfulness and work ethic. These skillsets make Fernando successful both in the classroom and as an oarsman. In the classroom, Fern is progressing rapidly through our Algebra I course, hopefully putting him in Advanced Math when he arrives at Excelsior Academy. Always respectful, Fern has earned the respect of his teachers who unanimously attest that he is a diligent student.



Ever improving on the erg machine, Fern is looking forward to his spring rowing season on the Hudson River, most likely sitting in the third seat on Boat 2. His dedication to rowing throughout the grueling indoor winter season has paid off; he has emerged stronger and more confident than ever before.

We are expecting Fern to continue to develop his wide range of interests which include playing the ukulele and guitar, and his curiosity about how things work. It seems that he is destined for a career in engineering, and don't be surprised if you see him playing at a luau too! **Keep up the hard work, Fernando, it's paying off!**



## BRANDON RODRIGUEZ

Brandon has been cooperative and dutiful since his entrance into the San Miguel Program four years ago. Today he stands tall, full of confidence and poise. Brandon's response to our affirming school culture has elicited in him a winning attitude and strong leadership potential. In other words, Brandon is well on his way to success! After learning to row in 6th grade, Brandon has embraced the rigors of crew, while also maintaining his adept skills on the soccer pitch.

Late in his 5th grade year, Brandon arrived at San Miguel Academy with a two-foot trophy. As we read the inscription, it noted that Brandon had just won a chess tournament. Typically humble, Brandon had guarded quietly his status as a chess prodigy. Not only is he good, he can win against chess wizards twice his age!

With an above average aptitude and his characteristic optimism, Brandon should be a stand out in the 2025 Class of Canterbury School. **Congratulations, Brandon, on becoming a Saint! May your good-hearted spirit continue to grow on the Hill!**

## JAIME RUIZ

If an award for GRIT were being given to an 8th grader, Jaime would be the recipient. Undaunted by any obstacle, Jaime is determined to excel in all that he undertakes. Signing on to our rowing program in 6th grade, Jaime approached the sport with a robust attitude. He made it his duty to arrive every day early for practice to get in a few extra strokes on the ergometer machine. Jaime grew in strength, to the point where he can match any other rower with a much longer stroke. True to form, Jaime has emerged as a



giant on our rowing squad, leading by example and barking out commands as he leads our Boat 1 crew. Coach Craig White will be happy to have Jaime in his boathouse in Newark, as Jaime joins the 2025 Class of St. Benedict's Preparatory School.

Jaime has also pushed ahead in the classroom, graduating with successful completion of our accelerated Algebra 1 Course. His serious approach to his studies and his sport, will no doubt be a winning combination through high school, as he prepares to join a top tier rowing program as lead coxswain.

No one has taken better advantage of the opportunities that our program offers our students. **Keep it up, Jaime, we'll all be watching from the shore.**