

# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

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2018

## SUCCESS through PARTNERS



### Educational Partners

“No man is an island,” wrote the English cleric, John Donne. So it is with our school. San Miguel Academy of Newburgh is blessed to have an array of mutually beneficial relationships that further our mission to educate low opportunity kids. These relationships strengthen our place-based, project-based, and problem solving-based methodology (PBLx3) for our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) curriculum. Our program also works with students and families to continue the ongoing work of character formation for those entrusted to us. These are

the two parallel tracks of our educational program at the academy. In this newsletter we would like to highlight the organizations and individuals who are aiding the efforts of our mission and working alongside our educators to deliver the best possible education for the demographic served by San Miguel Academy. We are grateful to those who have envisioned new ways of educating in the 21st Century and who work to make sure that every child in this great nation has an equal opportunity to succeed.

### FOUNDERS' COUNCIL

Sr. Agnes Boyle, O.P.	Patrick Donnelly	Br. Lawrence Goyette, F.S.C.	Gregory Kiernan	Kevin Mirabile	Lauren Steers
Robert Brennan	Greg Draddy	Thomas Grace	Patricia Kitson	Maureen Mirabile	Joseph R. Spurduto
Fr. Mark Connell	Barbara Eager	Dennis Grant	Lindsay Matthews	Robert Murphy	Ted Wachtell
Thomas Crispi	Joan Corso Ferroni	Paul Guilaro	Brendan McCarthy	Colin O'Gara	Joanne Welty
Thomas Cunningham	Michael Giobbe	Patricia Burns Inglis	Megan McCarthy	Juan Paneto	Mary Whalen
Patrick Dennis	Donato R. Giuseppi, III	Michael Judge	Kevin Meenan	Michael Sileck	Catherine Joyce Wooters

### Web-based Platforms



*iPads have become an indispensable part of our pedagogy at SMAN. Through the generosity of our benefactors we now own enough iPads for each boy.*

San Miguel Academy of Newburgh enjoys the fruits of multiple partnerships that add quality to the education of the boys entrusted to us. Many of these partnerships are longstanding, and some are still emerging. Anyone familiar with the phenomenon of low opportunity environments realizes that urban schools around our nation struggle for grade level performance by pupils who live in challenging places. Here at SMAN we consistently graduate boys in 8th grade, all of whom are reading on, or exceeding, grade level. The same holds true for mathematics.

One of the reasons for this success, besides the outstanding and committed faculty serving our children, is the supplemental web platforms that we provide to our boys. Four years ago we contracted with LightSail, a motivational online reading app, for the school. Since the inception of the reading app we have seen a marked increase in reading scores. Even the folks at LightSail tell us the rise in the boys' scores is unprecedented in urban America. We have done the same supplemental work with our mathematics classes. The online aid for math is

known as ALEKS. ALEKS is a web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS quickly and accurately determines exactly what a student knows in the math sequence. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics he is most ready to learn. A student who shows a high level of mastery of an ALEKS course will be successful in the actual course he is taking with a teacher, while also allowing him to advance at a pace with which he is comfortable. An added benefit is that these platforms allow us to give our receiving high schools data on student competencies that is current and accurate.

Together, these two web-based learning platforms, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES if you will, are a revolutionizing trend in education to individualize educators' efforts in the classroom. We find it to be working, and so these supplemental practices are part of our daily routine at SMAN. Fortunately we now have a 1:1 ratio for iPad and student! When visiting SMAN, ask the boys their Lexile or ALEKS ranking and they will tell you. Another sign the program is working.





# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## S.T.E.A.M.

### Mohonk Preserve

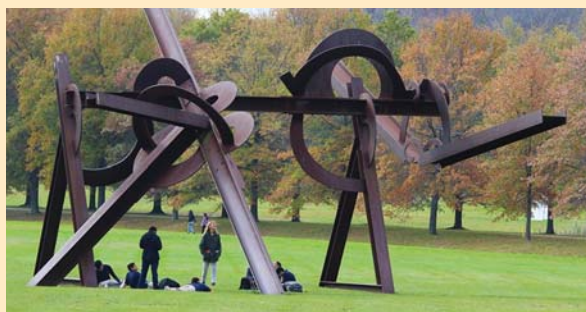


*High upon "the ridge" our boys do some of their best learning!*

One of our most enduring and productive educational partnerships is with Mohonk Preserve located on the ridge of the Shawangunk Mountains near New Paltz, New York. For almost 8 years SMAN and the preserve have partnered for the benefit of our students. Minority males are the most unrepresented demographic in ecological studies and in the

conservation movement. With that in mind, Mohonk Preserve and SMAN have utilized an intensive curriculum that adds quality to our STEAM program while also opening up new career possibilities for the boys. With 25 visits during the regular academic year, it is often the case that grades 6, 7 and 8 are "on the road" on Wednesdays at the preserve.

### Storm King Arts Center



*A favorite destination for the academy is nearby Storm King Arts Center. In recent months our partnership has expanded as our educators collaborate to blend art and STEM, better known as STEAM.*



*Trish Halverson of SKAC, and Brian Morgan of SMAN, work with our 8th graders on an innovative project that will incorporate art, geometry and engineering into a hands-on creation by the class. We can't wait for the finished product in the Spring! We are grateful to the Ralph E. Ogden Foundation for their assistance with this collaboration.*



# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## S.T.E.A.M.

### Stony Kill Farm



*Fifth grade boys carry out their chores upon arrival to Stony Kill Farm every Tuesday morning.*

One of our emerging partnerships is with the Environmental Education Center at Stony Kill Farm in Wappingers Falls, New York. Each Tuesday during the academic year the fifth grade boys head off to the farm with their teacher, Ms. Camille Cappa and volunteer teacher, Ms. Carmen Vazquezteell, mother of SMAN 2015 graduate, Victor Garcia. This happy group returns back to SMAN in the afternoon after experiencing an exciting array of hands on learning activities. Recently the boys dissected owl excrement to see what kind of diet the birds were enjoying in their habitat in Dutchess County. The boys also tend to the working farm by doing chores immediately upon arrival. We are grateful to Stacey Lynch Adnams, Program Director of the farm, for her support in this partnership.

### Constitution Marsh



*Exploring the ecosystem of the Hudson River is among the favorite activities enjoyed by SMAN students at Constitution Marsh Audubon Sanctuary.*

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary is a unique and beautiful tidal marsh located in Putnam County, New York, and serves as a vital natural habitat in the Hudson River Estuary. It is located in Cold Spring, on the east shore of the Hudson River. For many years The Marsh and SMAN have partnered. The Marsh education director, Rebecca Schultz, has fashioned a curriculum that makes our guys aware of

the importance of the Hudson River in our lives. Birds, fish, and even millions of people rely on the mighty Hudson River in our region. Studying the river helps our boys to envision new possibilities for a healthy planet while also making them aware of the array of career possibilities available to them in the 21st century.





# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## S.T.E.A.M.

### Sprout Creek Farm



*Sprout Creek Farm helps to connect young people to the land, the seasons, and the plants and animals that co-exist here in harmonious rhythm. These unique experiences impact our boys' executive functioning skills in a myriad of ways.*

One of our longest and most efficacious partnerships has been with Sprout Creek Farm in Poughkeepsie. This working farm, recently acquired by Marist College, gives our boys an insight into sustainable agriculture and organic farming. In addition, Sprout Creek Farm produces some of the best quality cheese in our region. Chef Mark, now executive director of the farm, teaches our boys

cooking techniques for healthy living. Sister Margo Morris, RSCJ, founder of the farm, has been a fantastic advocate for our boys. The late Sister Georgie Blaeser, RSCJ, made sure that all of our programming was funded and sustainable. With Marist College at the helm, we are hoping that our partnership will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

### Touro College of Medicine

*Touro College of Medicine has become a new partner of SMAN through the efforts of benefactor, Anne Turnbull. With a full day tour of the college in Middletown, New York, the 8th grade boys learned about all of the facets of the medical profession. We expect to return to TCM as an ongoing adjunct to our STEAM programming.*



# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## S.T.E.A.M.

### Block Island Maritime Institute



*Captain Jack Lynch and another BIMI staffer, help the boys to beach comb for live crustaceans on Block Island.*

Through an initiative begun by Jack Lynch and his daughter, Caitlin, and the Block Island Maritime Institute, San Miguel Academy has made four week long trips to Block Island over the years. This collaboration has expanded our boys' knowledge of conservation to include the sea, and all of the creatures that live in a maritime environment. Because Block Island also plays host to migratory



*8th graders carefully dissect squid during their week long immersion in marine biology on Block Island.*

birds, the boys are able to expand their ornithology knowledge too. We are grateful to Jack and Helen Lynch, Jack and June Heffernan, and Mary Beth Sollins for their support of this program. Excursions such as these add a value to our education that opens up new career possibilities for our students.

## Orange County Rowing Association



*SMAN is a community partner with the Orange County Rowing Association in Cornwall, NY. OCRA provides our rowing program with certified rowing coaches to assure that our boys have the best and safest instruction in the area.*





# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## CHARACTER

### Rabbi Erwin Zimet Memorial Institute



*This sign at the entrance to the Jewish Heritage Museum in New York City, reminds us all why SMAN has embedded Holocaust Studies across all four years of our curriculum.*

*Every year the 8th graders visit the Jewish Heritage Museum as part of their Holocaust Studies. Ms. Crystal Paul, SMAN Humanities teacher, poses with the museum's tour guide and our 8th grade class. We are grateful to our mentor, Rabbi Daniel Polish, of Congregation Shir Chadash, in Poughkeepsie, and Victor Stern, of Temple Beth-El, also in Poughkeepsie, for funding the program.*

### USMA at West Point Campus Ministry and Knights of Columbus



*USMA Cadets, members of the Knights of Columbus Chapter at the base, gather with SMAN 7th graders for some friendly football.*



*The cadets also do bible study with our guys along with conversations about leadership and character. We are grateful for this bi-annual gathering, and to Brother Carlos, for organizing the event and feeding our hungry troops!*



# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## CHARACTER

### Camp Dudley



*Camp Dudley, in Westport, New York, continues to sponsor our boys for leadership training in the Spring and for two lucky boys, a summer camp experience. We are grateful to Matt Storey and Evan George for their ongoing support through the years. Camp Dudley's motto, "The other fellow first," blends wonderfully with our own character formation program.*

## Mount Saint Mary College

Right in our backyard is Mount Saint Mary College. Over the years our two institutions have partnered on behalf of our common mission. Among the initiatives undertaken by MSMC, the "Lighting the Way" endowed scholarship program is allowing many boys to enjoy the benefits of a quality four year education. At present, some 10 SMAN graduates are enrolled at the college, with many more soon to follow we anticipate our bonds of advocacy to grow even stronger.

Some of you may recall that fateful day in August of 2016 when our building flooded, threatening the Summers Scholars Program. Without hesitancy, MSMC opened their doors so that our program could continue to its conclusion. More recently the boys are on campus at the Kaplan Athletic Center, taking swimming lessons with MSMC swimming coaches. Former SMAN teacher, Trevor Purcell, now MSMC Assistant

Athletic Director, is spearheading more collaborative events in the weeks to come. We are grateful to MSMC President David Kennett, for his ongoing support and encouragement.



*MSMC Coach, Ryan Walsh, working with SMAN students as they prepare for their water safety test. Succeeding at this test allows them to join our rowing team on the Hudson River.*





# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## S.T.E.A.M.

### Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival



Through the years the Ziegler Family and Netek Family have made sure that our boys have exposure to productions by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. From learning the fine art of impromptu acting, or reviewing a dress rehearsal of an upcoming show, our boys get regular exposure to the works of Shakespeare.

*Here the boys get to experience an in school dress rehearsal of A Midsummer's Night Dream.*

### Fox Hill School and the Bruderhof Community

Among our most beneficial relationships is the one maintained between SMAN and the Bruderhof Community. Not only do our graduates get to attend the Mount Academy in Esopus, New York, for high school, but our middle school students often interact with the Fox Hill Middle School students in Walden, New York.



*One of our favorites activities is the annual tree sapping that takes place on the property of Fox Hill School. Mrs. DiMeo carries a bucket of fresh sap to the boiler with SMAN student, Arturo Giron.*



# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## CHARACTER



*One of our most supportive partnerships is with Catholic Charities of Orange and Sullivan Counties, under the direction of Dr. Dean Scher. Dean has made sure that our boys are receiving the very best from the myriad of preventive programs offered by CCCSOS. At the present time the following programs are in operation at SMAN:*

*Too Good for Drugs*

*Too Good for Violence*

*Transition Support Group for Eighth Graders*

*The highly qualified clinicians leading these programs make this partnership one of the most critical for increasing successful outcomes for our students.*

## Seton Hall University



*Peggy Brady-Amoon, Ph.D., of the Graduate School of Psychology at Seton Hall University, works collaboratively with SMAN administrators on best practices for a holistic environment. Peggy, far left, is pictured here with a cohort of her graduate students at Seton Hall who are undertaking a research project that focuses on the positive influences of our program. Information generated by these types of projects are helpful to us in creating the most advantageous learning environment for our boys.*

## Marist College Campus Ministry



*Marist College Campus Ministry, under the direction of Brother Michael Flanigan, creates annual opportunities for our boys to get the feel of life on a college campus. Brother Michael also makes sure that Marist students, who themselves come from low opportunity backgrounds, encourage our boys to strive for a college education.*





# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## S.T.E.A.M.

### Saint Philip's Church



*Cindy McEvoy, Kathy Plummer, and Jim Bopp, work with the boys to create a healthy meal that is shared by all of the Saturday Clubs at the end of the day. If you'd like to join one of our clubs, or create your own Saturday Club, just let us know.*



*Elise LaRocca and Jim Bopp work with 5th graders using math flash cards on a Wednesday afternoon.*

The socially minded congregation of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in the Highlands has been a valued partner of SMAN for a decade. Members of the church regularly tutor the boys each Wednesday afternoon. Also impactful is the oversight that St. Philip's parishioners give to our Saturday Clubs and Programs. Jim Bopp has directed this effort for many years, rounding up and organizing volunteers to staff the Hiking Club, Movie Club, Food Club, Writing Club, Book Club, Literacy Club, and so much more. On

Saturday Club Day the school is bustling with activities and excitement, smiles are in abundance, both on the faces of the boys and the volunteers themselves. This happy day gives our students a chance to try new things while also challenging them to develop their critical thinking abilities. We are ever grateful to our friends on the east side of the river who do not see the Newburgh/Beacon Bridge as an obstacle, but rather as a pathway to unite communities.



## Focal Point Project

*Maureen Sheehan, founder of the Focal Point Project, works annually with SMAN 8th graders to use photography as an empowerment tool for self-expression and social change. Stop by SMAN and you can see the gallery of photography created by this program.*



# San Miguel Academy of Newburgh

## S.T.E.A.M.

### Divine Sparks

International artist and licensed social worker, Imogene Drummond, has partnered with SMAN for several years. Imogene brings her re-imagining of the creation story, in her unique film presentation and art syllabus, to our students each year. Through the use of color and guided artistic creations, the students are empowered to value the created world around them, as well as ponder their irreplaceable place in the universe. This evocative project-based program is a winner for the boys. Through their creations, they are often found expressing things which had previously gone unspoken. Blending individual expression and therapy is a perfect complement to our effort in building emotional strength and social awareness.



## CHARACTER

### The International Boys' Schools Coalition

Founded in 1995, the International Boys' Schools Coalition is a not-for-profit organization of schools dedicated to the education and development of boys worldwide, the professional growth of those who work with them, and the advocacy and advancement of institutions - primarily schools for boys - that serve them. SMAN has been a member school for more than 5 years. You may remember that an international cohort of researchers worked with Mr. Frank Snyder to analyze our STEM programming in 2014. The benefit of ongoing research helps us to critically analyze all that we do at our school, both curricular and co-curricular, so that we can create the best outcomes for the boys.

Presently, nearly 50 IBSC member schools,

including San Miguel Academy of Newburgh, have joined a two-year project which is being led by CIRCLE — the Centre for Innovation, Research, Creativity, and Leadership in Education, based in Sydney, Australia.

The project uses a well-researched framework for schools to evaluate current practices, processes, and programs in character education; sharpen strategy and planning for character education. We are proud to have been chosen for this particular research project as character formation is our central emphasis. When the results are written and published we will have a better idea of how effective our practices have been. To learn more go to [www.theibsc.org](http://www.theibsc.org).

