



success

2014 SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

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Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

The Newburgh Nativity Project turns ten years old this summer. In 2004 a movement emerged which believed that the children of Newburgh deserved a chance at educational equality and productive citizenship. Fast forward to this year's graduating class and one can see that efforts necessary to create this unique school have been worth it.

With the Class of 2014, we now have 67 young men in our graduate support program, representing more than 18 private high schools and boarding schools. All fifteen of this year's graduates will end up in private schools and innovative public schools. Coming to Newburgh Free Academy this fall is a private/public partnership known around the nation at P-tech academies. Newburgh's version of the P-tech is being sponsored by I.B.M. and will be known as Excelsior Academy. Three of our boys will move on to Excelsior, and the rest will end up at private high schools, including new partners like Church Farm School, Wyoming Seminary, and The Storm King School.

We are delighted that Judge Colleen McMahan will speak at this year's commencement ceremony. Judge McMahan has been in the unenviable position of sentencing young felons who hail from Newburgh. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to speak to our boys and to encourage them to achieve their full potential. Please join us on June 5, at 6 p.m., at San Miguel Academy, 245 Renwick Street in Newburgh.

Finally let me offer a word of gratitude to our staff and teachers. Without their tireless efforts on behalf of these kids we would not be seeing such wonderful results. To you our benefactors we also extend a heartfelt note of thanks. Your dollars, and your support, allow our mission to thrive in a city that would otherwise be easily forgotten. If you cannot join us for graduation, please make arrangements to visit our new location in the near future. You'll like what you see!

Sincerely,
 Thomas Crispi

Introducing the Graduates

Henry Aleman

Grit is the first word that comes to mind when thinking of Henry Aleman. Henry joined San Miguel in Grade Five; however, it was not until 7th grade that Henry decided to really invest in his education. After that, there was no stopping him. Henry realized his natural leadership abilities and became a stand out among his classmates. His grades also went on the rise. The result is an 8th grade graduate who is determined to make the most out of the opportunities presented to him. Next year Henry will continue his journey at The Storm King School in Cornwall, NY. Of special note is that Henry has been selected this year for the Grandview Scholarship Award which will fund his education during high school.

When not excelling in the classroom, Henry takes his positive attitude to the playing field. Henry thrives in a competitive atmosphere. In soccer he's a top striker, in basketball a skilled ball handler, and in lacrosse, a new sport in his repertoire, he's catching on.

When you put it all together, you have one outstanding young man. With continued dedication in the classroom, Henry will reach the full potential given by his Creator. Henry Aleman is one of those kids on whom you want to keep an eye. The best is yet to come!



Jorge Vasquez



Jorge found his way to San Miguel Academy in Grade Five. By that time Jorge was beginning to lose confidence in his academic abilities. Slowly, but steadily, Jorge began to recognize his many gifts and to use them. Our place based learning strategy coupled with project-based exercises quickly turned Jorge around. Mr. Snyder will confirm that Jorge responded wonderfully to our innovative education methods and literally “caught on fire.” Jorge’s grades began to soar, and so did his self-confidence! Today he’s the pride of his mother, and he’s earned the esteem of his peers and his teachers. His ready smile and positive attitude has made San Miguel Academy a brighter place. Fortunate for John S. Burke Catholic H.S., Jorge will bring a newfound energy to their halls.

When not in the classroom Jorge is busy on the athletic field. He’s a natural athlete which is evidenced by his success in lacrosse as our leading scorer, his strong soccer ability, and his prowess on the basketball court. When he is not competing in the aforementioned, Jorge is busy at the Orange County Rowing Association building his rowing skills.

San Miguel Academy has been impactful on Jorge Vasquez. He departs full of poise and pride. Jorge embodies the San Miguel Spirit, and the transformative educational effect created by our teachers.

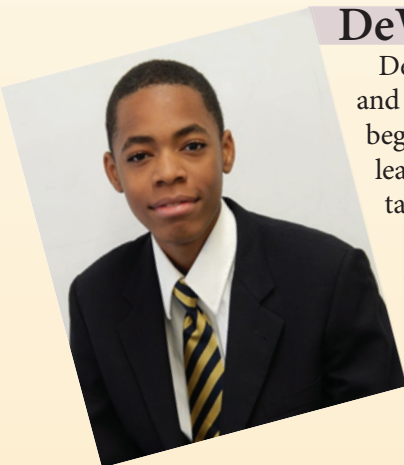
Ali Walker

Ali is generally quiet and reserved but through the years he has learned to develop his leadership abilities which complement nicely with his keen intelligence. Ali is involved in social outreach in the local community and he participates weekly in the local YMCA teen leadership program. With academic success and the conscience to serve others, Ali carries with him the San Miguel ideal of bringing compassion to the world.

Beyond the classroom, Ali plays basketball and lacrosse. When he arrives at Oakwood Friends School they will be happy to have such a good student and dedicated athlete in their midst. We wish continued blessings for Ali as he journeys forth from San Miguel Academy.



DeWilliam Carter



DeWilliam transferred into San Miguel at the beginning of 7th grade. With a winning smile and a personality to match, DeWilliam won fast friends in his new school. The teachers also began to realize that this new student had strong potential for academic excellence. DeWilliam leaves us after two short years to the benefit of Our Lady of Lourdes High School where he’ll take on 9th grade with enthusiasm and energy.

DeWilliam also challenged himself to leave the gaming station and take on the sports of soccer and lacrosse. With the same intensity he puts into reading a book, DeWilliam brought to the arenas of competition the determination to triumph.

Altogether DeWilliam is a delightful young man who’s placed himself on a positive path with the help of San Miguel Academy. As he continues to develop his leadership capabilities, we expect DeWilliam to rise to the top of his class in high school.



Nayib Portillo

Nayib began his time at San Miguel Academy as a pint sized kid. He leaves us standing tall, ready to take on the challenges ahead with confidence and resolve. Nayib's willingness in the classroom also grew during his middle school years. Today he performs on grade level, with a new found confidence in his ability to learn that will see him through high school and college.

Nayib also excels in athletics. He's a feisty soccer player, and he's catching on quickly in lacrosse. Nayib was one of our first students to pursue rowing, a sport which he will continue in his new high school. Additionally Nayib is realizing his leadership capabilities, using the local YMCA to help him grow.

Nayib makes consistent good decisions which will be of great benefit as he moves on to our Lady of Lourdes High School. We'll miss his bright smile and kind ways as he departs for greater adventures. We wish him all good blessings in the years ahead.



Edgar Cruz

Edgar is the third Cruz boy to graduate San Miguel Academy. With two older brothers to emulate, the pressure was on Edgar to achieve. Over time Edgar gained the confidence he needed to meet with success in the classroom. As he graduates today he realizes that John S. Burke Catholic High School will provide him all the resources necessary for continued academic success.

Edgar is a standout on the soccer field. His defensive dominance will be welcome by his new high school coaching staff. He also uses that same strength in lacrosse and in rowing, two sports that Edgar will continue as he moves forward.

Edgar also joined the YMCA leadership program, developing even further his service to the community. As a total package, this young man has all the skills needed for a productive life. By relying on his inner courage and determination, Edgar will continue to acquire the confidence he needs to match the achievements of his brothers.



Brandon Herrera

Brandon's optimism seems to permeate every part of his life. With an upbeat attitude Brandon takes on all the challenges of life. In the classroom Brandon has experienced that learning is possible for him because of the unique strategies used by our faculty. By finding success in middle school Brandon is now poised to carry on with academic achievement at Excelsior Academy, the new P-tech high school funded by IBM.

Brandon's other accomplishments are many. He's a YMCA leader, a skilled soccer player, and he's rapidly growing to like lacrosse. Daily he abides by the core values of San Miguel Academy, becoming an example to all the younger students.

Brandon is kind and generous with a serene demeanor. Watching him grow in confidence has been an encouragement to our staff. We look forward to Brandon staying focused during his journey forward.



Saeed Adams



Saeed stands out in the Class of 2014 for his creativity and style. Saeed is gifted with distinct aptitudes in music and art. He has also been graced with thoughtfulness and intelligence. When you combine all of his talents, we expect that Saeed will flourish in the rigors of St. Benedict's Prep when he begins there in July.

Though the computer is a friendlier arena for competition for Saeed, we're happy that he gave lacrosse a chance this season. With certainty St. Benedict's can anticipate that Saeed will be heavily involved in their arts programs!

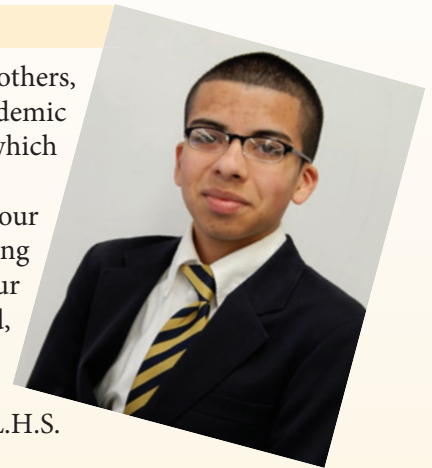
Saeed needs a few more years to appreciate the personal blessings that he has been given. As he matures we know that many will depend on him for leadership and strength. The Grey Bees in Newark will be happy to help you get there.

Marc Ramos

Marc is the third boy from his family to graduate from our school. Like his older brothers, Marc will continue his education at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Marc's academic record at San Miguel shows an upward trajectory that will one day take him to college, which by then will be a family tradition.

Though he's only been a student at SMA for four years, Marc in reality has been in our hallways for eight years. One would expect that Marc caught on pretty quickly regarding dedication to our core values, and you would be right. Marc personifies all the best of our unique education, daily living up to all of our school expectations. By staying focused, Marc knows that success is around the corner.

Marc loves to play soccer and he's acquiring a taste for lax as well. Leadership training is part of his plan, all of which adds up to a well-rounded young man. O.L.L.H.S. will be better for having a third Ramos boy on campus. Good luck, Marc.



Joshua Quinones



Josh arrived at our doorstep at the beginning of 7th grade. With a manifested desire to improve his school performance, Josh was accepted into our program. Today, as he faces the next challenge in his academic career, Josh has the assurance that he possesses all that he needs to be a college bound student. With his newfound confidence, Josh will be off to Lourdes High School for his secondary education.

Josh is known for his membership in the Civil Air Patrol at Stewart Air Force Base. On special occasions Josh dons his CAP uniform which this year afforded him a photo op with General George Petraeus. Josh played lacrosse this year with the Soaring Eagles, and he looks forward to all of the extracurricular activities Lourdes has to offer.

We look forward to Josh's continued commitment to his education. With so many talents and gifts, there is reason to believe that Josh could someday wear the uniform of a military leader, maybe even a general!



Adrian Moran

Adrian did not always find school to be a friendly place before San Miguel Academy. In our environment Adrian assimilated quite well, even earning from his classmates the affectionate moniker “Fluffy.” Adrian leaves San Miguel with the knowledge that education can be enjoyable, and that school can be a kind place. In September, Adrian will begin his high school studies at the new Excelsior Academy in Newburgh.

Adrian had the good fortune of coming under the tutelage of our excellent soccer coach, Raul Sanchez. Coach Sanchez was able, in a few short days, to turn Fluffy into our goalie. With a highly successful season in the autumn of 2013, one can conclude that Adrian was a big part of our success.

We are pleased that Adrian has made such progress in our midst, and we anticipate continued success for him as a college bound student. Best wishes, Adrian! The best is yet to come.



Milan Melendez

Milan has made progress in his commitment to school while at San Miguel. With a gifted aptitude for reading, we know that the “toolbox” is full for future success in high school and beyond. In September, Milan will continue his studies at John S. Burke Catholic High School in Goshen.

Around the school, Milan will long be remembered as being the manager of our meal time sharing table. Dutifully, Milan would gather, after each meal, the unopened leftovers for others to eat later in the day. We can only hope that Milan will continue to keep a helpful on those who are less fortunate in our society.

Milan has benefited from both leadership experiences at the YMCA and from playing the violin. He still has a ways to go in developing his academic and personal potential.

With ongoing support from our graduate program, we know that Milan will use these resources to achieve all the possibilities life will bring his way.

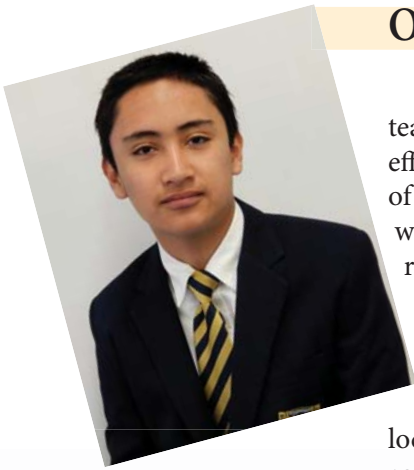


Jadden Montijo

Jadden stands out for his intelligence. Gifted intellectually, Jadden shows great promise for future academic pursuits. This fact was recognized by Church Farm School in Exton, Pennsylvania, which has awarded Jadden a generous scholarship to join their Class of 2018.

Jadden leaves us with pride in his accomplishments and the knowledge that he has the strength to face life’s challenges with confidence and faith. Jadden also grew to realize that beyond the computer screen he can find physical recreation as another venue for personal growth. Wearing the pads of a lacrosse player helped Jadden to realize he’s more talented than he once believed on the field of competition. Church Farm will undoubtedly offer many possibilities for Jadden to continue to discover all that for which he is capable. We wish him continued blessings on the journey forward.





Omar Coca

Omar is best known around the school for being helpful. It is not unusual for our teachers to ask him to take on a task. We all know that if we do, it will be done well and with efficiency. This same reputation applies to his academic pursuits in the classroom. Because of Omar's dedication to his studies, he has been singled out as a Grandview Scholar Award winner which will subsidize his education at The Harvey School, where he will take up residency in September.

Outside of the classroom, Omar is known for his athletic ability. He played soccer, basketball, and lacrosse for the San Miguel Soaring Eagles. Leading on the playing field, as well as in school, has become his hallmark.

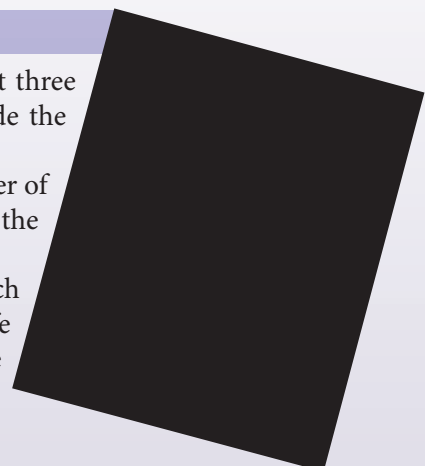
This reliable young man also has a heart for others. This year he donated his long locks to kids with cancer. We hope that he will continue with his helpful and winning ways as time moves forward. With a precedent for great achievement by San Miguel graduates at Harvey, the pressure is on Omar to keep our reputation strong. We know he will!

Brandon Conklin

Brandon has had the shortest career in San Miguel Academy history. Joining us just three months ago, Brandon got the second chance that he deserved. For his part he made the commitment necessary to leave a positive impression on us all.

Brandon is multi-talented and there's still a lot of potential to be tapped. Now a member of our graduate support program, Brandon is assured of our assistance as he takes on the challenges of Excelsior Academy in September.

Though brief, Brandon's time with us was well spent. We know that our lacrosse coach was relieved when Brandon emerged as a strong defensive player. In a world where life is not always fair, San Miguel Academy stands out as a place where children receive the opportunities they deserve for educational equality.



JOIN US!

Please join us for Graduation

**Thursday, June 5, 6 p.m.,
San Miguel Academy, 245 Renwick Street, Newburgh, N.Y.**

**Please Enjoy an Evening with Us
for Our 10th Gala to benefit San Miguel Academy.**

West Chester Country Club, Thursday, October 23, 2014

**Mark Your
Calendar**

Graphic Design is a contribution from Kevin Connell Graphic Design, LLC. Contact KCGD at 352-895-8945 or kcfgraphicdesign@gmail.com.

