

Eighth grade students, Mason and Justin, joyfully hold up their signs thanking all those who supported The Star Campaign!



San Miguel School News

Summer 2022

The Star Campaign is Complete!

In early 2020, San Miguel launched a long-anticipated and carefully-scoped comprehensive campaign for support called The Star Campaign. The board of directors enthusiastically approved an ambitious goal of raising \$5M over three years in support of program, building upgrades, and endowment for student sponsorship and graduate support.

During the quiet phase, donors gave generously and with purpose, cementing their commitment to Br. Lawrence's dream of providing an excellent educational option to those most in need. Stories were told and tears of joy were shed as donors made



Students thanking longtime friend and donor, Carol Peterson.

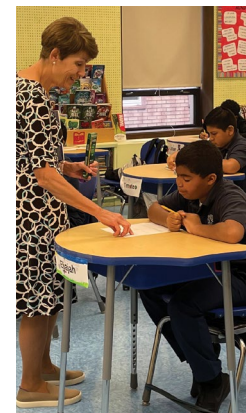
their commitments. Yet shortly after the first commitments were made, the pandemic threatened the campaign's progress. Determined to honor the goal, as well as the commitments made to date, the campaign leadership team decided to push forward and the summer of 2020 saw much needed improvements to the building including a new roof and new ventilation and sprinkler systems. Due to increased construction costs, however, the campaign leadership group had to make another difficult decision later that summer—to raise the campaign goal to \$6M. This new goal would more accurately reflect the anticipated costs of the projects moving forward.

Then spring of 2022 saw another incredible dream become reality—

Continued Inside Left

30 Years of Cultivating Character Middle School Matters

When asked for an example of a daily practice that she uses in her classroom that supports Social Emotional Learning (SEL), veteran teacher, Janet Maloney, shared something that may sound quite simple, a one-on-one check-in with



every student at the beginning of each day. She moves from desk to desk as they settle in, using their name and asking how they are, how their night was, how they slept, what is on their mind.

"The better I get to know them, the more I can read them. I can tell pretty quickly when someone has not slept well, or might have gotten in trouble at home. It is helpful for me to know where they are at to start the day." She knows that how her students start the day has a big impact on their learning for the rest of their day.

Continued Inside Middle



Frank, SMS '24, enjoying lunch.

Save the Date! Thursday, April 27, 2023
San Miguel's 18th Annual Gala and 30th Anniversary Celebration!

How Did Miguel Men Spend Their Summers?

While most students stayed close to home, four Miguel Men ventured to Wentworth, NH and spent three and a half weeks at Camp Pemigewasset. Living in cabins beside a lake afforded the boys endless opportunities to experience new things and gain independence. **Jayden Davis-Smith, SMS '23**, said he hopes to go back next summer.

“I am proud of living in a new environment, and without electronics, and of doing more on my own. I feel like I got more independent.”

JD learned many new things at camp. His favorite activities included soccer, water polo, and a space class that allowed them out after dark to see the stars.

“There were so many more stars up there than we see here.”

The biggest challenge was a two day, overnight hike to Carter Notch in which the boys hiked over 16 miles in two days! *Hear from our other Miguel Men below...*



“I graduated on June 13, which was also my birthday. I had so much fun with my friends and we were all excited about moving on to a new journey. About two weeks after my graduation, I applied for a job at a golf course called Button Hole. It was familiar because it’s the same place San Miguel practices golf at (I was on the golf team for all four of my years at San Miguel). I started there as an assistant doing a little bit of everything. Now, I mostly drive the golf cart around to collect golf balls, which is very fun. The reason why I wanted a job was to keep myself busy and to help my parents with bills and expenses. I was so happy when I got my first hard working paycheck! About a week later, I had to go to Summer Readiness at Saint Raphael Academy. It was really helpful to me. It allowed me to make friends and for my class to create a bond with my teacher. It also helped me get a head start on my journey at St. Rays, which I’m very excited about.” -**Felix Franco, SMS '22**

“This summer I worked at Youth Facilitating for Change, which is a six week summer program funded by the City of Providence. The program teaches youth to facilitate conversations surrounding topics of social justice. While there, I was working a total of 24 hours a week. My official job title was a Youth Facilitator. My responsibility while I was there was to create a workshop about racism. We then went out into the community and spoke about racism to people we have never met before. My team was made up of five people including myself. I was working with people between the ages of 14 and 17. Something I gained from this experience is that it really helped with my leadership skills. It also educated me to the many different social justice issues that shape our world today.” -**Jordan Quinones, SMS '22**



“This summer I went to a camp for one week at Artist Exchange to do pottery. I enjoyed it and made a lot of pots. It was very complicated in the beginning but it is pretty easy to learn. The most difficult part is wedging, which is when you smooth out your clay to make sure there are no bubbles in your clay. After you smooth your clay, you have to center the clay on a pottery wheel so you can start shaping your pot. Centering is incredibly difficult and it gave me a little bit of trouble. To center it you have to make a cone shape and push your clay down until it is more of a mound shape. After doing all that hard work you can actually shape your pots. It’s very interesting how many ways you can shape your pots. You can shape them into a cylinder and make it look like a milk jug or shape it down into a bowl. One part that is needed is called trimming. Trimming is just cutting down some loose clay left over on your pot to make it look cleaner. The last part is glazing which is just like painting a pot with whatever color you like. After you glaze it, you put your pot in a machine that heats it up, which makes it solid and then you have a pot that you can drink and eat out of. I made a bunch of items but my favorite one was a small blue bowl.” -**Kaiden Kue, SMS '23**



School social worker, Mrs. Farrell, with members of the Class of 2022.

line! Raising a million dollars over the original goal, and doing so a year early, is a massive accomplishment that was only possible thanks to all of you. Your generosity and commitment to this effort was, without a doubt, another San Miguel Miracle.

Continued from Front Left

the hiring of a school chef and the launch of our healthy meal program. Donor-inspired and funded, this program has already delivered on its promise to bring nutrition education and culturally appropriate foods to the boys.

Summer 2022 saw a continuation of building projects with the art, science, and Graduate Support rooms being relocated in preparation for what will be the primary focus of phase three in the summer of 2023—the STEM lab.

The most impressive news of all, however, is that Summer 2022 also marked the crossing of the \$6M finish

“Ned and I were so honored to work with Meredith and Joe MarcAurele as co-chairs of the San Miguel Star Campaign. We are humbled by its incredible success in light of the uncharted waters of running a campaign during a pandemic! This achievement is a testament to all of you—our exceptional donors who have ensured the vitality of this mission to serve and educate our deserving students.”

-Polly Handy, Co-Chair Star Campaign Committee

New Programs Bring the Outside World in to Branch Ave

Starting this fall, students in grades seven and eight will jump into learning about Virtual Reality, Financial Literacy, and Environmental Justice. Through partnerships with Winners Circle XR and Roger Williams Park Zoo, seventh graders will be learning about virtual reality and environmental issues

respectively. Winners Circle owner and founder, Juan Rodriguez, visited the school last year before then leading a week-long program for San Miguel students during Camp Miguel. The boys learned simple coding and created their own worlds—all in one



Miguel, SMS '25, exploring VR!



JoJo and Michael, SMS '25, learning Virtual Reality!

week! In grade eight, students will immerse themselves in a culturally-responsive financial literacy program featuring a “holistic multigenerational approach to financial wellness” brought to the school by Marcy Reyes, founder of Financial Literacy Youth Initiative (called FLY). Bring on the learning!



JoJo working with Mr. Rivera.

San Miguel Warmly Welcomes New Staff and Board Members

Meet our new classroom teacher and three new board members below!

Heejae Yang joins us as our 6th-grade teacher! Coming from Los Angeles, CA, Heejae moved here to attend Brown University, where she earned a masters in education. In her free time, she likes to teach Korean, spend time with friends, and volunteer for her church.



Justin Martineau serves as the Associate Director in the Office for Mission and Ministry for the District of Eastern North America. A native of New Orleans, he has attended Boston College for multiple degree programs: an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Theology and currently a Masters of Education program. Outside of work, he enjoys supporting his favorite pro sports teams, participating in trivia competitions, and cooking homemade meals.



Chris Rogers has served as a mentor, and as a valued member of our development and public relations committees, for the past five years. She and her husband, Mike, are longtime supporters of San Miguel. Chris is a freelance writer and editor, as well as a mother of six children, and enjoys rowing, golf, and traveling. She looks forward to meeting her new mentee and losing many games of UNO!



Br. Joseph D. Macioce, FSC, met the Brothers of the Christian Schools at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh. He went on to study at Penn State’s Smeal College of Business. Afterwards, he had a brief stint in NYC where he worked as a Financial Analyst for IBM, but later joined the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 2018. He is now working at La Salle Academy, while also earning a Masters at Providence College.



Continued from Front Right

“Boys at this age do not have a lot of experience identifying what they are feeling, much less explaining those feelings to someone else. Much of what Taysha Paulo (Dean of Students) and I do with the 5th-graders is help them develop those skills. Taysha is masterful at creating a safe space where the boys do end up sharing a great deal, and feel supported by their classmates in the process. It takes time but most of them really do develop the skills.”

The brain of a middle schooler changes more rapidly during these years than at any other stage, except for their first five years of life. During middle school, students are gaining social emotional skills and beginning to develop empathy maturity. It is a time when young people are particularly impressionable to both positive and negative influences as they are establishing more mature peer relationships. Intervention by adults during this time can have very positive effects on the student’s decision-making and sense of self. “This time is often misunderstood and underestimated



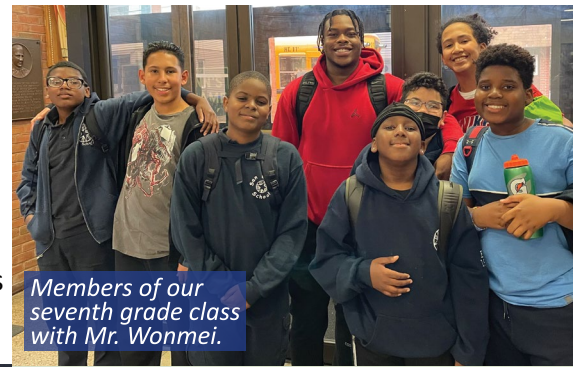
Members of our sixth grade class.

as a critical opportunity to instill strong values, build resiliency, and develop character. It is in middle school where the foundation of a young person’s ability to overcome adversity must be cemented, and in high school, strengthened. These are the critical years when effective prevention must begin.” <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/the-developing-brain/>

Brother Lawrence founded San Miguel as a middle school (and for boys only) on purpose because he knew that at that time, “...many urban boys were joining gangs and it was felt they needed something special. The middle school years are often seen as key ones for adolescents—kids who can stay on

the straight-and-narrow, or children who become influenced by their peers and can move in the wrong direction.”

“Middle School Matters” is the theme of our 30th year, and the reason why so much attention at San Miguel continues to be given to putting social emotional learning (SEL) at the center of everything we do. From identifying a Miguel Man of the Week, to holding boys accountable for their actions, to the 8th grade/5th grade mentor program, to the Young Lasallians and community service programs. We believe that middle school matters tremendously in the development of young people, and therefore we strive to be intentional about using our time with them wisely.



Members of our seventh grade class with Mr. Wonmei.

The Greatest Blessing

My name is Alonso Mora. I am the proud father of two kids who graduated from San Miguel. Life is composed of a lot of highlights. In my opinion, the education of our children is one of the most important ones. Everything started seven years ago, back in 2015. During this awesome journey I couldn’t really ask for more. The San Miguel School has been the greatest blessing I have experienced so far in my life to dramatically improve the knowledge and overall education of my children. Thanks to San Miguel, my kids have obtained a solid foundation to move forward pursuing a higher level of education, which has a direct positive impact on our society as a whole.

During their time at San Miguel, my children, besides getting a fantastic level of education, learned how to be respectful and abide by the principles of God. My oldest son, Adrian, is a La Salle student. He received a high honor recognition letter a couple of weeks ago. When I asked him how he



Adrian Mora, SMS '19, at graduation.

was able to accomplish such a high honor, he replied by saying, “It was San Miguel. They pushed me so hard that when I started high school, things were not too complicated for me. I’m so happy and will always be grateful to them.” My youngest son, Aloniel, just started this year at Rocky Hill Country Day School—one of the best high schools in the state. San Miguel has a relationship with the most reputable high schools in the area, as well as other ones in several states; therefore, the school goes above and beyond to make sure the kids are rewarded for their efforts. It is also important to mention the variety of sports, activities, and technology training that all of the students have access to.

May God always bless the San Miguel community, the teachers, the personnel, and the sponsors who have undoubtedly made my dream come true, and I am sure it will make the dreams of other parents become true as well. I will be forever grateful for all the support San Miguel School has provided to my family. From the bottom of my heart, I wish the very best to all the staff.

My advice to all new students is: **BE A MIGUEL MAN AND YOU WILL SUCCEED!** This is a very high recognition; due to this reason, every kid must try to earn this honor. It is not impossible if you try.



Aloniel Mora, SMS '22, at graduation.



San Miguel School's Class of 2022.

Hello, Goodbye

On Monday, June 13, families and friends gathered together in our gymnasium for the Class of 2022's graduation ceremony. As each student crossed the stage for one last time, their many accomplishments over the past four years were joyfully celebrated and loudly applauded. That night, our ever-growing alumni base received 16 new members, making it now consist of over 370 Miguel Men.

Though saying goodbye to students is always bittersweet, we are happy knowing that this fall, each young man pictured above is saying hello to a brand-new chapter of their academic journey. We are incredibly proud of

these guys, and know they will accomplish great things as they continue to 'walk' their individual paths through life. And although we already miss them dearly, it is clear that they took Mr. Wolf's words at graduation to heart when he asked them to "visit often," considering the very next morning a few of these familiar faces were seated at Assembly. The only difference was that they were now seated in the 'visitors' section!

To San Miguel School's Class of 2022, thank you for all of the wonderful memories over the last four years, and know that we are wishing you all of life's blessings as you work your way through the next four of high school. We're here for you always—once a Miguel Man, always a Miguel Man.

Collis Family Dinner

On Monday, June 27th, over 25 of our graduates returned to Branch Ave, reunited with their brothers, and once again boarded our bus without missing a beat. Over the years, it has become tradition for all Miguel Men who attend La Salle Academy or Saint Raphael Academy to go to dinner with members of the Collis Family Foundation at the end of each academic year. This year, the boys spent time with Mrs. Ellen Collis, her son, Frohman Anderson, and her granddaughter, Ava Anderson. The Collis Dinner is a special event that allows these graduates the opportunity to form deeper relationships with their financial sponsors as they share in a meal together. In addition to sharing their academic and extracurricular interests, Miguel Men are able to express their immense gratitude for the support they receive as well. Edinson, SMS '19, who is now a senior at La Salle Academy, expressed this sentiment by writing, "Thank you, Collis Family, for making sure me and my brothers can have a better future, for giving us the opportunity to try new things in life, for



Collis Dinner 2022.

helping us to stay strong and ambitious. You have impacted my life on the biggest scale yet." Aaron, SMS '18, who graduated from La Salle this past spring, echoed these words by stating, "Thank you, Collis Family, for everything you have done for those before me and for what you have done for me. I am so thankful to have been able to go to a great high school and receive a great education. I can't wait to show you how I make out at Providence College as a true Miguel Man." Our community, especially San Miguel graduates and their families, are deeply grateful for the continued support that we receive from The Collis Family Foundation. Thank you for helping us provide access to great education for these young men.

A Lifelong Lasallian

Graduate Support Director, Johnny Kue, SMS '97, has been a Lasallian for 27 years—a surprising fact to some, given he was recently mistaken for a student! In 1993, Johnny was a member of our first-ever fifth grade class. Later, he went on to attend the La Salle Center



in NY, and after college worked as a counselor at Ocean Tides for 17 years. Though Johnny has been living the Lasallian mission for close to three decades, his learning is not over. This summer

he joined the new cohort of the John Johnston Institute (JJI). He writes, "This summer, I had the privilege to enroll in Cohort IV of the John Johnston Institute. In early July, we were able to meet for the first time together as a group at Manhattan College. There were Lasallians who gathered from Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington D.C. and Illinois. During our first gathering, we focused on the history and humble beginnings of St. John Baptist de La Salle. We were able to have many discussions and reflections regarding how his mission is still alive and well at our respective ministries. The unique perspectives that each and every individual provided allowed us to grow together as a cohort. I gained a great amount of knowledge and appreciation for our history and how our Lasallian leaders are constantly evolving and adjusting in accordance with our modern world. I was inspired by the presence of such strong-willed individuals who were doing such great work in their Lasallian communities. I continue to be humbled by the support of my peers and their affirmation of the great work I try to continue to do here at San Miguel."



Members of JJI Cohort IV.

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*This newsletter is
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*For more information,
please contact Mel Bride,
Director of Development,
at 401-467-9777 x117.*

*This San Miguel School News issue is made in memory of Almanny Nunez, SMS '19.
An exceptional student, a true Miguel Man, and a brother to all. He is loved and missed.*

Almanny Nunez, 7/15/05 - 8/8/22



Almanny Isaiah Nuñez, 17, went to be with the Lord on Monday, August 8, 2022. He was a talented student, a beloved son, grandson, brother, and friend. Though he left this world far too soon, he was able to touch

the hearts of all who knew him.

Almanny was the beloved son of Pedro and Marielis (Valerio) Mercado along with Franklin Nuñez. Almanny was due to be a rising senior at Rocky Hill Country Day School this upcoming fall. An honor roll student, Almanny earned many high honor academic awards, most notably the 2022 Civic Leadership Award. Recently he participated in the 2022 Student Diplomacy Corps International where he visited Spain and had the opportunity to enroll in college courses at the Instituto Ibérico.

Most importantly, Almanny was a young man who loved the Lord. He was an active and dedicated member of Centro Cristiano de Adoración – Christian Worship Center and The Lighthouse Fellowship Church. He frequently participated in the youth ministry and other service projects. During this year's bible challenge, Almanny led his team to win the regional competition and earned MVP honors at both the regional and final competition.

Almanny's gentle soul and genuine smile will forever live in the hearts of family and friends. Besides his parents, Almanny is survived by his dear sisters Kaylee and Lia Mercado both of Providence, RI and his brothers Elijah and Nehemiah Nuñez both of New Port Richey, FL and Maxwell Mercado of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Also, his grandparents Roberto and Maribel (Mesa) Valerio of Providence, RI; Dr. Pedro and Dr. Mayra (Lozano) Mercado of Providence, RI; Alselmo Nuñez, of Providence, RI; and Dr. Arelis Valerio of Providence, RI. Almanny will also be remembered by his aunts, uncles, cousins, and a host of relatives and friends.

Miguel Moments



Fifth grade math class had the boys intently practicing their math facts on a website called xtramath.org, where they must

answer with the correct math fact within six seconds to gain automaticity of the facts.



St. Sebastian's School of Needham, MA, blessed us again this year with another round of backpacks

filled with school supplies for each of our students. The SMS guys also had a chance to spend time with students from St. Sebs as they played games together in the gym.



With a new school year comes new expenses...

Would you be willing to support San Miguel with some of the suggested donation amounts below? Every little bit will help us to make this year an extraordinarily special one for our students!

\$25: Snacks & Entertainment for Graduate Support

\$50: New Folding Tables for the Mentoring Room

\$100: Microscopes for Science Class

\$250: Field Trips for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

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525 Branch Avenue Providence, RI 02904
sanmiguelprov.org ✨ 401-467-9777

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