

# The San Miguel School is A Life Changer



“The San Miguel School is a life changer. It does more than just provide an education—it provides you with an opportunity to prove to yourself who you really are. *Was I destined to become what others had labeled me? Had my path been determined because the roads I saw before me led to nowhere?* The San Miguel School of 12 Carter Street that opened in 1993 gave me the ability to decide who I was going to become. Brother Lawrence, Lisa Koch, and Mariesa Jozwiak reignited and challenged the mind and spirits of my 5th grade class. That first year the school barely had any materials for learning, zero space for recess, and we were responsible for bringing our own lunch.

But something about it never deterred any of us from returning everyday. That first year you could feel the character of San Miguel School. I knew everyone inside the walls of the school were concerned for me and my well-being. I knew that my classmates stood side by side with me everyday. Our struggles were opportunities to help each other and our successes were used to motivate each other. Whatever troubles we all encountered outside of school were erased when we stepped foot into 12 Carter Street. That brotherhood, the tireless efforts of Brother Lawrence, and selfless actions of Lasallian Volunteers, ”

**-Johnny Kue, SMS '97, Graduate Support Director**



## San Miguel is A Family

“San Miguel was a wonderful family that I was lucky to be a part of. It was a family that instilled great values. The love and care Brother Lawrence and the wonderful Lasallian volunteers bestowed onto us was incalculable. Expectations and values instilled, at such an impressionable age, endured in my consciousness long after graduation. There’s no denying that this school played a significant role in shaping the man I am today.”

**-Gabriel Lugo, SMS '97, Data Engineer**



## San Miguel is Important

“San Miguel played an important role in my life and helped shape me into the person I am today. At San Miguel, I learned so many valuable life lessons that have helped guide and prepare me for a successful future. Without the guidance of the teachers at San Miguel, I can honestly say that I would have been faced with a much harder road to travel, considering the surrounding neighborhood of where I was raised. San Miguel provided security and care when everything around me was projecting chaos and instability. I am deeply thankful for my time spent at San Miguel, and especially for the presence of Brother Lawrence. I will forever be grateful to this community.”

**-Bee Yang, SMS '98**

# San Miguel is Unlike Any Other

“Sometimes it’s hard to identify the key moments in your life that affect the overall trajectory of where you’re going. Lucky for me, I know at least when one of those key moments happened. It was when my mother enrolled me in San Miguel. San Miguel is unlike any other educational experience I have had. The education that the school imparts to its students goes beyond what is traditionally covered in a more conventional private or public school. We did cover the typical English, maths, and science courses, but we also received lessons that were generally useful for navigating life. These lessons were not formally integrated into the curriculum but rather through the countless informal conversations around personal responsibility, striving for self-improvement, and giving back to the community that you are a part of. If one were to speak to an alumni of the school, they are bound to hear him mention that one of the key takeaways from his time at San Miguel is the importance of “strong handshake while looking the person in the eye.” If you, the reader, have heard this line, know that what you’re hearing represents a tip of an iceberg when it comes to the set of foundational life skills that each one of us learned during our time at San Miguel. While San Miguel opened many doors as it relates to educational and experiential opportunities I wouldn’t have had (i.e. high school prep, camping, sailing), what I’m most appreciative for is the education I had regarding life skills that allowed me to give myself the tools needed to become the person that I want to be. I consider this to be the school’s biggest impact on its students and I’m proud to be a part of this legacy.”



**-Miguel Perez, SMS '02, Business Development and Strategy**

## San Miguel is A Journey



“When I was approached to give my thoughts on what San Miguel means, I honestly had so many great things to say and so many fond memories that I was kind of flabbergasted. It was so easy to think of all the good times and all the adventures but as I began to write it, I found it more difficult than I had thought. Not for the sake of it being a pure hard task, but for the meaning that I had wished to convey. For the answer it really deserved. San Miguel to me is not so much the adventure but the journey. It is the story from beginning to your eventual end, and everything in between. It is the highs and the lows, the rights and the wrongs, the progress and the regressions.

San Miguel is “the education”, not “the teaching”, of young boys towards the footsteps of being young men. It is where gifted and special “educators” prep the clay of unmolded and rough adolescence to finding their shapes of vases and statues in the kelm of teenage hood. It is where you find unity and companionship in the family you will build. It is the sights you will see, the sounds you will hear, the direction you will take, the lessons you will learn; all the while being gently caressed by new worlds and cultures. I owe so much to this experience that I do not believe some of my core values would exist without it. Like a great orchestra, I was instilled with knowledge, respect, culture, a little bit of class; all while being fully embraced to find my better self by the most caring staff and family. I was pushed along by such caring and gentle kindness and sacrifices of everyone and all associated. It is a treasure to behold! To find myself associated with San Miguel is such an honor. A badge I proudly wear and represent. I can go on and on with all the great things this establishment means to me, but surely by now you have either witnessed or heard of the glorious things this place is doing. This is just a little of what San Miguel means to me. With great honor and respect,”

**-Sue Yang, SMS '98**

