



DeTOURS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL

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SUMMER 2021

St. Martin's Class of 2021



Maame Andoh
Regina Antonetti
Kwabena Appiah-Dankwah
Melanie Armas
Hugo Diaz Alvarenga
Mary Jasper
Honora Manyin
Sofia Nasrin
Medwin Nora

Seneca Valley High School
Gaithersburg High School
Lake Linganore High School
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Academy of the Holy Cross
St. John's College High School
Quince Orchard High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel

Victor Pilligua
Jason Raffo
Diego Ramirez
Lourdes Reyes
Gabriela Rivas
Erika Velasquez Paniagua
Omar Vigil
Jeffrey Vilca Campos

Quince Orchard High School
Magruder High School
DeMatha Catholic High School
Poolesville High School
Undecided
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Quince Orchard High School
Quince Orchard High School

Scholarship Recipients Honored

Awarded annually, these scholarships represent a commitment by our school community to our mission, anchored in faith, rooted in service, and dedicated to excellence.

Youstra Family Scholarship

This scholarship has been established as a tribute to Jo and Ray Youstra and their family, for their generous hearts and their many years of extraordinary service to St. Martin's. This scholarship benefits a rising eighth grader who has excelled academically, shown leadership qualities, participated in service projects, and demonstrated faith through character. We congratulate Emanuela Njoku, recipient of this year's scholarship.

Branagan Family Scholarship

The Branagan family has supported St. Martin's students for decades in helping them to reach their potential. This rising seventh grader demonstrated significant personal and academic growth through the course of the school year. Congratulations to this year's recipient, Autumn Burkett.

Carl Matthew Waclawik Memorial Scholarship Award

This scholarship was established in memory of Carl Waclawik, a graduate of the St. Martin's Class of 2006. This scholarship is awarded annually to help further the education of a St. Martin's middle school student. The recipient is to be an academically strong student of good character. Congratulations, Reanna Mae Bejo.

Annie B. Shaw Scholarship

This scholarship is named in memory of the grandmother of Kaitlyn Matsko, Class of 2017. It is awarded to a rising seventh or eighth grader who embodies exemplary academic effort and character. This year, two students will be honored with this scholarship. We congratulate Annabelle Melia and Kyle Bikanda.

Mel Washington Memorial Youth Scholarship

This inaugural scholarship is named in memory of Melvin Washington, a leader in the Poolesville community who tirelessly served St. Mary's parish in Barnesville and the Knights of Columbus for decades. He was a great example of how to lead and to serve. This award benefits an African American youth who demonstrates model citizenship and academic effort. We congratulate Mael Kpadenou, recipient of the first awarded scholarship.

Please Support Our Students

To enable us to continue to support extraordinary students such as these award recipients, please consider contributing to one of these scholarships. To donate, please mail a check payable to St. Martin's School to 115 S. Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Be sure to include to which scholarship you are contributing. Thank you and we appreciate your support to St. Martin's and our students!

THANK YOU for Supporting Our Students!

Congratulations to our 8th Grade Scholarship Recipients. These students were offered more than \$115,000 combined for scholarships for the next four years in academic performance, leadership, service, and co-curricular achievement.

Mary Jasper

St. John's Catholic Prep Principal's Scholarship
Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship
The Academy of the Holy Cross Sancta Crux Scholarship

Honora Manyin

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship
The Academy of the Holy Cross Sancta Crux Scholarship
St. John's College Presidential Scholarship
St. John's College Band Scholarship
Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County
Essay Scholarship

Lourdes Reyes

St. John's Catholic Prep Fine Arts Scholarship



OUR LADY
of
GOOD
COUNSEL
HIGH SCHOOL



Always Rising to The Challenge



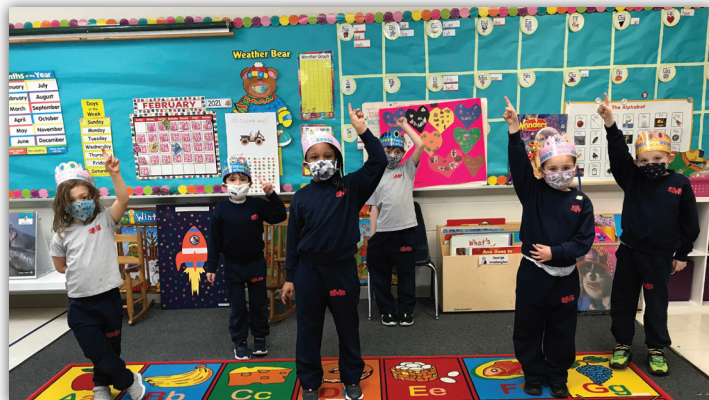
In the midst of dramatic changes caused by the pandemic, St. Martin's has been a consistent, positive presence for families. St. Martin's School has provided nearly uninterrupted instruction to our students since state-mandated school building closures back in March, 2020. Administrators and staff have implemented vigorous safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing, physical barriers for desks, mask policies, and sanitation protocols. We have spent countless hours seeking creative solutions to ensure that academic growth continues for our students, despite the unpredictability of the virus. We have also worked to provide safe, in-person schooling options along with virtual learning opportunities. St. Martin's has risen to the challenge to make a positive difference for families.

The St. Martin's community is proud of the innovative, faith-based, values-infused instruction that the school continued to offer as other systems scrambled to meet the needs of their students in the midst of the pandemic. Our resilience and consistency of service have led to increasing enrollment numbers; our graduating 8th graders continue to gain acceptance to prestigious Catholic schools and public magnet programs.

This success is rooted in our commitment to excellent teaching paired with forward-thinking curricula. We plan to expand our after-school activities, to provide school readiness opportunities in our summer camp, expand our science and social studies curricula, and to further invest in our professional development initiatives. Our comprehensive approach to education includes

not just gathering data from testing, but also investing the necessary time in training our teachers on how to use this data to enrich each student's learning and to make system-wide improvements. Data also helps us individualize instruction in the classroom and in individual services provided by our Resource and Counseling programs. Our graduates are more than good test takers; they are ambitious, well-rounded individuals who make their teachers and communities incredibly proud.

St. Martin's joyfully serves families of all socio-economic levels; 60 percent of our families receive some type of financial assistance, from the Archdiocese, the parish, government programs, or all three. Any family who wishes deserve the chance to receive the kind of cutting-edge, individualized instruction that St. Martin's provides.



As we begin to recover from the pandemic, many schools will reopen and return to the status quo. We are committed to benefitting from the past fifteen months by reimagining many aspects of how we offer instruction. This touches on the basic ideas of learning, testing, funding, the role of technology, and the human connection of in-person teaching. We are steadfast in our vision; scholarship, faith, and service remain our guiding principles. St. Martin's is committed to educating the whole child and to providing a place where students not only thrive academically but also are challenged to be leaders in their school and society.



As I Say Goodbye

By Mary Jasper, Class of 2021

What are your earliest memories? I remember going to church at St. Martin of Tours Parish and noticing the parish school there, St. Martin of Tours School. I thought to myself, *How amazing would it be to go there someday?* In fall 2011, just weeks shy of my fifth birthday, my time had come. I

was going to start Pre-K at SMS! Almost 10 years later, I am fourteen years old and about to graduate the eighth grade and leave SMS. I've changed in several ways. As I say goodbye, I am willing to reminisce about what St. Martin's has given me: a strong academic foundation, opportunities to explore my religion and faith, and several close friends I am not likely to forget.

I've learned a lot about a wide range of topics at St. Martin's. A wise man once said: "It is better to know something about everything than to only know everything about something." I've learned several important skills during my time at school here. I've learned how to multiply and divide. I was also taught basic Spanish and a wide range of vocabulary words. I even learned to write in cursive and read music. Without the St. Martin's teachers, I wouldn't have these skills. Without many of these skills, I wouldn't be prepared for high school. I'm thankful for the education I've received from the staff at St. Martin's, and I hope to take it with me to high school and use it to my advantage.



That being said, academic skills aren't the only things I learned at SMS. Ever since Pre-K, I've also been taught about my Roman Catholic faith. I will be taking this knowledge with me not only to high school, but to college and even further- because faith is quite possibly the most important aspect of my daily life. I still remember making my first Reconciliation in the second grade. I had been super sick that week and was absent from school that day. My mom asked me if I wanted to go and receive the sacrament with my class, even if I couldn't go to school afterward. I said yes, and received the grace of God once more. I'm grateful for these opportunities to learn about faith because I wouldn't have them at any other public school.

What else does St. Martin of Tours have that any other public school in our area doesn't? A small student body size! Public elementary schools in Montgomery County typically have hundreds of students in total and four or so classes for each grade level K-5. Some middle



schools (grades 6-8) have as many as 1,000 students and at least ten classes per grade. TEN! At St. Martin of Tours School, about 250 students attend and there is one class per grade from Pre-K through grade 8.

Despite the small student population, there are SO MANY St. Martin of Tours students and alumni I am proud to call my friends. I would name them all in this essay, but I haven't got all day. Even if my education at SMS is ending, my relationships will NOT. Thanks to modern conveniences such as E-Mail and social media like Instagram, I'll be sure to K.I.T (keep in touch) with my friends.

I recently realized that all my time at St. Martin's could fill several volumes of a book series. Harry Potter isn't the ONLY one whose life can make the New York Times bestseller list! Each year at school would resemble a single book. My tenth year at St. Martin's will be my final year, so the tenth season of this so-called "book series" would be the final season. I suppose my graduation would be the final chapter. Over the course of all ten "books," I have grown (and not just in height) from a young, shy, preschooler into a teenager prepared to start high school.

As I say goodbye, I would like to mention that even when a successful book series ends, its fanbase lives on. Similarly, even as my time at St. Martin's comes to an end, my skills I have acquired will live on. My faith knowledge will live on. My friendships that have been nurtured, some of which over the course of ten years, will live on. As every era ends, a new one begins. I am a bit nervous to enter this new era of my life- okay, I'm very nervous- but I am comforted when I remember that I am not alone. I will be accompanied by none other than our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the qualities I will take from St. Martin of Tours School all the way to high school and beyond.



Alumni Spotlight

From Student to Teacher

Alumna Andrea Villars' relationship with St. Martin's School has come full circle. On June 3, she had the honor of speaking to our eighth grade class at graduation about the investment they have made in their future as students at St. Martin's. She spoke about their strong foundations of knowledge and faith. She then welcomed them as alumni, joining 94 years of proud graduates.

Andrea has been a member of the St. Martin's Community since she arrived with her family from Honduras almost 25 years ago. She speaks confidently about the value of the education that she received from the school, and has remained a faithful parishioner throughout the years. She came to St. Martin's in the sixth grade, and says that the three years she spent at the school dramatically changed how she approached her education. "I was actually learning something I would need for the future," she said. Struggling at first, but with the help of teachers such as Mr. Raymond Youstra, Mrs. Netta Morelli, and Mrs. Helene Redmond, Andrea said she learned the importance of getting her school work done and being prepared for the day ahead. "St. Martin's helped me establish good study habits, taught me how to write a proper essay, and instilled the confidence I needed for public speaking." One of her fondest memories was learning to knit from Art teacher Ms. Julie Stinger. Andrea recruited other girls and started the Knitting Club. "I learned that knitting was cool and it was a way to give back to those in need at the Food Pantry and the parish."

Andrea took her newly discovered work ethic, her desire for service, and her deepening faith with her as she moved on in the world. As she continued her studies at Watkins Mill High School, she was able to successfully balance her academics with year-round athletics. Andrea played basketball, field hockey, softball, and lacrosse. At Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Andrea played lacrosse and majored in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. Since graduating, she has worked with students at Bar-T and has coached girls' lacrosse at Watkins Mill high school and various other sports leagues. That experience reinforced her desire to share the work ethic and skills that she learned at St. Martin's.



This past year, Andrea was a long-term substitute Spanish teacher. When the permanent position became available for next fall, she was excited to accept the offer. As an alumna, she easily identifies with her students, and they in turn have responded to her enthusiasm for sharing the impactful lessons she

learned at St. Martin's. "Andrea has been an inspirational role model for our students. I look forward to the positive influence she will continue to have," explains Principal Stephen Lamont. Andrea's goals for next year include adapting the Spanish program to accommodate the needs of both Spanish and non-Spanish speaking students. She adds, "My guidance for students is to listen to their teachers, take their advice, and always be prepared for class." She believes these recommendations will serve her students well, as it has for her and for 95 years of alumni.

Celebrating 95 Years of Scholarship, Faith, and Service



Alice Emmet de Groot's family has a long connection with St. Martin's. Her grandparents were instrumental in establishing a parish across from their home, which is now City Hall. Her grandfather, Edward Schwartz, assisted in getting two old mess hall buildings from Camp Meigs in Washington, D.C. to serve as the first church. Her grandmother, Hannah Schwartz, persuaded the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to staff the school. Three of the five Emmet siblings attended St. Martin's School. Below is an excerpt from memories Alice has penned.

"My older sister, Annmarie, my brother Frank, and I attended St. Martin's School from September 1940 until December 1944. There were four classrooms on the second floor, each housing two grades. The first floor was an auditorium. When the original church was abandoned, the lower level of the school became our church.

We would arrive at school a half hour early each day and would run across the road to the convent to accompany the nuns to school. At lunchtime we went home for an hour while other students ate at their desks. We stayed late in the afternoons to clean up the classrooms, wash the blackboards and cover the teachers' desks with black cloths before escorting the nuns back to the convent.

The nuns were firm. We sat with our hands clasped together on the desk whenever Sister was speaking. When called upon, we stood beside our desks to speak. We did not wear uniforms. We memorized the Baltimore Catechism, learned the Palmer handwriting method, memorized the multiplication tables, and wrote our spelling words three times each for nightly homework. Spelling bees were held on Friday. We learned the parts of speech by diagramming sentences. For treats, there was a candy closet at the end of the hall that was open for business every so often and managed by the eighth grade girls. On Friday afternoons the girls had embroidery classes where we all learned how to make 'French knots.' In early June each year, we had Field Day with games, contests, and a picnic on the great lawn in front of the convent.

In the midst of the dark days of World War II, my siblings and I spent happy, productive years at St. Martin's and we are forever grateful for that time in our lives."

We would love to stay in touch! Share with us your news and we will keep you up-to-date on happenings at St. Martin's School. Go to www.smsmd.org and click on SMS Alumni or email Anne Gemunder, Director of Development at agemunder@smsmd.org.



Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Sarah Blanco

Graduated from St. John's Catholic Prep. Will attend Temple University in Philadelphia in the fall, majoring in Kinesiology.

Grace DiMartini

Graduated from Quince Orchard High School. Dual enrolled at Montgomery College earning college credits during senior year. Will attend Temple University in Philadelphia in the fall, studying Philosophy with a Pre-law emphasis.

Nicole Fernandez

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend New York University Stern School of Business, majoring in Marketing and Finance. Her freshman year will be spent in London, England.

Jack Garner

Graduated from Lake Norman High School in Mooresville, North Carolina. College undecided but will be majoring in film this fall.

Charles Martins

Graduated from the Avalon School. Will attend Frostburg State University in the fall, majoring in Information Systems.

Kaitlyn Matsko

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend the University of Kentucky in the fall, majoring in Art.

Elizabeth McMillin

Graduated from Gaithersburg High School. Will attend Salisbury University in the fall, majoring in Philosophy.

Aaron Milton

Graduated from Georgetown Preparatory School. Will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

Myles Reid

Graduated from Georgetown Preparatory School. Will attend Virginia Tech in the fall, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Juan David Silva Guerra

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend Montgomery College in the fall, majoring in Computer Science.

Frederick Stamper

Graduated from Clarksburg High School. Will attend Kent State University College of Aeronautics and Engineering in Ohio in the fall.

Ways to Support St. Martin's

If your workplace participates in the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign and you would like your tax-deductible contribution to be directed to SMS, **please designate us by entering our number on your donor form. United Way (Member #8362) and Combined Federal Campaign (Member 85449)**

United Way #8362



CFC #85449



Other ways to support St. Martin's are through Amazon Smile, Good Search, Harris Teeter, Office Depot, or Weis4Schools. For more information, go to www.smsmd.org and click on "Support SMS."

Endowment Funds: Honor Roll of Donors

Every Gift Matters. Every Giver Makes an Impact

We thank our alumni, parents, parishioners, and friends for their generous support of our School Operating and Financial Aid Endowment Funds this past year. It is the collective impact of our entire community – including you – that enables us to continue to deliver on our mission. **Our annual Endowment Fund Appeal in April, 2020 was canceled due to a Maryland State order issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Help us bridge this considerable financial gap, allowing us to continue to foster students of intellect and character who work for a just world filled with the compassion of Christ.** Extraordinary circumstances like these are exactly why we rely on the Endowment Funds, which offer the flexibility to adapt to our school's greatest needs - needs that are evolving daily.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our School Operating Fund or to our Financial Aid Endowment Fund. Together we can ensure that all of us emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever. On the envelope enclosed, please check the box to designate which Fund should receive your generous donation.

The Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts donated to the Funds from June 16, 2020 – June 15, 2021. If an error or omission has been made, we apologize and ask that you contact Anne Gemunder, Director of Development, at agemunder@smsmd.org.



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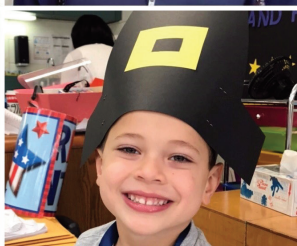
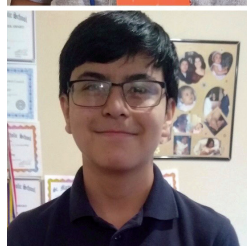
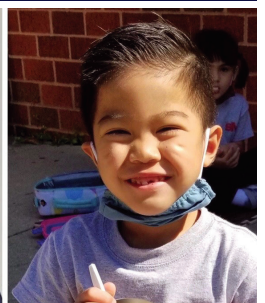
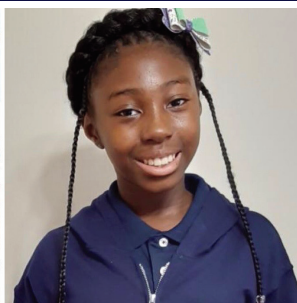
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