



SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES *High School*

A Cristo Rey Network School

Transforming urban Cleveland one student at a time

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWS • FALL 2014

Enabling Student Success

By Brittany Walters

I first joined the Saint Martin community in 2013 as a Science Teacher for the Summer Scholars program, a 3-week course for incoming freshmen students. I had just moved back to Cleveland after spending four exhausting and wonderful years living in Brooklyn and teaching in the south Bronx at DreamYard Preparatory High School, where I was placed by Teach For America.

It was clear that Saint Martin de Porres High School was the kind of school where I wanted to work. Fortunately a position opened up for a Chemistry teacher and I was able to join the community full-time. Our school's emphasis on engaging, relevant curriculum and a genuine care for our students and community helped me feel energized about committing to more time in the classroom. I was matched with a new apprentice teacher, Aaron Lorton, who was (and still is) an asset to our classroom community and felt immediately welcomed to the Saint Martin family.

In the winter of 2013-2014, our test results and other data began to show that students needed more structured academic intervention after school. Simply, too many students were not meeting our standards because they were not completing or turning

in work. As a teacher with a lighter teaching load and experience working with struggling students, I was asked to take the lead on starting a new after-school academic intervention program called Success Lab. After school, students would be invited to work in a quiet, focused study space and receive extra tutoring from 4:15 until 5:30. Their teachers would be contacted about the work they completed, parents would be kept informed of their children's progress, and each student who attended regularly would be monitored for academic improvement via their GPA.

Success Lab started with a few students who, with much encouragement from their parents, recognized the need to spend more time on academics in a productive space after school. As the weeks progressed through second semester and participants' grades began to

Continued on page 2

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Mission

Saint Martin de Porres High School is Christ's enterprise dedicated to transforming urban Cleveland one student at a time.

Vision

We are committed to the values: Work, Study, Serve, Lead, Pray.

Means

- An innovative college preparatory curriculum rooted in the development of habits of mind and spirit.
- A unique partnership with the business community reflected in our Corporate Work Study Program.
- A caring, Catholic community.

Please send questions or comments regarding the newsletter to Caitlin H. McDermott at cmcdermott@stmdphs.org



ENABLING STUDENT SUCCESS

continued from page 1

rise, the program blossomed to reach out to a much larger percentage of the student body. By the end of second semester, more than 40 students had used the services and space offered in Success Lab, and students were showing significant progress. On average, students who attended Success Lab increased their GPA's by 0.329, from a 1.73 to 2.059, and five students increased their GPA's by more than 0.5 points.

Success Lab continues to be an integral part of our after-school interventions for students. We continue to innovate to meet the individual needs of our students and challenge our students to reach their full potential. I am thrilled to have been involved in creating this important piece of school culture.



Brittany Walters joined the Saint Martin community in July 2013 as a Summer Scholars instructor and later, Chemistry Teacher and Cross-Country coach.

Brittany earned her Bachelor's degree from Saint Francis University (PA), a Master's in Science Education from Fordham University, and was a member of the 2009 Teach for America Corps - New York City. Before joining Saint Martin, she spent four years teaching Chemistry and Biology to English Language Learners at DreamYard Preparatory School, an arts-based public high school in The Bronx, NY.

ANISFIELD WOLF BOOK AWARDS



Ms. Marcus, Ms. Telich, and Señor Deeter accompanied some wonderful students to the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards at the Ohio Theater! Karen Long, Director of the Anisfield Wolf Book Awards, has connected with our faculty to launch an exciting collaboration to bring exceptional books about diversity into our classrooms.

Caring for the Local Community

SUSTAINABLE COMPOSTING SOLUTIONS

We have partnered with Rust Belt Riders Composting, a bike-based organic waste removal solution, to convert our kitchen's food waste into nutrient rich compost. Rust Belt Riders was co-founded by a former member of the Saint Martin de Porres Corps Volunteer Program, Dan Brown. Our partnership with Rust Belt Riders will reduce our carbon footprint while supporting the ongoing efforts of community gardens in our neighborhood.

EATING LOCAL

On Tuesday, September 23rd, Bon Appétit Management Co. (BAMCo), our on-site food-service management company, hosted a Local Food Challenge. Our entire menu came from within a 150-mile radius of our school campus.

Each day, all of our food is cooked from scratch, including sauces, stocks, and soups. As a company standard, BAMCo commits to sourcing at least 20% of ingredients from small, owner-operated farms, ranches, and artisan producers within 150 miles of the organizations with which they contract, so Chef Victor Lane works to great local sources of food for our very own kitchen.

Our menu for the Local Food Challenge this year included cabbage from the Saint Martin de Porres High School Community Garden! We hope to use Local Food Challenge as a starting point to talk about sustainable agriculture with our students and the importance of supporting local businesses and farms.



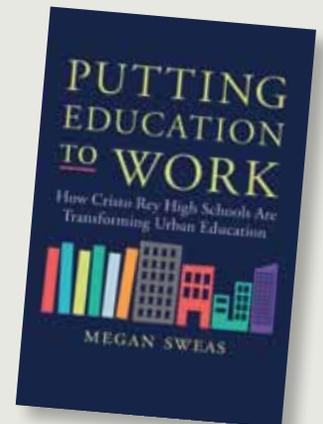
PUTTING EDUCATION TO WORK

has released *Putting Education to Work: How Cristo Rey High Schools Are Transforming Urban Education*.

"The Cristo Rey story is one of the greatest success stories of the Jesuits, and indeed the Catholic Church, in the United States in the last twenty-five years." — James Martin, SJ, bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*

Essentially a sequel to *More Than A Dream* by G.R. Kearney, *Putting Education to Work* chronicles the expansion and effectiveness of the Cristo Rey movement. Through stories of hardship and transformation, the book profiles our humble beginnings in an inner-city Chicago neighborhood, to a growing national Cristo Rey Network comprised of 28 Catholic high schools educating 9,000 students from underserved communities.

Buy a copy today! Proceeds will benefit Cristo Rey Network programs.



Pursuing Success: “Go get it.”

By Lauren Calevich

During admissions interviews, prospective students are asked, “Why Saint Martin?” Many often answer, “Because I’ll get to go to work.” As with most high school students, fourteen-year-olds don’t often know exactly what they want to be when they grow up, but they do feel strongly about their desire to pursue success. And Saint Martin de Porres High School is the chance for students to do just that. For recent college graduate and Saint Martin Class of 2010 alum, Chris Barnes, his circle of success began when he trusted that “mom knew best” and chose Saint Martin over another high school.

Attending Saint Martin requires a deep level of commitment from students. The school days are longer here than they are at most schools and on work days, students might not return to our campus until 4:30pm or 5:15pm. However, for individuals who believe that success is not only possible, but necessary, they are willing to make the sacrifice. As the first male to attend college in his family, Chris’s motto was that the “first step to achieving success was believing in it.” He believed in the Saint Martin community and trusted that a college-prep curriculum coupled with the Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) would help him develop habits that would lead him to success well beyond his high school years.

Chris’ first CWSP job placement, Squire, Sanders and Dempsey (now Squire Patton Boggs), provided him the opportunity to develop relationships and hone skills such as collaboration and grit. After realizing he would not pursue a career in the legal field, Chris reached out to the CWSP staff to request a change in positions for his senior year. His new placement at MAI Wealth Advisors LLC would eventually make the phrase “everything happens for a reason” seem tangible for him. A goal for CWSP is that as students work and build career skills, they are also establishing personal networks of contacts for their own futures. Moreover, partners at local businesses and organizations are building files of competent, strong-willed and previously trained individuals. Chris began at MAI and quickly learned that not only was it a great place with great people, but that it was the type of environment where he would actually get to do meaningful work. Chris appreciated that MAI entrusted him with projects that were valuable

to the overall operation of their business. Even if he was filing, Chris knew that he was developing a foundation of skills that would help him achieve his goals.

When it came time for Chris to evaluate his college options, he had only two things in mind: a place to continue playing basketball, as he had all four years of high school, and a place to get a great education. After meeting a Denison University coach while attending a basketball camp, Chris turned down several other universities and seized the opportunity to major in Economics at Denison. As many alumni do, Chris returned during his summers to work at MAI.

Chris’ circle of success continued when he graduated from Denison University in May 2014. This was the first step in the realization of a Saint Martin dream scenario. Not knowing where the job market would take him, Chris adopted the mindset that “you don’t find the job, the job finds you.” Laurie Roggenburk, Director of Administration, Human Resources & Benefits at MAI Wealth Advisors said, “Since we knew the caliber of Chris’ work we were eager to hire him into a position that opened up at MAI.” Chris’ hard work and belief that “you should always put 100% into an opportunity” had allowed for his success to come full circle. He now works as an Associate in the Team Sports/Insurance department at MAI Wealth Advisors.

As Saint Martin alumni continue to graduate from college, we trust that we will continue to see our mission to, “transform urban Cleveland one student at a time,” come full circle, perhaps with Nilliyah Boyd, Class of 2014, who worked at MAI during her senior year and still works there



part-time while in college or with Deon Wheat, a senior, currently working at MAI and building his network, just as Chris did. A CWSP Partner since 2007, MAI has provided opportunities for students to learn and prepare for college, for alumni to come back to their home city and give it all they’ve got, and for committed young adults to pursue success.



Lauren Calevich joined the Saint Martin community in June 2011 as the Operations Manager for the Corporate Work Study Program. In October 2013, she transitioned to the role of Relationship

Manager and continues to work externally to ensure a meaningful experience for both students and Partners. Lauren earned her Bachelor’s degree from John Carroll University and is heavily involved at Cleveland Public Theatre.

Ann Davis named Vice President, Corporate Work Study Program



It is with great excitement that we announce the hiring Ann Davis as the new Vice President, Corporate Work Study Program. Ms. Davis is originally from Fairview Park. She attended Magnificat High School and earned her Bachelor's degree in Communications from John Carroll University, adding to a number of faculty and staff at Saint Martin who have been educated by both of our endorsers, the Sister of the Humility of Mary and the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Prior to joining the Saint Martin community, Ann was the VP of Public Affairs at University Circle, Inc. where she had the opportunity to work in various areas including marketing, fundraising, and education. Ann established community partnerships with arts and cultural, education, and health and wellness institutions and led programming for neighborhood outreach and connections in and around University Circle.

Ann started her career in technical communications at Parker Hannifin, and also spent seven years working at the Cleveland Clinic in marketing and communications.

Celebrating Ten-Year Corporate Work Study Program Partners in Our Mission

We are grateful to each company and their staff for their part in teaching, caring for, and encouraging our young women and men.



Learning to “Be St. Martin”

By Gary Sardon, Jr.

I arrived in Cleveland this summer full of anticipation and excitement. My first day at Saint Martin was fast approaching and my mind was running with ideas and goals of what I hoped to accomplish. Much like the nervousness that athletes feel waiting for their competitions to begin, I was at home driving my wife crazy, pacing our hallways with mumblings of my vision for the school and the path that I hoped we would follow. After spending two and half years in Bogotá, Colombia, teaching English at a Jesuit university, I was anxious to roll up my sleeves and put my stamp on our school.



Being a school leader is a privilege that comes with much responsibility. One has the opportunity to influence the school on a macro level by partnering with others to cultivate a learning environment that respects the dignity of each individual and brings out the best in each member. There is also the practical side where a school leader is expected to have knowledge of the inner workings of his or her institution. During my first week at Saint Martin I faced questions about procedures or events that I had yet to experience. Although I encountered some difficulty, fortunately, I had great people around me to help put together the pieces and helped me embody the phrase “Be St. Martin.”

A few weeks later I unexpectedly received solace in the voices of two fifth grade boys from Chicago. They had written an op-ed in response to the seemingly endless news reports of violence that struck parts of Chicago this summer. While they did not deny that there were many instances of violence, where they took exception was to the uneven and potentially biased portrayal of their city – “you spent less than 24 hours here, but you don’t really know us.” In the piece, they described their neighborhood and the lives of the people who call it home. They provided glimpses into the stories of the individuals who play, work, go to the church or school, and do all of the ordinary things that occur in every city in this country. They wanted us to know that in order to understand Chicago and the problems that plague it, we had to first know the stories of the people who lived there.

I am still adjusting and learning what it means to be a member of the Saint Martin family. But each day as I walk the halls or visit classrooms, I see reminders of what it means to “Be St. Martin.”

Reading their piece caused me to reflect on my own time in schools, particularly the nine years I spent at an urban Catholic school in Baltimore. When I initially arrived, I felt that I was there to save my students, to help take them out of their communities to a better world. However, through my struggles in the classroom and beyond, I began to slowly realize that the difficulties I encountered stemmed from that misguided message. I was not from Baltimore. I did not grow up in their communities. I only passed by on my way to the highway. Who was I to speak about fixing their neighborhoods or taking them to a ‘promised land’? It was not until I began to open my authentic self to them and listen to my students’ stories that I began to understand that my role in the community was not to be a savior, but to be a partner, friend, and at times family member on this journey.

I am still adjusting and learning what it means to be a member of the Saint Martin family. But each day as I walk the halls or visit classrooms, I see reminders of what it means to “Be St. Martin.”

Through conversations or passing interactions that may at times seem small, our community members share pieces of their stories. Though each member of the community comes from a different background, through sharing our stories we recognize the unique and irreplaceable gifts that each person brings. It is in these moments that the transformation of Cleveland occurs, one story at a time.

Gary Sardon, Jr. joined the Saint Martin community in July 2014 as Principal. Gary earned his Bachelor’s degree from Boston College and his Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from Loyola University Maryland. He has worked as a Science Teacher and served as an Assistant Principal at Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy, an all-boys urban middle school in Baltimore, MD. Most recently, Gary returned from a two-year teaching experience in Bogotá, Colombia where he served as an Adjunct English Professor at the Pontifical Xavierian University. Gary and his wife, Kathleen, reside in Shaker Heights with their son, Xavier.

Active Participation on the Path at Saint Martin

By Caitlin McDermott

On a rainy Saturday this September the Lions Cross Country team competed in the Cardinal Invitational meet. A few of our student athletes set their personal record in races, but the box scores from that meet didn't include how Freshman Isis Weems was running in the girls' varsity race when one of her shoes was sucked off her foot in a giant mud pit. Instead of stopping and giving up, she just kept running with only one shoe and was the second lady Lion to cross the finish line!

Isis is an example of how our students persevere; they stay the course amid challenges or setbacks. Isis is reminded while working at Olympic Steel about contributing to the overall success of their office and company goals and how that lesson can be applied in the classroom and other activities. During her cross country race she acknowledged, "I wanted to stop but I couldn't, I knew I wanted to finish. And I didn't want to let myself down or my team, I knew my team was counting on me."

Isis has committed to taking advantage of all the opportunities Saint Martin has to offer. She has joined the Saint Martin Recruiting Force (SMRFs), Drumline, Step Team, and Youth in Government Clubs. She balances her extracurricular involvement with her schoolwork and has found Theology with Mr. Schneider to be her favorite subject so far. Isis also plans to try out for the Lady Lions Basketball team, adding to the list of ways that she is actively participating in our school community, especially for a freshman! Isis and her peers are provided with fully developed programs during school (such as the Freshmen Retreat which you'll read about below) and after school that

promote health and wellness and provide opportunities to discover their passions, confidence and voice.

Our school community is guiding Isis to her career aspiration as a physical therapist in the WNBA. Please consider making a contribution to our Annual Fund to support students like Isis as they work, study and challenge themselves on their path to high school graduation.



Caitlin McDermott joined the Saint Martin community in January 2011 as an Advancement Coordinator. In June 2013 she transitioned to the Director of Annual Fund & Special Events. Caitlin earned her Bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland, a Master's in Nonprofit Administration from John Carroll University, and was a member of the 2013 class of Cleveland Bridge Builders.

Learning Trust & Finding Faith during Freshman Retreat

By Ryan Schneider

The 2014 Freshman Retreat was filled with laughter, fun, reflection, prayer, joy, and love. The 9th grade students and faculty along with Campus Ministry were blessed to share in the day at the beautiful Camp Asbury in Hiram, Ohio. Our guides for the day were extremely helpful and took pride in making the day memorable for our school community.

Mary Lou Beer has been a part of our Freshman retreat at Saint Martin each year since 2004. I know that Mary Lou Beers has been speaking to teenagers for over 20 years about God, faith, trust, and love because I was blessed enough to listen to Mary Lou and her husband, Jim, speak to my 8th grade class at Holy Cross in Euclid, Ohio 21 years ago. Her message is still as inspirational, relevant, and engaging today as it was when I was hearing her speak as a teenager. She focused on finding God in ourselves and loving one another. Thirty-three years ago Mary Lou's husband, Jim, had a massive stroke and was left paralyzed from his neck down. He would never walk, talk, or eat on his own again. Through Christ's strength she dedicated her life to taking care of him and together they would go school to school sharing with students God's love for them. Although her husband has since passed, Mary Lou's drive and commitment to sharing with students from every background that God loves them has not stopped. She is a true inspiration.

Following Mary Lou Beer's speech we engaged in team-building activities. There were scavenger hunts, crafts, robotic dodge ball, and low ropes courses. Our students were asked to put their trust in each other in order to accomplish their goals. From being blindfolded and being guided by a

fellow student, to being on the low ropes course and having to work hand-in-hand to get to the other side, the students realized that they couldn't do it alone. They realized they needed to trust each other and have faith that their fellow classmates would be there for them. After each activity the students were asked to share what they learned and how it will change them moving forward. The transformation was incredible! Students that may not have believed they could trust somebody who they had only known for a short amount of time became believers.

The freshman retreat was successful for many reasons, but the main reason was that it elicited love, trust, and faith from inside our students. The realization that they can love one another and that God loves them will have a lasting impact throughout their path at Saint Martin.

Ryan Schneider first joined the Saint Martin community in 2013 as a long-term substitute teacher and became the 9th grade Theology teacher in Fall 2014. Ryan earned his Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from John Carroll University. Ryan and his wife, Nancy, reside in Willoughby Hills with their two children, Kaeden and Ryann.

Getting Students Where They Want to Go

By Keith Laschinger



Sitting in the company of Gwen Howard and Jamie Hurley is a humbling experience. They exhibit incredible warmth, humility, class, humor, and faith while doing extraordinarily difficult and important work as Saint Martin's student counseling team. When asked to share "success stories" they talk about young people who are now traveling abroad, who are in college or have graduated from college, and students who overcame long odds to even graduate from high school.

Gwen and Jamie achieve "success" by welcoming students with a very simple mission to help them "get where they want to go." Students appreciate this personal approach and spread the word to one another. CWSP Student Success Coach, Keyoni Rates '08, recently overheard one struggling student confiding in a peer. The kind listener responded by saying, "You should just go to Mr. Hurley. That's what I do!"

Mr. Hurley has been at Saint Martin since 2010. He was recruited to Saint Martin by former Assistant Principal, John LePelley, who was familiar with Jamie's work as a therapist for Catholic Charities and the Akron school district. Jamie became very familiar with Saint Martin – and impressed by the passion and commitment of the staff – through his wife, Faith, who has taught English and served as an Instructional Coach at Saint Martin since 2005. Jamie and Faith have a son, Simon, who celebrated his first birthday in August.

Gwen Howard, a mother of two adult children and grandmother of one, has been a member of the Saint Martin community since the school's founding in 2004. Her presence is a comfort both to current students and alumni, who often reach back to Mrs. Howard for her support. One Saint Martin alumna and current Kent State Golden Flash recently revealed, while listing the faculty and staff who had the greatest impact on her, that "Mrs. Howard really helped me with my confidence."

Gwen was brought to Saint Martin through the work of the Holy Spirit, who worked through Susie Murphy. Susie developed the counseling department in 2004 with little to no money available and requested counseling interns from Case Western Reserve University's (CWRU) Mandel School of Social and Applied Science's (MSSAS) Joe Pyles. When Susie described Saint Martin and its mission, Mr. Pyles immediately exclaimed, "I have just the person for you!" Joe knew that Gwen Howard, who was working to earn her master's in school social work at Case,

was a woman of deep Christian faith and that she would thrive in an environment that would allow her to share that faith with students as part of her practice.

Gwen, whose husband, Larry, is the pastor of the Greater Friendship Baptist Church in Glenville, began working as an intern in 2004 and began her full-time work at Saint Martin in 2006 with the school's first full-time counseling director, Nicki Stacey. During Gwen's time here, she has noticed the challenges that young people are facing outside of school have become more profound.

These profound challenges drive Gwen and Jamie to "approach everything." During the first semester of last year, nearly 170 different students visited with Gwen or Jamie. Many of these visits were prompted by general counseling challenges such as relationship issues or self-esteem challenges, while some visits were prompted by sexual assault or other forms of violence, and still other students were in need of adequate food and shelter.

Gwen and Jamie's holistic and deeply personal approach is made possible because they do not schedule classes for students or manage standardized testing, both of which are common at other schools. Interns also supplement Saint Martin's full-time counseling staff. This year, CWRU's Raven Bailey and Cleveland State University's Classie Jackson are serving as counseling interns. It is also important to note that Saint Martin's full-time counselors remain with a class from freshmen year through graduation, which enables them to establish deep relationships with the students and with their families, who develop familiarity and trust with their child's counselor. One young man was struggling with his transition to Saint Martin last year and was feeling very down. His mother knew to involve Mrs. Howard and Mr. Hurley immediately. Her son has now acclimated to Saint Martin and is very involved in school activities. He admires Mr. Hurley and his work so

much that he is considering studying psychology and becoming a school counselor.

Establishing relationships with parents enables Gwen and Jamie to learn about challenges students are facing at home, which will obviously affect young people at school and at work. When appropriate and with permission, this information is discretely shared with teachers during weekly grade level meetings. Counselors also work closely with the Corporate Work Study Program staff to find appropriate work placements for students who are encountering challenges. This underscores another unique aspect of Saint Martin's commitment to student counseling. Counselors in other settings split time at multiple schools and this arrangement can make it difficult for the counselors to be truly integrated into the school culture. Integration allows for counselors to share information with teachers, and it also enables teachers to make referrals to counselors so that challenges teachers are recognizing can be promptly addressed by professional social workers.

A strong commitment to student counseling is embedded within the Saint Martin culture and is reflected in the work being done with students by licensed social workers each day. If not for this work, fewer students would have developed positive self-esteem, more young people would have coped alone with violence, and fewer students would have gotten where they want to go.

Keith Laschinger joined the Saint Martin community in 2006 as the Director of Admissions. He was previously Vice President, Advancement and was named Executive Vice President in 2014. Keith earned his Bachelor's degree as a marketing major at Ohio University and did Master's studies at Fairfield University in American Studies. Keith was a member of the 2011 class of Cleveland Bridge Builders and serves on the Board of the Jesuit Retreat House. Keith and his wife Beth reside in Highland Heights with their three children, Paxton, Alex & Cecily.



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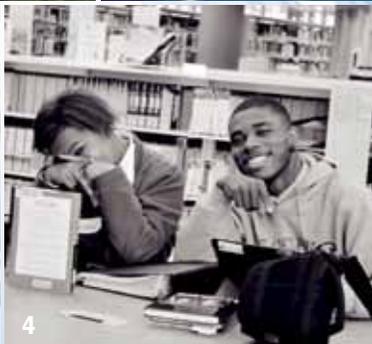
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#SeenAtSaintMartin

Follow @SaintMartinCLE on Instagram for more pictures and updates!



- 1 Students from the Upcycle Club painted artwork on St.Clair Avenue in front of our school building.
- 2 Nature Club spent on sunshine-filled Sunday out on the Cuyahoga River.
- 3 Delesa '14 is a Hiram Terrier!
- 4 The Class of 2015 spent a day at the Cleveland Public Library completing research for their Capstone Projects.
- 5 Jaami '14 at Baldwin Wallace!
- 6 Notre Dame College freshmen: Shayla, Shermonte, and Gus.
- 7 Ashante Irvin '14 & Khalil Brown '12 pose for a photo on campus at Xavier University during their visit with Veronica Favela, Director of Alumni Outreach.
- 8 Our Walsh University men, Damian '13, Richard '14 and Max '14!

Follow us online at saintmartincleveland.org

