



DE LA SALLE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
at St. Matthew's

THE
Star

a newsletter for families & friends : GRADUATION 2010



Brian E.

Adrienne L.

INSPIRATIONS

A STUDENT'S JOURNEY

Joshua W. is a self-assured young man, confident that he will succeed in high school, college, and in his career as a professional athlete or sportswriter. But he wasn't always this way. According to both Joshua and his mother, Taquita, he used to be very shy—which often made learning a challenge at his public elementary school. "I was in class with thirty other kids and didn't feel okay asking questions, so sometimes I had to learn by myself," recalls Joshua.

Joshua also remembers the first time he heard about De La Salle Middle School: "I was one of the top students in sixth grade, and my teacher thought it might be a good fit for me." With his teacher's help he researched the school and learned that "De La Salle has a great academic program, great teachers, and they can help get you into a great high school." Loaded with this information, Joshua told his mother that they needed

to schedule a 'shadow visit' to De La Salle right away. They arranged a visit, and Joshua had the opportunity to meet the teachers and students and sit in on learning groups for a full day. "I knew right away that De La Salle was the right school for me; it just felt right!"

Joshua entered De La Salle as a seventh grader and had to quickly adjust to small

"The teachers at De La Salle saw what I was capable of. They saw what was inside of me and they pushed me big time." - Joshua W.

class sizes and the school's unique behavioral intervention system which teaches students to identify the feelings behind behaviors that interfere with their learning. "I was pretty opinionated and stubborn in 7th grade; I couldn't take criticism on anything. But the teachers helped me overcome this obstacle by having me identify what I was feeling, so I could better understand what was going

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"At the NativityMiguel scholarship dinner, Josh had a chance to speak from his heart about the impact all of you at De La Salle have had on his life. This sentiment extends to the entire staff, volunteers, and donors. You have impacted his life more than you can possibly imagine and for that I am eternally grateful."

- Taquita Rice, pictured here with son, Josh Williams, and Robert Williams, Josh's dad

A STUDENT'S JOURNEY (CONT.)

on and fix it. They also said this kind of behavior just wouldn't cut it in high school."

De La Salle's teachers also helped Joshua overcome his shyness outside of the classroom so that he could become the natural leader they knew he could be. He first became comfortable expressing himself in public by participating in religion class discussions and activities. By practicing with teachers, his self-confidence grew and his shyness diminished.

This year, Joshua won third place in the Martin Luther King Essay contest and read his winning piece in front of hundreds of people at St. Alphonsus "Rock" Church.

"I'm always going to give 100% because it is the key to a great life." - Joshua W.

Joshua was also chosen to give a speech about his experiences at De La Salle to another large audience during the annual NativityMiguel dinner in June.

"The teachers at De La Salle saw what I was capable of. They saw what was inside of me, and they pushed me big time. I know I will be successful and do well in school and support my family and friends. I'm always going to give 100% because it is the key to a great life."

Next year, Joshua will attend De Smet Jesuit High School. ★

This article is dedicated to Joshua's grandmother, Patricia, and his whole family.

To read Joshua's Martin Luther King Essay and his NativityMiguel year-end speech or to learn more about De La Salle's academic program, please visit www.delasallems.org.

De La Salle



Adrian B.

HIGH SCHOOL: De Smet Jesuit High School
DREAM CAREER: Professional Athlete
ON HIS FUTURE: "I want to use my talents to make positive changes in St. Louis."



Adrienne L.

HIGH SCHOOL: St. Elizabeth Academy
DREAM CAREER: Lawyer
TO NEXT YEAR'S 8TH GRADE: "Be yourself and don't give up on your dreams."



Brian E.

HIGH SCHOOL: Christian Brothers College High School
DREAM CAREER: Sports Agent
ON GIVING BACK: "Sports have helped me learn life lessons. I want to help other kids find the same passion."



Jonathan P.

HIGH SCHOOL: Clyde C. Miller Career Academy
DREAM CAREER: Professional Athlete
ON HIS FUTURE: "I see myself with a strong career and a loving family."



Jordan F.

HIGH SCHOOL: De Smet Jesuit High School
DREAM CAREER: Veterinarian
ON HIS FUTURE: "No matter what my profession is, my goal is to make the world a better place for my future children."



Joshua W.

HIGH SCHOOL: De Smet Jesuit High School
DREAM CAREER: Sportswriter
ON HIS FUTURE: "I hope to pursue both of my passions, athletics and writing, as a sportswriter."

Graduating Class 2010



Courtney M.

HIGH SCHOOL: Chaminade College Preparatory School
 DREAM CAREER: Athlete/Sports Broadcaster
 ON HIS FUTURE: "When I look back on my life as a successful adult, I'll remember the support from my mom and my teachers that got me there."



Douglas H.

HIGH SCHOOL: De Smet Jesuit High School
 DREAM CAREER: Professional Athlete/Public Figure
 ON GIVING BACK: "I want to have a successful career so I can give back to the community that has supported me."



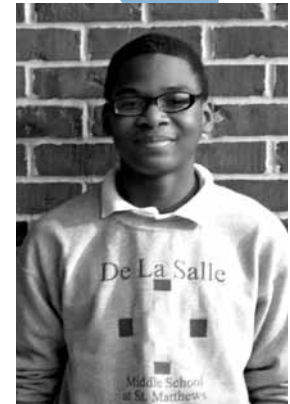
Emanuel P.

HIGH SCHOOL: Clyde C. Miller Career Academy
 DREAM CAREER: Professional Athlete
 ON GIVING BACK: "I look forward to volunteering with my classmates at a homeless shelter. It feels good to help make someone else's life better."



Evan A.

HIGH SCHOOL: St. Mary's High School
 DREAM CAREER: Engineer
 ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE: "I strive to be my best in hopes of inspiring my baby brother."



Gregory R.

HIGH SCHOOL: De Smet Jesuit High School
 DREAM CAREER: Construction Engineer
 ON GIVING BACK: "My teachers say I'm great at math and science. I want to use my talents to build better communities."



Kaylen F.

HIGH SCHOOL: Incarnate Word Academy
 DREAM CAREER: Therapist
 ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE: "I want to work with kids and help them see how their actions can help build up communities."



Luke H.

HIGH SCHOOL: St. Mary's High School
 DREAM CAREER: Artist
 ON WHAT INSPIRES HIM: "Leonardo DaVinci's work shows so much emotion and mastery. I want to put feeling like that in my art."



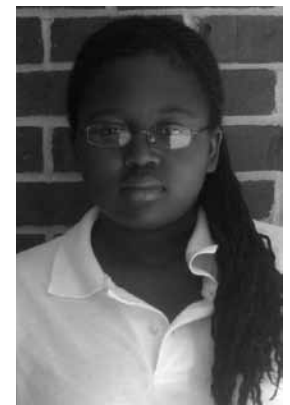
Marquita H.

HIGH SCHOOL: Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School
 DREAM CAREER: Therapist
 TO NEXT YEAR'S 8TH GRADE: "Take advantage of your time at De La Salle. Your class time is valuable."



Marques C.

HIGH SCHOOL: St. John Vianney High School
 DREAM CAREER: Chef
 ON HIS TALENTS: "I love to channel my creativity into cooking for friends and family."



Rachel S.

HIGH SCHOOL: Confluence Preparatory Academy
 DREAM CAREER: Cardiovascular Surgeon
 ON HER ROLE MODELS: "I admire all doctors because they give of themselves everyday to help others."



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Our sincere gratitude to these dedicated individuals for sharing their time and expertise!



MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in the mission of Jesus and the Lasallian tradition of making a quality education accessible, the urban community of De La Salle Middle School at St. Matthew's provides excellence in education, promotes service with justice, and respects each individual in our daily pursuit of loving and learning.