

DEVIN

EHS '17, MARVELWOOD '21

A recent graduate of The Marvelwood School in Kent, Connecticut, Devin Sierra, EHS '17, is headed to St. Thomas Aquinas College where he was recruited to play on their Division II lacrosse team. Without The East Harlem School, Devin says he, "never would have picked up a lacrosse stick. Waking up every morning and going out to practice on Randall's Island with Mr. Hayes was one of the best parts of my day."

Devin enrolled at The East Harlem School in 2012, joining only the second ever fourth grade class. But his history with EHS goes back even farther than that. Born in the Bronx and raised in East Harlem, Devin grew up with his mother, Catherine, and their large Puerto Rican family. As a young girl, Catherine and her four siblings lived with their father right next door to Exodus House, the drug rehabilitation center founded in 1963 by Reverend Dr. Lynn and Mrs. Leola Hageman. Devin's family remained close with the Hagemans over the years, a testament to the School's virtuous beginnings and intrinsic ties to the community.





When he arrived as a fourth grader, Devin recalls having trouble adapting to the structure of EHS, especially coming right out of public school. “As a kid,” Devin says, “some of my biggest struggles were in the classroom. Focusing was hard for me. But EHS put the tools in front of me, the teachers were accepting of my struggle – they understood me and worked with me. I can’t imagine having had that in a different school.”

A two-time Poetry Slam performer, a Benefit emcee, and a devoted wrestler and lacrosse player, Devin excelled at The East Harlem School. He works hard at just about everything he does. But as Devin says, “when you find the things you truly care about, working hard comes a little easier.” Devin credits his opportunities at Marvelwood and St. Thomas to EHS. “EHS gave me the opportunity to go to boarding school and changed the whole course of my life,” Devin reflected.

Now, as Devin fulfills a lifelong dream of playing lacrosse at the collegiate level, he can be sure that he will have fans from The East Harlem School cheering him on.

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