

The Scholar

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- Denise and Jose Cara
- Michelle and Joe DeRocco
- Yvette and Pieter Eenkema van Dijk
- Jolanda and Willem Sutherland

STUDENTS

- Ayesha Abdul-Fattaah (2018)
- Jenely Lopez (2018)
- Mahogany Dolberry (2016)
- Niamani Williams-Coles (2016)
- Danielle McIntosh (2015)
- Merlyn Tejada (2015)

MOVING ON...

It's that bittersweet time of year when we say goodbye... and good luck to this year's graduates.

This year we have two graduating scholars, Danielle McIntosh and Merlyn Tejada, both of whom have brought energy and balance to life in the house and contributed to DHS through their academic achievements, interests and activities.



Danielle with host family Pieter, Yvette & Florian Eenkema van Dijk

Danielle came to ABC from Bridgeport, CT and has made the most of her time at DHS. Danielle is a strong student with a love for math. She has excelled in her studies and is currently enrolled in two AP courses. On campus, Danielle has made her mark! She has played on the Girls' Soccer team for the past four years; she is a member of the Dance Team; is involved in the Big Brother/Big Sister program – a mentoring program for incoming freshmen – and is a member of the Gay-Straight Alliance. She volunteers at Person-to-Person and still finds time to babysit and tutor underclassmen.

Danielle had many wonderful summer experiences. She studied Forensics and DNA Analysis at Greenwich Academy; participated in a National Geographic Student Expedition to Tuscany. Danielle has travelled extensively with her Host Family, visiting Mexico (on a humanitarian trip), Switzerland, Holland, and most recently, Brazil, where she attended the FIFA World Cup Games.

As for the future, Danielle has many college options. She has been accepted to 10 fabulous universities and is enjoying revisiting many of them as she makes this big decision. She plans to study Psychology and work towards her PhD.

Merlyn came to us as a freshman from The Bronx, NY and has taken full advantage of all that DHS has to offer. As a member of the DHS National Honor Society and DHS Spanish Honor Society, Merlyn has received three academic awards and has taken a total of five AP/Honors courses, including Honors Physics and AP Calculus AB.

Merlyn has been a member of the DHS Community Council, serving as a Class Officer since her sophomore year. She also sits on the Executive Board of the Big Brother/Big Sister program. Her other activities include Dance Team, Eco-Citizens, Gay-Straight Alliance and Indoor Track and Field. Her community volunteer work includes Person-to-Person, Atria Senior Living Center and tutoring underclassmen in a variety of subject areas.

Merlyn's summer experiences did not disappoint. She attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst Summer Institute for Leadership and Sustainability; participated in Greenwich Academy's Summer Enrichment Program; traveled to Costa Rica for the Experiment in International Living; and attended Brown University's Pre-College Environmental Leadership Lab on the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

Merlyn was recently honored by the YWCA as their Young Woman of Distinction. She will be attending Columbia University in the Fall.



Merlyn with host parents Jose and Denise Cara

Both Danielle and Merlyn – you have been important members of the ABC family over the past four years and will be missed. We wish you well on the next phase of your journey and look forward to following your progress!

THE VOTES ARE IN AND IT'S UNANIMOUS – THE GIRLS LOVE THEIR NEW HOUSE!



what do they like best?

- “the open concept”
- “the big kitchen that accommodates all of us”
- “the amount of light”
- “the big back yard”
- “more bathrooms”
- “lots of space for hanging out”

A huge thanks to all of our contributors for making the dream of a new house for the ABC program a reality. We couldn't have done it without you!



DARIEN

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Post Office Box 3204
Darien, CT 06820



Our scholars: Jenelsy, Mahoghany, Niamani, Danielle, Merlyn, and Ayesha



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▼ The Ribbon Cutting for the new ABC House Grand Opening!



Danielle showcasing this cool ABC themed artwork by Lisa Thoren.



Danielle in Europe with the Enkema van Dijk family



Paddle on a cold winter day



▼ Jenelsy and Danielle in the snow with the Sutherland family.



ABC IN DARIEN FACTS

MISSION: To provide scholarships to academically talented girls of color from underserved areas allowing them to realize their academic and social potential while living in Darien and attending DHS.

ENROLLMENT: Six girls currently from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Georgia.

HISTORY: Thirty-four years in Darien; 43 girls have graduated from the program.

WHERE DO THEY GO? Graduates have entered colleges such as Columbia, Cornell, George Washington, Syracuse and MIT.

STAFF: Two Resident Directors, Executive Director & Tutors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Twenty-two local residents.

HOST FAMILIES: Six families host the girls one weekend and one Sunday each month.

RESIDENCE: 103 Tokeneke Road in Darien.

THE BUDGET: \$160,000 per year, covering staff, food, utilities, house maintenance, enrichment expenses & supplies.

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to contribute to ABC in Darien, send donations to P.O. Box 3204, Darien, CT 06820 or donate online at www.abcdarien.org

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The ABC VESPA RAFFLE is Back!

Keep a lookout for our ABC students and volunteers selling tickets around town for the perennially popular ABC Vespa raffle. For \$20 per chance, you could be driving an eco-friendly Vespa this summer! Other prizes include a \$250 Palmers' Gift Certificate or \$100 Nielsens' Florist Gift Certificate. These are great prizes for a great cause. Please consider taking a chance for ABC! Thank you.

