



STOREFRONT ACADEMY

H A R L E M

Expand the Possible. Own the Future.

2014-2015 Yearbook





Storefront Academy Harlem is a tuition-free private school in Harlem committed to providing a comprehensive education to children with varied academic strengths from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Our work is grounded in the conviction that every child deserves the opportunity for an excellent education. Storefront Academy works in partnership with families and community members to prepare children academically, socially and emotionally for further education, empowering each child to reach his or her potential.

Dear Friends,

Since Storefront Academy Harlem was founded in 1966, the key to our and our students' success has been the deep understanding that it takes a village to raise a child. It is a principle that we have held close to our hearts and central to our mission for nearly fifty years, and it is the reason that Storefront Academy Harlem continues to thrive and that our graduates go on to do great things.



It was an honor to take the helm as Storefront Academy Harlem's principal this year. Since September, I have continued to be amazed by the extraordinary joy and excitement for learning that makes up the fabric of our tight-knit community. At the Storefront, we know that academic rigor alone will not get kids from grade school through to high school and college. It is our goal to instill a strong sense of self in every child, and a growth mindset to allow them to see each stumbling block or failure that they may face as an opportunity. Our high expectations, coupled with love and a safety net of support, make the difference.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to all of Storefront Academy's students in this yearbook, and to share a special feature about every one of this year's 8th grade graduates. Their stories remind us all of how powerful young people can be and the transformative education each has received at Storefront Academy Harlem. We are also very proud to share that this year's graduates will attend some incredibly prestigious and competitive high schools this fall.

Like many of our students, I was born and raised in East Harlem. It has been my life's ambition to return to this neighborhood and make a difference in my community. I am proud to lead Storefront Academy as its principal, and look forward to continuing Storefront Academy's important work for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexis Thomason". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Alexis Thomason
Principal

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It Takes a



Village



to Raise a



Child





Amari, Amel, Aubrey, Cairo, Caleb, Camorra, Camren, D'Andre, Kiara, Kojiro, Nasir, Nyah, Rafeeq, Salima, Shelby, Unsa, Xavier

“Please excuse the mess...the children are making memories.”

The business of a preschool classroom can seem overwhelming to some. However, when we allow ourselves to engage and experience life through the lens of a child we become explorers, creators, and partners in their learning. We have to look past the mess to understand that a child's play has purpose, and that every experience will become a memory they will build upon and grow from for years to come.

– Schenelle Henry and Keren Murumba, Teachers

PRE-K



Aaron, Aroyale, Daija, Dariel, Dylan, Egypt, Enensa, Jahsirii, Khloe,
Morgan, Nicholas, Ryan, Shia, Tru, Torrance, Tsajelia, Xaria

It takes the support and effort of every kindergarten student to create a safe and loving environment in which we can learn and have fun. This kindergarten class has gone above and beyond in their ability to show respect and empathy towards each other and their teachers. They soak up each lesson like it's the first day of school and their enthusiasm makes it a pleasure to come to work every day and teach.

– Alexis Schmidt, Lead Teacher

KINDERGARTEN



Andres, Cameron, Carmelo, Christina, Jai, Kera, Khloe, Kylie, Madison,
Marc, Michael, Moses, Nayel

Storefront's first grade is a small class, but we're mighty, thanks to the dedication and care shown to each other as readers, writers, mathematicians, and friends. Our village includes first grade families, who are involved and supportive, always going the extra mile to ensure academic and social success. Our village also includes volunteers and Storefront staff and students, who lend a helping hand however they can, from cutting out Valentine hearts to listening to a student read. We are thankful for you!

- Keeli Davis, Lead Teacher

1ST GRADE



Anastasia, Bryce, Chloe, Destiny, Justice, Kenyatta, Kyle, Leonis, Makayla,
Nikira, Olivia, Raymond, Terryn, Tristan, Zaniyah

Our motto this year is: Everything is AWESOME in Mrs. Gray's second grade class! I've worked harder than ever to make sure that my second graders are not only prepared for the grades to come, but that they are prepared for the rest of their lives. I am thankful for the support I've received from my fellow teachers, administrators, parents, and volunteers and I feel confident that these seven year olds have a solid foundation for continued success.

– Randi Gray, Lead Teacher

2ND GRADE



Andrelle, De’Ron, Elani, Faith, Harlem, Iniko, Jayden, Joshua, Justice, Marcus, Nathaniel, Nailah, Nia, Nicole, Shania, Skylar, Starr, Yahir

In third grade my students embody the phrase “teamwork makes the dream work” and every third grade team member’s voice is valued and respected. Their success this year can be measured by the concern they show to each other and the perseverance they’ve shown in learning new and challenging things. Boy does the third grade love a challenge! This year they have performed a class play, recited powerful poems for the entire school community and adopted and cared for our school garden. I am confident that my third grade class of passionate learners and extraordinary families will take the fourth grade by storm!

– Charlene Jimoh, Lead Teacher

3RD GRADE



Alexandra, Alicia, Amanda, Anila, Chance, Cristian, Derek, Jahzeir,
Jucenia, Justin, Khadijah, Krystopher, Laila, Lanise, Latajah, Makayla,
Makhi, Storee

“We are all different, but as a team, we fit together.”

This quote has been posted on our fourth grade classroom door since the first day of school, setting a precedent for our school year. Our class has embraced every aspect of teamwork: we’ve struggled, persevered, grown, and celebrated together, and have shown there is truly no “I” in team! It takes a village to raise a child, and a team to educate a student.

– Helen Hanson, Lead Teacher

4TH GRADE



Aaliyah, Alyson, Aminata, Bianca, Camorey, Chidi, Chima, Emanuel, Habte, Jordan, Kendra, Kevin, Michael, Nya, Tanai, Tiara, Trenae

Storefront Academy has welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like I am a part of a close knit community that not only fully engages it's students, but cultivates the talent of its staff and faculty. Ultimately, Storefront Academy has set the foundation for what community learning means and embraces the idea that "it takes a village to raise a child." This nurturing environment creates a sturdy foundation for our students and families to learn and progress positively and holistically.

– Trayshia Rogers, Lead Teacher

5TH GRADE



Brenae, Cariah, Chyna, Donovan, Dior, Joanalís, Jose, Juan, Keianu,
Kristian, Miles, Mohamed, Ryann, Ryleigh, Tahlia, Yasmeen

Sixth grade is a year for students to grow up, stretch their minds and find their most positive voice. Students move beyond “how” and explore why things are the way they are, from literature and language to math and science, music and art. Sixth graders are encouraged to think deeply and not to give up when the job seems difficult. Storefront Academy’s sixth graders make great personal and intellectual strides as they prepare for what is to come - and they try to have fun in the process!

– Christian Urciuoli, Homeroom Teacher

6TH GRADE



Amir, Carlina, Daniel, Devin, Faith, JahSean, Ja'lyn, Jonathan, Kassie,
Kenyetta, Lashah, Maximus, Mya, Nasir, Patrick, Shinasha, Tayja,
Zaria, Zhaniya

In the seventh grade, students encourage each other to rise to their potential and show their maturity. They've grown to be dynamic students, ready to succeed in eighth grade!

– James Amodeo, Homeroom Teacher

7TH GRADE

HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

Boarding Schools

Church Farm School
Darrow School
Emma Willard School
George School
Peddie School
Pomfret School

Parochial Schools

Cardinal Hayes High School
Cardinal Spellman High School
Cristo Rey New York High School
Dominican Academy
Fordham Preparatory School
Monsignor Scanlan High School
Notre Dame School
Sacred Heart High School
St. George Academy
St. Jean Baptiste High School
St. Vincent Ferrer High School
Xaverian High School

Independent Schools

Leman Preparatory School
Winston Preparatory School
York Preparatory School

Public Schools

The American Sign Language and
English Secondary School
The Cinema School
Harry S. Truman High School
High School for Computers and
Technology
High School for Dual Language and
Asian Studies
High School for Law, Advocacy and
Community Justice
Manhattan Center for Science and
Mathematics
Manhattan Village Academy
Thurgood Marshall Academy for
Learning and Social Change
Urban Assembly School for Global
Commerce
Urban Assembly Gateway School for
Technology
Vanguard High School

CLASS OF 2015

STOREFRONT ACADEMY HARLEM CLASS OF 2015



8TH GRADE

Throughout these years at Storefront Academy, there have been many changes in me from fifth grade to now as I approach the end of my time here. I've become more social, and I've improved my participation.

Storefront has provided a lot for me and my peers. They have provided after-school activities that we really enjoy. The teachers also provide time for you if you ever need extra help with something. Here at Storefront Academy, the teacher-to-student relationship is great. We'll have fun times in class and still learn. My eighth grade friends have said to me that in the past I have been the quiet and shy one, but now I'm always participating in my classes.

My favorite subjects from Storefront will always be science, language enrichment, and history. The reason why I really enjoy science is because I am really interested in learning about things like space and the earth. Another reason why I like science is because of the teacher, Ms. Chute. She will always make the class fun, whether she is making us laugh, or if she has us doing a really exciting lab experiment.

I enjoy language enrichment because I enjoy the books that we read. Some of the books that we've read are The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian and Durable Goods. One that we are currently reading is called Of Mice and Men. Another reason why I find language enrichment to be enjoyable is that I like to read a book that I can dig my teeth into and write about it afterwards. We always go over the book, and the teacher will always make sure we understand what we have read.

Finally, my favorite class is history, because I like to learn about our past, where we came from, and how the whole human race started. Another reason I enjoy history class is because of the teacher, Mr. Amodeo. Mr. Amodeo has been my teacher since fifth grade, and he has always made class fun and exciting. He watched us grow up physically and mentally and has seen the mature teenagers we've become be accepted into great high schools and have a great future ahead of us.

I remember when I first came into Storefront Academy, it was the beginning of Pre-K and I was extremely nervous because it was my first time being a part of a school. Storefront has always made me feel welcome, and it makes anyone feel like they belong there and that it's the right place for them.



Alpha

*Urban Assembly Gateway School for
Technology '19*

I've been at Storefront for nine years. I started in the first grade but was really shy so I would go to the kindergarten class to learn with kids closer to my age. That's when I started to make friends.

I will never forget my year in the third grade. In the third grade, I met my best friend. She brings out the best side of me. In the third grade, we went on a field trip to the Bronx Zoo. It was one of the best field trips I've ever been on. I remember my best friend and I went on a camel ride together. I almost fell off, but she caught me. From that moment on, I knew I could trust her, and she would always be there for me.

My favorite staff member was Ms. Tucker. She was a counselor. Whenever I visited Ms. Tucker, I would talk to her about my grandmother, who was battling breast cancer. I would call my grandma, draw pictures for her and write letters to her whenever I was with Ms. Tucker. I'll never forget the day I randomly broke down into tears. I didn't know what was wrong with me, I just felt so depressed and miserable that day. I went to Ms. Tucker so I could talk to my grandma, but it seemed like I was making up excuses about why I couldn't call my grandma. Later that day, I found out my grandmother passed away. I'm glad I had Ms. Tucker while I was going through that hard time.

One core value I have learned at the Storefront Academy that I will carry with me throughout life is respect. Living in New York City, you can see that a lot of people don't have respect for others or even themselves. I learned that even if you don't like someone you still need to be respectful. I also noticed that people who don't show respect are the ones who usually get in trouble. This will benefit me in high school because it will show people that I'm mature and that I want to be respected in return.

Storefront Academy has helped me academically, and believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. I will always remember the Storefront as a place for opportunities that gave me the steps toward my future. It helped me accept my flaws and turn them into my talents. At the Storefront, I turned my "can'ts" into "cans" and my goals into plans. Now, I have a vision of my future and will strive throughout high school and college to achieve it. Thank you Storefront for allowing me to be the person I am today!



Alyssa
Class of '19

Some people may forget where they went to school, their childhood friends or how their teachers helped them, but I will always remember Storefront Academy and how it made me the person I am today. Storefront helped me become more outspoken, gave me opportunities, and most of all, helped me develop a knack for art.

My journey at the Storefront Academy started in the sixth grade. At first I felt left out and nervous, but soon I felt like I belonged. One thing that I will always remember are the friends that I've made at Storefront. I will never forget our ups and downs, our corny jokes and handshakes, and how we were always there for each other. Most importantly, I will never forget how my friends helped me when I needed it.

My friends and teachers at Storefront Academy helped me break out of my shell, and now I'm more outspoken. They were there when I wasn't feeling the happiest, and helped me when I needed help fitting in. I will never forget my friends at Storefront Academy.

Storefront Academy gave me some of the best opportunities and some of the most unforgettable experiences. Between lessons that we are taught in school and the field trips that we take, we learn life lessons and how to be successful. We took trips to some of the most well-known organizations and companies in New York. Once, we took a trip to Morgan Stanley, a leading bank, to learn the ins-and-outs of the stock market. While there I learned that anything is possible and not to doubt yourself.

I really started to develop my knack for art when I joined art programs offered by Storefront. These programs benefitted me because I learned different aspects of art, such as photography. I also learned different techniques and styles on how to draw and paint. I learned that culture is art, and not only did I get a glance at different cultures, but I got a glance of Harlem and its beautiful art scenes. One thing I learned about art is that your canvas doesn't always need to be neat and perfect; just tell your story through your perspective. It's okay to be different.

I've accomplished a lot due to Storefront guiding me and teaching me. I had many doubts and challenges, but Storefront helped me overcome those challenges and fears. I will be attending Sacred Heart High School and know that I will be prepared because of Storefront's academic curriculum and the faculty's effort and support. I will always remember Storefront, and will miss the memories and friends that I've made.



Breanna

Sacred Heart High School '19

I first came to Storefront Academy in third grade. Before I attended the school, my family suffered a loss that had a huge impact on us. I was shy and afraid of being rejected, but Storefront has the most welcoming community a person could ever ask for. As I prepare to leave Storefront, I think of the memories I have had at the school. I will always remember my friends, the education provided for me, and the teachers at Storefront.

What I will miss most are my friends at Storefront. They are the people that welcomed me to Storefront and made me feel comfortable. Now, they are the people I am graduating with. Over the years I've gained even more friends and have become close to many of my classmates. I am glad we became friends, and I intend on keeping them for a long time.

Another thing I will remember about Storefront Academy is the education. The Storefront has helped me excel in each subject and has made me become an high-achiever. I am very thankful for all the work I have received from my teachers because they have taught me a lot. With their teachings, I feel ready to succeed in the next step in my education.

The last thing I will remember about Storefront are the teachers who helped me come a long way. In particular, Ms. Leah, our high school placement director, did a lot of work with me and other students. She took time out of her lunch period to make sure we were applying to high schools, and doing what we needed to do to succeed. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who helped to teach me new things in each subject so that I am prepared for high school.

I am very thankful for Storefront Academy. The opportunities it provides for its students are endless. I also want to thank my friends and teachers for making this a fun, hard-working trip along the road of elementary and junior high school. I will always remember Storefront as I get older and move on into new phases in my life.



Elise

Notre Dame School '19

My journey at Storefront Academy started in 2006. I was 5 years old and ready to learn. I really started to enjoy school in 5th grade, which is when I met the teachers that helped me the most, Ms. Garofalo and Mr. Amodeo. These teachers helped me by pushing me to do well in my English career when I was already good at math. It was at that time I realized I had to become a leader and a role model.

With the start of 6th grade, I took actions to be a better person. I stayed on the right path and got good grades. A teacher that helped me was our physical education teacher Mr. Meyer because he helped me realize how much I love sports, and helped me become more active. This helped me stay more focused and ready for class.

Storefront Academy has changed me by showing me a way to learn in a small space with a supportive and tight-knit community. Storefront Academy has changed me and all of my classmates. We have all matured and become leaders, and have become ready for the next stage of our lives.

The next milestone for me was in 7th grade, when I met my new teacher, Mr. Czap. He changed the way I think about both English and history. Mr. Czap actually made me enjoy English because he showed me quality literature that anyone can enjoy. The important part is that you just have to give it a chance!

Now in my final year at Storefront Academy Harlem as part of the graduating class of 2015, I do not want to leave, even though it is time. I have come a long way from 2006 to 2015. There have been many struggles and achievements. As I go to my new school at Winston Prep High School, I know that Storefront will always be a part of the person I have become.



Esiah

Winston Preparatory School '19

Storefront Academy may look just like a brownstone, but it's more than that to me. Throughout the seven years I've been here, I've received nothing but kindness. The staff took me on trips I never would have thought of going to. I've also had warm and loving friendships in my years here. The Storefront has taught me to be independent and to "expand the possible, and own my future".

I have been gradually advancing in all my subjects ever since I've been at the Storefront. However it wasn't always been easy. Before I came to the Storefront, I attended a large charter school. Therefore, I wasn't used to the small classroom sizes and the loving and motivating teachers. Storefront has taught me to be focused in all of my subjects.

The best thing at the Storefront is the teachers. However, what's the definition of a real teacher? The Storefront definition of a teacher is someone who goes above and beyond to fulfill their duties and improve our learning. Someone who also learns by teaching us. Many teachers are only teaching for the payment or good looks on their resume. None of the teachers at Storefront Academy Harlem fall into this category. The teachers will not stop until every student succeeds.

The last thing I will never forget about my time at the Storefront is the everlasting friendships and connections I've made. The whole school community is so supportive. I was nervous when I went on my first high school interview. I found a way to cure this by thinking of funny things my peers said. Not only did this make me laugh, but it made me feel confident because nobody is perfect, not my peers or myself. All of the students at Storefront Academy are unique. I have learned we all make mistakes, but I know that if my classmates could interview at high schools and do well, I could too.

Everyone at the Storefront is unique, especially the teachers. Storefront taught me about quadratics, the universe, and how to make inferences. However, what Storefront really taught me is to never settle, no matter how successful you think you are. You can always achieve more in life. I will be attending the Notre Dame school next year, but when I walk past the Storefront Academy brownstone in the future, I will always remember that it is my home.



Jade
Notre Dame School '19

At Storefront, I have developed into the strong young woman that I am today. The strong teacher-student relationships here at Storefront are great! We as students can talk to our teachers as if they are our friends. The Storefront teachers don't teach us for their paychecks - they teach us because they want to. These relationships have definitely shaped who I am today. I became more open to teachers and adults in general. In the past schools I've been to, I didn't speak to my teachers unless I needed to ask questions. Here, it's totally different.

Along with the great student-teacher relationships, Storefront Academy offers so many opportunities that not many schools have. First, it's a tuition-free private school, which has to be the best thing about it. This free private school leads kids to other great private schools, which will eventually get them into an amazing college! Storefront Academy also offers many trips. In my 2 years at Storefront, I have visited many cool places. I've visited a boarding school, met a famous sculptor in Brooklyn, partied at Alvin Ailey Studios and the Nickelodeon Halo Awards, and so much more.

Another amazing opportunity that Storefront offers is the women's mentoring program, which is a program designed for 7th and 8th grade girls to have conversations with adult women over lunch. The mentors are great and friendly. They take us off campus once a week and we eat awesome food and have really intriguing conversations. My mentor, Connie, is awesome! She taught me so much. The mentoring program has definitely shaped me because I now know what tips to take along with me into high school and into the future.

The final important thing that I will take with me from the Storefront is all the people in the community. Everyone's so happy with each other and it's always smiles, laughs, and jokes! I admire all of my classmates for one reason or another. We all joke around when we want to, but get serious when we need to. We are a team! It is like the next thing you know, I'm graduating with 14 other amazing soon-to-be 9th graders and I will be attending Emma Willard School with a scholarship! I just can't believe it all happened so quickly.

Storefront Academy Harlem is truly an amazing school. It has offered me so much. From trips to relationships to opportunities and happiness. Storefront Academy Harlem has made me the strong and independent young woman that I am now. I want everyone who has ever attended Storefront, who is attending Storefront, or who is considering Storefront, to be grateful -- opportunities like Storefront are rare!



Laganeh
Emma Willard School '19

I have been at Storefront Academy Harlem since pre-kindergarten. I truly like being at Storefront. Storefront Academy has shaped who I am today. The Storefront provides extra help, if students need it, by placing you in either after-school, speech, tutoring, or counseling. All of these have helped me accomplish the things I needed help with. This will shape my life goals beyond Storefront because Storefront showed me that you get rewarded for hard work. Now, when I leave Storefront Academy, I will be a successful student.

The Storefront's counseling staff, Ms. Destinye, Ms. Katie, and Ms. Audra, have helped me overcome all obstacles that have been hard for me. They have also encouraged me to be my best self. This year I have constantly been in their office through good and bad times keeping them updated. These individuals are very proud of me and the progress that I have made throughout the year. I will miss them.

At Storefront Academy Harlem, teachers give us many opportunities to succeed, when at other schools, if you get one or two strikes you're out, which means at other schools you don't get as many chances. I never really realized how much Storefront teachers provide for us and even take time out of their day just to help us because they care about us. I will truly miss the staff at Storefront.

One memory that reminds me about how much the staff cares is when I was in 1st grade at Storefront, and they took us to the park. I was playing on the monkey bars and tried to jump to the last bar, and broke my wrist. The Storefront staff took really good care of me and cleared the park out, so I could get up and go to the emergency room. I thank Storefront for that and appreciate all the care that they showed me.

Storefront Academy has had a huge impact on my life and I will carry all the good memories that I have had at Storefront with me. I will remember Ms. Thomason, Ms. Destinye, Ms. Katie, and Ms. Leah because while being at Storefront, I've looked up to these four women as my role models. They have helped me accomplish a lot. This school, which was The Children's Storefront, is now known as Storefront Academy Harlem. To me, no matter what the name is, it will always be the original Storefront.



Lashay

Cristo Rey New York High School '19

I came to the Storefront Academy in 6th grade. The first time I came to the Storefront I was the shy kid. I really didn't speak that much so I became the quiet and mysterious student. When I first came to the school I wanted to leave right away. I only knew one person, and I wanted to go back to my old school. Around mid-January, I changed. I made some friends, started talking to people, and wasn't shy anymore.

During my 6th grade year, one of my fellow students, Yann, really helped out and made me talk. I knew Yann because we had the same babysitter. He introduced me to other students and told me that the Storefront was a nice small school and that I could get a good education here.

By 7th grade, I was another person. I was talking to everybody in my class. I was making jokes sometimes and had good times. At that point, I knew I would fit in perfectly. During those two years at the Storefront, I also improved my grades and was more than just passing most of my classes in 6th and 7th grade.

Now I'm in 8th grade and I'm about to graduate. I would like to thank Ms. Leah for helping me complete my high school applications. She helped me finish applications, made sure my family could afford the schools, and that I called every school for an interview. My interviews were great because I learned what the schools were about, saw each campus, and learned the history of the schools that I visited.

Since it's my last year at the Storefront, I will take the memories of the teachers that helped me, and my friends who will also be leaving with me. I'm going to miss the school, but as I move on to high school I hope to make my teachers and my school proud.



Moussa

*Thurgood Marshall Academy for
Learning and Social Change '19*

I've been at Storefront Academy for 8 years. I started in the 1st grade as a really shy student, but with a very articulate mind. I was afraid I would never open up, but thanks to the Storefront's warm community, I've come a long way.

When I first entered the upper school in 5th grade, I struggled with having too many or too few details in my essays. I never understood how that was possible, but Ms. Mackerron explained it to me. She told me that I should be able to say what I want in my essays, but also be very sophisticated and simple. I realized I enjoyed writing class. I remember in the 5th grade during poetry month, we had to write our own poems about our life and how we felt. In the beginning, I didn't feel very confident about it, but I ended up succeeding at that assignment and writing poems I was proud of. This is why I will carry these memories with me. I learned how to be confident in myself and my work.

During my upper school years, 5th and 6th grade were the hardest grades for me. This was because I always wanted to do group work and help everyone else out. I had to learn that group work isn't always the best because depending on other people isn't always the best thing. Being independent is one of the best things that I've learned at Storefront Academy and this quality has helped me mature in so many ways. Being a young, African-American female, I think this is one of the best qualities that I can take with me to high school.

The last thing that I will certainly remember as I move on to high school is Ms. Alison's test prep classes, which we began in the fall of 7th grade. This was one of the most important years of middle school and we were encouraged to start immediately looking for high schools we would like to apply to. We learned the process of the different high school tests and what sections we had to prepare for. Ms. Alison helped encourage me to understand that in order for you to get to where you want to be, you have to push yourself, and all your hard work will pay off. I'm proud to say I passed all the standardized tests I had to take for high school with satisfying grades.

I am attending Cardinal Spellman High School in the fall of 2015. In high school I plan on joining the track team and the dance club. The independence and confidence that I have learned at the Storefront is something I will value as I move forward in my education. I leave the Storefront with an encouraged heart and an incredible mindset. The Storefront is a very unique school and I am proud to say that I am a graduate.



Najay

Cardinal Spellman High School '19

My experience here at the Storefront Academy has been a long and adventurous one. I have been given a great opportunity by being able to come to the Storefront. Storefront has been here for me my whole life, from Pre-K to 8th grade. The Storefront, to me, isn't just a school; it's a close community and a second family.

Storefront has given me ample opportunities to become a better student and meet people I might not otherwise have met. For example, I had the opportunity to speak at the Harlem Luncheon in 2014. Being able to give that speech was empowering and gave me the confidence that I had ideas that people wanted to hear about. Storefront is a wonderful school because of the teachers and students and the environment we create together. One thing I will never forget is Ms. Cardwell and all the advice she gave me, even if it wasn't the easiest thing to hear. She made me feel as if she would always be there, and she was like my second mother. I thank her for helping shape me into the person I am becoming.

Storefront has made one of my least favorite subjects into my most favorite subject. Science used to be a struggle for me; it was just complicated, and I didn't understand anything about it. We now have a teacher who has helped me understand my love of science, and I now know that I want to be a forensic scientist. I really am grateful for everything Ms. Chute has helped me with. She showed me that there will always be struggles, but those struggles can always be overcome. She showed me that science is a very interesting subject, and that while there are many fields in science, I love forensics.

Storefront has a very special place in my heart and has been the only school I've ever gone to. I know that when I leave, it will almost feel like I'm leaving a big part of my life because it has been the place that helped make me the strong young woman I am today. I highly appreciate that because without some of the people at Storefront, I honestly believe I would not come close to being the young lady that I am. So I just want to thank Ms. Chute, Mrs. Thomason, and Ms. Cardwell for being amazing women and astonishing role models.

I want to conclude by saying that the Storefront is really an amazing place. At the Storefront, they make sure you become the best you can be, even if you sometimes get in your own way. Even though I can't always admit it, I wouldn't want to have been in school for 10 years of my life anywhere other than the Storefront because we've become a family. Opportunities here are endless. I am grateful for Storefront in so many ways, and I really thank everyone who helped me along the way.



Nevaeh

Cardinal Spellman High School '19

Throughout your life, there are going to be many people and places that will stick with you. For me, one of those places is Storefront Academy. I have many had memorable moments during my time at this school. Some of the moments that I will never forget are the first year I was here, the first time I was on a school team, and the first time I made effort honor roll.

The first year I was here, I was struggling. My first homeroom teacher, Mr. Amodeo, helped me get my grades up. It took a lot of studying and hard work to get my grades to where I wanted them to be. Thanks to Mr. Amodeo, I was able to achieve my goal, but he wasn't the only one who helped out. Mr. Williams also gave me great advice about how to study, and what to do to get better grades. If I didn't take in the advice he gave, I wouldn't be where I am today.

The first time I was on a school team was when I was in 6th grade. This wasn't the first time I was on a team, but my first time being on a school team. At first, I didn't know what to expect. I was on a team with seventh and eighth graders which were other kids I didn't know well but they welcomed me like family. What I learned from Storefront's teams was teamwork.

Another important first was the time I made effort honor roll, it was a huge achievement for me, and it still is. I remember one time Mr. Williams posed a bet saying that whoever got effort honor roll during that month could go to Comic Con. To get effort honor roll, you have to get three or four commendation letters. Commendation letters show that you have been a great student each week of the month. I worked hard to be that great student, so I could experience that wonderful opportunity.

Storefront has a special place in my heart and I will never forget it. Throughout my time here, I have learned to help people when they are in need, and to do the right thing when no one is looking. I am really going to miss it here, even though I am looking forward to high school. I am so glad that I got to go to Storefront Academy for four years. In the fall I'll be attending high school and look forward to taking all the lessons I learned with me. Thank you to all the teachers and staff that have helped me throughout my years here.



Nick

Cardinal Hayes High School '19

When I arrived at Storefront Academy in 2012, it was the beginning of my 6th grade year. I didn't know if I was going to like the school and I was nervous. At first, it was hard to talk to anyone because of fear of the unknown. Although it took some time to adjust, I realized Storefront was the right fit for me.

Storefront provided me with several opportunities. Many of the opportunities Storefront offered would benefit my future by providing me with a great education. The academics were challenging, but not impossible to achieve if you have the motivation and desire to work hard. The Storefront prepared me to successfully complete various assessments in order to get into an outstanding high school. The staff at Storefront as well as your classmates want to see you succeed and become successful. Recently, I received my acceptance letter from Cardinal Spellman High School and I believe a great deal of thanks is owed to Storefront Academy. I was provided many opportunities, but more importantly, I made many memories.

My most memorable moment at the Storefront was the annual art show. In particular, in last year's show, many of the students in Cluster 3 were able to display their artwork. There was a variety of artwork that was simplistic, expressive, and skilled. Most of our artwork was sold and the profit went to support the school. It was a great way to give back to the school that has done so much for us. Additionally, everyone who participated in the event had a great time.

I will really miss the school when I am gone. Sadly, my time at the Storefront is coming to an end. The Storefront was full of memories, challenges, ups and downs, and amazing people. When I am here I feel safe and protected. The Storefront is like a second home to me and has instilled a good sense of community in me. Therefore, I will really miss the school when I am gone. Even after I exit the 'Blue Doors' in June, I will always be a Storefront student. Most of all, I will never forget the times and memories that I had here and I will cherish them forever.



O'EI

Cardinal Spellman High School '19

A special time that I remember at Storefront Academy is my first day, which was a shadow day to learn about the Storefront, visit classes and meet with the teachers. It was a special day and I felt excited, confused, and ready.

The first thing I did was have an interview. At first I was nervous, but then I started to get comfortable with the questions I was being asked. After that, I went to the classroom. When I walked in, all eyes were on me, and that got me nervous as well. By lunchtime, I was pretty comfortable with most of the students. After the shadow day ended, I was excited to have gotten a chance to see the school. I really liked the Storefront's school environment, and after that first day I felt as though I belonged there.

The school itself was also very strange for me. Before the Storefront, I went to a public school, and that was way bigger than the Storefront, so I was confused. When I first saw the school, I just thought it was an apartment building. I said to myself, "What am I doing here and why would I want to come to this school?" I got used to it quickly because it still felt like a school and the buildings and rooms made it feel more like home. The lunch also took me by surprise. It was different and it looked like it was homemade.

My shadow day made me feel like I was ready for middle school and the Storefront. After spending the day in different classrooms, I saw that it wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. I felt ready for the Storefront. I had gone to big schools all my life, and I always felt small and unknown. So when I saw the Storefront, and started to learn everybody's name in just one day, I felt like I belonged at the school. The Storefront has prepared me for middle school, and now it is almost done with preparing me for high school.

My first day at Storefront I will always remember. I will remember the people I met that day and all the excitement, confusion, and belonging I felt that day. It has been a long three years at the school, from sixth grade to the now-graduating eighth grade class. I will always remember what it did for me, and I will treasure all the memories I had at the Storefront.



Tanou

Cardinal Spellman High School '19

I have been going to Storefront Academy since the 5th grade and have gone through lots of changes in my time here. The first time I came to the Storefront, I was a quiet and shy person. I was nervous. Before I came to the Storefront, I was at a public school, and I had 20 or more kids in my class. There were fights all the time, and people were always getting in trouble. I was surprised at how calm the Storefront was and how friendly the atmosphere was. Now that I am going to high school, I am thankful that my mother chose to send me to the Storefront.

One thing that influenced me at the Storefront was my language enrichment teacher, Ms. Cardwell. Ms. Cardwell influenced me to start reading books and actually like them. She recommended books to me that I would have never read if I went public school. I really enjoyed reading these books, especially Kaffir Boy, about a boy in South Africa during apartheid and Nelson Mandela's imprisonment. This book taught me about apartheid and how wrong it was. I am thankful to Ms. Cardwell for introducing me to the goodness of books and what they can teach you.

My best memory at the Storefront was in 5th grade when I went to Comic Con at the Jacob Javitz Center with my classmates. There were hundreds of people there, and you could find anything that had to do with comic books and anime. It was like going to Chuck E. Cheese's for the first time as a kid. Going to Comic Con and other places, like my trip to Morgan Stanley, introduced me to new and interesting people. If I had gone to public school, I would have never had the opportunity to go to these places.

My favorite class at the Storefront was my language enrichment class. In my language enrichment class, I read advanced books like Parable of the Sower and The Great Gatsby. Books like these are usually read in high school, and it is great that I got the chance to read these books early. I am getting a headstart on things. The books that I have read taught me a lot of things. I learned that books are really deep, and they need to be deeply analyzed to really understand their meanings.

I am really grateful to the Storefront. For the 9th grade, I am going to Peddie School. It is a co-ed boarding school in Hightstown, New Jersey. I am thrilled and excited to go there, and I am positive that my new school will provide me with the tools and education that will allow me to continue with my dream of becoming an entrepreneur. Because of what I have learned at the Storefront, I know I will be able to handle the challenges I will have to face at Peddie.



Yann
Peddie School '19

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