



JUNE 2025

ABC New Canaan

Spring Newsletter

Our mission is to provide transformative academic opportunities to talented young men of color, support them in becoming well-rounded and confident leaders, and prepare them for success in college and in life.



Dear ABC family and supporters,

As this school year comes to an end, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your tremendous support and generosity. Our scholars had an extraordinary year filled with countless new opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive—and thrive they did, thanks to you! Without your belief in their potential, our scholars wouldn't have been able to reach the incredible heights they have. Without your love and support, our work would not be possible!

I would also like to give special thanks to our dedicated host families, board, amazing staff, tutors, and volunteers. Every day, our scholars feel nurtured and supported because of YOU.

Thank you for being a special part of our ABC family. We hope you have a terrific summer!

Jamie Boris, Executive Director

WHAT'S NEW

SPRING BASH!

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:
JOHN BALUYUT
SCHOLAR UPDATES**

ABC'S SPRING BASH!



ABC's SPRING BASH on May 17th was a smashing success and a perfect combination of fun and purpose. The room was filled with dedicated supporters of ABC past and present, along with so many new faces. The love and sense of community were palpable. The sold-out event also featured Elijah Westbrook, ABC New Canaan Alum, Class of 2011, and a three-time Emmy award-winning journalist, as our keynote speaker. Guests danced the night away and are already looking forward to next year's celebration

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JOHN BALUYUT



After four wonderful years, John is graduating from New Canaan High School and our ABC program. He is proudly heading to PACE University, where he received a Presidential Scholarship, and will study accounting and finance.

John has enriched NCHS and our ABC community in so many ways. He has been an honors student who has excelled academically and been very involved in athletics, participating in cross-country, track, Varsity wrestling, and volleyball. His wrestling accomplishments have been especially impressive, as he served as a co-captain and helped the team place at states this past year. He was also so proud to be part of the FCIAC Champion Volleyball team. John has also been a member and leader of the RAM Council.

St. Aloysius has been a significant part of John's experience in New Canaan and something he was able to share with his host family, the Shullmans. The love and genuine connection that the Shullmans share with John and his family have been one of the most influential and heartwarming parts of his time in the program. John has also been a fantastic role model for the younger scholars and has made a lasting impact. We're definitely going to miss John and know that the Shullmans will miss him just as much, as he is part of their family. We all wish him well and are so excited to see what his bright future holds.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHTS:

Throughout this year, our scholars have experienced so many special events and moments that it would be impossible to capture them all in one place. From milestone achievements to breakthrough moments, our scholars each had the chance to shine and thrive. Here are some of the highlights:

KIAN RAGAZA, JUNIOR

- Playing football for the first time this year
- Participating in a variety of musical concerts and going to Nashville as part of the New Canaan Performing Arts Program
- Getting accepted into the Student Diplomacy Corps and having the opportunity to travel to Italy for three weeks this summer



YANFER MARTINEZ, JUNIOR:

- Making the All-In Elite AAU basketball team and traveling around the country
- Being inducted into the National Honors Society
- Getting accepted into UCONN's competitive High School Student Research Apprentice Summer Program

CHRISTOPHER FELIZ, SOPHOMORE

- Receiving the Outstanding Character Award from the RAM Council
- Taking on academic challenges
- Taking guitar lessons and exploring other creative paths, especially the visual arts



DARIEL ORTIZ, SOPHOMORE

- Taking a very rigorous course load and maintaining good grades
- Speaking at the Interfaith Church Council's MLK, Jr. Celebration
- Proudly participating in YG and the mission trip to Waco



HENYERSON TOLENTINO, SOPHOMORE

- Being part of the Theatre Program at NCHS and performing in Les Misérables and The Wedding Singer
- Working hard and doing well academically in school
- Being part of YG and going on the mission trip



MALICAH HATTEN, FRESHMAN

- Playing football for the first time
- Receiving the NCHS Rising Above Award for resilience, strength of character, and courage
- Growing academically and finishing the year strong





If you have any questions or want more
information, please contact us



Jamie Boris,
Executive Director
jboris@abchousenc.org

Khanisha Denise Moore,
Resident Director
khanishadmoore@gmail.com

www.abchouseofnc.org