



Christopher Feliz
Junior
Hometown: Methuen, MA
Host Family: Mimi and Pat Leahy
FUN FACT: I love baking new recipes with my host family.



Malicah Hatten
Sophomore
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
Host Family: Denise and Jim Wartinbee
FUN FACT: I manage the football team and play violin.



Kian Ragaza
Senior
Hometown: Bronx, NY
Host Family: Shannon and John Goetz
FUN FACT: I like racing events: IndyCar, NASCAR, F1, IMSA.



Henyerson Tolentino
Junior
Hometown: Bronx, NY
Host Family: Megan and José Morales
FUN FACT: I love everything about musical theatre.

OUR COMMUNITY

For over 50 years, New Canaan has been our champion in creating opportunity. This extraordinary community provides 100% of our funding through the generosity of residents, foundations, businesses, and New Canaan High School. But our town’s support goes far beyond financial — offering mentorship, encouragement, and the daily message that our scholars can achieve anything.

Thank you for your support, New Canaan! ❤️

OUR TEAM

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ABC New Canaan



EDUCATION • EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY

MEET OUR SCHOLARS



Emmanuel Arizpe
Freshman
Hometown: Norristown, PA
Host Family: Lauren and Matt Nussbaum
FUN FACT: I am obsessed with soccer and love music.



Justin Bruno
Freshman
Hometown: Bronx, NY
Host Family: Jess and Jim Huetter
FUN FACT: I love watching football, and my favorite holiday is Christmas.



Yanfer Martinez
Senior
Hometown: Bridgeport, CT
Host Family: Nadine and Mike Finnerty
FUN FACT: I once scored 35 points in a basketball game.



Dariel Ortiz
Junior
Hometown: Bronx, NY
Host Family: Kimberly and TJ Jetnil
FUN FACT: I’m very interested in law.

OUR HISTORY & IMPACT

Guided by principles of **EDUCATION, EQUITY, and OPPORTUNITY**, ABC New Canaan has welcomed young scholars since 1974. What began with eight students has grown into over 50 years of transformative impact.

A Legacy of Excellence for Over Five Decades

Throughout our history, we have offered this life-changing program completely FREE to talented young men ready to pursue their dreams. Our 93 graduates have attended some of the country's most prestigious colleges and universities nationwide, building successful careers across every field. Our alumni prove that when talented young people receive opportunity and love, extraordinary achievements follow. Today's scholars continue this tradition, supported by dedicated host families and an entire community committed to their success.





Where Opportunity Meets Love, Success Follows



OUR MISSION & PROGRAM

ABC New Canaan's 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 life.

Our program welcomes scholars into the New Canaan community, where they

ATTEND our nationally ranked school and reach their greatest academic potential

PARTICIPATE in the athletic, artistic, volunteer, and enrichment activities that New Canaan has to offer

LIVE together at the ABC House in town, under the care of our supportive resident director

BECOME a part of a local host family, having a home away from home during their 4 years in New Canaan — and beyond



“ABC gave John two things that every parent wants for their child: love and opportunities to thrive. His four years in New Canaan exceeded every hope we had and changed his life forever. We are incredibly grateful for everyone who made John's journey possible.”
— Rica and Alvin Baluyut

OUR HOST FAMILIES

Our host families are a cornerstone of our program's success. They open their homes and hearts to our scholars, creating bonds that last a lifetime and helping them feel truly part of the community. Throughout their four years in New Canaan, scholars spend Sunday afternoons and evenings plus one weekend each month with their host families.



The Wartinbee Family

“We have loved welcoming Malicah to our family and becoming part of the wonderful ABC New Canaan community. Malicah brings inspiration and joy to our family each week, and it's tremendous to see him grow as a student, athlete, and citizen.”
— Denise and Jim Wartinbee

