

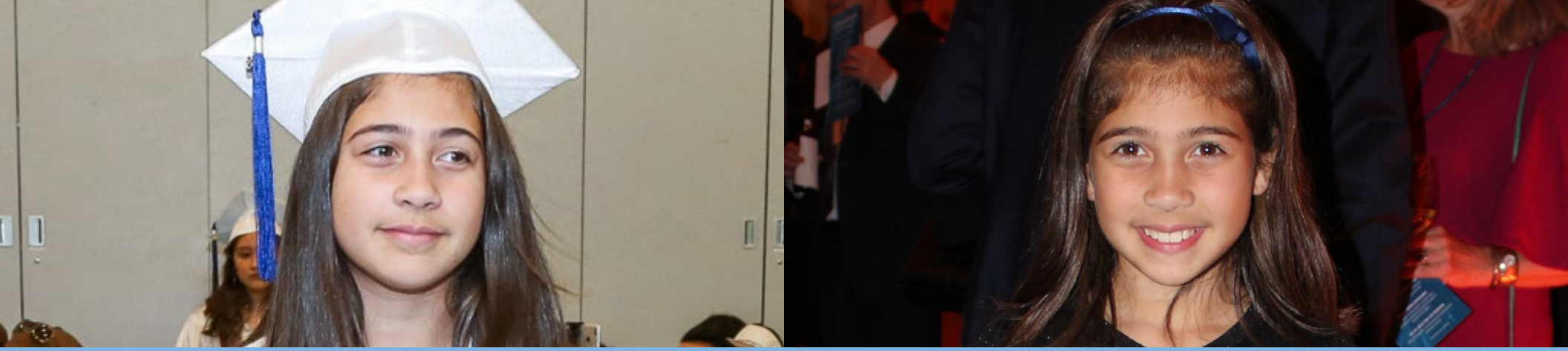
JENNIFER

**EHS CLASS OF 2018,
DREAM CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL 2022**

Jennifer is an elite soccer goalkeeper and plays for Uruguay's U-18 Team. But behind Jennifer's sunny disposition and contagious smile, there lies a remarkable life journey. Jennifer was born in New York after her father Hector moved from Melo, Uruguay to the United States in search of a better life. However, disaster struck when Jennifer's family home in the Bronx burned down when she was only 9-years-old. "We were going to bed when smoke started appearing under a door. The house was catching fire and we didn't have time to do anything," she told FIFA.com in near-perfect Spanish. "We were left in the street and they took us to a shelter where they help you to find a home. It takes some people years, but we left after only six months. We were really lucky," continued the goalkeeper.

Jennifer found an outlet at The East Harlem School in her poetry. She wrote and wrote and wrote about her family and her new home. Her poem, "Train Lullaby" was featured in the 2015 EHS Poetry Slam.





Our first day there,
The train knocked my dad's special box,
The one with the hummingbird on it,
The one he brought all the way from Uruguay,
Right off the shelf.
But we didn't care, we had a home.
After six months in a shelter,
A rumbling train wouldn't stop us,
From loving, loving our new apartment,
Even if it was louder than a herd of wildebeest,
Even if it woke us up every twenty five minutes.
All night long.
Lights in our eyes,
Bees in our ears.
It was ours, so we were happy.
-an excerpt from "Train Lullaby" by Jennifer Sosa, Grade 5

It was also at that time that Jennifer started playing soccer more seriously. It was a distraction from everything else that was going on in their lives. Her father posted photos and videos on a Facebook page, and the national Uruguayan team came calling. Since then, Jennifer has delicately balanced her education in New York City with her burgeoning soccer career in Uruguay, where she continues to play on their national team. Jennifer wants to be a professional footballer but she also wants to study architecture, "I like art, drawing, and building things, and football won't be forever."

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