

Santi

Class of 2024

From: Manhattan, New York

First Year at HM: 9th Grade

Favorite Classes: Impossible to answer, but if I had to pick a top three I'd chose: Directed Study in Photography (shoutout to Mr. Taylor!), US History, and Studies in Japanese.

Why HM?: I chose HM because of its warm community and because I found that the individuals in this school will push you to be your best self. HM has an incredible support network throughout the school; whether it is through teachers, counselors, upperclassmen, or peers, I have never felt alone during my time here. These same people encourage me to try my best at all times, whilst also supporting me when I need help. Teachers and students will go out of their way to help and support you. This encapsulates what I think HM is, a community of kind individuals that will always be there for you.

Activities: I am a three season varsity athlete in soccer and track, GO LIONS! I am a Horace Mann Orientation (HMO) Peer Leader, where I spend the fall of every year leading a class of freshmen to introduce them to high school life, and I am the president of our school's photography publication, *Exposure*. I am also a member of many other clubs such as the Latinx Advocacy Club and our sports publication, *For the Win*.

Out-of-School Activities: I am a classical guitarist. I have performed in locations from the Manhattan School of Music to isolated monasteries in the Camino de Santiago, Spain. I love this instrument and it has shaped me to become the person I am today.

Favorite Cafeteria Food: Do not be fooled by anybody else! The best food is easily the flank steak served with garlic potatoes.

