



Students in front of EHS in 2003

The East Harlem School

ALUMNI STORIES | VOLUME 3



FOR THREE DECADES AND COUNTING, THE EAST HARLEM SCHOOL HAS THRIVED ON THE STRENGTH OF ITS FAMILIES.

The EHS community grows richer with each new family that finds us on 103rd Street, and every year, we take pride in educating the children, siblings, and cousins of beloved alumni. We love learning about our former students' lives after EHS, and we are honored to share generations of alumni stories with you here.

LEFT: Ivan and EHS students gather in 2002

ZAMIR & ZENIA



ZAMIR

EHS 1996, Miss Hall's School 2000, Wells College 2004

ZENIA

EHS 1997, Miss Porter's School 2001, Cornell College 2006

Zamir and Zenia are two of EHS's first graduates. While they loved their classes—and the judo, tai chi, and mindfulness they practiced at school—it was the life lessons and close bonds with Ivan that have stuck with the pair the longest. "So much of who I am and how I see the world today was shaped during my time at EHS. Not only did I learn how to overcome adversity, I also learned it was just as important to embrace and learn from it," says Zenia. "Ivan cared a lot about all of his students, and the first graduating class had the privilege of a close, almost familial bond with him."

Zamir earned two master's degrees after college—one in forensic psychology and the other in social work—and lives with her daughter outside of Washington, D.C., where she teaches. Zenia works in cybersecurity and loves to travel; she has visited 18 countries and counting.



LEFT: Ivan with Zamir and Zenia at an EHS alumni party in December 2002.

RIGHT: Zenia visits Ivan at EHS in December 2022.

JASMINE ASHLEY & AMBER



JASMINE

EHS 2007, Miss Hall's School 2011, St. Lawrence University 2015

ASHLEY EHS 2009, Miss Hall's School 2013, Cazenovia College 2017

AMBER

EHS 2011, Young Women's Leadership School 2015, SUNY Oneonta 2019

Jasmine and Ashley began their time at EHS together, and their younger sister Amber joined them later, as a fifth grader. The sisters' favorite memories of EHS include advisory with Ivan and boarding school trips with Ms. Eagar and Ms. Alexander. They loved swimming at Asphalt Green every week, and Amber and Ashley each remember their sixth-grade camping trip in Massachusetts as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Jasmine is now the head of talent acquisition at Tobii Dynavox, a company with headquarters in Sweden, where she travels several times a year. She lives in Upstate New York with her husband and son, and expects her second baby in February. Ashley lives in New York City with her dog, Dash, while Amber works as a high school counselor on the Lower East Side. Amber also works as a photographer specializing in family, engagement, and wedding photography, and is getting married in May.



LEFT: Jasmine performing at the 2007 Poetry Slam, Ashley at her EHS graduation in 2009, and Amber at her EHS graduation in 2011.
RIGHT: Jasmine (left), Amber, and Ashley spend time together in New York City earlier this year.

JEFFREY & PERLA



JEFFREY

EHS 2012, The Putney School 2016, Fordham University 2020

PERLA

EHS 2013, Cristo Rey New York High School 2017
Bates College 2021

Perla recalls her brother Jeffrey rooting for her to make the lacrosse team in seventh grade, while Jeffrey remembers a winter's day in eighth grade, running outdoors with his classmates, when he found himself next to Perla—and knew that he and his sister would always stick together. The pair—known as “Jeffrey’s sister” and “Perla’s brother” in their time at EHS—have kept middle school friends and lessons close to their hearts since graduating.

Jeffrey and Perla each earned undergraduate film degrees before moving to Los Angeles, where they’ve lived together for two years. Jeffrey works in business affairs at a production company, and hopes to work on the creative side of film production in the coming years. Perla does freelance modeling and production work, and is developing a wellness company with a friend. She is writing a memoir in her spare time.



LEFT: Perla and Jeffrey in Los Angeles in May. RIGHT: Perla and Jeffrey at EHS lacrosse practice on Randall's Island in 2012.



AISSATOU AMINATA & MARIAM

AISSATOU

EHS 2013, St. Jean Baptiste High School 2017, New York University 2021, American University's Washington College of Law 2025

AMINATA

EHS 2019, St. Jean Baptiste High School 2023, New York University 2027

MARIAM EHS 2023, St. Jean Baptiste High School 2027

Aissatou has fond memories of all her EHS teachers, but holds a special place in her heart for Chef Jonah and Ms. Rosa, whom she often helped in the kitchen. She went on to attend high school and college in New York City, receiving her bachelor's degree in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies from NYU—where she also studied Korean and picked up taekwondo. Aissatou is now a second-year law student in Washington, D.C., and works as a gate agent for Delta. Aminata just started at NYU's College of Arts & Science, where she is a member of the African Students Union. She, too, plans to go to law school someday.

Mariam graduated from EHS in June and returns to 103rd Street weekly as a volunteer tutor. Mariam's favorite EHS memories include playoff soccer and lacrosse games, and she will continue her athletic career in high school as a basketball and flag football player.

LEFT: Aissatou, Aminata, and Mariam at their EHS graduations in 2013, 2019, and 2023, respectively.

ARMANDO NICOLE & AMIR



ARMANDO

EHS 2014, Cardinal Hayes 2018, College of Mount Saint Vincent 2022

NICOLE

EHS 2018, Cristo Rey New York High School 2022, St. Michael's College 2026

AMIR EHS 2022, Cristo Rey New York High School 2026

Armando started at EHS in 2010, and when it came time for Nicole and Amir to start middle school, there was no question as to whether they would follow in their older brother's footsteps. The siblings feel grateful for the exposure to new sports that EHS provided, and especially loved lacrosse. Nicole wishes that she could have attended EHS for high school, noting she loved attending Cristo Rey with many of her fellow EHS alumni because "it felt like home."

Armando now works in human resources at Weill Cornell Medicine, while Nicole is majoring in health science with plans to become a nurse. Amir, a high school sophomore, is interested in a career in law enforcement.



LEFT: Nicole (left), Armando, Ivan, and Amir at Amir's EHS graduation.

RIGHT: Nicole (left), Armando, and Amir at Armando's college graduation; Armando (left), Nicole, and Amir at Nicole's graduation from Cristo Rey.



ANIYAH & MAKAYLA

ANIYAH

EHS 2015, Cathedral High School 2019, College of Staten Island

MAKAYLA

EHS 2018, Cathedral High School 2022, South Carolina State University 2026

Despite being four years apart in age, Aniyah and Makayla shared similar experiences at EHS. They both reflect back upon their eighth-grade West Virginia trips as among their favorite middle school memories.

Aniyah loved the annual Thanksgiving potluck that brought together her classmates and their families, and Makayla fondly remembers seventh-grade advisory with Ivan.

EHS instilled in both sisters a commitment to public service; Makayla has been a 911 operator for two years, and Aniyah will soon complete training to become one as well.



LEFT: Aniyah (left) and Makayla (right) attend a birthday party with their parents.
RIGHT: Aniyah at her EHS graduation in 2015; Makayla at her EHS graduation in 2018.

JEREMIAH AUTUMN & BROOKE LYNN



JEREMIAH

EHS 2018, Urban Academy Laboratory High School 2022,
Delaware State University 2027

AUTUMN

EHS 2022, Urban Academy Laboratory High School 2026

BROOKE LYNN EHS 2027

Brooke Lynn grew up hearing how fun school was from her older siblings each day as they came home from middle school. Jeremiah loved his eighth-grade West Virginia trip and circle with Ivan in his time at EHS, and he is now studying to be a pilot. Autumn has fond memories of EHS sports and eighth-grade field trips to Ellis Island and a high ropes course upstate.

A lifelong visual, musical, and performing artist, Autumn reports, "I still draw and play guitar, but I'm starting to focus on my acting and singing a little bit more!" Brooke Lynn says that Autumn has always taught her how to do the things she loves, and that she learned to play the ukulele and piano from her older sister. At EHS, Brooke Lynn loves refining her acting skills and writing her own scripts in drama class.



LEFT: Jeremiah at his EHS graduation in 2018, Autumn at the Poetry Slam in 2022, and Brooke Lynn at frolic in 2023.
RIGHT: Autumn and Jeremiah hold their baby sister, Brooke Lynn, in 2014.

ANA ROSA APRIL & RAFAEL



ANA ROSA EHS 2019, George School 2023, Cornell University 2027

APRIL EHS 2022, George School 2026

RAFAEL EHS 2026

Sisters Ana Rosa and April each made the leap from the EHS Warriors to the George School Cougars, overlapping for one year at boarding school—where they danced and competed together twice as members of the cheer team. Their younger brother Rafael is a sixth grader at EHS, where he loves art and math class. Asked about his sisters, Rafael says, “April made a lot of her classmates laugh. I do that too.” He adds, “Ana Rosa was very smart in class.”

Ana Rosa, meanwhile, remembers loving trips to museums around New York as an EHS student, as well as her eighth-grade backpacking trip in West Virginia. Now a freshman at Cornell, Ana Rosa studies global and public health and is currently applying to clubs including GlobeMed and the Mexican Students Association. April, who has particularly fond memories of her eighth-grade humanities class, is a high school sophomore and loves working with ceramics.



LEFT: Ana Rosa at frolic in 2019, April at her EHS graduation in 2022, and Rafael performing at the Poetry Slam in 2023.
RIGHT: Ana Rosa (left) and April overlapped for one year at the George School, where they did competitive cheer together.

RYANNA & RYGEL



RYANNA EHS 2021, Brooklyn Technical High School 2025

RYGEL EHS 2022, Brooklyn Technical High School 2026

One year apart, Ryanna and Rygel attended EHS together, and now both siblings go to Brooklyn Tech. Reminiscing about his middle school days, Rygel says his favorite memories include seventh-grade advisory with Ivan, Chef Jonah's desserts at lunch each Thursday, being on the lacrosse team, and visiting a high ropes course with his classmates in eighth grade. Now a high school sophomore, Rygel enjoys fencing for his school's team, and practicing boxing, taekwondo, and wrestling on the side. He is looking into majoring in either law and society or finance, and will decide by the end of this school year.

Ryanna, a junior in high school, is a biological sciences major. Her hobbies include reading and folding origami.



LEFT: Ryanna and Rygel prepare to record their poems together for the 2021 Poetry Slam film.
RIGHT: Rygel and Ryanna's family comes together to celebrate their parents' anniversary in September 2023; Rygel (middle) prepares to take on a ropes course with EHS classmates Zanai and Dean in 2021.



Alumni from the classes of 2019 and 2020 came back to EHS as teachers and teaching assistants this past July.
 TOP, from left: Itzel '19, Frida '19, Gracia '19, Andrea '20, Jaell '20, Corelle '20. BOTTOM: Fernando '19, Ken '19, Steven '19.



Current fifth grader Alex with his big sister, recent graduate Diana (EHS '23, Cathedral High School '27).



OUR MISSION

The East Harlem School challenges students to develop a balanced physical, moral, and intellectual strength that they will use to adapt to change - and for the final purpose of creating and sharing lives of deep meaning, dynamic virtue, and transcendent joy. We are a middle school (grades 4-8) that recruits children from families with low income and the highest values, and we give preference to those who keep to the traditional belief that creative flight can only be sustained by grounded discipline.



To keep up with The East Harlem School and our alumni, follow us on Instagram: [@eastharlemschool](#) + [@ehs.alumni](#)

LEFT: Our newest alumni celebrate their EHS graduation in June

The East Harlem School

A T E X O D U S H O U S E

