



Blair smiles in front of EHS in 2003.

The East Harlem School

ALUMNI STORIES | VOLUME 2



**THE EAST HARLEM SCHOOL IS
PROUD TO HAVE GRADUATED
HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS OVER
THE LAST THREE DECADES.**

After graduation, alumni return regularly to 103rd Street, a true testament to the impact that the School continues to have. We love hearing about our former students' beautiful and fulfilled lives, and it brings us great joy to share them with you here.

LEFT: Ivan, Dede Brooks, and EHS students gather in 2002.



EVELYN

EHS 2013,
Columbia Secondary School 2017,
Ithaca College 2022

Evelyn's graduating class voted her "Most Likely to Teach at EHS" in their yearbook superlatives, and they were right: Evelyn returned to her EHS roots during her final semester at Ithaca College, and she now works full-time in our Office of Admissions and High School Placement in addition to coaching girls' soccer.

ABOVE: Evelyn performs her poem at the 2013 Poetry Slam. RIGHT: Evelyn coaches an EHS soccer game this fall with her brother Dylan, EHS '27, by her side.





BLAIR

EHS 2003, Miss Porter's School 2007,
Clark University 2011 (BA) and 2012 (MA)

Blair lives in London, where she works at the talent management and brand partnerships agency she cofounded. She travels frequently, having recently visited the Netherlands, Greece, and Portugal. Her best friend is her brother Barry, EHS '04. They will spend Thanksgiving together in Los Angeles this year.

ABOVE: Blair attends her Brooks Fellowship orientation in 2006. RIGHT: Blair works at the agency she co-owns in London.





JOHNNY

EHS 1998, Salisbury School 2002,
City College of New York 2007,
John Jay College 2024

One of the first graduates of EHS, Johnny is a sergeant with the New York Police Department. He recently transferred to the 23rd Precinct, where he now protects parts of East Harlem, including The East Harlem School. He is married with four children. When asked to reflect on his time at EHS, Johnny said, "EHS saved me."

ABOVE: Johnny graduates from police academy in 2008. RIGHT: Johnny attends the groundbreaking ceremony for EHS's new building in 2006, alongside his grandmother and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.





KELLY

EHS 2008, Darrow School 2012,
West Texas A&M University 2017

Kelly works for NASA as a social media specialist, combining her passions for astronomy, education, and people. She just purchased her first home, where she lives with her two dogs.

ABOVE: Kelly poses at the Pentagon on a 2007 EHS field trip to Washington, D.C.
RIGHT: Kelly reps EHS while posing at the NASA offices.





LUIS

EHS 2016, Suffield Academy 2020,
Wesleyan University 2024

Luis earned a scholarship to Wesleyan University, where he wrestles on the varsity team and majors in both biology and environmental studies. In April 2022, he was named to the New England Wrestling Association All-Academic Team. Luis works in IT on campus at Wesleyan, supporting classroom technology and campus network services.

ABOVE: Luis performs his poem at the 2016 Poetry Slam. RIGHT: Luis wears his Wesleyan wrestling pride on his chest.





ITZEL

EHS 2019,

Cristo Rey New York High School 2023

As Itzel's high school years come to a close, she continues to nurture her passions for photography, cinematography, and journalism. Having completed pre-college courses in Italy as well as virtual journalism classes through Boston University over the summer, Itzel is currently working on a documentary at the Bronx Documentary Center.

ABOVE: Itzel performs her poem at the 2017 Poetry Slam. RIGHT: Itzel takes a day trip to Florence during her summer in Italy.





BRIANNA

EHS 2017, Beacon High School 2021,
Temple University 2025

"EHS helped me establish early in life what and who I wanted to be in life, and how I wanted to be seen," says Brianna. Brianna attended high school here in New York, and is now a sophomore and dance major at Temple University in Philadelphia. She hopes to join a dance company like Alvin Ailey once she graduates college.

ABOVE: Brianna walks at her EHS graduation in 2017. RIGHT: Brianna performs "Snow" from The Nutcracker at the Dance Theatre of Harlem.





PASCAL

EHS 2006, Beacon High School 2010,
Cornell University 2014

Born in Haiti and a lifelong soccer player, Pascal plays in several leagues in New York City. He loves to travel and frequently visits his soccer teammates from Cornell. Later this year, he will travel to Guadeloupe and Australia. EHS gave him the confidence to step outside of his comfort zone, and he recently began performing stand-up comedy in his free time.

ABOVE: Pascal interviews at high schools in 2005. RIGHT: Pascal emcees EHS's 2017 benefit.





ARELIS

EHS 2012, Young Women's Leadership
School 2016, St. Lawrence University 2020

A lover of sports since her EHS lacrosse days, Arelis joined a squash program in high school that led her to St. Lawrence University. Arelis went on to study Chinese in college, spend a semester with a homestay family in Shanghai, and major in global studies. Now she works in passenger services at JFK and continues to broaden her horizons each day.

ABOVE: Arelis attends EHS's 2011 benefit. RIGHT: Arelis enjoys the view from the Great Wall of China during her semester abroad in college.





DENISE

EHS 2016, Cristo Rey New York

High School 2020, Fordham University 2024

Denise is a junior at Fordham University, where she is pursuing a bachelor's of science in psychology. A camp counselor and teaching assistant over the summer, Denise enjoys working with kids, and plans to become a child psychologist or marriage and family therapist after completing her undergraduate degree and a master's degree in psychology.

ABOVE: Denise attends EHS's 2015 benefit. RIGHT: Denise and her friends cheer for Fordham at their opening football game this year.





ILIANA

EHS 2011, Taft School 2015, Wellesley
College 2019, Rutgers University 2023

A graduate student in English and visual culture at Rutgers University, Iliana focuses on the Anglophone Caribbean, where her family is from. She is a programs coordinator for the Association of Museum Curators and ultimately hopes to create a center that will respond to and highlight Caribbeans' artistic and cultural contributions to the United States.

ABOVE: Iliana hikes in West Virginia during her eighth grade field trip. RIGHT: Iliana visits the Frida Kahlo Museum in Mexico City.





BRANDON

EHS 2013, Edward A. Reynolds West Side
High School 2017, Long Beach Community
College 2022

Brandon recently graduated from college with a psychology degree and currently works with foster youth facing addiction and mental health issues in Los Angeles. He plans to pursue a master's degree in social work, and he models on the side!

ABOVE: Brandon walks at his EHS graduation in 2013. RIGHT: Brandon visits Nevada's Hoover Dam this October.





DEANNA

EHS 2002, Manhattan Village Academy
2006, Bronx Community College 2019

Deanna is the administrative manager of Mount Sinai's Dubin Breast Center, where she manages over 30 employees. In addition to her work at Mount Sinai, she owns an events company and specializes in custom desserts and charcuterie boards. Deanna is married with two sons.

ABOVE: Deanna attends a holiday party for EHS alumni in 2002. RIGHT: Deanna celebrates her birthday in New York.





RAJAB

EHS 2008, Deerfield Academy 2012,
Rochester Institute of Technology 2016,
Michigan State University 2023

Rajab, committed to pursuing a science career since attending EHS, completed a fellowship in integrative pharmacological sciences as part of a PhD program at Michigan State University. This spring he will complete two PhDs, one in comparative medicine and integrative biology and the other in microbiology and molecular genetics.

ABOVE: Rajab enjoys a visit from EHS in his first semester at Deerfield, in 2008.
RIGHT: Rajab poses in his lab coat at Michigan State University.





JELENE

EHS 2020, Dana Hall School 2024

Jelene is in her junior year at Dana Hall, where she plays soccer in the fall and lacrosse in the spring, and helps manage the basketball team in the winter. When she's not being an athlete, she's an artist: Jelene loves photography, and is currently enrolled in an art class where she's conceiving and designing her own projects.

ABOVE: Jelene works on a group project in her eighth grade science class. RIGHT: Jelene plays defense on the Dana Hall soccer team.





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.

For more EHS Alumni stories, please visit
www.eastharlemschool.org/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

