

# Cassandra

## Class of 2025

**From:** The Bronx (Riverdale)

**First Year at HM:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Why HM?:** HM has a strong community of unique and complex individuals that create a caring community while praising individual achievement. Throughout my time at HM I have built an identity for myself and found places where I can shine, whether that be in the ceramics studio, recording my podcast, or in English class. No matter what my interests are there is always someone who shares them and a place where I belong on campus.



**Favorite Classes:** I have loved almost every class that I have taken during my time here at Horace Mann. But my favorites would have to be Latin American History where I got to explore the culture of my people and see a different perspective to history.

**On Campus Activities:** I write for publications such as the *Manntra*, for mental health and wellness, and *Psychology Matters*. I also run *Excelsior* for the past 3 years, a podcast dedicated to reviewing and critiquing new comic book movies and TV shows. I am also a leader of the Latinx Advocacy club which is dedicated to connecting the Latin faces in our community and organizing activities to celebrate our identities.

**Favorite HM Event:** Unity Week, a week-long program filled with various workshops dedicated to promoting inclusion and diversity in the Upper Division. Students and teachers host workshops with different activities that provoke conversations of inclusion and an understanding of different communities and cultures.

**Best Food at the International Food Festival:** (My mom's) Arroz con Gandules (Puerto Rican yellow rice with pigeon peas).