

THE YEAR OF FIRSTS FOR EMNRBS

THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF A NEW SCHOOL



Photo Courtesy of Emma Alvarado

A Four-Year Student's Perspective

By Emma Alvarado

BRONX - As Earl Monroe High School approaches 2025, we embark on a special graduation which will go down in history. Class of 2025 is the first graduating class from Earl Monroe. As we get closer to this date, we want to highlight some of the special students in this school and what they are doing. We will conduct interviews with Ayden Chin-Edwards and Cliff Cooper. These interviews will let you know of some of the phenomenal things students are doing outside of school, and show how remarkable the students of Earl Monroe can be.

To begin, Cliff Cooper is an Earl Monroe senior who has been at this school for all his four years. He is a versatile scholar, with interest in music, athleticism, mixed martial arts, and teaching. While academically he may not stand out, when it comes to outside of school he is up to a lot. Although Cooper hopes to be top of his (Continued on Page 3)



Fresh Drops from Carti, "IAMMUSIC" Album Cover by Christian V. The Weekend (Finally!)

By Jayden Martinez

BRONX - Famous artists Playboi Carti and The Weeknd are rolling out their new and upcoming albums, "IAMMUSIC" and "Hurry Up Tomorrow." The last time Playboi Carti dropped was his album "Whole Lotta Red" on December 25, 2020. Carti recently dropped a single named "ALL RED" on September 13th. When asked about his album, he stated it will be out before the end of the year. This is Carti's first album since "Whole Lotta Red," nearing five years of silence.

NBA teams like the Philadelphia 76ers, Brooklyn Nets and the Orlando Magic have been posting on social media advertising Carti and his album. Not only that, Carti has uploaded a website sponsoring the release of his album and merch for it, stating IAMMUSIC will be releasing within 6 months before April 2025. (With this information, we can assume that IAMMUSIC is dropping between October 2024 and April 2025).

(Continued on Page 2)

New Era, New Opportunities

The JV Basketball Team’s Fourth Season Will Be a Proving Ground



Photo Courtesy of EMNRBS Instagram
By Edem Messanh

BRONX - At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, head coach Jared Rivers had to make a tough decision about Earl Monroe High's Junior Varsity basketball team, whether it was new coaching staff, players, and managing staff. Coach Rivers was able to recruit security guard and former starting Point guard at Cardinal Hayes high school assistant Coach Baron to bring the dream of a JV basketball championship.

Last season Coach Jared and his group of young knights were able to get the job done all the way through making it to the state championship, while playing both a JV schedule and a varsity schedule. Unfortunately, they were never able to go all the way and bring the desired trophies back home after losing to Our Savior Lutheran by one point and Success Academy Harlem by two points.

Coach Jared had to go back to the lab and create a new group of young knights that could hold the title of first ever JV basketball team at Earl Monroe High to win a state championship. Coach Jared narrowed down his group and decided on. He picked up starting floor general from last season, sophomore Elijah Washington and sharpshooter Ahmaree Byrd. Included in the new group is an impressive roster of ten sophomores (Brandon Bligen, Daniel Bediako, Hector Sosa, Jayden Manhe, Jayden Finikin, Reiny Ortiz jr, Edem Messanh, Ugochukwu Eddie-Nkwoh, and Kasseam Harris) and two freshmen (Brandyn McQueen, Nevillon Fung Jr).

This season Coach Jared is looking to improve his program to new heights, not only on the basketball court but most importantly in the class, asking high performance in his players' five core classes throughout a lengthy ten month school year. New rules and regulations to play include classroom requirements where student-athletes must maintain a 2.5 GPA by the end of first semester, or they will not be allowed to play or participate in team practices.

Unlike last year, this new group of young knights are unfamiliar with playing in a four-out-one in motion offense. Being a part of a winning culture at Earl Monroe High, this season is a statement to all of the Earl Monroe fans that not only can Coach Jared lead a group of young Knights to a state championship, but for the new JV players to show that they have what it takes.

New Music (continued from page 1)

Everyone's opinions differ, but the general basis for Cartis' new album is that it is going to be his best piece of work yet. Carti has taken multiple approaches on music since 2020, from trying new voices, new flows, different music genres and rotating between new producers to see which style fits best, making sure his album is perfected down to a tee. In my opinion, that is what makes Playboi Carti great, he never stops experimenting.

As for The Weeknd, he is planning to drop his album in 2024 as well, within the next 3 months or so. "Hurry Up Tomorrow" completes the trilogy of albums starting with After Hours (released on March 20, 2020) and Dawn FM (January 7, 2022.) "Hurry Up Tomorrow" has thirty songs on the track list, with a total playtime of an hour and 44 minutes. The Weeknd performed seven out of the thirty songs so far on tour, building up anticipation for his album. The songs previewed are all the same but what'd you expect from The Weeknd. The songs are not in the clearest quality yet, but off raw concert vocals you can tell that "Hurry Up Tomorrow" is going to be another melodic album where The Weeknd reaches out to the viewer with his music and connect with them emotionally, to achieve that certain level of passion and theme that R&B Soul albums have. If you like "Voodoo" by D'Angelo, you are definitely going to enjoy "Hurry Up Tomorrow" by The Weeknd.

What are you looking forward to the most coming the end of year 2024 for music?
Email me at jmartinez26@earlmonroeschool.org

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The Brilliance of Anime

Why The Artform Should be Your Next Binge

By Denzel Amaniampong
BRONX - Anime is a style of animation that originated in Japan and is known for its expressive characters, action-packed plots, and colorful graphics. The word "anime" is a shortened version of the Japanese word animēshon, which means "animation".

Anime is basically a Japanese version of American cartoons like Batman, Superman, and Avatar. Shows like Pokemon, Dragonball, Naruto Shippuden, and Yugioh fit into this genre.

Anime is Japanese animation made into a masterclass style that involves types of anime, including Shonen, Shojo, Seinen, Josei, and Kodomomuke, each of which is focused on a specific target audience.

During my interview with the owner of Collector's Cave (near Earl Monroe, who wishes to be known as Samson), I was told a ton of cool things about what anime means to him and why he thinks people should get into it, as well as comics. Here are his thoughts about anime.

Samson: "Well to me anime is an awesome genre, that to me is even better than comics or equal to them honestly."

"Anime to me is something special made from the Japanese (laughs) that has affected my life deeply as a child, I was able to experience and watch many shows like Dragon Ball Z (a classic), Naruto Shippuden (another timeless classic), YuYu Hakusho, and some others that I forgot at the moment but best believe that even though they may be dated they are all incredible shows, even the ones my sister watched like Sailor Moon!"



Courtesy of Dragonball Wiki

"You asked me why I think people should watch anime right? Well my answer to that would be this: You should watch anime because it gives you a masterclass different perspective of watching shows. It is fun, exciting, at times sad but in memorable ways. Romantic shows (which is usually more of my sister's thing but you know), and yeah it's just an awesome piece of entertainment that everybody can enjoy. From every age group excluding babies of course," Samson says. What animes do you suggest, Earl Monroe?

Year of Firsts

(continued from page 1)

class, he recognizes that his legacy will be happening in his extracurriculars.

Q: How is school going for you? Describe how school has been a part of your journey?

A: School is fine. My journey here has been very interesting, I have learned a lot about people, myself, and just about things in life. I have gone through a lot.

Q: What is something you're passionate about?

A: My biggest passion is MMA, the reason why is because it is the reason I am who I am. Around sophomore year I went through a lot of mental changes and what drove me was MMA. Everything about it drives me to the happiness

with people I meet, teaching others, and many other things. I was hanging out with my friends who were sparring. I didn't know anything about it but decided to try it. From there I felt a big spark that drove me to try it. I started going to his local dojo and fell in love. From my discipline to the martial arts. Everything was a passion.

A: My passion is being able to take care of my family and circle. I am looking to strive to be successful so I can do this. I believe that if I keep doing what I need to do I will have a bright future and be able to take care of everybody. I want to give back to my family because of how much they have sacrificed for me and I want to give back.

Q: What do you want to do in the future?

A: In the future I want to open up to be a future UFC champion and to open up my own gym or dojo to train the next generation. I also want to

expand, maybe being an entrepreneur who owns different businesses and marketing or maybe get into music. But I want to become known through this sport to make the rest easier.

A: I want to professionally play basketball, maybe not in the NBA but maybe overseas or at a lower level. I want to go to college for 4 years and if basketball doesn't work I want to work in a NBA related job like as an accountant or managing money. Also being a physical therapist I would be happy doing that.

A: My relationships with the right people are very special because I like having connections with people, family, and god in order to succeed and be able to go to them if anything.

This interview only catches one of the many special students at Earl Monroe High School. We will continue to open up to highlight how phenomenal these students can be and the special things they're doing and where they come from.

Written for The Dwyer

The Orange Emblem

A Stand Against Gun Violence at Earl Monroe Shooting Victims Over Ten-Year Period in 41st Precinct

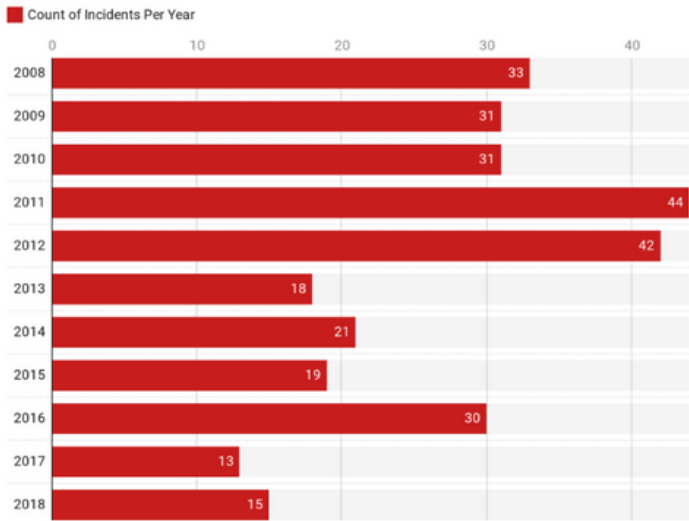


Chart: David M Cruz • Created with Databwrapper

By Elijah Torres

BRONX - Since our first days here at Earl Monroe, we have continuously broken barriers that no inner-city school has accomplished. From starting our own business and collaborating with Centric Brands to printing our first-ever student-run newspaper, Dan Klores - our school founder - has brought plenty of opportunities to us that you won't find in any other school. However, there is an essential part of our

identity that is often overlooked by many: the orange emblem on our uniforms. The orange emblem is synonymous with the image of Earl Monroe High.

The story behind the orange rectangle all starts with a 15-year-old girl. In January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was having a normal day when suddenly she was fatally wounded and killed in South Side Chicago in gunfire. Just the week before, Hadiya performed in former president Barack Obama's Second Inauguration ceremony. The news of her death quickly made national news, as Michelle Obama attended her funeral. This jump-started a movement that, to this day, continues to advocate for the end of gun violence in The United States. "Orange is basically the color hunters wear to signal to other hunters not to shoot them. So that's why we're wearing it - to say, 'Don't shoot me,'" Ayisha Stanley, a student and organizer for the Project Orange Tree anti-violence

"Orange is basically the color hunters wear to signal to other hunters not to shoot them. So that's why we are wearing it."

Ayisha Stanley, student and Organizer for Project Orange Tree

campaign, told DNAinfo in 2013. The reason why we wear the orange emblem on our uniforms is to commemorate those who have fallen to the harm of firearms within our community.

You see, with many of us coming from the lower-income areas of the Bronx, we are often exposed to many mature things that can shape the way we live our lives; which in turn shape our futures. We hope to change that with one orange patch.

Written for The Dwyer

Poetry Corner

When The Leaf Falls

By Infinity Cortijo

When the leaf falls apart
It's transforming into a
Monday
Its gloomy and cold inside
Never outside but like lonely
tree, can't show cant feel
Conceal, my thoughts of
leaving
Leaf

When the leaf falls apart
Compromising with my mom
but I'm talking to the back of
her head
Play blind as I try and follow
the herd
Black sheep get used for wool
Fall

When the leaf falls apart
Sacrificing myself everyday
to live another sunrise
Hearing my name in a funeral
won't be so bad
However hearing my name in Hell
pities me
Apart

When the leaf falls apart
Words full of rain
Storms full of prayers
Writing in pain
Losing myself, losing thin air
I wonder just one question is
When

When will this leaf rise?

My name is Infinity Cortijo and I wrote this poem. This Poem When The Leaf Fall Apart talks about suicide. Suicide is becoming more common in teens. You never know who is sitting right next to you writing a goodbye letter. As a teen I have heard so many stories about different people wanting to leave this world, however, I would like to recommend any trusted adult or guidance counselor. Please do not be ashamed of this topic nor keep it a secret. Since it is Suicide Prevention Month I hope you enjoy my poem. A letter to the people that feel this way: your worth life and life will get better the more you live it. Hardships only make you stronger as a person. You are loved, you are not alone, remember that.

All Gas No Brakes

Earl Monroe's Volleyball Team Kicks off Season



By Edem Messanh

BRONX - Going into the 2024-2025 Women's Volleyball season, Head Coach Ouattara (chemistry teacher) and assistant Coach Gomez (Spanish 2) have taken this year to a strong start. They have been doing interest meetings, tryouts during the summer, consistent practices, team meetings, and team bonding experiences.

This new group of girls (ten new student-athletes, twelve returning) are taking their catch phrase ALL GAS NO BRAKES to a whole new level. With the prior knowledge of volleyball knowledge that both brilliant coaches bring to the table, the girls volleyball team is ready to take their

game to a whole new level, being super stars on the court and in the classroom.

This new roster of girls is made of five freshmen, five sophomore, five juniors, six seniors. New assistant Coach Gomez is looking to build off of the success they had last year.

After going 9-9 and losing in what was a must win game to qualify for the playoffs, the lady knights sadly dropped the game to Law & Science High school. With the exit of former co-head coach Ms. Vanessa.

Coach Ouattara took this season personally with her consistency at her coaching job. She was able to get the girls to have a full try out the first week of school, and start

practicing before the second week of school.

The lady knights' goal this season is to bring women's sports outside of basketball at Earl Monroe High to brand new heights. They aim to be the first ever girls volleyball team at Earl Monroe High, the first to bring back home a championship before stepping foot into the new building.

This season coach Ouattara & Coach Gomez are expecting nothing but growth and success, having contracts in place for the girls on the team to over a 2.5 GPA and consistent study halls. This extraordinary group of girls can take the phrase student-athlete and make it something special by focusing on being a model student first than being a superstar on the court second.

The Triple Double

Can The Basketball Team Go for Four?

By Keyahn Schand

BRONX - The Earl Monroe New Renaissance basketball program had an impressive 23-24 season, achieving three championship runs while showcasing dominance throughout the playoffs. This included the Boys JV, Boys Varsity, and Girls Varsity teams, with both varsity squads ultimately securing two titles. The boys team triumphed over the CSEE Owls with a remarkable 40-point victory in the state championship. I had the opportunity to speak with Devin James, a four-year starting point guard and the leading scorer in the playoffs. When I inquired about the requirements for success, he stated, "We had to leverage our teammates' strengths to our advantage, collaborate effectively, and execute our game plans with maximum effort."

The Knights' girls team also demonstrated resilience, overcoming The Renaissance Charter High School with a nine-point victory. I spoke with Kyasia Kinsey, a varsity starter and junior, who shared her thoughts on the championship run, saying, "the best part was working together and witnessing the joy on my teammates faces. We put in the hard work, and we earned this." She further expressed her long standing aspiration, stating, "becoming a state champion in high school has been my dream since I first started playing basketball."

Conversely, the JV boys faced a narrow defeat against Success Academy, losing by just two points. Despite this setback, they celebrated the achievements of their peers with pride. I interviewed head coach Jared Rivers about the close loss, to which he responded, "It feels good. It's Junior Varsity; it was a mental game and a life lesson. This experience shows that the most talented team doesn't always win. It was a blessing, and I hope they learned from it."

As a school, we must not linger on last year's successes, instead, let us focus on how the team is currently performing and the updates on the roster!

Look forward to their next coming matchup by checking the schedule on the EMNRBS instagram and website!

Written for The Dwyer



The Gym's Splash of Art

Students Commissioned to Design Mural for Earl Monroe By Melanie Sonilal

Emma Alvarado and Melanie Sonilal, two talented student-artists, were recruited by Earl Monroe High School's founder, Dan Klores, to create a mural that characterized the school's message. The school's message encourages career paths that stem from basketball. Those career paths range from broadcasting, financing, graphic designing, careers stretching far and wide to fit anyone's interest for career choice. That is the purpose of Earl Monroe High School. To find a career for every student within basketball.

The process of making the mural was not a straight path for the two students. "I think it was a bumpy road. There were a lot of remakes, drafts, and setbacks when creating the mural," said Alvarado. The first ever draft for the mural was a complicated design. One that was overall dedicated to the career paths within basketball. The setting took place in a park with different career paths, being represented by people, having a peaceful moment in the park. Careers ranging in financing, business, artists, and even down to players within basketball.

However, this draft was immediately discarded because it did not fit the founder's expectation for the school. It did not fit around basketball enough to fit for the school. The second draft was more acceptable.

The overall process took over the span of one year, going back and forth between altering design choices to fit the criteria of the founder. When finally revealing it to the student body of Earl Monroe High School there were some opinions on the mural.

Q. What was your initial reaction to the mural when it was revealed?

A. Yaeli Batista (Senior): "It was very pretty and the colors were very vibrant and cohesive. I also like that they added different parts of the school community."

A. Ashly (Sophomore): "I thought it was beautifully drawn and showed the different subjects in this school."

Q. Do you think it represents the school's moral code of different career paths within Basketball?

A. Yaeli Batista (Senior): "Yes, it shows us how many different parts in and outside of basketball are incorporated in our school community and how it unites us as a school."

A. Ashly (Sophomore): "Yes, it represents the different career paths this school can guide you towards."

Q. Would you have designed it differently if given the opportunity?

A. Yaeli Batista (Senior): "Definitely not, the way this moral was done was amazing. Everything made sense and looked Amazing all together. There can't be a better version of this mural."

A. Ashly (Sophomore): "Honestly no, I think it was perfectly drawn. It was simple and clear as well as beautiful."

If you want to see the mural, you can see it in the gymnasium.

Written for The Dwyer