Our Mission
Saint Martin de Porres Academy is a faith-based, NativityMiguel middle school that provides a tuition-free, extended day education for underserved girls and boys from low-income families in the New Haven area. We are an independent Catholic school committed to a belief in the dignity and worth of every person. We strive to provide each child with a promising start in life and to equip them to fulfill their academic potential while achieving spiritual and social maturity. We welcome children of all faiths, races and cultures.

“<span“It’s a small school and you interact with everyone, which I just love. You know when you come in, Ms. Rivera will be at the door to hug you. I know I will not have someone at the door hugging me next year, asking me how my weekend was. Being part of the SMPA family means a lot. It is knowing that someone will be there to guide you and support you, but also that you have the chance of supporting others.”</span>  
– Azucena, Class of 2022

Save the Dates for 2019

Spring Fling Gala  
Thursday, March 28, 2019  
Woodwinds  
Branford, CT

Golf-Fore-Kids  
Monday, October 7, 2019  
Great River Golf Club  
Milford, CT

Ending the Cycle of Poverty through Education and Opportunity
Joyful & Rigorous Classroom Learning
SMPA middle school students are in school 50% more time than their public school peers, because that’s what it takes to prepare economically disadvantaged students for successful lives. We combine the experience of long-time educators with the energy of young AmeriCorps Fellows, placing two adults in each class of approximately 16.

Lessons incorporate hands-on learning activities and each child is expected to participate actively in class discussions. This model provides the challenge, support and encouragement students need. They begin to see themselves as students who can tackle academic challenges and can ask for help when needed.

Our curriculum is student centered and rich in fostering the foundational 21st century skills of communication, collaboration and critical thinking. In grades 7 and 8 students are introduced to higher education, learning a vocabulary that can seem mysterious to those who have no experience with college.

Meetings of teachers with the Principal and Social / Emotional Support Team provide time to develop targeted strategies to meet students’ individual needs. Our focus on each individual child has powerful results.

New Opportunities, Growing Confidence
SMPA students participate in a broad variety of athletic programming, arts, technical and service clubs while learning to play at least one musical instrument. They especially love the field trips that introduce them to new environments. They relish these new experiences, which require them to practice the skills necessary for working as a team or an ensemble. Each child discovers and develops unique talents and interests. In many ways these experiences are as important as academic skills because they build confidence and motivation. Students who are actively engaged know themselves better and make friends more easily. They develop responsibility and understand the importance of being a reliable contributor.

“Middle school is a time of transformation, a time when the ground is fertile. We are planting billions of seeds that will continue to grow and bloom throughout our students’ lives.”
—Allison Rivera, President

97% daily attendance
98% year-to-year retention
99% high school graduation
100% college acceptance

89% of SMPA high school students come back for evening study
100% college acceptance rate
Over $500K secured in college financial aid & scholarships

100% of SMPA Students
• Play one or more musical instruments and at least one sport
• Attend many cultural offerings including museums, historical sites, symphony, choral and theater productions
• Shadow students at area college-prep high schools
• Spend a week living, working and learning at a dairy farm in Vermont
• Write and deliver a speech to the school community annually
• Participate in arts and service clubs twice weekly, including Drama, Interact, Peace and Justice, Art, Fix-It, Scouting, Garden and Cooking

99% high school graduation rate

93% accepted early action to college
4 out of 5 SMPA grads are enrolled in post-secondary education or the military
25 college and financial aid evening workshops annually

Graduate Support Program

100% college acceptance rate

Over 224 SMPA grads currently supported