

Xavian Maya: Excited to be at Sacred Heart School in Roslindale!



Xavian Maya is a 6th grader at Sacred Heart School in Roslindale. He is new to Catholic schools and a recipient of financial aid offered through the Catholic Schools Foundation and the Birmingham Foundation's new initiative to help increase Hispanic enrollment in Boston area Catholic schools. What impresses Xavian most about his new school is the supportive environment. "I'm not afraid to speak out at Sacred Heart," he says. "No one here will laugh at you if you have different opinions and ideas. I really like that!"

Xavian also feels safe at Sacred Heart. At his former school, a public elementary school in an inner-city neighborhood, continues the 12-year-old, "if something bad happened, people kept their mouths shut." He adds: "My Mom really wanted me to go to a Catholic school because people care about each other here."

His favorite class is history and he loves to read biographies inside and outside of school. What makes Sacred Heart School stand out for him is its emphasis on prayer, Xavian says. "We pray a lot and it reminds us that we're in a Catholic school."

According to Mrs. Anne Carchedi, Xavian's homeroom teacher, Xavian "is a very respectful, diligent, mature student." Not only is he always concerned about improving his academic

performance, such as in Mrs. Carchedi's reading class, but he stands out in other ways – from meticulously performing student jobs like delivering lunch count and cell phones to the office to comforting a fellow student who is upset. Mrs. Carchedi says: "Xavian is a very caring young man and a good role model."

What else you should know about Xavian Maya

- Xavian lives with his mother and extended family in the Boston area. He is very close to his mother and grandparents, and understands that his mother works hard to provide for him. "My Mom always makes time for me, even when she is busy – she always makes sure that I am happy," Xavian says. "I love her very much."
- When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Xavian smiles and says: "If you ask my grandfather, he would say 'the president, vice president, a lawyer, mayor or governor.'" But Xavian, a typical middle-school student, has other ideas – at least for now. "I think I would really like to be a professional wrestler!"

By Erika Banwarth and Catherine Walsh