

GOOD-NEWS

San Miguel School of Providence is helping kids reach their full potential. Here's how



Will Richmond

Providence Journal

July 24, 2025, 5:00 a.m. ET

Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

- The San Miguel School of Providence is a Lasallian middle school providing holistic education for boys from diverse backgrounds.
 - The school supports students academically and socio-emotionally, helping them gain acceptance into top high schools and colleges.
 - Funding is a major challenge, requiring \$2 million annually to support student tuition and resources.
-

The Providence Journal and United Way of Rhode Island have [partnered to highlight the state's nonprofits](#). Each week, a nonprofit identified by United Way will be spotlighted in the Providence Sunday Journal, and the United Way will share how it supports that organization.

This week, we feature the [San Miguel School of Providence](#), founded in 1993 by Brother Lawrence Goyette, which has become a model for 10 similar schools across the nation.

We asked executive director Mel Bride to tell us more about the organization.

What is your mission and vision?

The San Miguel School, a Lasallian middle school, provides a high quality, holistic education for boys from diverse and challenging backgrounds.

In a caring, safe and structured environment, we foster a spirit of mutual respect and brotherhood among all students. We walk with our students and their families throughout their educational journey at San Miguel and beyond.

Inspired by the pillars of faith, service and community, each “Miguel Man” is encouraged to learn, to serve and to grow to reach his full potential.

How do you measure success?

First and foremost, we consider success the creation of a school community that is safe, challenging, supportive and creative where all students feel a strong sense of belonging. Beyond that, we are proud that our students, many of whom arrive at San Miguel one to three years behind academically, make so much progress that they are accepted into the area’s best schools, including Classical High School, St. Raphael Academy, La Salle Academy, the Wheeler School, Rocky Hill Country Day School and Moses Brown School, and many go on to attend and graduate from four-year colleges.

Throughout high school and beyond, including assistance with the college application process, we support our students and their families. We are proud to boast college graduates, business professionals, military personnel, teachers and PhDs among our more than 400 graduates. Success for us has many faces, but one thing our students and graduates have in common is that they are all Miguel Men, men of faith and respect who are committed to serving their communities.

What are your biggest challenges currently?

Due to the fact that we are an independent school serving students from low-income families who contribute minimally to their students' tuition, every year we need to raise \$2 million to provide educational opportunities and social-emotional support to all our students. Raising those funds every year is one of our biggest challenges. Secondly, we are challenged by adapting our curriculum to the needs of each individual student. This requires great teachers who are committed to a holistic approach to education. While we cannot remove the challenges faced by our students and their families, we strive to provide academic, socio-emotional and financial support to those most in need. As we all know, a student can only learn when he is not distracted by the stresses of food or housing insecurity, undiagnosed learning challenges, or mistreatment at home or in school. Our support staff is fully committed to providing support in all of these areas.

How can volunteers or donors get involved?

We welcome visitors daily for student-led tours and our daily Morning Assembly from 8 to 9 a.m.

We also seek volunteers for our Adult Mentor Program in which each of our students is paired with a mentor who comes one day a week for about an hour during lunchtime. Mentors eat lunch with their mentees, play board games and talk. Our students consider their relationship with their mentors as important as their relationships with their teachers.

Donors at any level are welcome! Every dollar gets put to use immediately in providing the caring and challenging environment for our students. We also seek donors who would like to make a significant contribution to join our Student Sponsorship Program in which donors are paired with students 1:1 and support their education at a \$5,000, \$10,000 or full \$20,000 level for each year they are at San Miguel.

What are some recent accomplishments or projects you're proud of?

In 2023 we completed the successful Star Campaign, which, among other infrastructural enhancements, provided us with our STEAM Lab, where students can engage in Robotics, Virtual Reality and other educational tech experiences. This expansion of our curriculum has led to our students' participation in competitions like the annual Winners Circle XR virtual reality hackathon, which they won in 2024!

We are also proud to offer life skills, including financial literacy, swimming and fishing lessons, cooking and gardening. We have competitive teams in soccer, basketball and flag football, and non-competitive teams in golf and rowing.

Next year we are excited to launch a new, interdisciplinary, hands-on course called Integrated Life Skills, which will include gardening/urban agriculture, carpentry, cooking, nature journaling and sketching, and more.

For more information on the San Miguel School of Providence, email Mel Bride at mbride@sanmiguelprov.org or call [401-222-0215](tel:401-222-0215).