Serviam Girls Academy

EDUCATING • INSPIRING • TRANSFORMING

Education Youth & Families Committee Meeting
November 18, 2026

Tinesar Forrest, President

Mission and Vision

Cultivating the potential of young women through a challenging, holistic education, rooted in the Ursuline tradition.

Serviam EMPOWERS students to:

- Succeed in high school, college, and in life
- Become thoughtful, compassionate leaders dedicated to building a more just society
- Serve the community









*"We help girls find **their voice** and reach **their full potential**."*

Location





- In 2020, after 11 years at Halcyon Drive in New Castle, DE, Serviam moved to Grace United Methodist Church, 900 N. Washington Street.
- Grace views our school as part of a shared mission and we partner for community events.
- The downtown location allows students to walk downtown for field trips.

NativityMiguel Coalition

www.nativitymiguel.org

NativityMiguel Model

- Tuition-free
- Faith-based
- Extended school day and extended school year
- Small class sizes
- Emphasis on parental involvement
- Graduate support throughout high school and beyond



Today, there are 54 NativityMiguel schools across the United States and Canada

Known.
Challenged.
Supported.

The Serviam Difference

Who We Serve

- Serviam proudly educates up to 55 girls in grades 5 through 8, and supports more than 170 alumnae in both high school and college.
- Most of our students live in the City of Wilmington, New Castle, and Newark.
- 69% of students are African-American, 22% multi-racial, 7% Hispanic/Latina and 2% Asian.
- 82% of families qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced-Lunch Program.









Intentionally Small

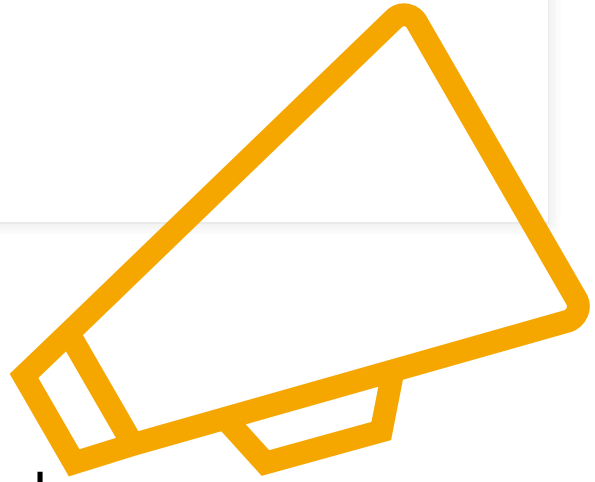
Research has documented particular challenges African American and Latina girls can face in larger classrooms, including reduced opportunities to participate and disproportionate exclusionary discipline for subjective offenses. At Serviam, classes have hovered around 15 students, creating opportunities for students and teachers to build meaningful relationships. **Small by design, students receive individualized attention that allows them to thrive.**

Academics

- Students typically arrive either striving to reach grade level or soaring. At Serviam they receive a rigorous academic experience that challenges them.
  - Differentiated learning environments in Math and English Language Arts through Word Study
  - Signature programs or activities in each grade
  - Exposure through experiential learning, field trips and connecting with adult volunteers
  - Multiple, low stress opportunities to practice standardized tests
  - Homework Hour



Athletics



- Part of Catholic Youth Ministries
- Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Cheer, Track
- Squash- Partnership with First State Squash
- Rowing- Partnership with Wilmington Rowing Association




Wilson




HOME





Enrichments (sampling of activities)

- STEM – Engineering, coding, math league, Lego Club
- Arts/Makers – photography, crafts, drawing, painting, knitting, cake decorating, etc.
- Personal Development – Etiquette, Healthy Teens
- Self Empowerment – Girl Scouts, Spoken Word, Girls Inc., Duffy's Hope
- Cognitive Development- Chess, Book Club, Stock Club, Mandarin Chinese



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in Middle School

SEL helps girls understand themselves, manage emotions, build healthy relationships, and make confident, responsible.

Examples of SEL at Serviam:

- **Emotional Awareness & Regulation:** Learning to recognize feelings, manage stress, and persevere through challenges
- **Healthy Relationships & Communication:** Practicing empathy, respect, conflict resolution, and boundary-setting
- **Confidence & Decision-Making:** Building self-advocacy, leadership skills, and belief in one's voice



Why It Matters for Girls

Supports confidence during a time when self-esteem often declines

Helps girls navigate social pressure and peer dynamics

Creates emotionally safe learners who take academic and leadership risks

Graduate Support

The **Graduate Support Program** fulfills Serviam's commitment to each student as she continues her education through high school and college and:

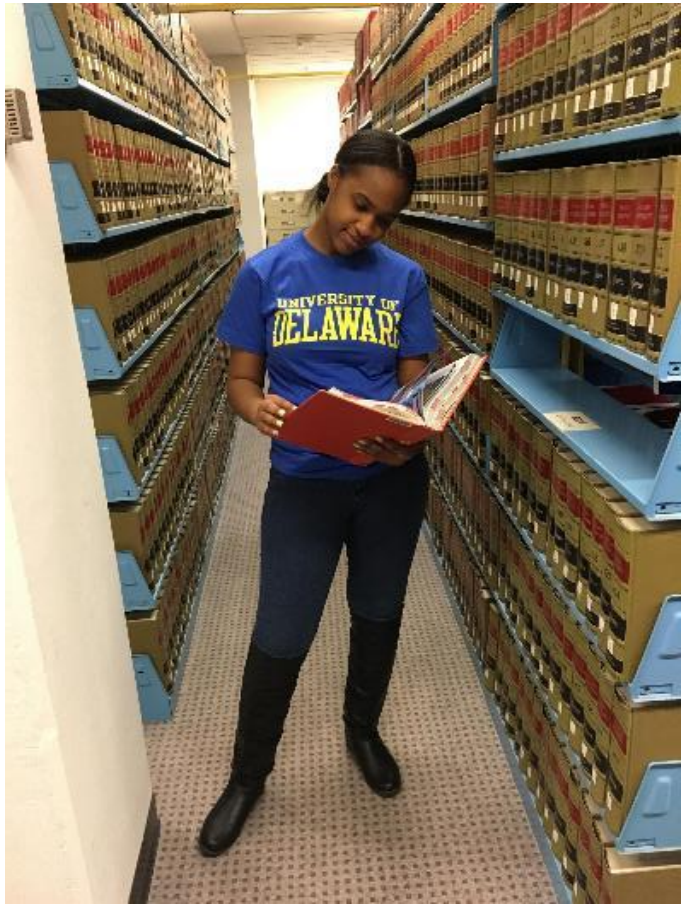


Class of 2026

- Prepares 7th and 8th grade students for high school
- Provides scholarship, internship, job and volunteer information, and facilitates connections to enhance alumna's networks.
- Maintains ongoing contact with our alumnae through college and career

Results

- **172 alumnae**
- **99% of Serviam alumnae attend or have graduated from 25 area high schools: ~55+% have enrolled in local private schools and ~45% in public or Vo-tech schools.**
- **Over 85% of Serviam's college-aged graduates are enrolled in over 35 colleges across the country**



Serviam has nearly 20 years of demonstrated success helping our alumnae achieve far higher high school graduation and college matriculation rates than similarly situated students.

Throughout my time at Serviam, I met some of the most wonderful people and made long-lasting friendships. This was where **I became inspired to be a voice for the community and to learn to advocate for myself and others.** Serviam pushed me to reach my fullest potential.

Jamileth Chavez-Vieyra
Serviam Class of 2018, Ursuline Academy Class of 2022,
Temple University Class of 2026

Serviam develops the whole child.

I had a great experience at Serviam, and I was exposed to a lot of new experiences*. At Serviam, I played tennis for the first time and played my first instrument, the trumpet. It was a challenging environment that helped me grow.*

Da'Je English, Serviam Class of 2011, 4th grade teacher in Durham, NC, pursuing a master's degree in Education

Serviam Works

Serviam's model brings together three powerful elements: an **all-girls learning environment**, **small classes** that foster strong teacher-student relationships and individualized instruction, and the long-term support of the NativityMiguel **Graduate Support** model.

Serviam is an investment in, and by, our community



- **Serviam Girls Academy is ~100% donor supported.**
- **Serviam does not charge tuition**, receives no government support, and does not yet have an alumnae base to raise funds.
- **A Serviam education costs ~$30,000 per student**
- **ALL students receive a 100% scholarship.**
- Serviam believes, and so far the community has proven, that people will invest in quality education for others so that ***no child's access to opportunity, nor the ability to achieve her full potential, is limited by her ability to pay.***

Invest in the future!

- $30,000 supports a full year of academic programming
- $15,000 provides experiential learning offsite
- $5,000 ensures all students can participate in a summer program
- $1,000 helps Serviam provide a graduation dinner for the students and their family



Zoe Abe, Serviam Class of 2017, Wilmington Christian School Class of 2021 Immaculata University Class of 2025

Invest In the Future!

- Help us find a forever home
- Take a tour of the School
- Attend an event
- Refer a family
- Champion our program
- Plan to help us celebrate 20 years in 2028



Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders


Thank You!

Contact Information

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