



# CITY YEAR ORLANDO

## SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS, ISSUE 4

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Highlights from the Universal Orlando Foundation Team serving at Memorial Middle School



### JOYS

- Our entire team has solidified their LACY plans
- We are excited to finish off the year, but sad to say goodbye to our students
- It has been a challenging year, but our team has enjoyed the ups and downs of this service this year!

### STARFISH STORY – A STORY OF STUDENT IMPACT

BY LINA VARGAS



Coming into my second year I was excited to see my students from last year and have the chance to meet new students. I remember one student in particular in my sixth period class. Anna\* was a ball of energy, very independent but refused to let herself receive help. She was strong-willed and determined to do it all on her own. As a second year AmeriCorps

member, I already knew that you can't force anyone to ask for help. I kept checking in on her and after a couple weeks of failing assignments, growing frustration and getting in trouble for disrupting class, I let her know that I was there to help her. After the first report card came out and Anna's grades were not what she hoped for. I was finally able to break through and she allowed herself to get help on her work in class. Whenever she needed to, with the permission of my awesome partner teacher, Mrs. Pierre, she'd make the effort to scoot her desk all the way across the classroom to put it next to mine and ask me to go over the assignment with her or check her work. Through getting to know her, she was appreciative of me being her ear and helping hand. She finally knew I was there to stay and she entrusted me to help in her school work and personal growth, outside of grades and assignments. **\*=Student Pseudonym**

### AMERICORPS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Alberto Partida proudly serves on the Universal Orlando Foundation team at Memorial Middle School. He was born in Pembroke Pines, FL and graduated from Florida International University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Alberto moved to Orlando to spend a year of service with City Year. Despite serving full-time as an AmeriCorps member, he also worked on launching a Archie Comic's Sonic the Hedgehog podcast where he engineered all audio and video editing. After completing his year of service, Alberto plan to begin his career with hopes of one day becoming a member of congress.

### THE TEAM

|                  |                 |              |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Whitney Williams | Seanella Isaacs | Kat Matthews |
| Alberto Partida  | Keely Ricketts  | Lina Vargas  |

### UPCOMING DATES

**MAY**  
Staff Appreciation  
City Year Orlando Graduation



City Year Orlando is a proud partner of Orange County Public Schools and Volunteer Florida. This program is funded in part by Orange County, Florida.