

# Michael

## Class of 2022

**From:** Demarest, NJ

**First Year at Horace Mann:** Sixth Grade

**Why HM?:** As I enter my seventh year at Horace Mann, I think about the different aspects of our school that led me to apply, attend, and stay here. In addition to Horace Mann's vast non-academic offerings—for example, the John Dorr Nature Laboratory in Connecticut—the faculty, student body, and curriculum at Horace Mann distinguish us from all other institutions. Friendly, outgoing, and intellectual students are guided by our energetic, knowledgeable, and caring faculty. Taken together with HM's rigorous academic curriculum and extra-curricular offerings, Horace Mann proves to be a life-changing academic experience.



**Favorite Classes:** From the number of fascinating courses that Horace Mann offers, my favorite courses are Precalculus BC Honors, Art History: What is a Masterpiece, and Japanese 4 Honors

**Favorite In-Class Discussion:** Though it is easy to divulge into complex social commentary in all Horace Mann courses, my favorite in-class discussion occurred in English 11 while reading Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. Throughout the novel, an unnamed narrator struggles to find his identity and unique role in 1930s society as he moves from his Southern college to the North. In Horace Mann's Socratic Seminar style, all students in our small English class gave their input on the narrator's struggle to find self-worth while our teacher guided the conversation to its logical conclusion. I was able to explore unique theories and how they intersect with the narrator's upbringing under the guidance of my teacher and classmates.

**Favorite Things About HM:** My favorite things about Horace Mann are the faculty and extracurricular offerings. Since sixth grade, I have constantly been amazed by the contagious enthusiasm that all HM teachers have about their courses, and their unwavering support throughout our academic and non-academic pursuits. They always make themselves available to help, or even discuss a topic beyond what is required. I believe that our teachers are what makes HM the incredible institution that it is.