

New Song News



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Adventures In Spanish Class

“Hola classe!” says Miss Kayla Casaletto, the New Song students’ Spanish teacher, as she greets them at the start of class each morning. “Hola Profa!” they eagerly respond.

The class began in January with each student choosing their own fun Spanish class name. They then learned how to say numbers, colors, and other common words. It was so exciting to see the progress of the students throughout the semester to the point that they were able to have basic Spanish conversations! Abi, or “Raquel” as she is called in class, remarked, “I think I am getting better! I feel more confident.”

And confident they all are! The students worked diligently in class, reading, writing, and practicing orally, and their quiz scores certainly showed the results of their efforts. The average class grade last quarter was an 88%!



“I like Spanish class because you get to talk to others who can only speak Spanish,” shared 12 year-old Nasia (Izabella).

Recently, the children had a chance to put their Spanish to practice when they had lunch at El Nopal, a local restaurant. Each student was only allowed to order and speak in Spanish. When reflecting on their trip, Keshawn (Taki Nacho) stated, “I’m going to use Spanish every time I go to a Mexican Restaurant—every, single, time!”

The students completed a variety of projects in class, and when asked what their favorite assignment has been so far, in unison they said, “the Piñatas!” As the students worked in pairs to build piñatas from scratch, their creativity was on full display. From dragons to beehives, they made a wide, colorful variety of decorated items. In celebration of a job well done the students then smashed the piñatas and were delighted to find Mexican candy inside!



Miss

Kayla has greatly enjoyed her time serving as New Song’s Spanish teacher. She was impressed by the students’ ability to memorize words so quickly. “At first I was getting a lot of ‘why’ questions, like “Why do I need to learn Spanish?” But throughout the semester I’ve seen a big change in them—they are always excited to be in class!”

The students’ newfound appreciation for Spanish was recently heard in 14 year-old Shawnia’s (Esperanza Mango’s) voice when she expressed that “Learning Spanish is fun!”



From *the* Heart

A message from the Director



Bob Schloss
Founder/Executive Director

Two Homes and Eight Energetic Kids!

It's a major milestone for us. For the first time ever, New Song has had a girls' and a boys' home operating at the same time on campus for a full school year. We believe we have reached a real turning point in the ministry, and children's lives are being changed.

An 11 year-old boy we care for is a good example of this life change. Here at New Song, after many months of slowly and patiently working with him, building a loving relationship, and discipling him in the Lord, Lisa and I see tremendous character development and social growth in him. On top of this, he is making A's and B's in school!

As houseparents, Lisa and I live our lives day by day, trying to seize each "gospel opportunity" that presents itself with the children here. It truly is moment-by-moment ministry. One of our board members summed it up well when he said, "It's in the trenches that the battle is won—day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute."

The boys are very social and ready in a flash to play anything outdoors! You can oftentimes find the boys and me on the basketball court, riding bikes, hiking in the Brown County State Park, or on various playgrounds we visit in Columbus and Nashville. Lisa plays a lot of board games with them as well, with Stratego and Color Brain being some of the favorites.

This spring we rented a campground site at Versailles State Park and had the most delicious cheeseburgers ever, fried in a pan of butter over the campfire—the boys still talk about those burgers! Our campsite was by the playground, and the boys made friends with several other kids their age, playing football and tag together in an open field.

All of these recreational, academic, and discipleship opportunities we have with the kids are part of the **highly personalized, holistic care** they receive at New Song. Praise God!

It's only with your support that our ministry can be expanded to care for more kids in need. That is why I'm asking you to please consider making a sacrificial gift today through the enclosed giving envelope or online at www.NewSongMission.org/scholarship. Virtually all of our kids come from challenging backgrounds and they can only enroll on campus through the generosity of friends like you.

Thank you for helping sustain the ministry of New Song Mission, where we are now equipping kids in two homes for life, through the love of Christ Jesus!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Robert P. Schloss, JD
Founder/Executive Director

Welcoming Jordan

"My favorite thing about New Song is being with y'all," shared sweet, 9 year-old Jordan, our newest student at New Song, as he walked around the campus pond one sunny afternoon. "I also like hearing the birds chirp."

Jordan's friendly personality has been such a joy on campus. He enrolled in March and has fit right in!

At age 9, Jordan is the youngest of four boys living in the Schloss home here on campus. Talking about Jordan brings a quick smile to the face of Jordan's house dad, Mr. Bob. "Jordan loves life," shared Bob. "He has a kind-hearted, child-like joy about him that really brightens your day."



Lisa, Jordan's house mom, has also been blessed by Jordan joining the family. "I've really appreciated the enthusiasm Jordan brings into the house," shared Lisa. "He has such a pleasant demeanor, and he loves people and is quick to compliment and encourage others."

Tavion is Jordan's roommate, and the two have really hit it off well. "I like Tavion because we play with cars together before school," said Jordan. He also likes the adults on campus, for which we are glad.

"The grownups here treat me nice," he said with a smile. A funny example of this recently occurred when Jordan burst into the front door after school one day and flew by the outstretched arms of Mr. Bob saying, "I'll come back for that hug!" as he raced to the bathroom.

We are so thankful that God is filling the home of the Schlosses, who have welcomed in Jordan with open arms!

CHILDRENS
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Please visit
www.NewSongMission.org/Scholarship

An AutoMATIC Love

Each child who joins one of our two New Song Mission family homes comes with a unique story and different sets of challenges. While we don't know all of the difficulties our students have faced in their young lives, every boy and girl we care for needs lifted up and encouraged.

With this in mind, Dave and Laurie Hix, our girls' house dad and house mom, began searching for a puppy to help meet the emotional needs of the girls in their home. Laurie and Dave knew that having a furry four-legged friend around the house would have great therapeutic value for the kids.

The Hixes contacted friends from Texas who breed sheepadoodle dogs. Much to Dave and Laurie's surprise, their friends decided to donate a puppy from their latest litter, even driving the puppy nine hours from Texas to Arkansas to meet Laurie halfway for the delivery!



The puppy, who just came in April, has already been a huge blessing to each of the four girls. "Matic" has helped reduce stress the girls have on any given day and has really brought out the girls' affection and love. He is even helping the girls further develop their compassion and social skills.

"Having Matic in the home has been nice because he greets us when we come home from school and he's excited to see us," shared 14 year-old Lilli.

The girls' love for the new puppy was autoMATIC! "The girls enjoy holding and petting Matic on the front porch swing or inside on the bean bag chair," shared Laurie. "When the girls feel somewhat low or need some personal time, Matic is always ready and waiting to help them through it. He seems to give them comfort and space to process their thoughts."

At New Song, our houseparents regularly pray for God to meet the needs of the children in their care, including their emotional needs. Through the girls' new friend Matic, the Lord has faithfully answered those prayers, showing His tender heart for them in the process.

Together Tuesdays!

One weekday evening several months ago the girls' home hosted the boys' home for an activity, and "Together Tuesdays" was born!

The tremendous value of the evening wasn't lost on Lisa Schloss, our licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), as she saw the houseparents and kids really connecting with each other. "Spending time together in an informal, playful atmosphere that evening provided a great bonding opportunity for our kids and houseparents alike," shared Lisa. "The four of us (houseparents) had the chance to genuinely relate with each other and carry each other's burdens. Afterwards, Bob and I and the Hixes decided to make Tuesday evenings a community night, and it's now a beautiful part of the fabric of the ministry."

The Tuesday night gatherings are looked forward to by the kids each and every week.

The siblings on campus are especially excited about the Tuesday night gatherings, which are filled with fun activities. From charades, to card games, to pickleball, 9-square, and kickball, adults and kids alike have fun with one another outside the normal daily routine.

On one particular Tuesday this past spring an exciting kickball game broke out shortly after dinner. As the game went on, everyone was having so much fun that nobody realized how dark it was getting outside. Bob Schloss, our boys' house dad and New Song's Executive Director remembers, "Suddenly I realized, it's pitch black out! The ball was getting kicked and the kids were running around the bases screaming and no one could see them!"

Now a regular part of campus life, Together Tuesdays are a healthy experience for everyone involved.

"Our kids and our staff both need social and emotional support in order to thrive," said Lisa. "Together Tuesdays really promotes that. Besides, it's always such a very fun evening together!"





Equipping Children for Life

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New Song Mission is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry which is solely supported through the generosity of ministry friends—thanks for helping us equip children for life!

Meet Mr. Andrew!

Andrew Lockridge joined our staff team at the beginning of March as a full-time tutor for our students. A godly, motivated, creative thinker with a background in computer software, Andrew is helping students to conquer a subject that for many is their worst fear: math.

In addition to tutoring the students in math and science, Andrew also enjoys leading the boys in recreational activities after school. As a semi-professional disc golfer, Andrew has taught the boys how to throw a frisbee, and with his 6'3" frame, Andrew enjoys teaching the boys new basketball skills as well.

Andrew's heart for the kids at New Song is only eclipsed by his heart for God. Andrew graduated from Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio in 2017 with a degree in Computer Science. After a few years of software consulting, he felt the Lord calling him to full-time ministry, so he stepped out in faith last fall, quitting a well-paid job without knowing exactly where the Lord was leading. Through a series of unique events (the way the Lord usually works!), God led Andrew to New Song, where he is now coming alongside students in the classroom each day while also helping the ministry with its technology and other needs.

When asked what was the most surprising thing about working at New Song, Andrew said, "How quickly everyone became like family." We feel the same way! Andrew fits in very well with all of his coworkers at New Song and has quickly become an integral part of the work and mission. We are so grateful to God that we have him on our ministry team!



Equipping children *for life,*
through the love of **Christ Jesus.**