

July 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matthew Hough and I am the head swim coach at Salpointe Catholic High School. During my tenure here at Salpointe, I have come across many student athletes who have excelled in the classroom as well as in the pool. Many of these student athletes have moved on to prestigious universities, well known colleges, or our military academies. Four years ago, I had a young man join our program who made more of an impact on his school and in our program, than many young men whom I have come across during my tenure. This young man's name is Ricardo Santiago.

Ricardo Santiago joined our program four years ago and right away, he stood out as a true leader; an individual that was well spoken and lead with his actions. During his time at Salpointe, Ricardo volunteered to work with adults and children with special needs at the Got It, Use It! All Aquatic Triathlon. During this event, Ricardo checked in participants, ran game booths for participants, and cheered on swimmers with special needs as they competed in a friendly triathlon.

For the past four years, Ricardo and his fellow teammates have raised money and participated in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Tucson, Arizona. With the help of his teammates, the program not only raised money for the community, but also brought awareness to friends and family members.

In addition to the time given during the swim season, Ricardo volunteered his time through Salpointe's IMPACT days. During his four years at Salpointe, he would find himself giving back to the community by collecting food items, digging ditches, and cleaning up the community.

While focusing on a rigorous academic schedule and challenging practice routine at the pool, Ricardo always made time for his friends, family, and community. He is a true leader with a very bright future ahead of him.

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