

An email of thanks from a San Miguel School - Chicago 7th Grade Teacher

July 12th, 2009

My Friends at Dunrovin,

First, my apologies for the tardiness of this thank you. Second, thank you :) I wanted to send you a brief e-mail expressing my gratitude for the time my 7th graders and fellow staff members got to spend at Dunrovin. I lived in Minnesota for 23 years and had often heard of your retreat center but never had the opportunity to spend any time there. I realize now that I have sadly been missing out. It was such a joy for me to watch my students over the course of the week attempt and conquer the challenges you set before them. It is a blessing to observe them in a new habitat if you will. I often tell them how much it surprises me how scared they are when they first get there, or how scared some of them are to sleep in their own rooms, but the same fighting spirit that allows them to walk to and from school everyday in a neighborhood full of gang activity eventually comes out and they rise above the rarity of the wilderness and are successful.

In the classroom the results of our work is not always as immediate and sometimes feels less meaningful than what they learn at your retreat center, so it is truly renewing to watch it happen at Dunrovin. It is awesome to watch the students build relationships with each other but also with the fabulous staff you provided for their time there. The students are still talking about you all!

Thank you for everything you have done for the students at San Miguel Back of the Yards and for San Miguel Gary Comer Campus. I look forward to future trips. I wish you all a phenomenal summer full of all the blessings you all deserve.

My Sincerest THANKS,

Jenn Truhler,

7th Grade Teacher,
San Miguel School, Back of the Yards Campus,
Chicago, IL

Located behind the historic Chicago Stockyards, the Back of the Yards neighborhood is home to a predominantly Latino population on the south side of Chicago.

<http://www.sanmiguelchicago.org/our-schools/back-of-the-yards-campus.html>

For a great video on San Miguel Schools, link
http://www.sanmiguelchicago.org/news/index.php?option=com_avreloaded&view=popup&Itemid=93&divid=transforming2