

Derek DaSilva
Steppingstone Class of 2009
Roxbury Latin School 2015

Imagine a school where the teachers are so funny and the lessons are so exciting that you can't believe how fast the class goes by! That's exactly what school is like for Derek DaSilva, a Steppingstone Scholar who started seventh grade at Roxbury Latin School last fall. While Derek said he is still getting used to having really funny teachers and to having classes in different buildings on campus, he was clear that he is absolutely loving school.

Derek completed Steppingstone's 14-month academic preparation component in 2009. Since then, Derek has become an unofficial spokesman for Steppingstone. Not only was Derek chosen by his fellow Scholars to be the commencement speaker in August, he was also asked to speak in front of more than 200 adults at The Steppingstone Gala in November.

We had the chance to catch up with Derek to find out how he's doing in school this year.

TSF: Tell us about your classes. What are you taking this semester?

DD: I'm taking history, math, Latin, English, and a unique course called "Trivium" which is where lessons are taught through three different classes—art, science, and computer science. The lesson we're working on now is about circulation, and for the science class, we learned all about blood flow in the human body.

TSF: Is it true that you were moved up to a higher level in your math class mid-semester?

DD: Yes, that was an excellent day. I was really exceeding in my quizzes and tests, so I was moved up. The new level is a lot harder.

TSF: What are some other things you're learning at school?

DD: In English, we just read *To Kill A Mockingbird*, which was cool because I already read that in Steppingstone last summer, so I was ahead of the class. In history, we are studying the history of Boston and we just learned that prior to the 1800's, Back Bay did not exist—it was just the ocean and it was filled in to make the Back Bay.

TSF: Are you playing any sports?

DD: Not right now, though I did play midfield for the soccer team this fall. We weren't really that good and lost to our big rival, Belmont Hill, but I think we can beat them next year. I'm still deciding if I want to play lacrosse or tennis in the spring. I haven't played either, but I think I'll probably try tennis.

TSF: Have you made a lot of friends at Roxbury Latin?

DD: Yes. As a seventh grader you get paired with a big brother who is a senior. I was paired up with Tiago Barros—he was a Steppingstone Scholar, too. I've also made friends with a lot of the older kids.

TSF: Are you doing anything fun this summer?

DD: I might take a vacation to Florida. I've been in Steppingstone for so long, I can hardly remember the last time I had a vacation.

Congratulations on your success at Roxbury Latin, Derek. A vacation is well deserved!