



Dwight School Puts a Spin on Global Education

Varsity Baseball Team Heads to the Dominican Republic — the Cradle of Baseball Talent — for Spring Training

New York, NY (March 24, 2013): Dwight School, a 140-year-old independent school on Manhattan's Upper West Side, is sending its Varsity baseball team to the Dominican Republic — the center of talent in the baseball universe — for spring training. From March 24-30, Dwight's scholar-athletes will train at the Eduardo Ferreira and Alejandro Tavarez Education and Baseball Academy (EFATEBA) in Santiago, alongside young Dominican players under the direction of coaches who are former professional players and recruiters.

This is the second year in a row that the Dwight baseball team will visit EFATEBA, where they will be exposed to the same first-rate system that sends Dominican talent to the major leagues and to top US colleges/junior colleges. The trip extends the Dwight tradition of global education, which offers students experiences that go beyond enhancing their success on the playing field by aligning them with the School's three pillars: personalized learning, community, and global vision.

“We look forward to continuing our community partnership with the EFATEBA, which gives kids with few financial advantages the chance for achievement in both athletics and academics,” said Coach Jason Coy. “We also want to build on the growth our team experienced last year. Our players gained a new perspective on the game, which is so embedded in the country's culture, as well as on themselves. They returned home with refined skills and a new focus, which landed them one game away from the playoffs at season's end. They also came back with a greater understanding of how fortunate they are to have so many opportunities available to them.”

Dwight School junior Benjamin Hecker was one of the players who went on the 2012 trip. He reported, “Last year, we were able to bond with kids our age from a different culture, but more importantly we avoided the language barrier by communicating through a shared love of a game — baseball. It was a humbling experience. Even though their skills were obviously greater than ours, they showed patience and great humility, and they taught us the ‘Dominican way’ to play. This year, I hope to continue developing as a player, but also to rekindle friendships.”

Dwight's team will again be challenged by rigorous training — the kind that can ignite a “spark of genius” in a student with athletic ability, reflecting Dwight's unique philosophy of nurturing each student's individual talents and passions. The team will train with pitching coach Luis Cabral, who signed Manny Ramirez to the Cleveland Indians when he was a US scout; head coach Alejandro Tavarez, former professional pitcher in the Dominican Republic; and hitting and outfielders coach Luis Ledesma, former minor league player for the Houston Astros.

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While in the Dominican Republic, the team will also undertake a community service project to help improve the Academy's facilities; and will be donating baseball equipment to the EFATEBA, which serves approximately 100 students ages 8-20.

This trip abroad is not unusual for Dwight students, who regularly travel throughout the world as part of the School's dedication to global education and to supporting community service initiatives in regions of the world in need. One example is Muhuru Bay, Kenya, one of the country's poorest areas. Dwight students travel there annually to provide aid and scholarships to a boarding school for girls, funded by WISER, a non-profit NGO. Enriched by these experiences, Dwight graduates matriculate at top universities and colleges such as Harvard, Yale, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, and Oxford.

Follow the Dwight Varsity baseball team in the Dominican Republic at **baseball.dwight.edu**.

More About Dwight School

Established in 1872, Dwight (www.dwight.edu) was the first school in the U.S. to offer the comprehensive International Baccalaureate curriculum for students from preschool-grade 12. Dwight has a new Athletic Center in East Harlem; and is the flagship campus of The Dwight Schools, a global network of programs and campuses in London, Canada, Beijing, and Seoul.

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