Academy makes CSEC 2019 regional merit list

EBENEZER—St. Maarten Academy has double reason to celebrate now that two of its candidates earned coveted spots on the May-June Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) merit list. The CXC merit list comprises the top ten students in every subject from among 122,813 candidates, who sat the regional examination in May-June.

Placing fifth in the region in Principles of Accounts was David Beek, who earned a Grade 1 pass in the subject area with a straight ‘A’ profile. Beek, who wrote nine CSEC subjects, earned Grade 1 passes in all, eight of which were straight A profiles. He earned Grade 1 passes in English A, Information Technology, Integrated Science, Mathematics, Principles of Accounts, Principles of Business, Social Studies, Spanish and Additional Mathematics. He also secured an A in Cambridge Dutch, the school announced in a press release on Thursday.

The second student to make the regional merit list was Nigel Adriana in Social Studies; he placed tenth in the region, earning a Grade 1 with straight A profiles. Adriana obtained 10 Grade 1 passes out of the 11 CSEC subjects that he sat. Eight of these were with straight A profiles. His Grade 1 passes were in Additional Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Human and Social Biology, Information Technology, Integrated Science, Mathematics, Physics, English A, Social Studies and Geography. He also earned an A in Cambridge Dutch. Adriana is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology at Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica.

Speaking on his achievement, a humble Beek stated he was pleasantly surprised to make the merit list for Principles of Accounts, as he had been aiming to make the merit list for Additional Mathematics, which he found “fun” due to its need for thinking and precision. The math whiz, who is currently pursuing an Associate Degree in Mathematics at the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) at St. Maarten Academy, has not yet settled on a career path. He is considering a career which requires “precision and the use of technology”. He further added that he tries to live by the maxim, “There is profit in all labour”, and admonishes the upcoming cohort to start curbing their social media use at least three months ahead of examinations. He also expressed his thanks to God and his teacher, Head of the Business Studies Department Maura Buite for helping him accomplish this feat.

Adriana, meanwhile, picked Social Studies in Form 4 as an extra subject, under the advice of his mom, who encouraged him to do it just for the experience, the release stated. He expressed his gratitude to his teacher Joy-Ann Browne-Skeete, for offering him her tremendous support as he prepared to write the subject.

“St. Maarten Academy continues to lead the pack on the island by producing top results at the regional examinations,” the school said. “Over the years, the school has also made the merit list in subjects such as Music (placing first and fourth in the region), Additional Mathematics, Mathematics and Physics.”

The school’s principal Talullah Baly-Vanterpool stated, “As a school we strive to put forth our best selves, despite our current challenges. I am proud and inspired by our students and teachers – their passion, dedication and drive to excel. I congratulate our students, parents and teachers, and by extension St. Maarten, as placing on the CSEC regional merit list is not a small feat.

“The Board of the Foundation for Academic and Vocational Education (FAVE) congratulates the two young men on their exceptional performance and recognition, and looks forward to honouring them, along with others when the Class of 2019 walks in their commencement ceremony on December 18, at Belair Community Centre,” the school concluded.