

St. Joseph Montessori School

# *Graduation Supplement*



## *Class of 2018*

*Spencer Aurnou-Rhees*

*Drew Benke*

*Alivia Brello*

*Adam Fellows*

*Maya Fleming*

*Gabriela Gant*

*Lily Gray*

*Thomas Hohmann*

*Cameron Hunter*

*Esha Ila*

*Katherine Jolley*

*Sawyer Mapes*

*Madelyn McCurdy*

*James Messerly*

*Luke Messerly*

*Christian Wurapa*

# Spencer Aurnou-Rhees

St. Charles Preparatory School



Dear Spencer,

One of the things I have always loved about you is that you have always found a way to tell us when you are ready to move on. You did it when you hopped in your sister's big bed and told us you wanted one, too – no more cribs. And, you told everyone at Kindergarten that you were ready to move on to the "Big School with Jordan." You were right. It was time to move on and you thrived at SJMS. You didn't always love the homework, but you always did well at SJMS and I have always been proud of you. Now you are telling us in your own way that you are ready to move on again. You have been quite clear that you wanted to go to St. Charles and again, I believe that you have made a good decision.

I am excited to see what your high school years bring. But, I will have so many wonderful memories of you at SJMS, Spence. I remember taking pictures of you by the SJMS sign on your first day of first grade, your birthday celebrations where you held the

globe in the center of the circle while everyone sang Happy Birthday in P1, the Turtle Lady giving your P1 class a snake, you telling me about the funeral you all had for Hermy, the deceased Hermit Crab in P1, the Earthscouts camping trips, watching you parade in your Taekwondo uniform for International Children's Day, trying to clean the mud off of your pants after football at recess, watching you sing Christmas Carols and later perform in Bell Choir at Cookies & Carols, the Interest Fair projects we worked on together (and sometimes fought over at the 11th hour), all of the field trips that I went on with you, telling us about the waffles at North Market, and lastly, your excitement over the Erdkinder class trips.

Thanks for giving me so many wonderful memories and for being the amazing, intelligent, sweet, caring, special kid that you are. Congratulations on your graduation, Spence!

Love,  
Your Mom



Dear Spencer,

I cannot believe that you are getting ready to go into high school. I remember when you were in preschool and liked to play with cars. You were such an amazing child – even as a young boy you were interested in how things work. I believe that in high school you will build and create even more amazing things.

I love that you are an explorer: swimming, biking, running, and SCUBA diving your way through life – enjoying yourself. My hope is that you will continue to enjoy your life even after high school. Remember that I love who you are and that I will always love you.

Love, Mommy



# Drew Benke



St. Charles Preparatory School

We love your curiosity and sense of adventure. Whether it's exploring the geological wonders of Yellowstone, the granite cliffs and domes of Yosemite, or whitewater rafting and ziplining above the rainforests in Costa Rica – you've been up for the adventure! Though it would be awesome if your adventurous nature would spill over into trying dinners that involve kale and/or quinoa :)

Now, here you are, graduating 8th grade and heading off to high school. We can't begin to describe how proud we are of you – of the young man that you've become. We look forward to watching you continue to grow and see what you will accomplish. I know that we tell you this every day, but here it is again...we love you so very much. Always be sure to stay true to yourself, and never, NEVER let anyone make you doubt yourself. You are amazing Drew. We are your biggest fans (always have been, and always will be), and are rooting for you. Always.

Love, Your moms



Dear Drew,

It seems like yesterday that you started your journey at SJMS in the 2nd grade. We were uncertain how you would transition from Clintonville Academy to SJMS, but your P1 teacher Dawn worked really hard with us to help you get comfortable and understood, and for that we're truly grateful. The transition to Middle School, then to Erdkinder was helped by wonderful teachers that inspired you and helped instill strong work habits and self-discipline toward your studies. We have watched you develop your relationships over the years and know that these friendships you've made are undoubtedly lifelong.

We had so much fun throughout the years watching you take swimming lessons, play soccer, basketball, and flag football! Though, we do hope you can forgive us though for not letting you pursue your football career beyond flag football :) There have been 7 years worth of interest fairs, and I'm pretty sure we still have most of the project boards at home (just in case you ever need them). Then, there was the band performances in the talent shows, a stint of playing the clarinet with the school band, and taking part in other school club activities. You've kept us busy!

*Dear Drew,*

*Some of our best memories have occurred when you would come to visit us in the summer. Because of your interest in history, your Grandma Trish and I tried to plan trips to historical places. Remember the trips we took to Greenfield Village and The Henry Ford Museum? Sometimes we would go three times a week to make sure you saw everything you wanted to see.*

*When you got older we ventured to Niagara Falls, making sure we toured Old Fort Niagara and Old Fort Erie. We learned a lot about the War of 1812 from both the American and British point of view. Another fun excursion was when we toured some Civil War battlefields, including Gettysburg, Antietam, and Manassas (Bull Run). We will always remember you climbing on the rocks at Devil's Den. Most recent was our trip to Alaska where we saw Mt. Denali and traveled to the Yukon Territory. Remember seeing the Hubbard Glacier, standing on the rocks by Nugget Falls, and attending the lumberjack show?*

*As you get older, we hope to be part of your adventures. There is so much to see and experience. We are so proud of you. Congratulations.*

*Love, Grandpa and Grandma Trish*

# Alivia Brello

The Wellington School

Dear Alivia,

As your time at St. Joseph comes to an end, my advice to you is actually something you taught us when you were 2 years old. I wrote these words in a letter to you for "Absolute Incredible Kid Day!" on March 11, 2006.

*Dear Alivia, Our Awesome Incredible Kid!*

*You have taught us so many things in 2 short years. You taught us:*

*To always look for the moon and stars;*

*We can talk to birds, bugs, and bees;*

*Dance every time we hear music;*

*It's fun to play in the dirt;*

*Sparkly shoes can be worn with ANYTHING;*

*The world is full of shapes and colors;*

*It's easy to make someone smile;*

*And most importantly, you taught us there is no limit on love and happiness.*

Enjoy every moment because time moves too fast. You will fail and make mistakes- but that's ok. Failure is the best way to learn. Take risks (safe ones!) and know that when you are feeling uncomfortable, self-conscious, or afraid, everyone else is feeling that way too. Be true to yourself and things will always work out.

You have given us unimaginable happiness and we are so proud that you are our daughter.

We love you with all our hearts,  
Mom, Dad, & Alex





## ADAM FELLOWS

St. Charles Preparatory School

Adam,

Congratulations today on your graduation from SJMS! This is an achievement that you should be proud of. You are an intelligent, considerate, and enthusiastic young man. Take it all in, and know that you are well prepared to begin the next part of your academic career.

When we think about the last 10 years on Hamlet Street, at once it feels so long ago when we started - but then it also feels like it was over in an instant. We laugh now about how when first visiting SJMS in 2008 your mom knew very little about the Montessori methods, and while you were playing in a Children's House kitchen she asked, "So he can just pour water from pitchers all day if he wants to?" She quickly grew to understand and appreciate the Montessori process and we feel so fortunate to have been a part of the SJMS community.

We lovingly remember your time in CH3 from how confidently you walked into the classroom every day to the many story books you created, to how you placed your work out on the rugs. The practical life area was your favorite place during that time but you managed to do other things besides pouring water from pitchers! It's funny now to think about how you looked up to the Erdkinder kids back then and how quickly you became one of them!

You have always been great with transitions, and when you moved into Primary we watched you take to those new

materials with excitement - especially the geography maps and the achievement of spending hours with the long math chains to have them stretch across all those rugs! Even though you are a very social person by nature, the Peace Corner in P2 was your favorite spot to relax.

You were never worried about what was next. In Middle School there were greater expectations put upon you - and you met them with success. This is where you discovered your love of PowerPoint and the use of the animation feature. This is also the beginning of your carpool "career", the first overnight camp trip to Mohican. We remember the use of the kiln in art, we still have every piece of pottery that you made over the years.

It all came into full focus for us in Erdkinder. We remember that Michael had told us at the end of the 6th grade year that you would grow significantly (physically and emotionally) that summer - and boy did you! Navigating the beginning of your teenage years, we have seen so much accomplishment and maturity from you these past 2 years Adam.

It has been so rewarding to watch you grow and mature into the amazing young man you are today. Your enthusiasm for new experiences and your fun spirit will bring you joy in life as you have to ours.

With much love - Mom & Dad xxoo



# Maya Fleming

Bishop Hartley High School



Dear Maya,

It is hard to believe that eleven years has passed since we brought you to SJMS for your first day of school. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments during your time here. There are countless memories that we know you will never forget. Your experiences have helped you become the creative, smart, kind, and empathetic individual that is soon to be in high school!

You were proud to be a “yellow name” in Marsha and Noreen’s class, joining your brother in Children’s House. You enjoyed all the “works” and instantly made friends, some of which are still with you today. As a young child, you were a great help to your teachers, often showing your younger classmates like Mia and Jerry the way around your classroom. We always looked forward to seeing what work you would bring in your bag to show us (along with the many special rocks you found on the playground!)

In primary, we watched you develop your creative side, whether it was on stage with Jackie at the talent show, in art class making pinch pots, or spending countless hours on Interest Fair projects. Outside your classroom, your Girl Scout troop 2020

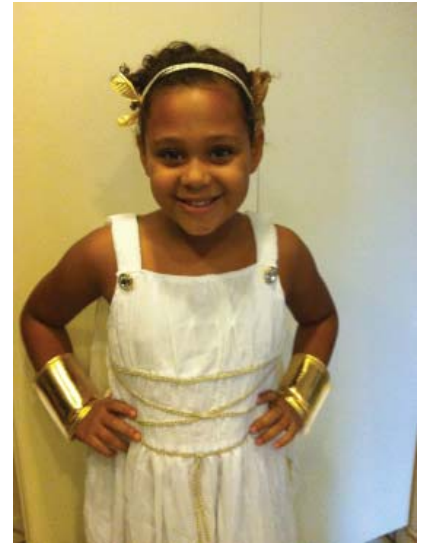
and it’s fearless leaders taught you what it means to serve others, work together to make a difference, and how to pull an “all-nighter” at Cosi.

In Middle school, you learned to appreciate Math thanks to Susan, how to manage your time wisely in class, and how to be a good friend when things got dramatic. Camp at Mohican was something you always looked forward to so you could be around animals and have school outside. Track brought out the competitor in you, breaking the CYO record in the Softball Throw. We knew you were just getting started.

These last couple of years really went fast. Erdkinder has challenged you to be the best student you can be and we are so proud of the work you have put into your studies. You found a creative outlet in Roxanne’s art room that has allowed you to produce many masterpieces! We always enjoyed hearing about your debates with Michael, whether you were defending your prodog views or trying to convince him that Unicorns are real. I know you will never forget Kelsey’s laughter, her dance moves, and let’s not forget gold bar quotas! It was so much fun watching your Volleyball games, seeing you and your teammates develop into skilled players and finish with an undefeated season.

As you move on to high school, we hope that you will continue to use the skills that Montessori has instilled in you. We can’t wait to see what the future brings. You can count on us to be right there cheering you on!

With lots of love,  
Mom & Dad





# *Gabriela Gant*

St. Francis DeSales High School



So, what is next and are you ready? The most important thing to remember is before you can build anything is to have a good foundation. We and SJMS have provided you with the best foundation for your next level.

27 October 2003, is the day that you graced the world with your presence. Over two weeks late, it should have been an omen of things to come.

We know you will always do it your way. Be a leader not a follower. Being a leader comes with challenges that we are certain SJMS has prepared you.

You will stumble. But, you will pick yourself up and keep moving forward.

You will make mistakes. But, you will learn from your mistakes and not make them again.

You will lose and we hope that you hate losing. But, you are not a loser and a loss is just another lesson in how to win.

You will hurt and you will cry. But after the hurt is gone and after your tears are dried, you will wipe your snotty nose, dust yourself off and take on the challenge again; because you are resilient.

You will miss your friends. But, they will only be a mouse click or an icon away and you will make new friends.

You have been successful and a leader in so many ways during your 12 years at SJMS starting with pool parties at the Aquatic Center to giving a generation of volleyball and basketball players freedom to ride the City bus continue your legacy

We are the founding members of the Gabriela Gant fan club and we will always be in your corner cheering you on. We like, love, and support you.

Congratulations!



# Lily Gray

Columbus School for Girls

Lily,



You are the mountain. You are the rain. You are the sun. You are the trees and the flowers. You are a Goddess with the strength of the strongest warrior and a mind so brilliant it takes our breath away.

You are, and always have been, part of the earth that surrounds you – and you've never lost touch with that connection. Keep the lines of communication open with your true heart, your true self and you'll never want for anything.

You're the whole package of awesome, kid. And we will always be cheering you on.

Love, Dad & Alaina





# THOMAS HOHMANN



Dear Thomas,

The first time you came to St. Joseph Montessori School was over fourteen years ago, when you were just six weeks old, in a car seat, for your older brother's Children's House interview. Even before you attended as a student, you went to SJMS events (Winter Festival, International Children's Day Parade, picnics), went on field trips (Pumpkin Patch), and played on the playground at pickup time with the "big kids." You loved it when we came to pick up Matthew; getting off the freeway was especially fun: "Thomas Bumps, He Loves the Bumps, Thomas Bumps." When it was your time to start as an official student, you were more than ready.

Children's House was full of adventures. Holiday lunches were always a treat (for you and for mom, who always volunteered); pumpkin patch trips were a highlight (the apple cider was tasty); and going to the Fire House Museum was exciting. While Matthew was working on his Interest Fair projects in Primary, you wanted to work on one too. Early on you discovered your love for music—first by banging on anything in sight, then by playing on your own drum set (even the neighbors heard your drums Christmas morning).

Moving on to the big building with big brother was thrilling. You always enjoyed field trips and there were plenty: Stratford Ecological Center, Lynd's Fruit Farm for apple picking and

## St. Charles Preparatory School

corn maze, the Ohio State House, COSI, and more. You even got to make your own pizza at Dewey's. Performances were also lots of fun, especially your part as a yellow jacket. You finally got to work on an Interest Fair: surprise, surprise, that the history of soccer was your first one (going all the way back to ancient Greece). You started piano and guitar lessons and loved both.

Moving upstairs was a thrill. Your backpack got a tad heavier and you got a locker. The overnight trip to Mohican Outdoor School was a highlight—you came home with lots of stories. You were excited to finally play in the school band and took up dad's old instrument, the trombone. You love to try new things and the Columbus Growing Collective was right up your alley. It was also around this time that you really discovered your love for cooking—we enjoy watching you experiment in the kitchen. Your love for music continued; you even put together your own boy band for the talent show—"Carry On" was especially a hit!

Erdkinder has been a great experience for you; all that you have learned at SJMS, from CH to MS, has come together in these last two years. We are proud of your commitment to your academics, band, MathCounts, and open houses as a student ambassador. You will always remember fondly your numerous trips to the North Market and Chipotle, outings with Spanish class and art class, and of course the end-of-the-year weeklong trips to Philadelphia/New York and Baltimore/Gettysburg.

Now that your eleven (well, fourteen, kind of) years have come to a close at SJMS, we know that you will continue to always strive to do your best, to be kind and thoughtful, and to embrace life's challenges and adventures. A busy and fun summer is on deck—getting ready for high school (that Latin class will be a blast—ha! ha!), lots and lots of soccer and conditioning, fun with the family (promise that we will not take you on anymore college visits), yard work for neighbors (and for us), and some volunteer work. You have always been hard working, dedicated, and cheerful as you have taken on all that life has thrown your way. In everything that you do, you give it your all: in school, on the soccer field, on the basketball court (Matthew and dad can't keep up anymore), at the piano, on the ski slopes, and so on. You have embraced new challenges as

they have come your way, and have excelled at every one of them (well, except for maybe cleaning your room). As your journey continues into high school at St. Charles, know that we—mom, dad, and Matthew—will always be there to support you, lend a shoulder to lean on when needed, and cheer you on.

We are so proud of the fine young man that you are, and are so grateful that you are such a big part of our lives.

Love, Mom and Dad



Thomas,

*Thanks for being a great little brother. I am excited to be spending the next year at Saint Charles with you!*

Love, Matthew

# CAMERON HUNTER

## St. Charles Preparatory School



Cameron,

Where have the past 11 years gone? We can't believe you are now 14 and headed to high school. Seems like a few minutes ago you were our 'little fella'! Always inquisitive, observant and so smart – you were identifying all the cars on the road when you weren't even two years yet. You've always immersed yourself 100% into every passion, and you've had many passions! Cars, Legos, Dinosaurs, Superheroes, Pokémon, Tae Kwon Do, WWE (maybe we weren't as excited about that one), Chess, Math, History, Geography and of course, Soccer. It's been so fun as parents to learn with you and see just how your interests and motivation to learn has unfolded over the years. You've always amazed us.

Your time at SJMS has been special. From your first days in CH4 with Penny and Carol we knew that Montessori education was perfect for you. Seeing you take the skills you have learned and applying them to every aspect of life has been inspiring. You are thoughtful and self-motivated, up for any challenge and have a willingness to learn that is perfectly matched with the learning environment this school has given you. You are more than ready for high school.

We know you'll find successes in anything you are passionate about. You have a drive and determination that comes from within. You've had it all along:

When you were seven you went into your Tae Kwon Do test with a note you wrote to yourself: "I will break board with a turning sidekick". And you did.

When you were eleven you told us the morning of city chess tournament that you were going to win it. And you did.

You've really become a wonderful and mature young man, and so funny! It's great to see you with your network of friends, a support system that will continue at St. Charles. Before you were born we told your Nana we were going to call you Cameron. She excitedly said "Cam. Cam is a leader!" And you have definitely become a leader. You can easily apply a logic and calmness to situations – you'll find that people will look to you in life for guidance. Throw in an accent and you're golden (worked for your dad!)

Your passion for travel is tremendous. You are up for going anywhere and are always coming up with new travel itineraries for us. You are happy to travel and explore with family but comfortable enough to have gone to Austria and Brazil without us. You're not afraid to be out of your element and that is such a good thing. You've seen so many places, and you will be going to so many more.

There's really nothing you can't do. You might be a little anxious about your next step to high school, but we aren't worried one bit.

If you haven't guess it yet, we are so very proud of you. Can't wait to see what comes next.

Love, Mom & Dad



*Congratulations Cam! I am so proud of you! I still remember all those times you came home and told me how much fun Middle School is, if it weren't for you, I would still be scared to walk up those stairs and through the door to Middle School. And now you tell me how much I will love Erdkinder, how far in front in math you are, and saying that you finished almost all of your homework in about 30 minutes! Anyway I just want to say thanks for helping me with school and making me the "great" student I am today.*

*Love, Jonah*



## ESHA ILA

The Wellington School



Dearest Esha,

The day you were born I felt like I was holding a full moon in my hands, you are precious and adorable and brought radiance into our lives. The best words to describe you as a child is fearless, social, joyful, curious, full of energy and enthusiasm. These inherent qualities coupled with guidance and encouragement from teachers, family members, friends and well-wishers helped shape you to be the wonderful person that you are.

The Past two years at SJMS have been incredible and I am delighted to see how you have been groomed to be independent, confident, focused, compassionate and self-directed. You had your share of challenges but so quickly you adapted in SJMS. We felt so welcomed by all the parents and SJMS staff and knew this is the place to be.

At Kindergarten, your teacher Mr.Nolan was amazed at your incredible attention to detail in your artwork.

In New Albany school and at private art class your artwork was spectacular, and you found joy and fulfilment in art. I was not surprised when you picked 'How Art influenced society' for your Interest fair project this year. I am thankful to Roxanne for her passion and support. I will certainly miss the interesting discussions we have during Interest Fair.

The exciting debates and discussions you had with Michael and Kelsey related to History, Politics, Current Affairs, Math, English and much more are noteworthy and have ignited your passion for American History, Math, Power of the pen and Current Affairs. No wonder you cannot wait to go to school every day. You are gifted in Math and have creative writing skills since your childhood. Special thanks to all your teachers who motivated you to maximize your efforts.

You totally had fun playing Volleyball with the girls and I am sure it will be one of your nostalgic experiences. You have both talent and interest for Tennis and I wish you good luck for you to pursue Tennis in High school.

It was entertaining to listen to the daily progress in the American Spy game and I was glad to see how involved you were in playing this game and connecting it with your history lessons. The class trips and Secret Santa are all memorable times. You learnt so much and were enriched with life experiences in Erdkinder that better prepared you for High School.

The several trips we made for private and public schools made me realize how independent and thoughtful you

are in making your decisions, carefully evaluating the options at the same time considering our suggestions and then making a final decision. It is truly a pleasure to parent you and I am so happy for you. You made it to Wellington with a scholarship! I am proud of you my precious and adorable one!

All our blessings and well wishes for you to continue to pursue your passions, work diligently, maximize your potential, no matter what be joyful and compassionate always.

All the best & Lots of Luv



# Katherine Jolley

St. Francis DeSales High School



Empathetic, inquisitive, compassionate and joyful are just a few words to describe you. You have always been an Old Soul who is caring and kind. The “puzzle” of you began to take shape from the very start of our family’s intro to St. Joseph’s.

When you were ready to enter kindergarten, you were so nervous about leaving your preschool friends behind. But, after your first day with Marsha and Noreen in Children’s House 1, we knew we had found a perfect fit. We started here with the corners of the puzzle...

We were a little concerned in the beginning that the only skills you would master were going to be pouring water from a pitcher and sweeping up the crumbs. But, we were assured that you would be gently nudged and encouraged to broaden your horizons. Noreen had you pinned as the next geography expert. You were so intent in your study of her collection of maps, and your color-coded skills for the different countries was impeccable. Your ability to ad-lib and make people laugh appeared at this age. Your ability to skirt the question of “What is the Spanish name for your favorite item for breakfast” when asked in Spanish class was met with the response of, “well, I don’t typically eat breakfast, so I don’t have a Spanish name for it”. You then promptly excused yourself to the bathroom telling the class to “hold that thought.”

Then, on to P2 where Kathy and Michelle (and then Jennifer, and Penny for a time, too!) took you under their wings. Being the young kid in this room was a bit overwhelming at first,

but with the help of the likes of Miles, Sydney, Eoin and McKenna, you were given the boost you needed. Kathy guided you on organizing your work and mastering new lessons. Your friends expanded from the group within the room to the broader company of all of the “Primary” kids, and before long, you became that older P2 classmate that helped the likes of the newer additions to the classroom. The sides of the puzzle fall into place...

Moving on to Middle School was another scary transition. A bigger group of combined ages, more expectations on every level of your learning frontier, and of course, being relegated back to the young kid on the block in a room full of 5th and 6th graders. But again, after a few weeks you found your niche under Bill, Karla, Susan and Sarah. Thank goodness for Bill’s patient work with reading skills and history, Susan’s persistence in assuring you mastered your math tables, and Sarah’s nurturing ways to bolster you when the classroom seemed overwhelming (and for her long walks around the School to help bring everything back into perspective). The Mohican Camp excursions were memorable times for you and your classmates. Thanks goodness your “chore” was to look after the mascot pig. It was here where you began exploring volleyball with your SJMS friends and teammates along with the group at St. Mary’s. To think of the teams struggle to place the ball over the net that first year, to your 8th Grade team (including all 7 SJMS girls!) going undefeated for your final season together. Find the matching lines and colors and place the puzzle pieces from the outside in ...

The puzzle is pieced together with more than just your main classrooms. You’ve always enjoyed working with Roxanne on anything “Art,” the field trips with Spanish Club, and of course the challenging Bells Ensemble and Sandra’s Choir Recitals Extraordinaire. Cathy’s religion class brought forth some challenging topics of discussion and always thought provoking for the eager mind. The Atrium was a place to find peace in yourself. The challenges of Phys Ed, with Marty’s beloved scooter races.

We add all of the “extras” that fill in the puzzle form and shape. Attending WinterFests, Spaghetti Dinners, afternoons in AfterCare, International Children’s Day and Techno Trek. Girl Scout Troop 2020, Greg Greenlee’s Kung Fu classes, Bill’s Friday Game Club, class picnics, Skate Zone and the Erdkinder dances to mix

and mingle with the other schools. All were chances to huddle with your friends for a few extra moments of “hang time”. Never forget the all-family encompassing Interest Fair projects throughout your 9 years at SJMS with The Titanic, Facts About Cats, Recycling, Hersey’s Chocolate, Space Travel, Susan B. Anthony, Turtles and Tortoises and finally Gandhi.

By Erdkinder, you had developed strong relationships, increased self-assurance and self-expression, and under Michael and Kesley you have enjoyed the experiences they have shared including trips to the North Market. Then there were the two incredible class trips. These informative times helped create memories that you will cherish forever. Turn the last puzzle pieces to find their fit. Look and admire how they lock perfectly into place.

Your puzzle is complete. It reflects of you and all you have become. It reads of the message that you carry forward with you and what you leave behind for others to enjoy: The life and experiences encountered carry forward as a life forever touched.

We know that as you graduate from SJMS after 9 wonderful years, you are well prepared for what comes next in your world. You are ready to tackle any life opportunities as they come to you.

We love you to the moon and back.

Love, Mom & Dad





# Sawyer Mapes

## St. Charles Preparatory School



Dear Sawyer,

The GRADUATION letter...how could we possibly sum up what the last 14 years have meant to us in one short letter? When did this happen? When did our little boy turn into this young man? Where is the boy running into our arms each and every day; the one who yelled "MOMMA!!" or "DADDY!!" from across the room; the one whose smile never stopped; the one who "forever and always would be my little boy". I know we were right there watching the whole time. It just went by way too fast.

As we reflect on your life thus far, we must consider all St. Joseph Montessori School (SJMS) has been to our family. It has obviously been the source of an outstanding education, but it has been so much more. The SJMS community has provided laughter, advice, love and support. For the last 12 years, SJMS provided the environment for you to develop your confidence and explore the world in a way no other school could provide. We are grateful to the teachers for giving you more than book-smarts; they have given you their love and attention, their time and patience; their respect and trust.

We will never forget watching you work in Children's House. You would explore something new and then return to things with which you were comfortable. Each exploration became longer until you mastered your new skill. We watched in awe at how our little guy could be so strong, so brave, so resourceful, so smart! It became clear you had the strength and confidence to navigate your world independently. That holds true to this day.

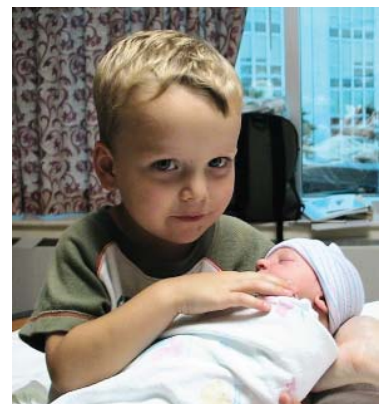
We still guide you more than you probably want. We want to protect you from any hurt and disappointment. But that doesn't prepare you for everything that lies ahead. You will need to navigate a road full of ups and downs, and, yes, there will be both. While the road will sometimes be hard we promise you this, you will find your way and it will be amazing, exciting and wonderful!

In a few months you will embark on a new journey. You will walk the halls of high school, get your driver's license, start planning for college and so much more. We know you are on the right path. We will continue to encourage you, support you, cheer for you, cry with you, guide you and love you until the end of time and beyond. As you begin to pull away from us and become more independent, please remember what we taught and take these few words of wisdom with you.

- Be trustworthy and honest.
- Live a grateful life, every day is a gift.
- Believe in yourself; don't let life's challenges defeat you. You can be the G.O.A.T. at anything!
- Be respectful and polite, open doors and be generous.
- Life is full of choices, do the right thing, even when it is hard.
- Work hard, always.
- Advocate for yourself, if you don't, no one will.
- Be a good friend; share your feelings with those you trust.
- Laugh often and loudly.
- Don't let toxic people bring you down.
- Find your passion and spend time nurturing it.
- Let yourself feel everything...love, joy, fear, sadness. It is ALL part of the journey.
- Put everything in perspective; "Get" NOT "Have". One small word can change your outlook.
- Be safe; be aware of your surroundings; don't text and drive; don't drink and drive; and so on!!!
- Play ball and go fishing with your Dad.
- ALWAYS love & lookout for Sadie.
- Give your Mom hugs often and be patient (I am struggling with the emotions of watching my little boy grow up).
- Remember your roots. You have so many people on your side. You will NEVER be alone. Not everyone has that, treat it as a gift and a blessing.

•Dad and I will always be here for you, ALWAYS, no matter what. We love you to the moon and back infinity times. Nothing will ever change that. EVER!

All Our Love,  
Momma & Dad



Dear Sawyer,

*I have loved being together at SJMS. It doesn't feel too long ago when we were in CH. Remember when we decided to cut my hair? What about the swims at Uncle Wade's, long bike rides and walks with the dogs? Those were great times. I know we will have many more fun times in the future, but I am thinking about how we will never be at SJMS together again. It makes me happy and sad at the same time. I am excited for you to go to high school. I don't yet know if going to high school is scary, but I do know everything will turn out amazing for you.*

*I love you a lot Bubby,  
Sadie*

# Madelyn McCurdy

St. Francis DeSales High School



Dear Madelyn,

We don't believe the gravity of you graduating SJMS will sink in until you are wearing a UNIFORM next year! You look so good in Purple, and we are very excited for you to go to St. Francis DeSales. We know you will be successful because of the foundation you have developed from experiences you have had over the past 11-12 years at SJMS.

You are someone who pursues truth and knowledge. You give just as much respect to others as you naturally command from them. You are a passionate, creative, thoughtful, intelligent, open-minded, loving young adult who has endless opportunities ahead. We would be naive, and arguably arrogant, to think you are full of such admirable characteristics because of the parenting we have done. We are certain these attributes are primarily from all the "life" exposure you have had while attending SJMS.

From the first day we dropped you off (kicking and screaming) into Carolyn and Consuelo's arms, until now, it has been easy to identify SJMS Angels that have been impactful in sculpting your life and

perception of it. You will never unlearn the love and support these SJMS Angels have showered you with. It is with you. Your teachers, school staff, and your friends and their families have enriched your life in ways that we prayed for. They all deserve the credit! It's a common theory to believe that it takes a whole village to raise a child. Exposure to the collective to shape the individual. We chose the right village for you to be raised in. Thank you "townspeople" past and present alike, for making sure our daughter, learned and grew in a safe environment. Without all of your support, guidance, and love we would never have been able to provide her with such a strong foundation on our own. Thank you for being a consistent example of what community is all about.

We are confident you will take these core values throughout all your educational endeavors and in life. We will always be your biggest supporters and trust you will make an impact wherever you go. We are so blessed to have you in our lives! Congratulations to you and all your classmates! You guys are like rocket ships. Designed by the best engineers your families could find. You have been made to blast off the SJMS platform to explore new places and conquer challenges. Buckle up! You are ready! We will be watching always. And you will never be without "tech support" from us. In or out of sight, in or out of this galaxy, we will be there. Just keep your foundation as your compass and trust in your gut. Now be courageous and go get em! Just don't forget to send us cool postcards... if that's still a thing.

Love Always,  
Mom and Dad



Dear Madelyn,  
Congratulations on graduating St. Joes! I am so excited for you. You are a great big sister and I will miss you next year. Thanks for always looking out for me. I know sometimes I get on your nerves, but I love you very much. By the way, that face you make at me when I'm being annoying, you know that scowl eye-roll thing... Daddy said you should give it to any boy who tries to talk to you next year in high school. Good luck!

Love, Declan

P.S. Daddy helped me write this



# James Messerly

St. Charles Preparatory School

Dear James,

How can it be that your time at SJMS is already coming to a close, when it seems like only yesterday that our family was walking into the parking lot for our first Back to School Celebration, unsure of what to expect. Even then, though, we weren't there very long before you made a new friend as we stood in line to make a balloon animal. Kids have always been able to sense your kind and genuine nature and can tell how open you are to new people.

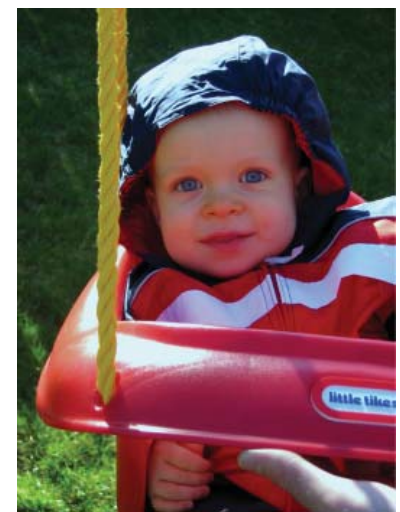
Middle school was an amazing transformation for you – at SJMS, you were always being challenged. You quickly blasted through the rainbow of spelling lists and moved on to vocabulary. Bill expanded your love of reading to include writing stories and poetry as well. Karla introduced you to using a computer to research and present your work. Susan kept you challenged in math – moving on from facts to squares and square roots. You decided on the trombone for your instrument and later began to play bells as well. We so enjoyed going to your concerts and performances to see what fun new music you'd been working on with Sandra. You loved the field trips – the local garden with Sarah, Mohican Outdoor School, and Skate Zone. Annie, and later Paige, were your favorite people to visit – they embraced your love reading, and even gave you the opportunity to read early printings of books over the summer and report back with your thoughts about them in the fall.

Erdkinder was full of more challenges and opportunities to learn new things. Michael kept you up to date on cur-

rent events both locally and abroad, and he taught you how to investigate and write a detailed research paper for Interest Fair. Kelsey continued to challenge you with algebra and even some early physics. Cathy prepared you and your brother to welcome the Holy Spirit in your lives and hearts through Confirmation. You were given more responsibility and more freedom – from “microwave day” to trips to North Market and then to your big trip to Pennsylvania.

It's always made us so proud that, during all your years at SJMS, you've always welcomed new experiences and never refused to try something new. Whether it was a new instrument, a new food, a new school subject, or a new sport, you've always embraced the opportunity. Over the years at SJMS, you were involved in Game club, Chess club, Mathcounts, Martial arts, Power of the pen, Battle of the books, and Paint club – just to name a few. You're also just as open to meeting new people and making new friends – whether or not they're your age or even go to your school. This trait will serve you well as you prepare to move on and discover new friendships and interests at St. Charles. We're so proud of you! We can't wait to see what high school has in store for you, and we'll be there to love and support you all the way.

All our love,  
Dad and Mom



# Luke Messerly

St. Charles Preparatory School

Dear Luke,

It's so hard to believe that in a few short weeks you'll be graduating from eighth grade and moving on to a new adventure at St. Charles - it seems like just yesterday your adventure at SJMS began. In the beginning, you had very little interest in leaving your friends at St. Andrew and trying something new. Even after visiting, you weren't so sure. But, you gave it a try, and it wasn't long at all before SJMS felt like home.

You were so proud to be in charge of taking care of your own plant for Karla, and it certainly lasted longer than any house plant we've ever been able to keep at home! Bill sparked your interest in History (and board games!), and Susan piqued your interest in constellations and in mythology - so much so that you made it the subject of your first Interest Fair! Even aside from schoolwork, you were learning so much - you actually enjoyed having chores to do in the classroom, you began learning to manage your time, and you started playing clarinet with Sandra. I must admit that at that first band concert, I was expecting the worst, but I was shocked that after the short time you kids spent learning new instruments, you kids sounded fantastic!

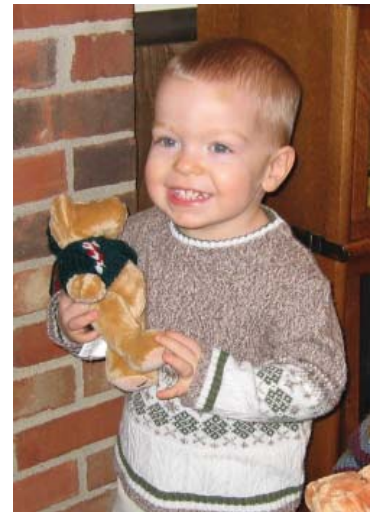
Then in the fifth grade, you were able to try the bells, and I think my heart almost burst with joy and pride when I watched you and your brother play the bells for the first time at Cookies and Carols - it was a beautiful thing! Cathy nurtured your faith, Annie and Paige reinforced your love of books, Roxanne broadened your artistic view, and Sarah encouraged you to think about your environment with trips to

the local garden. In middle school, your teachers were truly invested in your growth and development of independent thought and character. You explored at picnics, "cracked up" at Mohican School, and even hammed it up at Cathy's evolution play for Carpool Coffee with your depiction of "man". Between the "Thinker" pose and the moon walk, you had the crowd roaring with laughter, and I was so impressed at how brave you were!

Then there was Erdkinder - a whole new level of work and responsibility, and you stepped right up. Michael continued to nurture your interest in history, and Kelsey gave you the opportunity to take eighth grade algebra that you might not have gotten elsewhere. There were tougher projects, including interest fair, but there was more freedom, more outings and the big class trip - and you loved every minute of it.

Throughout your time at SJMS, your teachers nurtured your strengths - willingness to work hard, the joy you get from service to others, your sense of humor. Now it's time to begin a new adventure. With all that you've learned through your time at SMJS, I know that you'll embrace this new challenge. We love you and support you and we're so proud of you - we can't wait to see what's yet to come!

All our love,  
Mom and Dad





# CHRISTIAN WURAPA

Christian!

You are such a treasure! A divinely wonderful mix of whimsy, wisdom, and wonder...all packaged in a handsome frame. God continues to bless our home and the world with your gifts.

From the beginning, you've delivered a little bit more than most would imagine possible... and, at the least expected moment. We still can't figure out how you removed the hinges on the child safety gate as a two year old or rode a bicycle on the first attempt! That curious and creative mind has left you a patented scientist (yeah, Starfish Band-Aid), an impressive visual artist, and a crooning trumpeter! Your respect for the dignity of others and love of nature's smallest creatures has not be lost on us. Even your first Interest Fair project, a diorama in Children House, was about the animals on The Savannah. At times you've been the quiet observer of few words, yet, your example delivers a powerful message of kindness and patience with the human condition.

Long gone are the days of kitchen experiments, nature observations, soccer practices, early morning games, readings and devotionals in the car, and family movie nights. Yet, those moments are still with you and the lessons learned are priceless. Remember the value of discipline...it is the success variable that always delivers; honor your creator and your creation...it defines your purpose and your power; continue to have a grateful spirit for all experiences... whether it seems like a stormy or sunny day, it's always your winning season; never be afraid to ask for help, do the right thing, show compassion, admit mistakes or say I'm sorry...these are the measures of a man!

You inspire us with your spirit of perseverance, your laughter, and ability to roll with life's changing winds! With courage and confidence you acclimated to a "few" new schools and navigated friendships, long assignments, hiked the Appalachian Trail for weeks (God is GOOD!), handled "suicide drills" in basketball practice, and so much more...all this while dropping those corny jokes. You truly have the spirit of a champion! Remember this truth on days when doubts may arise.

Your insight is beyond your years and your ability to see the big picture will serve you well as you focus on the things that truly have worth of your time and energy. We are so proud of

## The Wellington School

your maturing work ethic and discipline, and never surprised by your ability to get 100% on a quiz...you've always been capable of excellence and deliver when the moment demands it. You are now approaching the portion of your journey which will seem to demand excellence as the standard. God has equipped you, SJMS has equipped you, and your "village" has equipped you. Yes, you can "bring it" and still have time to relax with a pizza and a buddy!

Christian, like a great sculpture, God is creating a masterpiece in you. Don't mind the molding and the growing pains when they come; just stay focused on the great work of art that's evolving. You have been shaped by a host of characters and experiences and are becoming an intelligent man of integrity, resilience, and honorable character. As grandpa would say, "you're going to be a great man!"

Know with all certainty that we have your back! We've never doubted your potential and can't wait to see how God uses you and molds you into a great leader. Because of you, we are better parents, better listeners, and love enough to give what is needed, not always wanted (so don't ask for those sneakers again!) Wellington is next, but your life awaits. So answer the call with courage, a willingness to learn, and walk in step with the Holy Spirit. Remember Romans 8:28 and remember how much you are absolutely, completely, and totally loved by your family and our awesome heavenly Father who made you to shine like a star in this world. Carpe diem!

Hugs and kisses,  
Mom and Dad



*Congrats and welcome to high school! Always give everything 101%, don't procrastinate, and we know you'll kill it! And remember, you're more than our spider catcher; you're our favorite little brother...wait! You're our only brother!*

*Love, Sydney and Jordan*

# Graduation Word Search

Y	I	E	A	C	A	O	Q	B	S	D	G	Q	L	I
H	L	D	L	R	H	D	Y	P	L	R	A	W	Y	G
O	A	I	V	V	S	R	E	U	P	E	B	E	S	S
M	P	D	L	A	E	N	I	H	H	W	R	Z	B	T
Q	Z	Z	D	Y	C	P	S	S	T	B	I	R	M	N
K	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	E	T	R	E	I	D	E
V	F	S	R	I	N	S	Q	Y	E	I	L	D	K	E
U	O	V	R	R	A	A	A	D	L	V	A	U	J	V
N	O	R	E	M	A	C	I	I	N	E	L	N	T	N
Y	X	Y	O	E	Q	Z	V	M	H	D	D	I	J	L
R	A	H	Q	P	M	D	I	J	Y	I	Z	A	Q	S
O	T	A	Y	A	M	C	L	U	A	X	I	E	M	Y
S	A	W	Y	E	R	N	A	F	G	M	L	Z	G	J
U	A	B	G	K	T	M	I	N	T	Y	E	A	L	H
L	F	A	H	N	C	H	X	P	D	L	X	S	R	I

Spencer  
Drew  
Alivia  
Adam  
Maya  
Gabriela  
Lily  
Thomas

Cameron  
Esha  
Katherine  
Sawyer  
Madelyn  
James  
Luke  
Christian



It's Poem Time!

By: Roxanne

As graduation poet laureate,  
I have many thoughts to lend.  
So, turn on your listening ears,  
there will be a quiz at the end.

I have many fond memories  
of this class of eighteen.  
From the tears to the laughs,  
and everything in between.

I'll be the first to admit  
there were bumps in the road,  
but with patience and love  
our bond soon did grow.

In art class you made projects  
enriching and worthwhile,  
and ate the treats I baked  
like they were going out of style.

Your service to our school  
was seen in a positive way.  
You shared smiles at carpool  
and fed us on Fun Fridays.

I look into my crystal ball  
and see your futures so bright.  
Including school, and careers,  
plus finding Mr. or Miss Right.

I say "Congratulations!"  
and seal it with a kiss.  
You'll tell me all about it since  
I'm permanently on your mailing list.

Dear Graduates...

We are very proud of all of you  
and we know that you will be  
successful in your endeavors.  
You have begun your journey  
as students, but now you will  
depart as friends.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Michael & Kelsey

word search answers

Y + + A C A + + + S D G + + +  
+ L D + + H + + P + R A + + +  
+ A I + + S R E + + E B + + +  
M + + L + E N I + + W R + + +  
+ + + + + C + + S + + I + + +  
K A T H E R I N E T + E + + E  
+ + + R + + S + Y + I L + K +  
+ + + + + A + A + L + A U + +  
N O R E M A C I + + E L N + +  
+ + + O + + + V + + + D + + +  
+ + H + + + + I J + + + A + +  
+ T A Y A M + L + A + + + M +  
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# Congratulations!



# We will miss you!