

St. Joseph Montessori School

# Graduation Supplement



## *Class of 2019*

*Deklan Burk  
Isaac Conrad  
Sydney Gibson  
Kyla Hammond  
Renee Hutchins*

*Madeline Keglewitsch  
Darlene Neyou  
Avry Overly-Sheterom  
Shirish Parasa  
Thegn Penrose*

*Samuel Schaffner  
Alex Shaver  
Zoe Strausbaugh  
Garrett White  
Katie Zerbi*

# Deklan Burk

The Wellington School

Dear Deklan,

I can't believe you are going to high school! Time has passed by too quickly and I wish we could go back and do it all over again. There are so many happy memories that I have from your time at St. Joe's. Here are a few of my favorites:

1. Your excitement about completing your multiplication chains.
2. Your first birthday celebration in Children's House.
3. Performing "Happy" at the talent show with Max and Tyler.
4. Our annual birthday lunch with your friends at school.
5. Your special song that aftercare Ryan wrote and performed with you.
6. The Christmas musical in fourth grade where you had the lead as Santa Claus. Your beard kept falling off but you powered through giving it your all.
7. Camp Mohican provided fun adventures with your friends along with a new love for Salisbury Steak.
8. Winning the first ever dance competition at the spring concert.
9. Your first class trip with your 8th grade friends and the experiences you shared.

The list above is just a quick highlight reel of all the happy memories made during your time at St. Joe's.

Remember as you move on to Wellington that you are enough! You are good enough, smart enough and have the biggest heart of solid gold. You are and will always be my biggest blessing and make me proud to be your mom every day. I love you for forever and like you for always as long as I am living my baby you will be.

Your biggest fan,  
Mommy



Dear Deklan, I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of you of all your accomplishments upon your graduation from SJMS. You are indeed blessed to be a blessing and are greatly loved by your Grandpa. I look forward to your continued development in the coming years.

Love, Grandpa

# Isaac Conrad

Bishop Hartley High School

May 5 th 2005 was a joyful day for us. That is your “Gotcha Day”. You have been and continue to be a wonderful son. You were a quiet baby that your older brother and sister loved to play with. You have been a great big brother to Sebastian. He follows your lead and has learned a lot from watching you. You look out for him and teach him right from wrong.

Watching you grow has been enjoyable. You have made us very proud to be your parents. You are beginning to realize that life is going to get more difficult with more challenges ahead of you. The education, values, and life skills that you’ve received from your family, including SJMS, will help you face those challenges, instead of hiding from them. You have been a part of SJMS for 10 years, beginning with Pre-K. You are preparing for the next phase of your life – high school.

You made the decision on where to attend high school on your own. The decision was based on what you felt gave you the best opportunity to learn and achieve what you want. This is the first of many choices you will make during the next 4 years that will have a considerable impact on the rest of your life.

Your friends, teachers, coaches, other adults who have known you all say the same thing – what a wonderful person. You have a humble heart and always have a smile on your face. That smile melts our hearts and lifts our spirits. We remember when you earned some money cutting grass and gave it all to a homeless man. People trust and confide in you. You are a quiet leader. You strive not to create conflict or problems and are willing to help, even when you don’t really want to.

Listening to you play piano since you were three years old has been delightful. The

performance recitals at King Arts Center were memorable. You looked so cute in your tuxedo. We know we refused to let you quit piano lessons, but you have found the music and teacher you like and improve every day. It thrills us to sit and listen to you play.

We have cheered you at soccer, baseball, basketball, and any other activity that you participated in. Dad had a lot of fun coaching you in T-Ball and coach-pitch. One bonding moment that Dad will always cherish is when he coached you at the Ballparks of America tournament last summer.

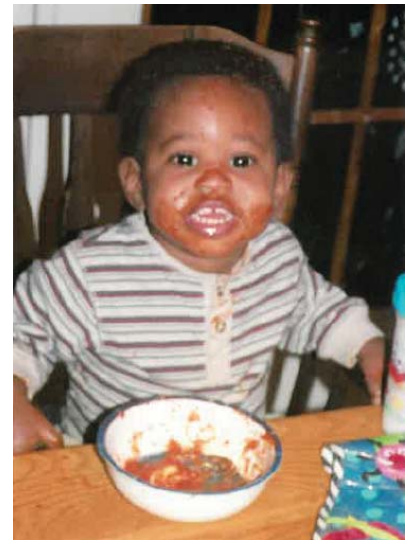
Over the years, we’ve collected the maps you drew in Children’s House to the Pottery you designed in Erdkinder. Our favorite cherished item is a poem written by you at age six and published in the book “A Handful of Poems” by SJMS P1 Class of 2011-2012.

## Thankful

I am thankful for  
God, birthdays, cranberry sauce,  
Being born,  
Potatoes, and  
Jesus

We are thankful to God for you, Isaac. We are blessed to be your parents. We are proud of the young man that you are today and the man you will become. We love you very much.

Love,  
Mom and Dad



# Sydney Gibson

Bishop Hartley High School

Dear Syd Kid,

Words cannot express how proud and in awe of you we are. From the time you were a little girl we knew there was something extra special about you. We have said all along that we can't wait to see what you are going to do and who you are going to become because it's going to be amazing!

There are some people that are the "light" for a room when they walk in and you are one of those people. To experience the beautiful, intelligent, passionate, and witty woman you have become is such a joy for us to be a part of. You certainly keep us and those around you on our toes.

To have the confidence to know who you are but also the kindness and courage to become even better is a gift you possess. To use your own words, you do truly "see the world not as what it is but what it could become". Our wish is you will always keep that fire and passion to achieve your goals and help many people along the way.

We're not sure what the future holds from here but we do know to buckle our seatbelts and hold on because it's going to be an amazing ride on this journey with you dear Sydney! Congratulations on your graduation and good luck on your next chapter as a Bishop Hartley Hawk!

Love, Mom and Dad



# KYLA HAMMOND

## The Wellington School

Dear Kyla Marie,

We cannot believe that the time has come to write your graduation letter. Not only are you graduating, but we feel like we are graduating as well. We have been a St. Joe's family since 2006, beginning with your sister and now concluding with you. We are so grateful for this school and all that it has given to you both.

When your sister started in Children's House and you were still in daycare, you would come in to drop her off and stop and hug the statue of Mary in the lobby every morning. At first, only we noticed, but over time the staff in the office, teachers and other parents noticed your adoration of the statue. After we left the building, you would head over to the Sacred Heart court yard and look at the statue of Mary and say hello to her. It was a very sweet routine to do with you each day.

Once you were three years old and started in Children's House with Ms. Janette and Ms. Nupur, you were excited to be at school with Sissy, but very afraid to be alone. For two months, you would not eat your lunch or speak a word in your class. Instead, you were quietly observing and working. We were worried and Great Grandma decided to make her famous spaghetti for your lunch to see if you would eat. Your teachers invited Sissy to the classroom to eat with you. The combination of Great Grandma's spaghetti and Sissy being with you broke through your fear and helped you feel more at ease. You spent the year writing many princess story books, working on your bead chains, and enjoying the practical life section of the classroom and building your friendship with Abby. For five straight months, you described your stuffy noses as having a "haycorn" stuck inside. We were in awe of your imagination until the day the real acorn magically emerged, then we were in awe of both your strength and our inability to notice what you were telling us for all those months.

In Primary we saw your ability to excel at your work, especially with Interest Fair, which is something you thought about year-round. From Ocean Life to Barbie, to Greek Gods and Goddesses, your interests grew and grew. We loved seeing you as Mary in Cookies and Carols in your third year and watching you participate in soccer at the Park of Roses.

Middle School was exciting for you – moving upstairs to be with the big kids, seeing your sister in the Erdkinder room, going on field trips and surviving Mohican were all part of the

adventure. Your math skills grew quickly, as did your love of graphic novels like "Smile," "Drama," and many others. Your skills in art with painting, sculpting, and clay work also began to flourish. You also decided you were going to be a doctor and bought yourself your own medical kit and often took care of your friends in the classroom when they suffered a small injury. "Dr. Hammond" was on call throughout much of Middle School.

Your final two years in Erdkinder have been full of change for you. You are more independent, you have more responsibilities, you work as an ambassador, and you never fail to impress the adults around you with your maturity and your sincerity. Wise beyond your years, your teachers recognize that you are someone who is a compassionate leader and a dependable young adult. All these characteristics will suit you well in high school when you join your sister next year at Wellington.

We most appreciate the person you've always been – kind, loving, sweet, and caring. You are gentle in all your ways and a very lovely person. We hope your love of art and medicine continues to grow in high school and that you continue to challenge yourself. We are very proud of you and love you so much. And, the dogs love you as well, but you knew that already.

Congratulations on your graduation. Hold St. Joe's close to your heart and know that your Montessori education is the gift that keeps on giving.

Love, Mommy and Daddy, along with Gizmo, Annie, Nelson, and Lacy J.



Dear Kiwa,

Mama told me that one day you would get bigger and you would stop following me around, and that day actually came. It's been so fun to see my baby sister become such a grown, fun, and interesting person. I love being able to joke around with you and know I will always have someone to talk to when I need to. I can't wait for next year when we can go to school together again, and I'm proud to say that you are my little sister.

Love you, Meela.

I'll see you at graduation!

# Renee Hutchins

The Wellington School

My sweet baby Renee',

You are my "Pumpkin-rumpkin", my "baby girl", my heart and soul, you are my joy. Watching you grow into the beautiful, intelligent, wise, strong, compassionate and loving young lady that you are has been a true pleasure and honor. I'm blessed to be your mother and guide you through this journey as you become all that God has created you to be.

My heart is bursting with love and excitement as I watch you blossom and discover all the possibilities that are available to you. Keep dreaming and exploring and creating and laughing and loving and most of all believing. You are a child of the Most High and with Him all things are possible.

You've worked very hard to reach this day. I'm so stinkin' proud of you! Congratulations my sweet girl.

Always remember who loves you, Mom.



# MADÉLINE KEGLEWITSCH

Columbus School for Girls

Dear Maddie,

Seems like only yesterday that you were sharing toddler words of wisdom such as “God Bless Comerica” and “Please give me my private seats\*”. Now you are winning writing awards despite your early annunciation-based confusion and headed off to high school. And we hope that, unlike when you were a pre-school student and you pretended like you did not know us at school functions, you at least acknowledge our existence at graduation.

While we do not say it often because, frankly, we simply expect it, we are proud of how you have excelled in school. One of the motivating factors when we enrolled you in St. Joe’s was not the “given” of academics, but the desire to make sure you became a complete, and emotionally developed, person which we were convinced this school valued. You are clearly well-rounded in the traditional sense. You are a bit of a renaissance (young) woman – you play hockey shortly after banging out Hamilton songs on the piano for two hours. You waterski and paint pictures. You read quietly for hours in your room or anywhere that has a sufficient couch-like atmosphere.

But we feel that being truly well-rounded is more than a resume building exercise: being a “good” person matters even if it does not check a box on a college application. One of the highest compli-

ments you can pay a person – particularly a young person – is that you know yourself. You are comfortable in your own skin and understand that being your best self is more important than being the person others might want you or push you to be.

You have a strong sense of justice. You cannot stand seeing someone being picked on; the misdeed carry the day; the villain win. It may be one of the traits that serves your personal growth best. And that makes your parents proud.

The table is set. We are confident that you have all the tools you need, both educationally and emotionally, for the next phases of your life. Don’t deviate from your instincts. Maybe the best way to sum up our attitude as you graduate was best said by your grandfather years ago when he noted somewhat offhand “I can’t wait to see what she becomes.” We couldn’t agree more.

We love you a bushel and a peck,  
Mom, Dad and Pickle

\*privacy p.s.



# Darlene Neyou

Bishop Hartley High School

Dear Darlene,

I still remember your beautiful, chubby and crying face on the delivery table at William Beaumont Hospital in Troy, Michigan like it was yesterday. I took you home in a car seat, wearing a white coat, during this cold Michigan winter.

I cannot believe that 14 years have passed and here you are graduating from St Joseph Montessori School.

I know that it was not an easy transition as you started at St. Joe's as a 6th grader. Everyone already knew each other and it was hard to make friends. However, you have come a long way and done so well especially academically.

You are more mature than your age and your religion teacher would not stop complementing you.

Darlene, do you remember when we were in Texas, you opened a day-pop-up lemonade shop. You sold Lemonade on the family's driveway (you

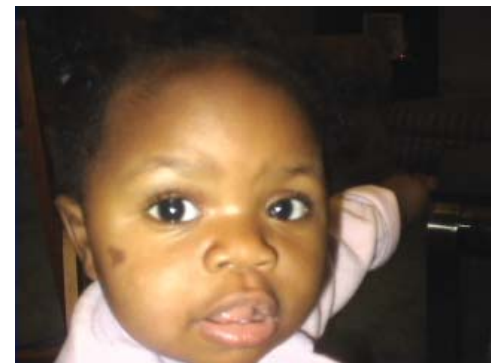
were in third grade). You then took your hard-earned money and gave it to your dad with a short note: "daddy, Can you save this money for me? It is my college tuition. Thanks."

You are now a young 9th grader, with a strong character; very good sense of purposes and you know exactly why it is important to go to school. Some time you will be discouraged and challenged. But, all you have to do is to repeat to yourself "THE NEY-OU'S CODE of CONDUCT"; and rely to your strong belief in God (Rom 8:28).

I am sure your journey at Bishop Hartley will be amazing as you are so well prepared and anxious for high school.

We love you dearly and you know for certain that Mom & Dad will always be there to guide you and to support you throughout this next journey.

Love,  
Your mom and dad.





# AVRY OVERLY-SHETEROM

Worthington Kilbourne High School

Avry,

It seems like only yesterday we brought you to SJMS for your orientation meeting. They told us you would have a meeting with a teacher in a classroom without us. I remember being nervous and thinking you would not want to go without us. Much to our surprise, you stood up and went all on your own without any hesitation. It was then I realized how much you had grown up and were ready to be an independent 1 st grader! It is hard to believe 8 years have passed and you are now graduating from 8 th grade! We could not possibly be more proud of you!

Watching you grow up into such an incredible young man has been an experience that we will cherish forever. We love that you are kind, smart, funny, talented, a good friend, compassionate and have a gentle soul. We are excited for your next chapter as you begin high school at Worthington Kilbourne. We know you will face it head-on and make it four great years!

Remember, we will always be here to guide and support you every step of the way! We love you very much! Thank you for being our incredible son!

Mommy and Mom



# Shirish Parasa

The Metro School

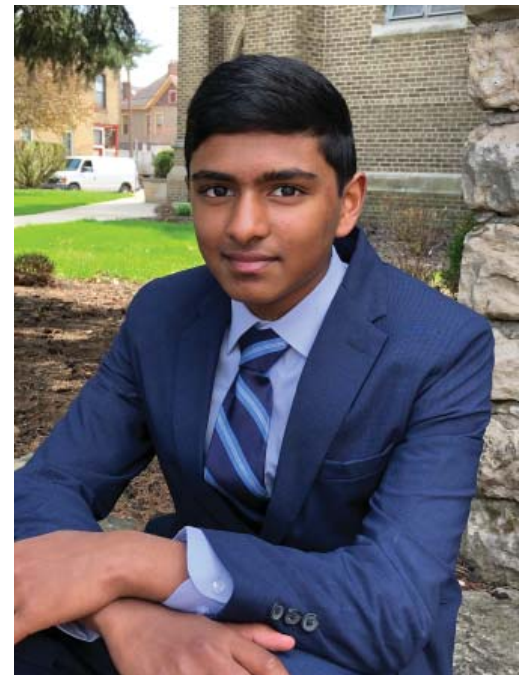
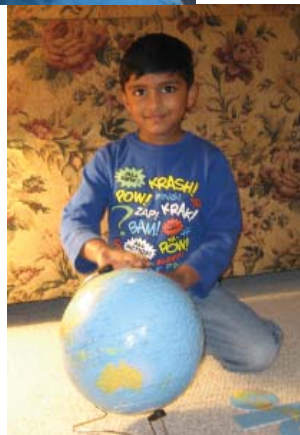
Dear Shirish,

We are so proud & amazed at what a wonderful person you have become.

You are a talented, hard working & most of all a kind hearted young man. Your wisdom & wit surprise us... kind of hard to believe that our youngest one is growing up so fast ( too fast )

Wishing you great success always!

Love  
Amma, Dada & Anna



# *Thegn Penrose*

The Wellington School

Dear Thegn,

How is it possible that you are finishing your eighth grade year already? It feels like life accelerated the moment you came into it. You were a wide-eyed baby who always seemed to be wordlessly taking in every last thing, just like a baby owl. That is why we nicknamed you 'Thegn the Wise' back then.

When you started school it was so hard to let you go off on your own, but children's house with Marsha and Noreen (and Bethany in aftercare!) seemed like the perfect place to watch you spread your wings. I remember how Bethany kindly brought you some rubber gloves when you were reluctant to dive into the mess of fingerpainting! The world of 'works' was somewhat mysterious to us, and you didn't always want to explain the details of the school day when you were home. We remember, though, how you started to play differently, taking out one thing at a time and then returning it to its place before starting the next one. You amazed us by becoming independent in the small ways of cleaning up your place at the table and getting yourself ready for the day. I was so appreciative of the friendships that you formed in Children's House that you still have today.

The eighth grade still seemed so far away as you moved through the years of primary and middle school. So much happened in your life during those years, it's hard to remember the individual phases! Not only did you tackle natural disasters, lost cities, robots, and the bermuda triangle (to name a few) for interest fair, but you also ran through many interests including aikido, magic, and always, building with legos. You gained your first pet responsibilities when a week visit with Diamond and Snowflake, the middle school guinea pigs, unexpectedly turned into a permanent arrangement. You faced every challenge life threw at you with humor, a smile, kindness to animals and people, and some interesting facts to share.

We blinked, and you are one of those grown-up eighth graders! You've discovered that you can totally handle a sailboat by yourself. You now look like a young man and not a baby owl, but you continue to observe the world carefully and use your natural creativity to make connections with what you see. With your kindness, creative thinking, and wisdom, you set an example, and we are so proud of you.

We are so excited for your next chapter at the Wellington School! In this next chapter, be unafraid to try new things and go to the edge of what you know. After all, as you know so well, broken bones heal, capsized boats eventually get righted, and the experience of flying along on the wind is worth the risk. All the love and congratulations for your eighth grade graduation and all the best wishes for your high school years!

Love,  
Mom and Dad



# Samuel Schaffner

Linworth Alternative High School

## Sam Is

Sam is fourteen and done with eighth grade  
 The amazing thing is, he's never really afraid  
 A true friend - if you need him, he will come to your aid  
 An adventurer, and a curious soul  
 With a great sense of humor and a heart of gold  
 Though he's changed over time, he has always been bold  
 We admit we are biased and see his best  
 His twinkling eyes, intelligent smile, and distaste for rest  
 His mind always racing with thoughts of what's next  
 Our hearts are full of love for the one who made us father and mother  
 Who has brought so much joy, who is like no other  
 As he leaves this school and moves on to another  
 We celebrate his growth, his spirit, and style  
 We cross our fingers and hope all the while  
 that the journey continues to make his ride wild  
 that he plays baseball, climbs mountains, and bakes  
 That he travels, loves deeply, and does what it takes  
 To be his best self, and to do it with grace



### What I love about Sam...

He is my brother and I really look up to him. He is nice, funny, kind, smart, and very athletic. When he is older, I know many people would want to be like him including me. I know he is going to get into a great college maybe even figure out how to populate Mars. That is how smart I think my brother is. He always looks out for the environment by recycling a lot not littering and also mankind gardens. You're going to make the world a better place. Love you, bro.

Love, Henry

## ALEX SHAVER

The Wellington School

Alex,

Your St. Joseph Montessori tenure began late one summer when we dropped you off for your entrance assessment. Noreen Carstens, who would become one of your CH1 teachers, met us outside on the Children's House playground to tell us that you had passed. "And," she said, "he's made a new friend. His name is Thegn." You've always made friends quite easily.

For the next eleven years we've watched you blossom at St. Joe's. You've participated in the school music programs. You've participated in the school sports program though St. Mary's, sometimes when you were the only one in your grade from St. Joe's to do so. You've helped out at school events, often on weekends and late evenings. You have cared for classroom pets, you've participated in Safety Patrol, and you've helped the younger kids as their "buddy." You've been a good friend to those who know you. Most of all, you've made us proud of who you are, and who you are becoming.

High school won't always be easy. You will be challenged! Sometimes you'll get frustrated, and sometimes you'll feel overwhelmed. You may even have a teacher or two that you make you say, "mehhh." Remember, this is just a stepping stone. It's all part of the total experience.

You'll meet lots of new friends while keeping in touch with many of the old. You'll have new teachers who will inspire you to pursue new-found interests. You'll go to exciting places and do exciting things. You'll learn about new cultures. You will continue to learn, and along the way, you'll find out more about who you are. Enjoy this time of your life.

Best of luck at Wellington, Alex! I love you and couldn't be prouder of you.

Dad

Alex,

I remember dropping you off on the first day of Children's House thinking, "I hope we're doing the right thing." After 11 years at St. Joe's, I know we did.

Your friendly spirit has thrived at St. Joe's. You have a natural ability to make people feel welcome. Your sense of humor, passed down to you from both of your grandfathers, has kept us all in stitches from day one. Your laughter is infectious and constant. You are a pleasure to be around. Some of my favorite memories of your early childhood include your love of musicals and costumes. Since Nick came along, you have been a fine example of what a big brother should be: protector, teacher, rival. Even though you don't always get along, I know that you have each other's interests at heart.

I remember the caring and dedicated teachers you had in Children's House 1. Noreen and Marsha were a wonderful team. The birthday celebration where a candle was lit, and you walked around the globe to show that a year had passed stands out in my mind. The Children's House experience made me realize how many things you could do on your own; that our role was to guide you, not do things for you that you could do for yourself.

When you made the transition to Primary, I remember observing the different classrooms to decide what would be a good fit. At the time, Primary 1 had a huge bird cage with multiple live birds in it. I remember thinking, "Wow. What an unusual thing for a classroom!" We knew that was the right room for you. Your love of animals has only grown throughout the years. Taking care of the class pet was always your favorite job. The empathy that you demonstrate for all living creatures has certainly grown from your education at St. Joe's.

When you moved "upstairs" to Middle School, the rumors were that it would be scary and hard. Not so. Susan, Bill, and Karla were ready to challenge you, especially in math. Math became one of your favorite subjects because of Susan's experience and no-nonsense style.

You were ready for Erdkinder, even though you didn't know it. Seventh grade was the real deal in terms of learning time management. There were some hard lessons, but you learned how

to persevere. Michael and Kelsey kept you on track. Eighth grade has flown by, and we know that you are ready for high school.

After all the concerts, bake sales, talent shows, music lessons, art shows, and Interest Fairs, we know that you have built a solid foundation to draw upon during your next chapter at The Wellington School. Alex, I love you so much and am so proud of you. I cannot wait to see how you will change the world!

Love,  
Mom

PS: To all the teachers and staff at St. Joe's: THANK YOU for all the dedication and work that you invest in this school to make it such a special place.

Alex,

Congrats on graduating from school. I hope you do well at Wellington.

Nick



# Zoe Strausbaugh

The Arts & College Preparatory Academy  
ACPA

Dearest Zoe,

As you know, your great-grandparents were married at Sacred Heart and so there has always been a special connection to the school, even before the start of your (and even your grandparents) timeline! The summer before you started at SJMS, we met a then Erdkinder student named Charlotte...she looked out for you and always gave you a little extra attention, just like you do today for the little ones you walk to Children's House in the morning. I love hearing your stories about the how they amaze you...not to mention your impressive long-standing commitment to car-pool service.

In your first years at SJMS, Nupur and Janette spoiled you rotten in Children's House with love and attention...you cherished naptime and were only sad about "moving up" to be a Kindergartner for that reason – you needed your peaceful, restorative time (and still do)! You visited them every day when you moved up to Primary.

You were so fortunate to have Kathy and Jennifer for Primary and then on to Susan, Bill and Sarah in Middle School! You visited Kathy too when you really moved "up" to Middle School! I love that you and Sarah recreated one of my favorite Montessori CH traditions of having you walk around the "sun" for each year since your birth date. You've been surrounded by so many amazing individuals over these last twelve years - Roxanne, Marty, Bethany, Carolyn, Cathy, Bonnie, Mary Jo, Sam, librarians Annie & Robert, before and after care teachers – Anthony, Evan, Ryan – remember Charlie and Jeff! The entire SJMS faculty and staff knew you personally and nurtured not just your academics but also your entire person.

And how much older and wiser you always were after a week at Marty's summer camps! You developed new friendships, got to ride in the cool van with the older

kids and experience fun adventures like railroad crossing stories, Herbert Schull (ten years, nine days) tales, paddleboats, and mystery meat Fridays! And even when you had to attend Indian Springs for two years, you were able to stay connected to your SJMS friends through Girl Scouts and so being away wasn't as hard as it might have been otherwise.

Your interest in early American History and Hamilton, in particular, is contagious! It's allowed us to share something in common and has created boundless memories I will hold forever dear – blasting the soundtrack on the way home from school, Chicago, NYC - Trinity Church/Hamilton Grange and of course you schooling me on the Founding Fathers, Declaration of Independence, Constitution/Bill of Rights, How a Bill becomes a Law, the Sally Hemmings/Martha Jefferson connection, etc. (thanks, Michael). You are the best travel/adventure partner (except you might make your co-passengers memorize US Presidents in order...repeatedly...until they get them all right!)

You loved Kelsey's creative and thoughtful teaching about dominant and recessive genes and how hard we laughed about "Brooklyn's" (very) prominent widow's peak. The transition from Valentines Day boxes to "complements" that Kelsey collected and laminated were and are precious to you.

Your "don't touch the clay heart" assertion you made as a Primary student practicing your interest fair presentation is priceless! I laugh so hard every time we watch it! And of course, in keeping with life, the clay heart, got broken, despite the clear signage you made. You took it with a grain of salt (though never let anyone forget it – ha!) and continued on your way! I love and admire that you've always marched to the beat of your own drum and

walked your own path. And while that path can be difficult at times, you always persevere and display resiliency!

I love you and your easygoing spirit, your sensitive and caring nature, the mystery of your person you hold inside of you and the amazing light and love you bring into this world.

Hope you are just as proud as we are of all that you have learned accomplished and shared with others!

Congratulations, Zoe  
(a.k.a. Princess Buttercup)!



## Garrett White

Bishop Watterson High School

Garrett,

It is hard to believe that your time at St. Joe's is coming to an end. I remember the day that we brought you home from the hospital and when we walked in the back door I looked at your Dad and said "So, now what are we supposed to do with him?" I think that Dad and I have had many conversations along the way that started with those same words. But we would look over and you would have struck out on a project of your own. I remember one day when Dad wanted to put all the wooden puzzles we had away because he thought you were too young for them and all the pieces were dumped in to one box. He came into the living room later that day to find you working on every puzzle we had, at the same time.

I am often amazed at the depth of thinking that is going on, when it looks like you are not paying attention to anything. Dad and I still laugh at the time we went camping and could not figure out which way the tent fly was to be attached. You looked at the problem for about 20 seconds and had it sorted out with two turns and a flip.

SJMS has been such a wonderful environment for you to grow and explore all the while keeping you moving forward a little at a time. I remember the days of Children's house when you would cry when I dropped you off, and you would cry when I picked you up. Then you took great pride in showing Heidi around the classroom.

So as your time here at SJMS ends, I think back to all the struggles and successes that you have gone through. I believe that each hurdle (interest fair project) and all the events you have participated in (Mohican, Erd class trips, North Market Lunches, Mass buddies etc) have laid a strong foundation for a future as a compassionate, thoughtful adult who can tackle anything that comes his way. I can't wait to see what comes next.

Love you, Mom

Garrett,

For adults, I guess, time flies. It seems like a minute ago the big kids were walking you to Children's House 4 and Mom and I were celebrating your birthday as you walked around the sun. We told the CH4ers a story for each year of your life and it was simply the best. Now...the years are blending together and I doubt I could come up with a story for all 14 years because year 9 and 12 seem like the same. You are walking kids to the Children's House classroom and it is cute and fun to watch them look up at you as the big kid.

Sometimes I feel out of body as you explain Legos or video games or a casual observation to me and I think "this kid...where did he come from?"...and then of course I think "this kid: he can mow the lawn and run to the store and watch his siblings and...". And I guess that's how parenting and child labor laws work. Sometimes I do we wish had a farm because we would totally rock it, but I'll save those thoughts for high school graduation.

You have experienced the St. Joes experiment for most of your life and as we are all immersed in this endeavor, the comparison of what you will be verses some alternative education experience will never be known but forever speculated.

I think that; despite the challenges of notes, homework, quizzes, and rest of the drag society has deemed education; your St. Joe's experience will forever be a part of your inner fabric and so much in a very good way. Today and forever none of us will ever know completely how, when, or what but there will be glimmers here and there and I will think "there it is...pink tower or pouring work or Bill or Michael or class trip or my God... Interest Fair."

So Garrett; keep looking forward, keep thinking your thoughts, and keep loading the dishwasher. High school will be new, exciting, hard, and all of it. We are proud of you and we love you.

Dad



# Katie Zerbi

The Wellington School

Katie,

From the time you were born, you made your voice heard and seemed to be curious about everyone and everything around you. Daddy and I would talk and dream about what you would be like when you grew up. It seems like time just flew by and here you are, off to high school next year. SJMS has been a second home to you for 11 years now and there is no doubt you are ready for this big next step.

You interviewed at SJMS when you were 3.5 years old. Penny greeted us and I started talking to her about your personality. Before I knew it, she was leading you away with you pointing out leaves on the ground, and Penny patiently answering all of your many questions. We knew right then that I had found the right school for you and for our family.

We wondered how your zest for learning and your love for engaging people would translate as you grew older. Your teachers through the years have appreciated all of your wonderful qualities. Thanks to them, you have experienced everything possible at SJMS. The Montessori environment allowed you to learn in such a meaningful way and your teachers waited patiently until you were ready to reach milestones in your own time. You finally climbed to the top of that yellow cylinder and made your way across

the monkey bars on the Children's House playground. In Primary, you finished your first Interest Fair project on Titanic, the first of many interesting and tragic topics! Debate club in Middle School allowed you to formulate your first of many opinions and arguments. We cannot forget the excitement you and your friends had the day you received your first textbook and took your first real test for a grade. With your love of history, the past two years you have spent in Erdkinder have been special. Most of all, we feel blessed that Emma could spend five years at school with you.

We will forever be grateful to the teachers and staff who have nourished your love for learning.

It has been a joy to watch you grow and take advantage of everything SJMS has to offer. You have a foundation now that will support you in your next high school years and in life! We could not be more proud of you.

We love you Katie Bug!  
Love, Mom and Dad



Thank you, Katie, for looking after me at school. I don't want you to leave. :( I hope you have a great graduation.

Emma



# Graduation Word Search

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

ALEX  
AVRY  
DARLENE  
DEKLAN  
GARRETT

ISAAC  
KATIE  
KYLA  
MADDIE  
RENEE

SAM  
SHIRISH  
SYDNEY  
THEGN  
ZOE



*Dear Eighth Grade Class,  
By: Roxanne*

Dear Eighth Grade Class,

Here I am again  
with my poem made for you.  
So I can ugly cry in public,  
and use up all my tissues.

When you started at our school,  
you were cute as could be.  
You each developed a personality;  
every day a jubilee.

First Children's House, then Primary,  
and off to Middle School.  
You learned the Montessori Way  
and even the Golden Rule.

Then Erdkinder came next  
with a new set of goals.  
To took all you have learned;  
the parts into a whole.

Now the textbooks are read  
and the homework turned in.  
Your next adventure awaits  
when high school begins.

I can see future leaders  
and role models in you.  
The only limit in place  
is your bedtime curfew.

I wish you the best  
in all your future plans.  
Always stay in touch,  
With all my love, Roxanne

## 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



Congratulations!



We will miss you!