

St. Joseph Montessori School

Graduation Supplement



Class of 2017

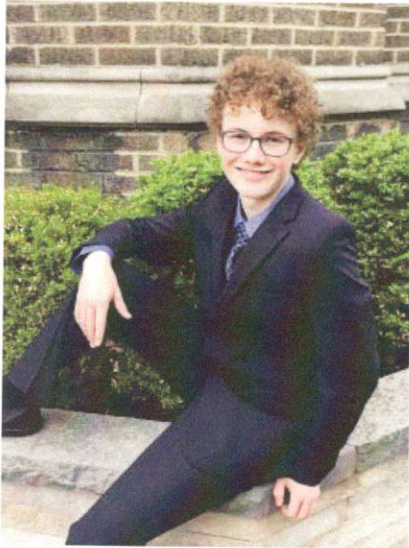
*Justin Cockrell
Sophie Dunlap
Noah Ferguson
Paige Gibson
Kate Haydel Brown*

*Janelle Ingraham Dwyer
Cecilia Martin
McKenna Merriman
Eoin O'Carroll
Nicholas Olmstead*

*Ian Reardon
Olivia Shuff
Braeden Singleton
Simon Squires
Fiona York*

High School

St. Charles
Preparatory School



Dear Braeden,

As soon as we toured SJMS at an open house event just before your third birthday, we knew we had found a special place. You were so excited to visit the classrooms and see all of the works on the shelves. You have always been a bright and curious kid and this school has fostered and encouraged your love of learning. We still remember when Papa walked you to Children's House in the building on High Street all those years ago and you nervously said goodbye. Now you are getting ready to start high school in the fall!

Children's House 5 was your first classroom. You loved snack time and making books (Parts of a Fish is a favorite). I remember how proud you were when you finished the long chain and your very first map. You particularly disliked napping, preferring to listen to the kindergarten lessons and stories instead. We went on pumpkin patch trips and class picnics and were amazed by your increasing independence. Nupur and Janette were wonderful guides to start you on your Montessori journey.

Braeden Singleton

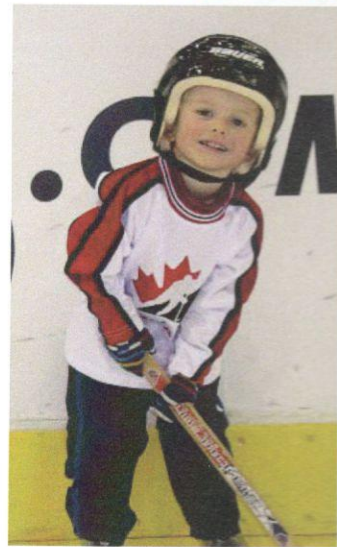
You were more than ready to make the leap to Primary and embraced more challenging works with ease. Dawn was a favorite teacher and encouraged your love of science and nature. You made terrific friends and enjoyed writing stories and poetry.

Middle School was a big change and Bill, Karla and Susan helped you make the adjustment to the new classroom. You were so excited to go on the class trips to Mohican where you tried archery and learned about archeology. Interest Fair projects were a highlight, of course, with your topics ranging from Leonardo Da Vinci to Cahokia.

Before we knew it you were moving up to the Erdkinder room. You were so thrilled to finally be one of the "big kids" and taking on more responsibility and jobs. Valuable lessons were learned in time management and organization! We are grateful for the supportive learning environment and for Michael, Laura and Kelsey who have done a great job preparing you for high school.

Beyond the classroom, you have enjoyed participating in Band and Bells, competing in chess, having fun at ski club, being a member of the Math-Counts team, as well as the School Ambassador program- all reflective of your willingness to try new things.

From the Montessori curriculum to the close knit community, SJMS has proven to be a wonderful place for you to learn, grow and thrive. You have become an inquisitive and confident person with a great deal of tenacity. I recently found a school project you wrote when you were about eight or nine years old, called "How to Ride a Bike", complete with illustrated steps.



Step 1 is to get a bike with foot brakes, and it continued with instructions until Step 6 which is simply stated "Have fun".

Congratulations on all your hard work and achievements. We are so proud of you and wish you all the best as you pursue your dreams. And we know you will not forget to have fun!

With much love, Mama and Papa

Cecilia Martin

High School
New Albany High School

Cecilia, in many ways you are the same person who announced your arrival at preschool each morning by throwing out your arms and proclaiming, "I'm heeere!" Confident and enthusiastic! You were 2.5 yrs old, and loved school from the beginning.

In 1st grade a crazy idea became reality - driving to Italian Village from New Albany twice (and sometimes 3 times) a day. We planned to stay one year in P2 with Kathy, Michelle, and Jennifer, and then transition to public school. Then, "just for Primary", so you could experience the full 3 year classroom cycle. By that point it was hard to imagine not staying for Middle School with Bill, Susan, Karla, and Sarah. Your Middle School Interest Fair projects allowed you to connect your studies with your love of music. You studied Claude Debussy and learned his "Dr Gradus ad Parnassum" - a challenge for a just-turned-10yr old pianist. Later, your study of perfect pitch even taught your piano teacher a few things.

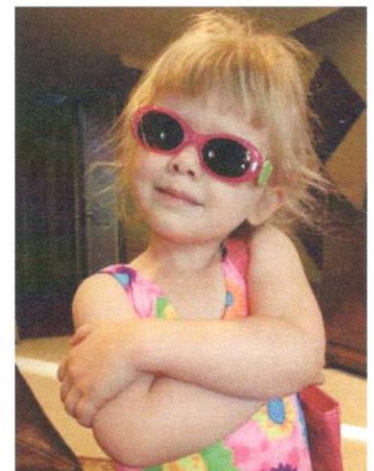
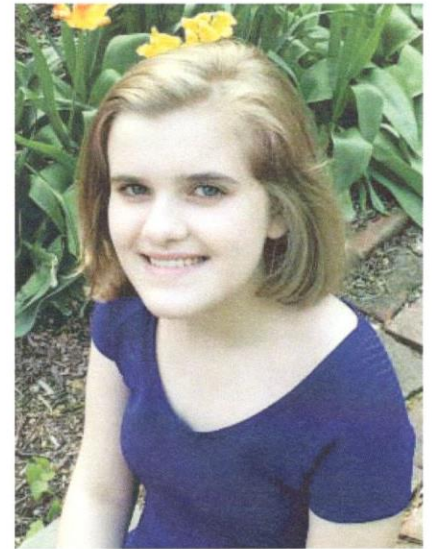
When religion class became mandatory in 5th grade, we considered leaving SJMS. But you convinced us that your own convictions were strong and that we should stay. Our many deep conversations have shown us you have a strong moral center that will serve you

well throughout your life. When we give you guidance we know you are listening. And we love when you ask for advice as you become a "strong, independent woman". Your sense of self makes us confident your transition to high school will be successful, no matter what challenges lie ahead.

It is hard to believe your time in Erdkinder is already over! Michael, Laura, and Kelsey (and Bonnie!) have prepared you to be successful in high school and beyond - academically and through the independence and confidence gained during visits to the North Market and on class trips. Montessori has been an incredible education.

As you headed off to camp the past two summers, you have shown us the mature person you are becoming. We missed you terribly that 3 weeks at Interlochen when you were just 11yrs old, but you didn't call home for an entire week! You are so excited to return to Indiana University this summer for another 4 weeks of the Summer String Program. We're excited for you, too. Just don't forget us as we wait by the phone.

With love, always and forever,
Mommy & Daddy
Oliver & Everett



Eoin M. Basobas O'Carroll

Dear Eoin,

Congratulations! You're ready for high school and graduating from SJMS. Of course, that was never in doubt. When you started in Children's House at three and a half years old, we felt right away that we had found a very special school with wonderful teachers, staff members and administrators, as well as an incredible environment for learning. And that has absolutely proven to be true.

But the way you have excelled at SJMS is also very much about you and the wonderful combination of qualities woven together within you.

You have always been so inquisitive. We remember well talking to Jeanette and Nupur in a Children's House conference and hearing them tell us — through joyous laughter — about how you had pressed to know more during a lesson on Vincent van Gogh. After hearing that he had died, you wanted to know how he had died. And when Janette said he had "died of sadness," you wanted to know what he was so sad about.

You're very personable and have a strong sense of community. You've always made friends with ease, both in school and on your soccer teams over the years. We noticed this even more, and also talked about it with Kathy and Michelle, during your first year in P2. You kept your steady friendships with first graders, but also quickly made many new friends who were in the second and third grades. It was with that larger group of friends, classmates and your teachers that you planted the apple tree in the side yard at school — you were so proud to be a part of that.

Ah, but you're also independent, and you want to challenge yourself. That was always the case with you, and the environment at SJMS nurtured these qualities and allowed you to exert them more fully when you were ready. This really became apparent when you were in Middle School. It was then that you asked for even higher levels of reading and language work. You also pushed yourself into ever more difficult areas of math — with much encouragement from Susan, who was thrilled to break out materials she hadn't used in many years. She said, "Math isn't fun unless you're making some mistakes." The extra work paid off when you qualified for the Math Counts competition in the sixth grade.

High School The Wellington School

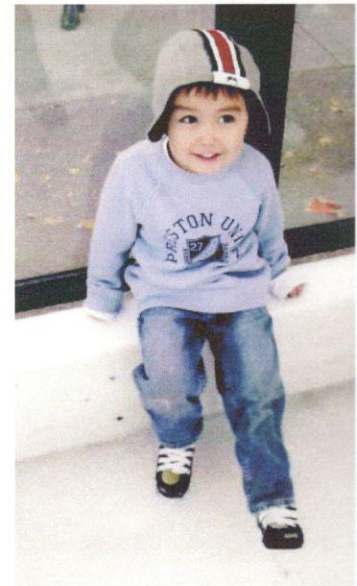
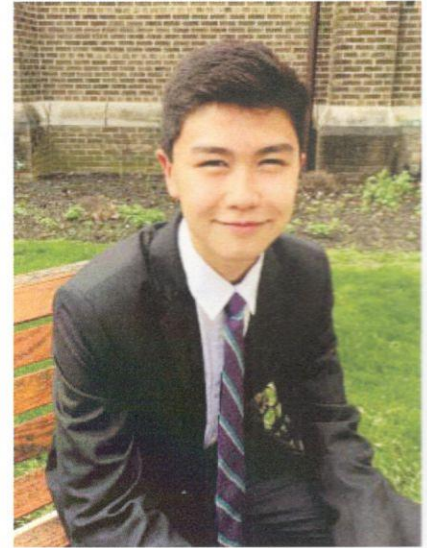
MS also brought other new challenges. Learning to play the trumpet in the fourth grade added to your list of things that motivated and challenged you. You wanted so badly to play "Hang On Sloopy" before Christmas break. In fifth grade, you became a band mentor, waking up early on Fridays to work with your mentees and get more practice in for yourself. There were frustrating days when you asked, "Why won't they listen?" or said "They don't practice." That was both fascinating and satisfying for us because you were learning more about conveying your ideas and staying patient with the new trumpet players.

And then there was TechnoTrek. You always seemed to have a soccer tournament scheduled for the day after it, so we would get you to ask for flat-fee donations (instead of by the lap). The idea was that you could just take it easy and walk, but you never stuck to the plan. You always had to run as many laps as you could in the time allotted.

Your diligence and great sense of humor were invaluable these last two years in Erdkinder. Wow! That was a lot of work. But you took responsibility and stayed up late many nights to get it all done, often after a demanding soccer practice. We even think you may have begun to enjoy writing journals. You definitely liked to search for offbeat topics that would make you laugh — and maybe Michael, too. "Boaty McBoatface" comes to mind.

In Erdkinder we saw what seemed like your overnight transformation into a young man. Mature, inquisitive, confident, loyal, diligent, independent, competitive, smart, funny and loving. These two incredible years have nurtured and expanded your love of history, math, science, art and social studies. It wasn't that long ago that we were watching episodes of Liberty's Kids, and now your interests lean towards the Supreme Court and understanding how government works, which you decided is sometimes an illogical process.

All these qualities helped as you made your way through the high school selection process. Though your first comments were about how



good the lunches were, you were really very thoughtful and deliberate as you considered your options. In the end, you chose The Wellington School.

We look forward to seeing how all these great qualities will help you at Wellington and on into the future, as well as celebrating your many accomplishments at SJMS. A line from Hamilton, the musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda, reminds us of you. "There's a million things I haven't done...But just you wait."

Love you to pieces,
Mom, Dad and Finley

Fiona York

High School
Bishop Watterson
High School

Dear Fiona,

It is hard to believe that our time as a family at St. Joe's is coming to a close. It has been a part of your life since you were 2 years old, accompanying your Nana to pick up Kieran from Children's house in some different variety of princess dress every day, playing on the playground with the older kids; you couldn't wait. When we finally enrolled you for half-days at 3 years old, you refused to go home after lunch because you did not want to miss anything Carol or Penny had planned for everyone else, so we extended it to full-day and you have loved every day since. This was a precursor to us realizing what a social butterfly you would become.

We reflect on so much when we look back on those years. SJMS has shaped you in so many ways. We were very blessed to have your spiritual education alongside your academic one. From making your First Communion with your classmates at Sacred Heart, to your beautiful Confirmation ceremony at the Newman Center this year it was all based on the wonderful and thought-provoking lessons you learned from Kathy Koehler and Cathy Johanni. I remember when Cathy first brought the Atrium to the Middle School, it was your favorite place to be for reflection and peace.

We are also so appreciative of your musical education under Sandra. We loved hearing your beautiful flute and couldn't believe that as 4th graders you were all able to perform as part of a concert band! St. Joe's has always shown us that you can do things far ahead of what we would have expected. We loved your singing Christmas Tree and all the other fun numbers in Cookies and Carols and Spring shows.

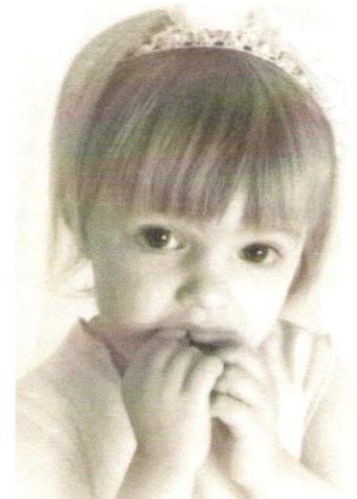
Although "work" under the Montessori learning method was never something you couldn't accomplish your teachers really pushed and challenged you by disguising work and learning as fun activities. We think it created an ethic that is going to be deeply important in your future years. We will be forever grateful to Susan Walling for how hard she pushed you in Math. Hearing that you could be working harder was not easy for you, but in owning it and rising to meet her, you managed to accomplish so much

more. Something else that was special for us was the experience of being in the same class with your brother and watching him help you and guide you through skills he had mastered. It was so rewarding as a parent to see the learning come full-circle. It has been fun to watch how each of our kids, different individuals with different learning styles, were allowed to be so different but equally successful. You have embraced Spanish, loved reading assigned books from Bill, and dragged your feet on Mathletics. You and your brother couldn't be more opposite, but one thing held true in our family – everyone became lovers of History through Michael's passion for the subject!

We flip through years of writing journals and see how your creativity was always there pouring on the pages. The grammar may have gotten a bit better as you grew, but you have never lost the whimsy and spark. One of the best things about the school and the community for our family is that you have always felt very comfortable being your own person, and there have been many avenues that have allowed you to express that. Interest Fair was always a lot of work, but you always selected fabulous topics. We watched you shine as you practiced presenting on fashion, Celtic mythology, and sociology – equally passionate about all and so illustrative of who you are.

We have formed many bonds with amazing families and friends through our time here and we know by watching so many other graduation classes that you will retain those bonds because they are based on a lot more than just the geography of the school. You and your friends are at St. Joe's because your parents wanted the same thing for you and shared a set of values. There are no other kids in this city who have had your unique experiences: your Children's house bead chains, your Primary school weekly plans, and your Erdkinder discussion forums as a few examples. As you prepare to enter Bishop Watterson, none of that will be left behind. I know you remember thinking you would never be able to leave our little school, but now you are ready and it is time, and we are so excited for you and what lies ahead.

Love,
Mom and Dad



Ian Reardon

Dear Ian,
 Congratulations on your 8th grade graduation! We are so proud of your accomplishments and the young man you have become. You are the coolest kid we know!

You have been part of SJMS for the past 12 years—1 year as a 2-year old who made a beeline to the playground while we picked up Isabella (and then refused to leave when we were ready to go) and 11 years as a student (who also generally refused to leave “because Aftercare is not over yet.”). You loved Aftercare. And also loved Children House 2, Primary 1, Middle School and Erdkinder. The SJMS community—staff, teachers, students, and families—watched over you, nurtured your spirit, and have been great partners who helped us shape the amazing person you have become. Going to high school, let alone one in California, will be a challenging experience. Yet, you won’t be leaving empty-handed. The SJMS community has helped build a rich and robust toolbox to take with you. You are ready, Brother, to take on whatever comes your way!

We knew SJMS would be the right place for you after meeting Carolyn and Consuelo at an SJMS Winter Fest. Their warm personalities, kind smiles, and effusive hugs continue to make us feel welcome and at home. Their creativity—remember “Bookclub” in CH2—and passion for their work are inspiring. They provided a roadmap for learning, caring and respecting others. We (especially Mama) will be eternally grateful to them for letting us experience Circle Time, always lifting us up as we headed out to work. We are equally grateful to all your other teachers—Amanda, Bill, Cathy, Dawn, Karla, Kelsey, Laura F., Laura B., Maria, Marty, Michael, Polly, Roxanne, Samary, Sandra, and Susan. They inspired you, piqued your curiosity, and kept the lessons in life and learning coming. Without their commitment and devotion, your SJMS experience would not be the same.

Since you like numbers, let us also celebrate your time at SJMS by working some figures. True facts:

- Travelled about 50,000 miles to and from SJMS and home over your 11 years there. That’s equivalent to two times the circumference of the Earth. Then, there were the field trips: the pumpkin patches, Mohican Outdoor School, OSU Planetarium, Caesar Creek State Park, just to name a few. Your education at SJMS has been well-rounded and rich in experience.

- Packed nearly 1,400 lunches—to our dismay you were not a fan of Wholesome Tummies, yet you never turned down the Erdkinder pizza.

- Conducted research during 32 months preceding 8 Interest Fairs (and more trips to Hobby Lobby, Jo-Ann Fabric, and Michaels than we know how to count). Although Interest Fair projects at times required frequent cajoling, we saw, each year, you become a more serious and thoughtful student than the last. We especially remember the pride in your face, standing, so handsomely dressed, next to your project. Remember the “habitat of gorillas” and the video you created in “Alice” for Primary, Shakespeare’s Globe Theater for Middle School, and the US/British hybrid flag you painted in Erdkinder. Every year we were amazed on how well you were prepared to discuss your project.

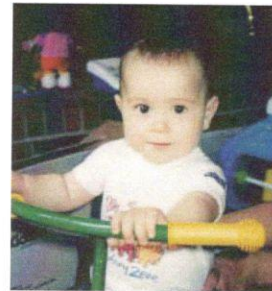
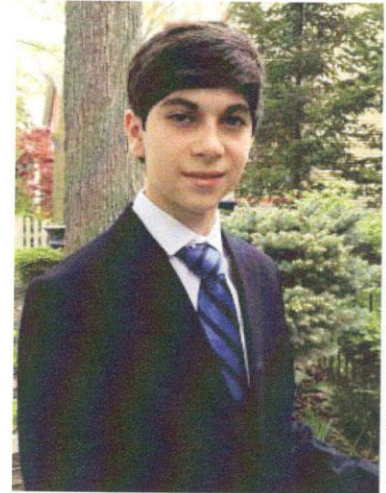
- Attended at least 1,300 days in Aftercare. We have been intrigued about your love for this. You seem to cherish Aftercare almost as much your time in the classroom. We always felt that this was a testament to great Aftercare teachers and your personal connection with everything SJMS.

- Countless friends and students, who brought joy and laughter to your days at SJMS. We are so grateful to them for enriching your life.

If time and space were infinite, we could fill pages with our memories of life at SJMS. Let’s just write what you have so often heard us say. We love you. We are proud of you. We believe in you. Godspeed always, our one and only, Capitan!

Love, Mama & Dad

High School
 Damien High School
 La Verne, California



Ian,

It seems so long ago that you were just a little kid. Now you’re on your way to becoming a man. When you get to high school, the only thing you have to know is this: it is only what you think it is. The one bit of advice I’d like to impart is life- as clichéd as it is- is what you make of it. It’s not the thing fate throws into our laps that’s important, but our reactions and subsequent actions to those things. This applies to high school and life (so, you’re welcome). Don’t be afraid for what comes next, because I know for a fact that you can handle it. And if you can’t, well, give me a call or something. I’ll always be there. You’re the best little brother a person could ask for. Stay cool and be brave.

Bella

High School

Bishop Hartley High School

Dear Janelle,

You, dear child and soon-to-be SJMS alumna, have been rockin' the SJMS lifestyle since you were TWO YEARS OLD. Who gets to do that? You do, Janelle. Nellie Nell. J-bird. Jellybean. Janizzle. Ball Queen. JJ. Lady. Janelley Belly. Nelle. Da Boss. Bawse. J-bird. So many names. So hard to encompass you in mere words.

Here you are in Children's House 3 with Janet and Emily, and then Nupur. You felt right at home from the start – not even three years old – instantly comfortable in a classroom that featured your big brother and all these interesting new kids, and all these fascinating Montessori materials. You gravitated to practical life. You always needed to DO, to work with your hands, to experience and enjoy the tactile. The cleaning, the organizing, the pouring. And you always schemed together and created big new worlds, with Sawyer, with Duke, with Mesi, with Phoebe, with Ian. Then you would go to the playground and climb all the way up and hang upside down, not a fear or a care in the world.

Here you are in Primary 1, where your sense of humor, evident from the very beginning, flowered along with your academic abilities. You found the funny in everything, and when there wasn't funny to be found, you created it out of whatever you could. Even when it wasn't 100%, well, appropriate – e.g. in the middle of a lesson! – you caused people to laugh. Laughing is so very good for the soul, and so are you. You would often have these loud outbursts in P1, with no prompting, simply because you knew it would make people laugh. Dawn found it difficult to discipline you effectively when she was giggling at what you were doing. Oy, all those parent-teacher conferences, all about behavior. Good thing there were rarely academic matters to discuss. Our conferences took long enough as it was.

Here you are in Middle School, and your very first time playing basketball, you and McKenna with the St. Mary Rams squad. Seeing you thread through opponents and easily get from one end of the court to the other. Playing soccer and just running and running, tirelessly. We thought you might take after Ben and play the clarinet, or take up the trumpet, or maybe the flute, but you

Janelle Ingraham Dwyer

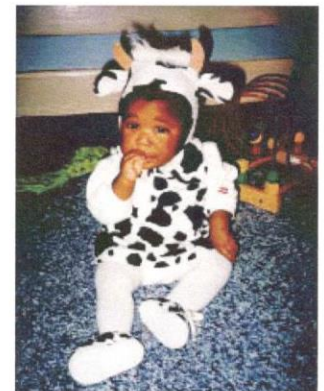
were all about the trombone. It was large and loud and had obvious moving parts, and you loved practicing at home. You'd go outside to the corner of our busy block and wail like a busker, "Let's Go Band!" and "Another One Bites the Dust". Then there were piano lessons with Gary, clock chimes and "Linus and Lucy" over and over. We loved that house full of music being learned. Especially when you and Ben would jam together (hint: you'll still have those instruments in high school).

And suddenly, you are in Erdkinder! Your brother's shadow is gone, and you are standing on your own at SJMS, turning your focus outward toward the greater world. There have been dances and fundraising, and a class trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Basketball tournaments and a WHOLE lot more homework. Here you are, becoming more adult and mature before our very eyes. You have continually impressed us with your compassion and consideration of others. And you still, instinctively, know how to find the humor in a situation.

Shout-out to grown-ups time! We are grateful to Janet and Emily and Nupur, Dawn and Laura and Neil and Lauren, Susan and Bill and Kathy and Karla, Michael and Laura and Kelsey and Bonnie, Roxanne and Sandra and Cathy and Marty and Amanda and Maria and Samary and Elba, and Robert and Annie and Victoria and Paige, Linda and Bethany and Sam and Debbie and Donna and Elma and Matt, and oh gosh we are forgetting people, important necessary kind wise adults in your school life: we are grateful to all the grown-ups at SJMS, past and present, who helped you, our one daughter, grow into the amazing young woman she is!

Janelle. JJ. Kiddo. It's been SO MUCH FUN so far, and your Hartley years will be even more lit (<insert Janelle eyeroll>). We are so fortunate and happy to be part of your process of becoming the best, kindest, most vibrant, most tremendous Janelle Ingraham Dwyer possible. Congratulations on 12 great years at SJMS! Who gets to do that? And, onward to all that awaits you in high school and beyond. Look for God in everyone and everything, and God will be near to you. We love you very much.

Mom & Dad (AKA Mama & Papa)



JUSTIN COCKRELL

High School
The Wellington School

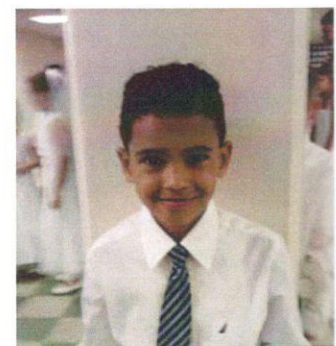
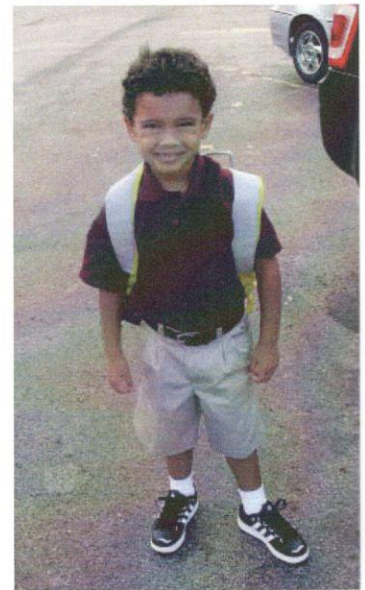
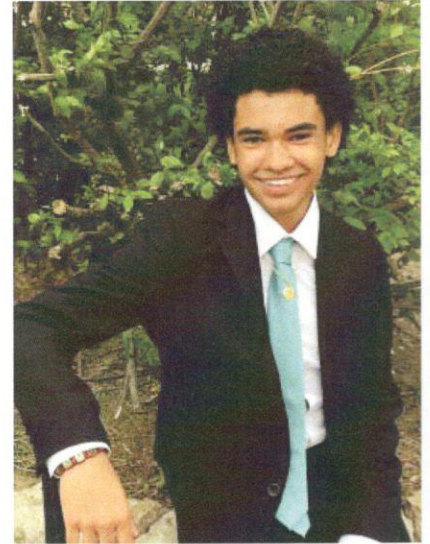
Justin,

Your three years at SJMS have helped you develop into an independent student and thinker. I believe that the Montessori school environment and the excellent teachers you have encountered at SJMS have developed this in you and I am thankful. You have become a person who seeks to gain knowledge and understanding in a variety of subjects. From American History and for what has become pop culture, "The Life of Alexander Hamilton", the Arts, Spanish and Science you have a sincere interest to learn and become knowledgeable on multiple subjects. This is what it takes to excel in school and in life – a sincere desire to learn. You have also forced me to brush up on my American History and my understanding of modern art in order to have an intelligent conversation with you on those subjects. For that I am thankful...

Moving into high school you should continue to seek knowledge and understanding of all of your subjects and continue to develop your passions in the Arts and Languages. Your skill as an artist is a gift that you must develop to its' fullest. Some of the art work that you have created are things that I can only imagine. And your ability to learn and

understand multiple languages is also a gift from God that you must continue to develop. I am proud of you as a person and of all of your academic achievements. You are coming to the end of your time at SJMS but it will be the beginning of your life in the "real world". You have already been talking about getting your driver's permit in six months and will get your driver's license in 18 months. You will start applying for colleges in three years (the same amount of time you just finished at SJMS). Time will fly so you want to be ready for all of the challenges that will come your way. I think you will be ok. Good luck at Wellington!

God Bless You.
Your Dad, Johnathan



Kate Haydel Brown

High School
Thomas Worthington
High School

Dear Kate,

It seems hard to believe that you are finishing your 8th grade year and that it will be the last year for our family at SJMS. But in so many ways, it is easy to believe. You have been growing up so much, emotionally, physically, and mentally, and with each year it has been easier to imagine you being the “big” Erdkinder kid walking the little kids into their classrooms. And now you are a fantastic ambassador for SJMS inviting new children to share in the experiences you’ve had.

We can’t even remember the first time we took you to SJMS because you have been going to SJMS since even before you were born. Just a few weeks after you came into the world, you joined Chloe on the Children’s House 4 pumpkin patch trip. Before we knew it, it was time for you to start! Because your birthday is in September, we could have waited another year, but there was no way you would have let us. You were ready to go to school with the big kids. When Chloe was in Pri-

mary, we would spend hours with her in P1 (thank you, Diane and Dawn!) after you got out of school early from Children’s House. You have always been ready for life’s next big adventure, and high school is no different. All of your experiences at and memories of SJMS—International Children’s Day, Techno Trek, Children’s Carnival, the ERD Class Trip, Book Club, Pizza Fridays, Power of the Pen, Winter Festival, playing flute in the band, lip-synching in the Talent Show, Interest Fair—will stay with you and prepare you for everything that is coming next, in high school and beyond.

You have become such an independent, thoughtful, strong, smart, funny, and lovely person. For so long now you have signed your letters “Love and Sunshine.” That encapsulates you, Kate, and describes exactly what you bring to each of our lives. You bring us all such great joy.

With so much love,
Mom, Dad,
Charley Rose, and Scrappy

Dear Koo,

As your big sib I will always come before you. This has meant that I often face challenges before you or hit milestones and have experiences apart from you (like watching Moana, I’m sorry). Because of this we are often in the situation where I am the teacher and you are the learner. And I love teaching you and giving you advice and I hope you never stop coming to me with questions that, hopefully, I have the answer too. But I want you to know that you are my teacher too.

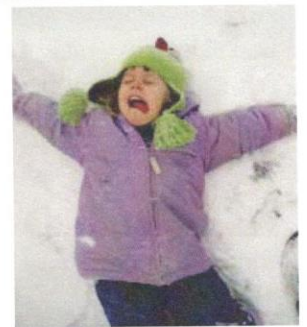
I look up to you in so many ways, Kate. You are undoubtedly kinder than me, funnier than me and maybe even

better-dressed. When I think of the people I aspire to be like, you are definitely in the top three.

I’m secretly happy that you are graduating St. Joe’s and coming to Thomas with me. But I’m also melancholic, because this is a milestone we’re hitting together: the first time neither one of us is at St. Joe’s.

I hope you know how much I love you. Wherever you go in life and whatever you do, I will always be your sister and so far it’s been lit.

ILLY,
Chloe/Glug



McKenna Merriman

McKenna,

Every day of your life you have made us proud to be your mom and dad and each day we fall more in love with this amazing person we so admire. You have always been wise beyond your years, and your decision to go to SJMS is one classic example of this. You humored us as we visited school after school, always knowing where you belonged and calling me out in the end, as you also laid claim to finally getting the dog you earned along the way.

I remember your first day at SJMS in first grade. You had some separation anxiety, until you met the first of many best SJMS friends, Andrea, who you felt needed you more than you needed me. Your SJMS friends have always been very important to you and we are so grateful that you have been blessed with wonderful friends, who have equally great parents.

Of course you have had your challenges as well, even these you handled with grace. Dawn and Bill were the first SJMS teachers to experience your "socialness." For the next seven years the first words we would hear at a parent-teacher conference was, "Well, she is very social." While at times a challenge, your SJMS teachers always saw the positive in this. By the end of seventh grade it all came together, as we were told it would. You had learned to balance your social desires against your own academic needs and goals.

The SJMS teachers encouraged you to believe in yourself, and taught you that with hard-work and dedication, anything is possible. Through Susan, Laura and Barb math went from something you felt defeated by to becoming your favorite subject and an area of

strength. SJMS fostered your desire to take your challenges head on. Whether on the ski slopes, tennis courts, staying up all night to finish an interest fair report or to make your math counts goals, your relentless focus and drive pushes you to new heights and inspires those around you to do the same.

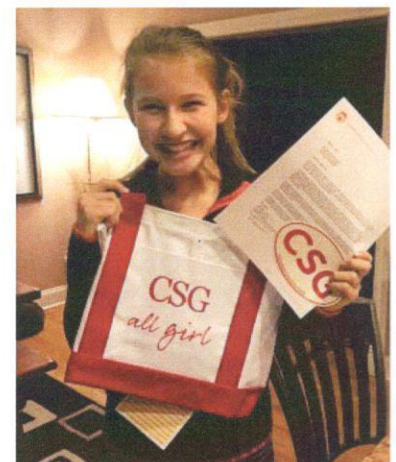
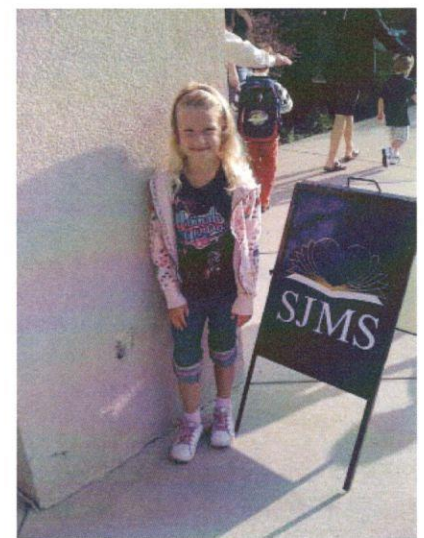
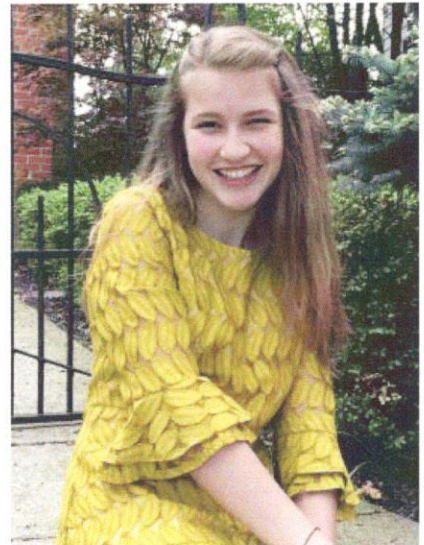
At SJMS we saw the joy you had in going to school each day. You relished the passionate debates with Michael over history or politics, thrived on the challenge of striving to clear Laura's high bar and looked forward to the fun discussions with Kelsey about academics and life. These and many others at SJMS have always seen your potential and had magical ways of helping you bring out the best in yourself.

I remember before you were even born telling your dad that you were special and different. You have proven me right day after day. Through your eight years at SJMS you have grown from a smart, kind, "very-social" little girl into a wise, compassionate, confident and driven young woman. We are grateful for this and for you. We look forward to continuing the adventure with you, always proud to be your mom and dad.

We love you.



High School Columbus School for Girls



Nicholas Olmstead

Dear Nicholas,

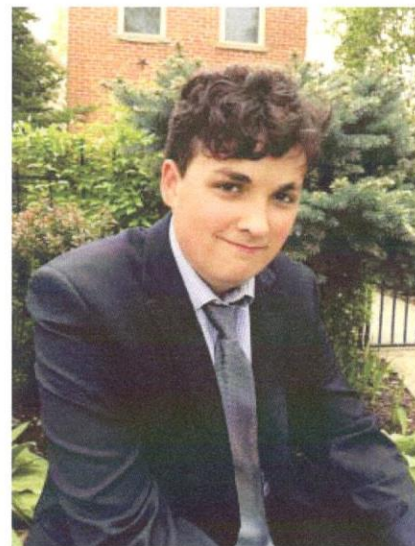
Even before you were born, you were always one to go about things your own way. From wanting to make your grand entrance into the world 4 months early (thank goodness, we convinced you to wait awhile!), to teaching yourself how to write at the age of 2 ½, you have been racing off to the next adventure. Your eagerness to move on to high school is just another example. It's amazing how fast time has gone by – not just your eighth grade year, but the past 10 years at SJMS! It seems like only yesterday we were dropping you off in CH4 with Miss Carol and Miss Penny, watching you run off to “work” with your new friend, Cameron. You always looked forward to school and couldn't wait to switch from half to full days, much earlier than Mommy and Daddy were ready for. From field trips to the pumpkin patch, dressing up for International Children's Day, special visits on Grandparents' Day, running countless laps during Techno Trek, and fun at Children's Carnival – your years in Children's House were happy, full of learning and friendships. And lots and lots (and lots) of maps!

Primary brought a few bumps in your educational road, as your classroom switched teachers every year – but you easily took it in stride, the way you handle everything life throws at you. It was also in Primary that you learned what true friendship was – invaluable

information as you made the jump to Middle School. Your interest in Math and History coalesced a bit more under Bill, Karla, and Susan, as did your love of computers and all things video-game related. Which brings us to Erdkinder – the epitome of your St. Joe's experience and (in your words), “the best class of the school!” Michael and Laura (and this year, Kelsey) have challenged you to not only stretch your wings with other ventures, but have encouraged you to see where your gaming talents will take you by allowing you to create several games for your classes, which have turned out to be super cool (but we may be a bit biased). Once again, your strong sense of self has led you to do things your way, with spectacular results.

We are amazed that you will be graduating in just a few weeks! One day we are watching you put your Thomas the Train lunchbox in your cubby in CH4 and the next, you're reaching items on high shelves (because your 6 ft. by this point) and fixing computer problems in Erdkinder. I don't know where the time went, but I wish it would slow down, just a bit! You are an amazing young man. You have a sweet, kind, and compassionate heart, believing in equality and fairness above all. You are a fierce friend, with both a calm spirit and a wicked sense of humor. You ask the deep questions of life and enjoy seeking the answers that ring true for you. You know who you are and what you stand for, what you want

High School
Bishop Ready
High School



in life and how to get there. These qualities, plus too many more to list, will guide and support you as you take this next step in your journey, and throughout your life. We are excited to see how your future unfolds and feel so blessed to walk along with you. Congratulations on all you have achieved – we are so very proud of you!

Love always,
Mom and Dad

Noah Ferguson

High School
Bishop Ready
High School

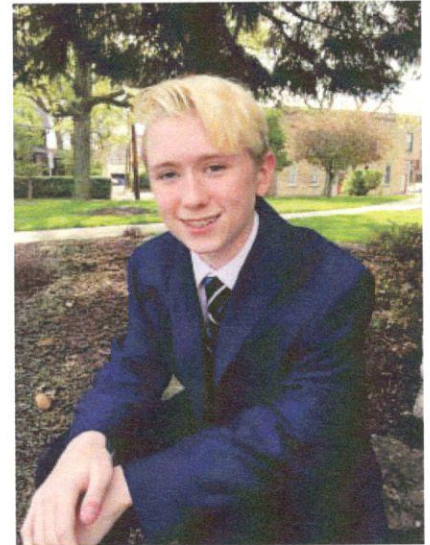
Dear Noah,

I just wanted to write you a letter to tell you how proud I am of you. I remember the day I put you on the bus for kindergarten and how I walked away with tears in my eyes that my little boy wasn't going to be little for much longer.

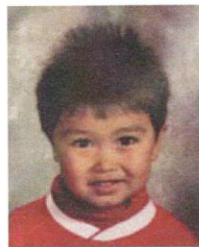
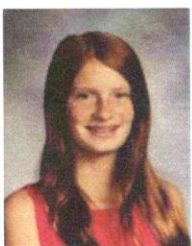
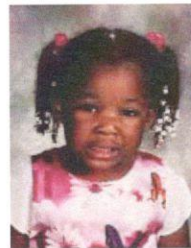
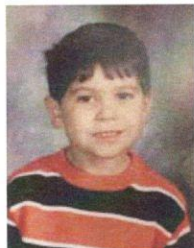
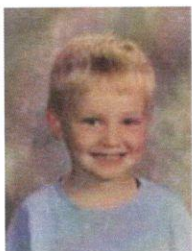
I am so proud of the young man you have grown into. You have brought such joy into my life. You are a great person with such a big heart. Knowing you're going into a new chapter in your life in a few short months makes me excited. I know you will do great and make so many new friends. I will enjoy watching

you make new memories and grow as a young man. You have such a wonderful future ahead of you and I always want you to know that no matter what, I will be by your side and stand by you. You are loved so much by me, Dad, Christopher, and everyone else in our family. I love you, my love bug!

Love, Mom



First Year at St. Joseph Montessori School



Olivia Shuff

Dearest Olivia,

It is so hard to believe that it is time for you to begin high school, and equally hard to believe that you have been at St. Joe's for the last eleven years. That is a long time! We can remember your first day in Children's House 1 with Noreen and Marsha. You were excited to be at school, and barely glanced up when we told you good bye. You had been looking forward to being in Children's House 1, just like Anna had been. It was so fun to see how you matured and how independent you became during your years in Children's House, learning skills such as cleaning up your own spot at the table (even sweeping away the crumbs) at the end of lunch, cautiously moving throughout the classroom during work time while not disturbing other's work, and being a "helper" to the three year olds when you were a kindergartener. You also learned about the world, and especially enjoyed learning the names of all of the continents and countries. You made many maps for us, and were so excited to learn that there was a country called Bolivia which sounded very much like Olivia. You began telling people that you were named for the country Bolivia and begged us to take you there. We still haven't made it there, but perhaps one day we will.

Your love and fascination about the world continued into Primary 1 where your first Interest Fair project was about South America, which just so happened to include your favorite country. In Primary 1, you enjoyed having plans for the week and quickly made your way through them. You have always enjoyed moving at a fast pace, so it took you a little while to realize that it was important not only to get the plans done, but to complete them accurately and with care. Also, in P1 you enjoyed working in the garden at SJMS with Dawn and writing and publishing your stories.

After P1 you got to move upstairs to Middle School, which is an exciting step for everyone, and now there was a locker to decorate! Who knew that there were so many ways to decorate the inside of a locker, not just with magnets, but with carpet

and pen holders and even a mirror. Every year you added some new accessories. In Middle School, you enjoyed all of the Primary classes coming together and making new friends. Your wonderful personality continued to develop and you began to enjoy entertaining others by telling jokes, encouraged by Susan.

You have continued to grow and mature, especially the last two years in Erdkinder with the support and guidance of Michael, Laura and Kelsey. You have learned good time management skills for completing homework and studying for tests, despite your busy out of school schedule.

We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished at SJMS and outside of school. You are a unique, caring girl with a good sense of humor, who is fun to be around. You are a loyal friend and full of compassion for others. Olivia, you have a quiet confidence that is reflected in your dance performances on stage, going away to camp for a whole month each summer, and selecting a high school on your own. That will serve you well in life. We love that you enthusiastically follow your own path. You are a delight.

We feel so honored and blessed to be your parents, and we thank God for blessing our family with wonderful you. We wish you much success in high school at Columbus School for Girls.

We know you are well prepared.

We love you so much,
Mom and Dad



High School Columbus School for Girls



Hey Liv,

It's had to believe that neither of us are going to be at St. Joe's next year. Hopefully, we'll still be able to make it back for Winter Fest, but from here on out, it's traditional education all the way. Not to say that that's a bad thing, just that it's a different thing. I was hoping you'd join me at Academy, but I understand that you want to make your own way in high school just like I did. You've grown up so much since the two of us started at St. Joe's. I know a lot of people will be telling you that, but it's true. You constantly amaze me with your intellect, your compassion, and the energy you bring to every situation. Olivia, I love you so much. I love joking with you, and laughing with you, and hearing all the hot SJMS gossip from you. I love how we balance one another out, our individual personalities making a perfect pair of siblings. I wish you all the luck in the world as you move on to high school at CSG. It won't always be easy, and sometimes it will seem like an inescapable dungeon of homework and tests and auditions and deadlines, but at other times there will be moments of transcendent joy. You have the strength of will and integrity of character to get through the best and the worst that high school, and life, has to offer you. So, go get 'em kiddo.

All my love,
Anna

PAIGE GIBSON

Dear "Paigee",

We cannot believe that all of a sudden you have developed into this beautiful, intelligent, young woman and we swear we were just bringing you home from the hospital for the first time! We have been so blessed to be your parents because you are such a gift not only to us but to everyone that has had the chance to be around you!

Your journey through childhood and now into womanhood has been such a special time for us and we are so thankful to be walking on this journey beside you.

We knew from the very beginning that you had a sweet and tender heart. As soon as you were old enough to crawl and walk, even before you could talk, you always made it a point to include everyone in the room. Your unique way of caring how others may feel and wanting to support and include others is special. We cannot count the number of times that you have come home from school worried about a friend or classmate that has confided in you or that you have recognized is having a bad day and that you truly feel empathy for that person. That true caring in your heart is a gift special to you and you inspire us to be better.

This caring heart makes you not only a wonderful person but a great friend. Quietly at times you stand beside your friends offering just a smile and your kind presence. You are not necessarily the center of attention but that is okay with you and others know that if you are around that they can count on you to stand up for them and what is right in treating others kindly.

Along with being kind, your courage is also inspiring. Sometimes we push you to do new things that you are not necessarily happy about but you are always willing to try even if it didn't sound like one of your favorite things to do. The most important thing is you never quit! From swimming lessons, gymnastics, art lessons, basketball, soccer, voice lessons, camps, camp counselors, and more you always have tried new things.

You have discovered that you are a well-rounded kiddo both athletic and artistic you have many gifts! We have loved watching you grow and evolve as an athlete and especially having the unique chance to have your dad as your coach for soccer and basketball. It is hard to tell who enjoys that the most. You are great at sports but what is truly your gift from God is your beautiful singing voice and artistic ability. We still remember your first art lesson in first grade when you brought home your drawing and we thought

that your teacher had done it because it was so good! Also, we remember being in school mass and hearing you sing in public for the first time and we couldn't believe our ears that the beautiful grown up and powerful voice was coming from our little "Paigee"!

Another gift that is special to just you is that there are very few children that truly enjoy and love younger children but you are one of them. Because of your sweet and gentle way it is so endearing to see younger children (and animals) just gravitate to you. It's like they know you love them already and they are drawn to your kindness and patience in helping them. This is perfectly in line with your desire and calling to be some form of educator someday. We truly see that God has called you to a life of helping others because of your sensitive heart.

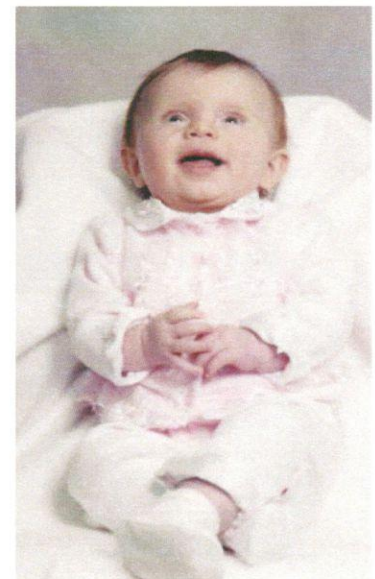
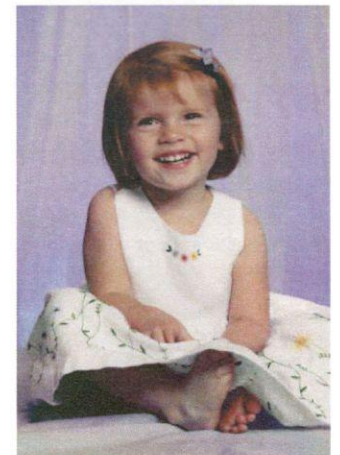
For everyone there are subjects that are harder to understand than others but no matter what, you have always given 100% effort and have never ever given up no matter how hard or how much time it takes. That drive and "never quit" attitude will take you very far throughout the rest of your life.

We knew that you needed an educational environment that supported you as a kind person and your tremendous work ethic because you were getting lost in the crowd before SJMS. We cannot tell you how beyond proud we are of you when we gave you the chance to make your own decision about transferring to SJMS in the middle of 6th grade. The bravery and maturity it took to leave your familiar school and friends in order to join your new SJMS family still brings tears of pride to our eyes. We are forever indebted to the SJMS teachers and staff to see you spread your wings into the woman and successful student that you are because of SJMS. To see you as a shy and at times fearful student in the classroom before SJMS to now a leader in the class proudly answering questions, leading discussions, and taking a stand for what is right has our hearts bursting with pride!

Now as you embark on the next chapter of your life at Bishop Hartley High School we can't help but look with delightful anticipation of what's to come in your future. We will always hold your hand and walk alongside you just as you were when you were that little girl beginning to walk knowing that we are so proud and inspired by you every step of the way.

We love you to pieces!
Mom and Dad

High School
Bishop Hartley High School



Simon Squires

Dear Simon,

I remember when you were in CH with Carolyn & Consuelo, we talked to Marty about making accommodations for you in PE class. But you worked on moving your muscles, started dancing, and eventually played sports. From barely able to hit a ball off a tee to being the youngest lead-off hitter in the summer league and fall travel baseball team. From being a reserve in rec league basketball to a starter on the 6th grade St. Mary's team earning runner-up honors in two tournaments. From being the only little boy dancer at New Albany to being featured with 3 other olderboys in BalletMet's Sleeping Beauty to now being addressed as "Mr. Godunov" by Dimitri, you have worked so hard.

I also remember your Middle School interest fair project about the heart. I let you read my college teaching notes to prepare your project. You decided there wasn't enough material and chose to also study blood. We identified all the blood cells under the microscope as we learned their function. Your first practice presentation was 30 minutes in length to cover all you had learned. Just like this year's project on animal intelligence, the hardest part was paring down your presentations to 12 minutes. I also remember talking about other academic subjects, religion, sports, agriculture, and fishing as we road to/from school and activities. I rarely ask how you are doing in school because I take for granted you are doing well. I've even (re) learned some math and American history from you.

I remember you starting to enjoy music watching Sally in the Columbus Children's Choir which you later joined. You enjoyed everything musical from Sandra and took piano lessons from Gary. It took us awhile to figure out you were reading music by memorizing hand placement on the keys, much more difficult than reading notes. You studied sax with Brian and guitar with Alex. With all these lessons, I can never remember telling you to practice, you just do it on your own. I really enjoy hearing you play at home or in a lesson as well as accompanying Janelle at the SJMS talent show.

These are just a few of the many memories as I think about your time at SJMS. You have completely adapted yourself to Montessori education, truly enjoying a life of learning. Lately, I look at you and can't believe how you are growing into a truly renaissance young man.

Love, your very proud Dad

Sweet Simon,

It's hard to believe that my "Little Man"'s time at SJMS is coming to a close. It seems like yesterday that I held you for the first time. You were just minutes old, but your eyes were wide open and looking right into mine. That was the best day of my life, because it was the day I met my best friend.

You have a unique way of seeing the world, and this makes you incredibly beautiful and special. You've always had an ability to notice things that other people never even think about. Your CH2 teachers, Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Consuelo, noticed this immediately and were in awe of you from the moment they met you. You were so quiet, gentle, and cautious in your early days at SJMS. I remember rushing to you at the end of each school day so I could hug you and talk to you about how "to get through this thing called life" (Do you like my 'Prince' reference?).

Look at you now! Eleven years later, you are the one giving me life advice. You are still that same beautiful, kind, smart, unique, gentle, quiet Simon you were years ago, but now you are so much more than that. You're a musician, with fabulous skills on the guitar, piano, and saxophone. You're an athlete, with the tremendous progress and accomplishments you've made with baseball and basketball. You're a talented and hardworking dancer. You're a remarkable student. You're a wonderful friend. And last, but certainly not least, you are, and always have been, the strongest person I have ever known.

I cannot wait to see the remarkable things you will do with the rest of your life. Your brain is beautiful, and your heart is enormous. You bring warmth and joy to every person (and critter) in your life. I am so proud of you, Simon. Thank you for being you.

I love you so much,
Sally



High School Metro Institute of Technology



My sweet Simon,

Daddy and Sally have spoken for me in their words describing your talents and accomplishments, so the thing that I'll add is this: you are the gentlest and most courageous person I've ever known. I have known this from the very beginning, and with each passing day, you continue to show me. Your ability to choose to trust, despite the fact that the world was both confusing and frightening when you were small, moved me to tears. You are the personification of humility and grace. The world became a more beautiful place upon your arrival in it. You continue to teach me so much about the person I want to be. I am so humbled and grateful that I get to be your mother.

Love, Mommy



SOPHIE DUNLAP

High School
The Wellington School

Dear Sophie,

You are such an amazing and unique person – a Montessori kid in every way! Responsible, creative, and independent for sure. Each stage, from Jane's Montessori Academy (JMA) to Saint Joseph Montessori School (SJMS) Middle School on up to SJMS Erdkinder, you have developed and demonstrated creativity, independence and responsibility. You are someone who helps out when asked, and can be depended on. You willingly speak your mind and participate not just in school, but in life.

A Role Model - starting at Jane's Montessori Academy before Kindergarten, you became the one that the other students looked up to. Always helpful to the teachers (to this day), and willing to try anything new, you took Irish dancing there, in line with your Irish heritage. Gymnastics, Aikido and Rock Climbing were a part of your life then too.

Fearless - Even back then, you were a member of the Madagascar hissing cockroach earrings club. Curious about everything, you were front-and-center when they dissected a sheep's eye. Do you remember that? When you say you want to become a vet, we know that you have what it takes. You have cared for so many animals – cats and dogs, of course, but also a condo of gerbils, one who came to live at SJMS Middle School. Then came the reptiles: a bearded dragon (Lizzy), and caring for Corny in Erdkinder, proving yourself capable of owning your own snake (Hebi).

Persistent - moving to SJMS in 4th grade was quite a shift. Stepping in to a group that had gone to school together for several years before can prove to be a challenge. It was, for a bit, and you hung in there. Susan, Bill, Cathy and Karla kept all of you busy. Can you believe how long ago your first Interest Fair was? Now in Erdkinder, you are not only a master of Interest Fair, but you and your friends are planning, fundraising and making a week-long trip as a group seem natural and easy. Most students aren't ready for that until their "Senior Year" trip in 12th grade! Wow.

Creative - Over the years here at SJMS, you had the chance to do so many different things. We've watch you develop your musical talents, going from clarinet to bass clarinet in Band, playing in Bell Choir, and hearing your singing voice develop a richness and range has been a delight. From Paint Club to Power of the Pen to Math Counts, you continue to exercise your creativity in various ways. Always one to tackle new ideas, we've also been amazed at how much you've learned how to use graphic design tools on your own.

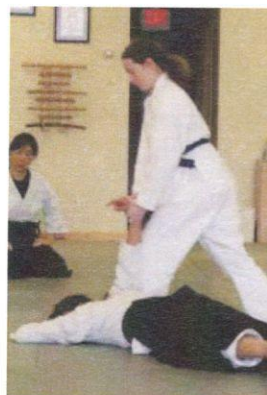
Adventurous - You have never hesitated to try something new. Silks (remember that?), climbing cliffs outside (even leading and setting the rope for the adult climbers!), soccer, horseback riding (which has become a passion) and, more recently, downhill skiing with the SJMS Ski Club. You really know how to have fun.

Leading - It is also wonderful how you have developed in each area of interest not only as a student, but also as a teacher/coach. You have an ability to share what you've learned in a way that both kids and adults learn from you effectively. As senior Aikido student, you help lead kids' class, and are already taking adults' classes and tests. When you were rock climbing, you helped teach new climbers both technique and safety. As an experienced horse rider, you are patient coaching newer riders and helping campers over the summer.

Unstoppable - In a word, YOU are UNSTOPPABLE!! We are so proud of you, Sophie!

Lots of Love,

Mom & Moni



Graduation Word Search

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

Justin
Sophie
Paige
Kate
Janelle

Cecilia
McKenna
Eoin
Nicholas
Noah

Ian
Olivia
Braeden
Simon
Fiona

Congratulations!



We will miss you!