



SAINT PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Saint Patrick,

I cannot express in words how much you mean to me. As I prepare for the next chapter in my life, I will always remember being a 1st grader from St. Viator walking into the gym for the first time for Coach Bailey's basketball camp. I stayed there all day and ended up meeting some of my best friends for life from all over the city. The impression everyone made on me from my first time stepping into the building assured me that I was going to be a Shamrock.

Having a dad who is a Shamrock had a huge influence on me. This introduced me to the brotherhood at an early age, and it stays with me to this day. Witnessing how many of his high school friends he still talks to regularly amazed me, as he graduated nearly 40 years ago now. I hoped to have the same opportunity to make lifelong friends, and this hope has become a reality in my four years. From freshman year football, trying to make friends while having to do socially distanced conditioning, to basketball, these people have changed my life and will forever be my brothers. This brotherhood extends beyond my friends. Walking through the hallways, you see people of all backgrounds, but at St. Pat's, where you come from doesn't matter because we are all Shamrocks.

Through being a Shamrock, I have learned some very valuable lessons and skills along the way, the most important being leadership. Coming into my freshman year, I kept to myself a lot and wasn't very outgoing. This changed as I started to get involved in various clubs and activities around school. I became more comfortable with myself and other students. **By being a part of clubs, I learned what it meant to be a leader; it didn't mean being in charge, but setting an example for the people around me to follow. I hope I have set a good example for the underclassmen as I leave and carry this skill with me next year at Marquette University.**

The specific time that I realized I was a leader in the school was being elected to be an officer in the National Honor Society. This showed me that I was respected and trusted by my peers as well as Mrs. Fiorante to be in charge of lots of different activities and service events along with the officers. This

opportunity as an officer showed me that I had become a person who was respected around the building and someone my parents would be proud of, all because of the lessons I learned from my classmates, friends, and teachers.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the coaches, teachers, and administrators who impacted my experience in my four short years at St. Pats. Coming in as a freshman, I did not know many people; thus, I was relatively shy, as I mentioned. The faculty and staff created an environment that made me feel comfortable to be myself and open up a lot. Now, as a senior, I feel that my social skills have grown, and I am comfortable with myself as a person, and this is all thanks to people like Coach Fabrizio, Br. David, Mrs. Fiorante, Coach Bailey, Ms. Robinson, and Coach Mulcrone. These are people who made me the person I am today and taught me lifelong lessons that I will take to college and adulthood long after graduation.

Thank you, Saint Patrick High School, for everything you have done for me. Roll Rocks!

Sincerely,

Declan O'Malley '24