



SAINT PATRICK

HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Saint Patrick,

From the moment I could talk, I was a Shamrock. I have many family members who have graduated from St. Pat's and have shown me what being a Shamrock is all about. My dad always brought me to camps and events throughout my grade school years and I fell in love. From the summer basketball camps, to basketball and football games, to shadow days, I was all in.

I remember my first day of freshman year, walking into the building to see the smiles on the teachers', administrators', and students' faces. The respect that everyone has for each other is unmatched, and makes going to school everyday such a blessing. I quickly realized that this school is truly different.

Brotherhood is a core part of being a Shamrock. It is really hard to know what this means until you see it for yourself. The values instilled in each and every student from the time they walk into the doors on Belmont, creates the brotherhood. **Brotherhood to me means the respect that each and every student has for each other.** With the variety of diversity and backgrounds, everyone is unique and can express themselves freely in an open environment. Making friends was something that I was quite nervous about my freshman year. Walking through the halls and seeing the upperclassmen interact with each other, I knew it would not be hard. I have created so many friendships that will last a lifetime and I am glad to call these guys my brothers.

I have matured in ways that I did not expect through my four years at St. Pat's. The values that I have been taught in the classroom have made me a better student, and an even better person. Each and every teacher has helped me grow in my academic and personal career. They always have an open door for students who need help or need to talk. I learned how to manage my time between school work and practices. The great student counselors played a big part in this. They made sure every student was doing their best and maintaining good grades in the classroom. Kairos had a large impact on my maturing in faith and how I live my life. I connected with people I never knew and realized that everyone has a story.

Ms. Robinson has had one of the greatest impacts on me in my four years at St. Pat's. Her first year teaching was my sophomore year, and it quickly became my favorite class. She made everyone feel engaged and excited to learn. I was lucky to take her English class again my senior year. Not only is Ms. Robinson an outstanding teacher, but she is an even better person. She is always willing to listen and help you in any way she can. Her kindness and respect for everyone rubs off on her students and creates a welcoming environment.

It is hard to believe that my four years at St. Pat's are over. These four years have been the best years of my life, and I cannot thank my teachers, coaches, and administrators enough for setting me up for success as I continue on to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I am so proud to call myself a Shamrock and be a part of this lifelong community of the brotherhood.

Sincerely,

Patrick Leyden