

Dear St. Patrick,

The past four years have been some of the most memorable years of my life. I came into Saint Patrick as a timid young boy unsure of what the future would hold for me. Hearing stories from my dad and uncle, '96 and '99 alums, I was always curious about what the school was really all about. It did not take long to realize how special Saint Patrick High School really is. The teachers at St. Pat's are welcoming and caring. They are not only educators, but they form bonds with each student and make them feel at home. This feeling is also poured out onto the court. Playing volleyball for the past four years has been an amazing experience. We have hit ups and downs, but our connection allows us to stay focused on our goals. In addition, experiencing Kairos with my brothers and getting to know them more on a personal level is an experience I will also cherish. The brotherhood is real. I cannot put into words how strong the brotherhood is - you have to experience it first hand.

Coming from a small Catholic grammar school, I was overwhelmed with the thought of meeting so many new people from so many different backgrounds. However, as soon as I entered the doors, I felt the connection from the administrators, teachers and students. I remember my first day, being greeted at the front door from the seniors, shaking hands with the president and principal and high fiving other Shamrocks. I felt at home and welcomed right from the beginning. I must say, in grammar school I was not the ideal student. My grades were average and I did not make the honor roll every quarter. As soon as I started my high school journey, something clicked. I valued my academics and strived to make a change. I knew I had it in me, and Saint Patrick and the teachers allowed me to excel and prove to myself that I could do it. By Junior year, I was accepted into the National Honor Society and elected Treasurer. **Not** only has Saint Patrick allowed me to shine academically, it has taught me so many more values, life lessons and the importance of helping others. One of my most memorable moments was being a part of Brother Konrad's wake. He was such a big part of the school and being there to talk to others about him, his achievements or lending a hug to Brother Dave was extremely special.

I am honored and proud to call myself a Shamrock for life. The memories I have made over the last four years will stick with me throughout the rest of my life. I made many lifelong friends and forever brothers. I walked in as a young boy, unsure of what was in store. I now walk out a man, ready for what the future holds. I owe this confidence to my experiences through my time at St. Pats. I know my brothers are behind me and we will always be connected although we are now starting our next journey on separate paths. I hope that I have made an impact in my time here, and I will forever be indebted to this amazing school. Who knows, maybe one day I will be back as a teacher to give back what they have given me.

Thank you Saint Patrick High school for making me who I am today. Go Rocks!

With Gratitude,

Frankie Oliveri '24