



SAINT PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Saint Patrick,

It feels like only a few months ago I was just starting off my freshmen year, and to me it's still unbelievable that I will be leaving Saint Patrick. However, I am more than excited to say that I am not leaving empty-handed, and I don't think you will be as well. I don't think I could've imagined how far I've come since then, and I'm confident that you will feel the same way one day.

I've known Saint Patrick High School for nearly my entire life. I started out doing swim camps here, kicking my little legs and doggy-paddling down the side of the pool. Soon, I started improving, and the older and better I got, the more interested I became in not just swimming, but Saint Patrick as a whole. I realized that Saint Patrick was more than just a regular old high school. It was something special, and I wanted to be a part of it.

The community you meet at Saint Patrick High School is something like no other, and it's important to volunteer in that community. Freshman year I was nervous at the thought of meeting new people again, and I wanted to shut myself out from it. However, after seeing my peers participate in other activities and desire to be a part of the community, it made me realize that this school is just more than "some high school". It's something more. It's a community of many different people all coming together to learn, improve, and have fun. I couldn't let that go to waste.

The first thing everyone thinks of Saint Patrick High School is brotherhood. Now, there's no doubt in my mind that you haven't heard this phrase before, and believe me, you're going to hear it more often now. However, I believe that it's what makes Saint Patrick High School stand out compared to every other high school. The moment I set foot on campus on my shadow days, I had students and teachers lined up to clap me into the building, and when I finally walked in, I was greeted by Coach Fabrizio and many other faculty members. I remember feeling this sort of comfort from this, as if I just walked into a second home. I realize now that, in a way, it was my second home. Here I built and formed strong bonds with not

just my fellow students, but the teachers and faculty members as well.

The main lesson I learned from Saint Patrick was that the bonds you make are everything. The people here have a genuine care and love for who you are and where you want to go, which is something that drove me to try and succeed throughout my high school years. I was filled with this desire to put my “all” into everything I did, from my schoolwork and all the way to sports. Despite this, I still found myself sufficiently challenged, not just by schoolwork, but by sports as well. It was difficult adjusting to the increased difficulty of Honors and AP level curriculum, and I could not describe how challenging swimming and water polo were my first year. This did not stop me. The challenges you face in your four years of high school are important to who you are as a student and as a person, and Saint Patrick will be there to help you along the way. Whether it was some extra pointers from my teachers, or some kind yet stern encouragement from my coaches, there is not a single person at Saint Patrick High School who won't care enough to lend a hand.

There are many different schools in the Chicagoland area, yet there aren't many schools with a “community” like Saint Patrick High. The people who went to this school speak about it with pride and passion, something I don't hear from my friends who went to other schools. I hope one day future Shamrocks can look back on all of the memories, friendships, and bonds they've made at Saint Patrick High School and speak with as much pride as I and many others do.

Gratefully,

Andrew Moskal '24