



# SAINT PATRICK

## HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Saint Patrick,

It is hard to believe that almost four years ago I was a high-pitched freshman beginning my high school career. I had explored a few options for high school, but ultimately decided on St. Pat's. The reason for this decision was simple: 5900 West Belmont felt like home. I had spent much of my elementary school summers in Shamrock summer camps and enjoyed every second of it. Whether it was for science, sports, or jazz band, these camps made me feel like a part of the Shamrock community, even though it would be years until I attended as a student. I still remember my dad taking me to the Pat's vs. Notre Dame basketball games, where I would be amazed at the synchronized and witty chants the Stud Section performed. I will die convinced that Saint Patrick High School is home to the best and most proud student section in the world, and I doubt anyone will ever be able to change my mind. The student section, in my opinion, exemplifies exactly what takes place at Saint Patrick High School: brotherhood.

I truly realized how strong the Shamrock brotherhood is when I talked to my dad (SPHS Class of '93) about his high school experience. He has stories from high school that involve people he is still good friends with to this day. The first time I personally experienced the Shamrock brotherhood was on my first day of freshman year, when I met Brother David and he knew who my father was, recognizing him from when my dad had him as a counselor. Brotherhood is generational, and there is no better example than St. Pats, a school home to more legacy students than I can count. The reason that families send their children and grandchildren to this school is because it is more than a school, it is a community. The backbone of the St. Pats community is our amazing teachers and staff, who work hard every day to ensure that we succeed. I would thank the specific teachers that have helped me in my four years here, but that would quite literally take up the rest of this letter. Every teacher that I have had has taught me not only about school but about life. Life skills are crucial for success in the adult world, and I feel more than prepared to take on life after attending SPHS for four years.

One of the ultimate goals of high school is to attend college, and I can say definitively that the help the Shamrock community gave me during my college search was invaluable. I decided around the end of sophomore year that I wanted to attend the United States Air Force Academy, or at the very least participate in a ROTC program at an aviation college. I told this to Mr. Kusinski the next year when we started our college application process and he responded to me with extreme confidence that made me feel more motivated to work towards this goal. Another time, Mr. Golden went out of his way to arrange a meeting between me and a Shamrock alumni who attended the Air Force Academy, a meeting that ended with him gifting me some military patches from his time at the academy. Lastly, Coach McIntee took the time to write me a letter of recommendation for the Air Force Academy, despite having a very hectic and packed work schedule. These are just three of many instances where the St. Patrick staff supported me, and I am certain that without their help, I would not be as successful as I am today.

I have played alto saxophone in the SPHS Jazz Band for four years, and it has been an experience that I will never forget. The sheer amount of support and encouragement my peers, teachers, and mentors showed me has been incredible. A good example of this is from last summer when I was caddying for the Shamrock Golf Outing at Ridgemoor Country Club. Dr. Schmidt always stays on hole four and challenges the groups that pass through to a closest to the pin contest, raising money for the school. Before he offered anyone his challenge, however, he greeted me and introduced me to my group as “one of the best musicians we have at St. Pats.” This single kind gesture made me overwhelmingly proud to be a Shamrock and made me realize that the SPHS community would have my back, no matter what I was doing.

Throughout my high school career I have thought about how things may have been if I chose to go to a different school. I always end up abandoning these thoughts, however, because I cannot imagine a better high school for me than St. Pat's. Attending Saint Patrick High School may have been the best decision of my life. That statement sounds crazy, I know, but I believe that I would not have realized what I wanted to do in life if it weren't for this school.

Dear Saint Patrick, thank you. Thank you for supporting me in a way that I will never forget. Thank you for showing me the true meaning of brotherhood. Thank you for making high school one of the best times of my life. And thank you for making me proud to call myself a Shamrock.

Sincerely,

Patrick Wright '23