

## My St. Joe journey of a lifetime

The past six years at St. Joe have truly been a blessing. When I was just 12 years old, I embarked on a journey that has helped mold me into the young woman I am today.



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editor

Let's take it back to August of 2009, when I was a skinny, geeky girl, pre-braces and still wearing glasses full time. I only knew around two to three people in my class coming to St. Joe. And like anyone else would have been, I was nervous, yet eager, to meet all my new classmates who I would be with until senior year.

Although I only knew a couple of people at the beginning of the year, I embraced my status. By the end of seventh grade, I knew everyone and was even elected seventh grade secretary.

Fast-forward to 2014. My senior year is here. Honestly, I am happy I chose to attend St. Joe in the seventh grade.

For some, St. Joe isn't their choice, and I can understand

that.

But once you get over the uniform and strict rules, St. Joe isn't just like the other schools in the metro area. St. Joe is better.

Yes, I just said St. Joe is one of the best middle and high schools in the Jackson metropolitan area.

I have met some of the best people here, including friends, teachers, staff and mentors.

Lifelong friendships have been made as well as mentorships that I can see going past my graduation in May.

I have participated in activities that I never would have pursued if I had gone to another school. Speech and debate, mock trial and the school newspaper have given me a chance to express myself and even explore possible career options.

Once you open your eyes to the possibilities and options at St. Joe, your potential is endless.

Attending a private school has several negative connotations such as only snobby, stuck up, rich kids attend them.

That may be the case at other private schools, but here at St. Joe I believe it's the total opposite. There are so many

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genuine souls here. Two teachers immediately come to mind:

Brother John Brennan and Mrs. Pam Walberg.

Brother John Brennan spends much of his spare time helping the poor in the Greater Jackson area. His selflessness inspires me and reminds me to be forever thankful for my situation, which could be much worse.

Up until this year, Mrs. Walberg served as Speech and Debate coach. Mrs. Walberg dedicated a lot of time to the Speech and Debate team. It is because of teachers like them that so many of our students at St. Joe are successful in school and in life.

Now as I begin my journey to college, I am looking back over my tenure at St. Joe. I can say I

am pleased with where I am now as young woman, ready to take the world on and completely dominate everything I do.

St. Joseph Catholic School is an exceptional place to be to develop in every aspect of life, spiritually, emotionally, socially and academically.

I challenge all students in the school to fully appreciate where you are and embrace every opportunity offered to you. Take a chance and step outside of your comfort zone. As cliché as that sounds, it's probably one of the best pieces of advice you could receive in life.

Try out for the school fall play or musical. Learn a new sport and try out for a team. Join the Speech and Debate team and discover your public speaking abilities.

It's all available here. You don't want to look back at your senior year and have done nothing. That won't look good on college applications.

So thank you, St. Joe, for influencing me in a positive light and helping me to step out of my comfort zone and discover everything I could do.

For that, I am forever grateful.