

Standing before you in this gym, it feels like only yesterday that I was arriving here and checking in to my last week of Camp Mount Michael before freshman year. I remember laying my bag down and entering the Armory where a group of about 30 of my future classmates were waiting. That week, I did not know how close I would become to those people over my four high school years. I experienced similar feelings during the workout and pool party hosted by Chris Angel and his family before Freshman Orientation. Even throughout freshman year, I remained oblivious to the impact my class and this school would have on me.

Hundreds of personal interactions with each other and our shared experiences of high school have played major roles in forming the class. Tackling the Boys Town ropes course freshman year, singing with Sesay as sophomores, playing Among Us in the junior dorm, and most recently gathering for senior graduation events and parties are examples of common experience bringing us together. Taking part in general dorm tom foolery and having social events are all independent factors that contribute to our connectedness. Accomplishments like sports championships also speak to both the mutual support we have for each other and the success of our class. This is why Mount Michael is a brotherhood. Like brothers, I enjoy being with every person in our class, and each person brings their

own talents, experiences, and accomplishments to class gatherings. This is what I believe makes our class, and by extension Mount Michael, so great.

To my classmates: Thank you for bringing variety and excitement to our high school years. Some thrive in the gullies, others in technology. Some dominate in sports, others in the arts. Some are ambitious investors, others compete in online esports tournaments. Whether it be at a state tournament or at an intramural event in the gym, everyone in our class supports and celebrates each other's achievements. Thank you for a wonderful and supportive four years of friendship and learning.

Thank you, teachers, for making classes both educational and enjoyable for us; for showing mercy with homework assignments while pushing us to do our best. Your patience, wisdom, and enthusiasm are all what makes learning here so special for my classmates and me.

And thank you, staff and administration members, for the constant support of all our activities and organization of everything from fan buses to special events. Without your support, our class could not have become the tight-knit community of people we are today. I also cannot forget Abbot Michael and the monastic community, who are always involved with and invested in the activities of our class. Thank you.

Finally, I have my family and the families of all my classmates to thank for your sacrifice and support. As Mr. Roshone reminded us last year, it is our parents who are sacrificing their money to send us to school. For boarding students, our parents have also sacrificed seeing us for most days of the week. Thank you for these sacrifices and always being so supportive of us and our endeavors.

As we move now into the future and go our separate ways, we all will benefit from our foundation here and always remember the experiences we have had together. From copying the handbook at midnight with Mr. Struckman to becoming captains of varsity sports teams, our class has grown over the years to become the graduates we are today. We were able to have an excellent high school experience despite COVID activity restrictions and online learning. Overall, Mount Michael taught me the value of both independence and comradery as necessary for success and joy. Together, we embraced and overcame the challenges brought by high school and built relationships that will last a lifetime. No matter where we end up next year, or 20 years from now, a piece of Mount Michael and the Class of 2022 will stay with each and every one of us forever. Thank you, and congratulations Class of 2022. Go Knights!