

GRADUATION



2018

ST. ALOYSIUS VICKSBURG



ST. JOSEPH GREENVILLE



- Graduates: 39
- Graduation rate: 100 percent
- College bound: 100 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 97 percent
- Largest scholarship awarded: Brice Johnson, football scholarship from United States Naval Academy
- Scholarships total: \$1,650,678
- Class service hours: 1,150
- Notable colleges: United States Naval Academy
- Notable service projects: Color Me Cured 5K run for schoolmate Aries Cotton.



- Graduates: 37
- Graduation rate: 97 percent
- College bound: 100 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 65 percent
- Largest scholarship awarded: Adrienne Eckstein, \$400,000 from U.S. Air Force Academy
- Scholarships total: \$4,784,236
- Class service hours: 3,944
- Notable colleges: US Air Force Academy
- Notable service projects: Volunteering as a class at Good Shepherd Community Center

CATHEDRAL NATCHEZ



- Graduates: 37
- Graduation rate: 100 percent
- College bound: 100 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 100 percent
- Largest scholarship awarded: Jada Johnson, \$146,000, Academic Excellence, Millsaps College
- Scholarships total: \$1,021,814
- Class service hours: 2,100
- Notable colleges: Colorado State University
- Notable service projects: Hem in the Headmaster Food Drive for Stewpot.



ST. JOSEPH MADISON



- Graduates: 75
- Graduation rate: 100 percent
- College bound: 96 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 95 percent
- Largest scholarship awarded: Maren Hrivnak, \$211,960 from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota
- Scholarships total: \$1,915,204
- Class service hours: 4,126
- Notable colleges: Northeastern Boston
- Notable Service Projects: BruinThon fundraiser for Batson Children's Hospital

(See details on all service projects on page 1 of Mississippi Catholic.)

GREENVILLE ST. JOSEPH VALEDICTORIAN: SARAH JANE HAYEK GPA: 4.31 - ACT: 33

From her speech: *Class of 2018, you have grown to be my home. A home full of academic achievement, athletic talent, and undeniable creativity. My parents, who left their original home halfway across the globe, taught me that home is the people you are with, not the places you are located. I am tremendously proud of my home that has given me undying support, but constant challenge. Saint Joseph has given each of us a platform that dares us to propel to success relative to each of our own dreams and aspirations. Saint Joseph has created a home where individual differences are celebrated and appreciated, yet manage to unify students in the most ironic way. God's plan has been made evident through students' attitudes and through the loving environment created here. The blessings granted to us by this school are innumerable ... I truly believe that God has his plans for us, but a common misconception that comes with this statement is that we can sit back while the "Big Man" takes care of it. When opportunity presents itself, take a calculated leap of faith. Trust your instincts and plan accordingly so it is not as scary.*



Member of Greenville St. Joseph Parish

Scholarships: Millsaps College, Millsaps Alumni Scholarship, Majors Sports Scholarship, National Honor Society National Semi-Finalist, Educational Foundation of Greenville French Scholarship, Star Student, 4 Way Rotary Scholarship.

Awards/honors: Star Student, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Alumni and Academic All Star, Magnolia Girls State Alumni, Mu Alpha Theta Member and Treasurer, National Honor Society Member, 2018 Principal's Award Recipient, soccer MVP defensive player and All-Star team member, tennis Heart of a Champion Award and state champion, Chuck Early Humanitarian Award, cheerleading state champion, Wendy's Heisman state finalist.

Activities: Student Body President, Interact Club President, Mayor's Youth Council Member, School Ambassador.

Favorite subject: Science

Favorite service project: Sesobel - Working with disabled youth in Lebanon ... "because the children reminded me to not take life's daily blessings for granted. They were always so happy and loving and it reminded me to do the same."

Plans to attend: Millsaps College

Plans to study: BioChemistry

SALUTATORIAN: OLIVIA LYNN DEANGELO GPA: 4.24 - ACT: 24

From her speech: *Our senior showcase really brought me into reality. I shed tears of joy and sorrow, as I thought of each one of you knowing that our time together was coming to a close. At the same time, I know that we are all destined for many wonderful things. I know that my life would be different without each of you and I know God blessed me by allowing me to grow up with such a wonderful group of people. I know you will all be successful and each of you has the potential to be whatever you dream of being. St. Joe has shaped us into the amazing people we are today, and I want you to cherish and hold on to everything this school has taught you. This Catholic education has definite-*

ly shaped us to be able to face all the challenges of the real world. The responsibility we've gained and the mistakes we've made all have a special part in our future. The lessons we've learned, the tears we've cried and the smiles and laughter we've shared will be cherished forever. My senior year was rough; it was tiresome, and it was stressful. However, there comes a point where you have to let go and go have fun with your friends. Make memories, be active, and love your classmates.



Member of Greenville St. Joseph Parish

Scholarships: Ole Miss Alumni Scholarship and Ole Miss Salutatorian Scholarship, Washington County Education Foundation Scholarship.

Awards/honors: Mu Alpha Theta President, National Honors Society, Miss SJS, Most Athletic, Cheerleading state champion, tennis state champion and MVP and soccer Heart of a Champion Award.

Activities: Mayor's Youth Council, soccer, cheerleading, tennis, basketball, SGA-Treasurer

Favorite subject: Mathematics

Favorite service project: "My favorite service project was organizing the career fair. With this career fair, the students were able to go and have a hands-on experience working with careers of our choice. I felt very fortunate being able to help other student get a hands-on experience with their job interest."

Plans to attend: University of Mississippi

Plans to study: Ophthalmology

MADISON ST. JOSEPH VALEDICTORIAN: JOSEPH FRANCO FRASCOGNA GPA: 4.42 - ACT: 35

From his speech: *I believe that Saint Joe has been so much more than a school to me. It has been a father when I needed to be disciplined, a mother when I needed caring for, a brother or a sister when I needed support. It's a living, breathing, thriving community that I'm glad to have been a part of for as long as I have. None of us would be the people we are today, the friends we are, if it wasn't for Saint Joseph Catholic School. So never forget the blue and gold, the teachers who guided you, Friday night football, the great sleep you got during Mass, the long colonnade and senior deck which bears your name for all the future seniors to, literally, look up to. And don't forget that not only will you remember Saint Joe, but*



Saint Joe will also remember you. In the desks you etched your name into out of boredom, in your old lockers, in the hearts of all the underclassmen who look up to you as role models.

The full saying from Virgil's well-known Latin adage goes something like, "Tempus irreparabile fugit." - "It flees, irretrievable time." So maybe there is one part of Virgil's quote I do agree with, the times here at Saint Joe are irretrievable and unique ...

Member of Madison St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Scholarships: Mississippi State University

Awards/honors: STAR Student, AP Scholar with Honors, Academic Excellence Awards in: AP Physics II, AP Calculus AB, English 12 Honors, Latin IV Honors,

Economics, Personal Finance, Web Design, Math and Science, Latin Poetry Silver Medal,

Activities: President of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National English Honor Society, National Latin Honor Society

Favorite service project: "The Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program which was in association with Catholic Charities where we tutored kids going to Callaway High School who needed help in mathematics or English or biology."

Plans to attend: Mississippi State University

Plans to study: Physics

SALUTATORIAN: CHRISTIAN JOSEPH HARRISON GPA: 4.41 - ACT: 29

From her speech: *My point is that these honorific, Latin-based titles are just that: temporary titles. High school is just a stepping stone and no one will ask you in adulthood if you were salutatorian or valedictorian; people will care about your accomplishments, your actions, and who you are. So be the good people I know you are. The people I know come together to help other classmates when they are suffering, the people I know fill Brother John's donation envelope with sunflower seeds but not until they fill it will dozens of bills first. You are the only people I know who can come together to maul an entire grade with water balloons.*

The people I know are extraordinary. And I wish I had really taken the time to talk to each and every one of you so much more

than I did. ... I know this is supposed to be my few minutes of fame for my hard work throughout high school, but that's my point: you all worked hard. Whether it be in sports (congrats for winning state baseball boys), working on plays and musicals incessantly, playing in band, creating art, volunteering, or excelling at academics, I am proud of how far we've all come and your loved ones should be too.



Member of Gluckstadt St. Joseph Parish

Awards/honors: Academic Excellence Awards in English, AP English Literature and Composition, Latin Poetry Silver Medal, Captain of Quiz Bowl team, Consul of St. Joe Latin Club

Activities: Vice-president of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National English Honor Society, National Latin Honor Society, Chess Club, Volunteer at St. Anthony Catholic School, Webster Animal Shelter, TOPSoccer, Captain, Quiz Bowl team.

Favorite subject: History

Favorite service project: "My favorite service program was the URM (unaccompanied refugee minor) program because it made me more globally aware, and I could help kids by using the gifts I have been given."

Plans to attend: Northeastern University, Boston, Mass.

Plans to study: Electrical Engineering

NATCHEZ CATHEDRAL SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN: DAPHNE LAYNE SULLIVAN GPA: 4.4 - ACT: 29

From her speech: *I think that one reason for the propensity of prejudice and intolerance within society stems from our lack of acceptance. To reference a conversation I had with one of my best friends: there is a misconception that lies between acknowledgement and acceptance. It is easy to acknowledge someone else's characteristics or beliefs. However, acceptance only occurs when a person is treated*

no differently because of them. Being introduced to different ideas and ways of thinking can help one to accept others the way they are, and my time at Cathedral has done this. It has helped me strengthen my beliefs while allowing me to consider others. Despite the differences the Class of 2018, and the rest of the world, shares in its beliefs and physical appearances, one thing remains true: we are all individuals. We all have the potential to do great things. We all can create change. Never forget to be a Linguini (from the movie Ratatouille) in this world of intolerance because without them, individuals would not be given a chance to be who they are.



Scholarships: University of Southern Mississippi Academic Excellence Scholarship and the Freshman Designation-Based Valedictorian/Salutatorian Scholarship.
Awards/honors: Highest average overall, highest average in English Composition II, Spanish III and BioMed; Science Olympiad regional awards: 1st in Anatomy and Physiology, 1st in Forensics, 2nd in Chemistry; La. Science Olympiad state honors: 1st in Disease Detectives, 1st in Forensics, 3rd in Anatomy & Physiology; Science Olympiad national honor: 30th in Forensics
Activities: Service projects for Key Club and National Honors Society, Science Olympiad competitions, and volunteering at the Alexandria Zoological Park.
Favorite subjects: Spanish and BioMed
Favorite service project: "Volunteering as an Explorer for the Alexandria Zoological Park (AZP) because I was able to learn more about conservation and help promote it."
Plans to attend: University of Southern Mississippi
Plans to study: Environmental Biology

SALUTATORIAN: CAROLINE KAISER
GPA: 4.4 - ACT: 25

From her speech: As for my classmates, we are not only friends, but brothers and sisters. We have helped each other accomplish so much. We are supportive of each other and care that each of us succeeds. We all have different strengths and together we have succeeded. With all the homework, essays, projects, we have encouraged each other to do our best. I cannot thank my class enough for being so helpful, encouraging and loving and being a family. I ask that all of you keep God at your center. Without him we cannot be our best. We will always need our God to help us on our journey. Tonight, let's take a moment to honor each other and say goodbye as if it were our last time even though our hearts tell us it is not. Know that I love you all and wish everyone the best of luck in the future. As one of our favorite artist, Post Malone, says, "Now I can scream that we made it, Now everyone everywhere I go, they say congratulations."



Member of Natchez St. Mary Basilica
Scholarships: Ole Miss Academic Excellence Scholarship, Bledsoe Scholarship, Salutatorian Scholarship, Junkin family scholarship.
Awards/honors: A Honor Roll, Exemplary Service Award, softball all-district and best defensive player,

basketball co-MVP, tennis hustle award, cheerleading captain.
Activities: National Honor Society President, National Science Honor Society, Natchez Youth Leadership, Peer Ministry, Principal List, St. Mary Catholic Youth Organization, Catholic Heart Workcamp, Class Officer, basketball, cheerleading, softball, tennis, track and cross country
Favorite subject: Mathematics
Favorite service project: "Catholic Heart Workcamp because we got to work with all different kinds of people. The smiles of their faces as we helped them was phenomenal, and there is nothing more special than making someone's day."
Plans to attend: University of Mississippi
Plans to study: Chemical Engineering

VICKSBURG ST. ALOYSIUS
VALEDICTORIAN: RYAN EDWARD JARRATT
GPA: 4.84 - ACT: 35

From his speech: But most importantly, this graduation is a hello. Hello to our next great adventure. Parents and teachers have laid the foundation and helped to instill our values. Now is our opportunity to test ourselves without the day-to-day chaperoning. The best part of this new adventure is that none of us know with certainty where it is going to take us. And we shouldn't know, because now is the part of our lives where we can explore. Find out who we are, what we like, and where our passions lie. We have our whole lives ahead of us.
 Let me end with a quote from the famous author Mark Twain, which seems particularly appropriate on this occasion. I offer it to my classmates as a challenge. He said, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."



Member of Holy Trinity Episcopal
Scholarships: Mississippi State University: Presidential Scholarship, Housing Scholarship for Presidential Scholars; Educational Enrichment Scholarship; Undergraduate Research Scholarship; Paul A. and Mary Elgie Frederic Memorial Endowed Scholarship; National Merit Finalist Scholarship; Engineering Excellence Scholarship; STAR Student Scholarship; Valedictorian Scholarship; Boys' State Delegate Scholarship; Key Club Scholarship, Coca-Cola Scholar Finalist Scholarship, United Way Bruce Alan Ebersole, Junior Scholarship, Vicksburg Rotary Club Edley Jones, Junior Scholarship, National Merit Finalist Scholarship, Lombard Burns Memorial Scholarship.
Awards/honors: National Merit Finalist, 4.0 Award, St. Aloysius Gold A Award, Gold Presidential Service Award, STAR Student, competed in state tennis tournament
Activities: tennis, mock trial team, math and science team, Quiz Bowl team.
Favorite subjects: AP Biology
Favorite service project: "Hands and feet ministries that serves food and clothing to the impoverished of Vicksburg. It is a great feeling to be able to help the people in need in our community."
Plans to attend: Mississippi State University
Plans to study: Biomedical Engineering

SALUTATORIAN: ADRIENNE MARIE ECKSTEIN
GPA: 4.76 - ACT: 34

From her speech: When we were little we heard about famous people like Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, or Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic ocean, or Michael Phelps, who won 8 gold medals at the Olympics. I used to think that to have a story worth telling one had to be the first, the fastest or the fittest. But as I sat at senior retreat listening to teachers like Ms. Meeks, Mrs. Ratliff, and Mrs. Reeder I began to realize that one does not have to be rich or famous to have a story worth telling. The world isn't made up of celebrities but rather of regular everyday people each seeking to live their best life. Everybody has a story and if that story is about trying to be a better friend, or just trying to be a better person then it is a story that everyone should hear. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Just as everyone has a story everyone has a plan that has been set before them by God. If we follow God's plan then it is guaranteed your story will be a good one."



Member of: Vicksburg St. Michael Parish
Scholarships: United States Air Force Academy Appointment, Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg Scholarship, Anthony Cozzani Memorial Scholarship
Awards/honors: 4.0 Award, St. Aloysius Silver A Award, Bronze Presidential Service Award, state tennis champion, state swimming champion
Activities: Mock trial team, swimming, tennis, math and science team, Quiz Bowl team
Favorite Subjects: Science
Favorite service project: Storehouse community food pantry; "I enjoyed getting to see the people I helped."
Plans to attend: United States Air Force Academy
Plans to study: Civil Engineering

INDIANOLA ACADEMY
VALEDICTORIAN: CAITLYN ASHLEE HENRY
GPA: 4.00 - ACT: 31

From her speech: Tonight, we, like the ancient mariners, stand at the edge of our known world. Coleridge says his Ancient Mariner was, "Alone, alone, all all alone, alone on a wide, wide sea." We look to the horizon with fear, excitement; and a bit of hesitation as we prepare to take to the open seas. The depth and vastness of the sea can be overwhelming but at the same time comforting and full of promise. The ocean covers more than seventy percent of the earth's surface, and the average depth of the ocean is roughly 12,100 feet. Only five percent of the murky seas have been explored so I challenge each of us to chart through the unknown waters and make a splash in the world around us. As we pierce the waves and sail into the vast unknown we must have faith in the almighty power of God, for Isaiah 43 says "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." ... Even when sailing in choppy waters we can always



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Mother, former teacher reflects on mission of Catholic education

BY BRIDGET FARRELL MOOREHEAD

I cannot remember a time in my life that my Catholic faith was not an active part of my daily life. I am the second of seven children raised in an Irish, Catholic family in the Midwest (Dayton, Ohio) whose faith laid the foundation for our family identity. Prayer was a constant part of our daily routine. One of the strongest memories I have is ending each day, folding several loads of laundry with my entire family, as we said prayers together, gathered around a mound of clothes.

We started every family road trip with a rosary. At the time, we had a "Glory and Praise" cassette that we would listen to and sing in the car together.

Perhaps that faith was what inspired me to write a letter more than 30 years ago to the Archbishop in our Diocese of Cincinnati, challenging the church's position of having only boys be altar servers (I wanted to also be an altar server), and successfully witnessing our parish liturgy become more inclusive with female altar servers! I have an aunt, Sister Patricia Sullivan, who is a Dominican nun, whose active faith life and example has always been a source of inspiration in my life. In short, from as long as I can remember, my Catholic faith was as strong a part of my identity as my own name.

After going through 16 years of Catholic education – grade school, high school and university – I felt called to become a Catholic teacher and went to grad school at Notre Dame as a part of its two-year teaching program, Alliance for Catholic Education, an AmeriCorp program that sends recent college graduates into Catholic schools across the country.

At the time, many (if not all) Catholic schools placed a sign on their front door (some may still have it) whose message really struck me: The sign reads, "Let it be

known to all who enter here, that Christ is the reason for this school."

Christ is the reason for this school and all Catholic Schools. Such a simple, yet powerful statement – everything that we do with our students, whether it's beginning the class day with prayer, allowing classmates to share a petition for others to keep in their prayer, celebrating Mass together as a school community, and most importantly, how we treat one another and talk to one another. Christ is always at, and must be at, the center of who we are, what we do and what we stand for.

In our country right now, we are constantly bombarded with messages of division – division by race, by sex, by political party, by class or social status – now, more than ever, we need our Catholic schools to prepare our youth – our leaders of tomorrow – to put Christ at the center of everything that we do. Can you imagine if all young people today put 1/10th of the time they spend on technology (on phones, laptops, TV) into prayer time, or time to read Scripture or talk about their faith? That's precisely why we need Catholic schools.

Pope Francis has said: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from clinging to its own security." Our Catholic schools start those necessary conversations. They help prepare our children by building up and strengthening their faith lives – by instilling in each child a desire to ask, "What would Jesus do?" in a particular situation.

Our Catholic schools foster a sense of community, they encourage a mindset of "we're all in this together" so when our students do leave school, they are prepared to go out into their neighborhoods – into the streets where they live to actively share their faith with others.

How did that song go? "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love" – that's why Catholic schools are so important to me, both as a parent and as a former Catholic school teacher – they constantly remind our children that by our words and actions, others will know that Christ is the reason for what we do. Christ is the reason for this school.

In Luke's gospel, we are reminded "To whom much is given, much will be required." (Luke 12:48) We have an obligation to give back, to build up our community, to restore unity in today's world and media so intent on creating division. It is up to us and I am convinced that we can accomplish this mission through our Catholic schools.

(Bridget Farrell Moorehead is a member of Canton Holy Child Jesus Parish. Her five children have attended Catholic schools for between 12 and 6 years.)

St. James Parishioner earns top honors at Academy

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remember that down below the surface lies the Cushion of the Sea that is never stirred. The Cushion of the Sea is a small portion of the ocean deep beneath the surface where all is calm even if a hurricane is passing overhead. The peace of God is that eternal calmness in our daily lives. Graduates let us not fear the vast unknown. Let us reach our full potential and enjoy the best days of our lives.

Member of: Tupelo St. James Parish

Scholarships: *Accepted:* LuckyDay Success Scholarship, Academic Excellence, Valedictorian Scholarship, Bledsoe Scholarship.

Awards/honors: Planters Bank Student of the Month for September, voted most intellectual, Wendy's High School Heisman School Winner, Page for Mississippi Lieutenant Governor during the 2018 Legislative Session, Highest Average in English IV, Honors Physics, and Creative Writing, four-Sport letterman; MVP of cross country; recipient of the High School Scholar Athlete Award.

Activities: Member of Student Council, National Honor Society, Math and Science Team, Bible Journaling Club, yearbook staff, cheer, track, cross country, tennis and soccer. Member of Girls' Small Group, Youth Group; Participant in Apex Leadership Summit at Ole Miss; Participant in the Mississippi American Legion Auxiliary Magnolia Girls State.

Favorite subject: Math or English

Favorite service project: "I began volunteering at Indianola Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, a local nursing home. The residents are a joy to be around and always brighten my day. I have gained so much valuable knowledge through volunteering and have discovered a home way from home. I utilize my passion for helping others and cherish my time spent with such special people."

Plans to attend: The University of Mississippi

Plans to study: Accounting

(Editor's note: William Meyers, a member of Cleveland Our Lady of Victories Parish, was Salutatorian of Cleveland Central High. He was not able to submit his information prior to press time, but his honors and accolades can be found online at www.mississippicatholic.com.)

Sister, seminarians graduate



BOSTON, Mass. –Sister Maria Elena Mendez at Boston College graduation.



COVINGTON, La. –Andrew Bowden receives his hood at St. Joseph graduation.

The Diocese of Jackson can also celebrate four college graduations in 2018. Sister Maria Elena Mendez, MGSps, received a Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry from Boston College. Sister Mendez is one of the coordinators for Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Jackson.

Father Nick Adam graduated from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies while Father Aaron Williams received a Master of Divinity on Wednesday, May 10.

Seminarian Andrew Bowden graduated from St. Joseph Seminary college with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He will continue his studies at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in the fall.