

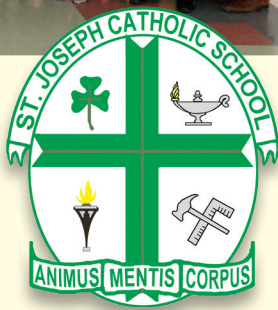
# GRADUATION STATS 2019

ST. ALOYSIUS  
VICKSBURG



## ST. JOSEPH GREENVILLE

- Graduates: 25
- Graduation rate: 100 percent
- College bound: 96 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 92 percent
- Largest scholarship awarded: \$154,000
- Scholarships total: \$1,869,118
- Class service hours: 754
- Notable colleges: Washington University, Tulane University



- Graduates: 42
- Graduation rate: 100 percent
- College bound: 98 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 79 percent
- Largest scholarship awarded: \$132,000
- Scholarships total: \$2,130,135
- Class service hours: 4,397
- Notable colleges: Tulane University, Vanderbilt University



## CATHEDRAL SCHOOL NATCHEZ

- Graduates: 49
- Graduation rate: 100 percent
- College bound: 100 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 100 percent
- Class service hours: 3,190
- Largest scholarship awarded: \$125,800
- Scholarships total: \$4,676,980
- Notable colleges: Columbia University, University of Chicago



## ST. JOSEPH MADISON

- Graduates: 65
- Graduation rate: 99 percent
- College bound: 99 percent
- Scholarship recipients: 92 percent
- Largest scholarship awarded: \$145,000
- Scholarships total: \$2,750,000
- Class service hours: 2,973
- Notable colleges: University of Florida, Tulane University



## GREENVILLE ST. JOSEPH VALEDICTORIAN: MICHAEL MANSOUR GPA: 4.54 - ACT: 35

**From his speech:** *One of the most important lessons my parents have taught me is that talent and potential can only take you so far. Perseverance and hard work are what provide the outlets for success in life. I would like to believe that this is the simple solution to all of life's hurdles, but that is not true. Inevitably, we will all fail at several points in our lives. However, it is what we choose to do next after failing that separates the chaff from the wheat. If we merely give in and allow our failures to rule us, then we may never know success. Yet, if we embrace our failures as checkpoints marking our path through the throes of life, learn from them, persevere through them with the understanding that they are signs of our growth, then we set ourselves up for unbounded accomplishments.*



Member of Greenville St. Joseph Parish

**Scholarships:** \$77,400 Washington University Scholarship; \$2,500 Betty W. and Holding Carter Jr. Family Foundation Scholarship.

**Awards/honors:** Distinguished Honor Roll (four years), American Legion Honor Student, AP Scholar with Honors, Principals Award 2019, Voted Most likely to Succeed, Delta Honor Graduate, Star Student, National Honor Society Member, Mu Alpha Theta President.

**Athletic Awards/Honors:** Wendy's Heisman State Finalist, Raymond Faulkner Scholarship, MVP in Soccer, MVP in Tennis.

**Favorite subject:** Mathematics.

**Favorite service project:** Planning the blood drive for St. Joseph. It meant a lot that I was able to help save so many lives.

**Plans to attend:** Washington University.

**Plans to study:** Pre-Medicine.

## SALUTATORIAN: CECILIA DELANEY AZAR GPA: 4.34 - ACT: 30

**From her speech:** *Although at times I have claimed Nashville as my home, this place right here is where I found myself, found my best friends, made mistakes and learned from them, and grew into the person I am today. And because of the effect this environment has had on me, I will continue to grow into the person I dream of becoming. Without the raw selflessness found in the Delta, the overwhelmingly accepting atmosphere thriving here at St. Joe, and the loving people running through its halls, none of us would be here, as who we are right now. What defines you as a person isn't solely based on what you do and where you go, but where you came from – including the people who have raised you and taught you. And I couldn't be more proud to come from a home like St. Joe. So, class of 2019, I challenge each of you, as we move onto our future endeavors, to not forget your pasts so quickly. Instead let us take the memories we've shared and the lessons we've learned to build a life by the people who and places that have made us who we are.*

Member of Greenville St. Joseph Parish

**Scholarships:** Arkansas non-resident scholarship (\$57,000), Education Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000).

**Awards/honors:** Distinguish Honor Roll (four years), American Legion Honor Student, Voted Most likely to Succeed, National Honor Society Member, Mu Alpha

Theta member.

**Athletic Awards/Honors:** Wendy's Heisman State Finalist, Chuck Early Humanitarian Award, Girls Tennis Most Improved.

**Activities:** St. Joseph Ambassador, Tennis, Senior Class President.

**Favorite subject:** Chemistry.

**Favorite service project:** Boxing canned goods at the Mississippi food Network. "I was able to help others while working in the field I love most."

**Plans to attend:** University of Arkansas.

**Plans to study:** Food Science.



## MADISON ST. JOSEPH VALEDICTORIAN: CLARE HARKINS GPA: 4.38 - ACT: 32

**From her speech:** *Although it sounds cheesy, while I'm physically done growing, I still have a lot of growing to do in other areas. As we all move forward, I encourage you guys to consider what brings you joy and pursue that. Don't count your wealth in material things, but, rather, count your wealth in memories, smiles, and laughs so hard that you cry. Although high school was nothing like High School Musical, I really can't complain because you know me, you know I've never been coordinated enough for synchronized dancing anyway. ... We might be going our separate ways now, some to say "Hotty Toddy, Go Dawgs, Go Eagles, Go Tigers, Go Majors, Go Gators or Go Noles," but at the end of the day, we know we'll always be able to come home and say "...Go Bruins!"*

Member of Madison St. Francis of Assisi Parish

**Scholarships:** *The Ecce Quam Bonum Award* from University of the South at Sewanee.

**Awards/honors:** National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National English Honor Society, Junior Classical League, Summa Cum Laude on the National Latin Exam.

**Activities:** Swim Team Captain, Retreat Team, Pottery Club, Bowling Team, St. Francis CORE Team.

**Favorite service project:** Baby Bottle Drive for Birthright, raising money and supplies for pregnant mothers who need resources is important. The safety, protection, and support of the child and mother during pregnancy is an issue

close to my heart.

**Plans to attend:** University of the South at Sewanee.

**Plans to study:** Chemistry.



## SALUTATORIAN: ALAINA LIESS GPA: 4.30 - ACT: 33

**From her speech:** *This chapter we are all about to begin in our lives is one we should welcome with open arms, and I can honestly say that I am so proud of the hellos and welcomes this class is about to make. We welcome four Division I athletes, two Division II athletes, two Junior College athletes, a Croft Institute scholar, a Trent Lott student, twelve different out-of-state colleges, and so many more astounding experiences coming our way. Each and every one of us is going into the world to welcome something new and exciting. Whether you are saying hello to a whole new*

*community, staying close to home, becoming a nurse, majoring in international studies, studying to be a biomedical engineer, or joining the Navy, a new life is sprouting.*

Member of Gluckstadt St. Joseph Parish

**Scholarships:** \$35,000 merit-based aid to Rhodes.

**Awards/honors:** National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National Latin Honors Society, National English Honors Society, Presidents Honors, Star Student.

**Activities:** Swim team, Spirit Steppers, Bowling team, Retreat Team, Student Body Treasurer, Youth Legislature officer, SEARCH leader.

**Favorite subject:** Trigonometry.

**Favorite service project:** The summer before my senior year, my church drove up to Tennessee for a youth mission trip. We worked on repairing for a house for a sweet lady who could not have done it herself. The group pressure washed, cut trees, and fixed the broken structure. My job was to go up on the roof and re-shingle what had been damaged. It was one of my favorite projects because after working, we got to spend time with the woman and really get to know her, which makes all of the work so much more meaningful.

**Plans to attend:** Rhodes College.

**Plans to study:** My major is undecided but I plan to work toward Vet school.



## NATCHEZ CATHEDRAL SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN: SAMUEL WINSTON FREIBERGER GPA: 4.42 - ACT: 35

**From his speech:** *To me, we have been more than just a high-achieving class. We have been a family for the past thirteen years, and each of those years has brought new surprises, lessons, and laughs. At times, we have been as close as the closest friends. At others, we have argued like children over a new toy. The lessons we have learned from one another over the past four years will serve us for the rest of our lives. The family bond among us will continue even when we are separated. Tomorrow, each of us will enter the real world. Groups of friends will be separated as we begin college and our careers. We will find new adventures and new struggles as we try to become this rare breed known as "adults." As we learn how to live independently, we will still rely on what we learned from our families, our teachers, and each other.*

Member of Natchez St. Mary Basilica Parish

**Scholarships:** Approximately \$60,000

**Awards/honors:** John Jay Scholar at Columbia University, National Merit Finalist, National Merit Semifinalist, Science Olympiad State Champions, 2019 Mississippi Art and Writing Awards Gold Key Recipient, Highest Average in AP English Language, Honors Pre-Calculus, Honors Trigonometry, National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society.

**Activities:** Science Olympiad National Tournament Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado; Science Olympiad State Tournament Champions; Science Olympiad Southwest Regional Runners-Up.



**Favorite subjects:** English.

**Favorite service project:** Working at the Stewpot on the weekend because it feels like I am making a difference in my community.

**Plans to attend:** Columbia University.

**Plans to study:** Physics.

**SALUTATORIAN: HANNAH**

**GRACE MIRE**

**GPA: 4.4 - ACT: 27**



**From her speech:** *Maybe you fought through your difficult challenges, maybe you relied on the support of our classmates, and maybe you regret not responding to some adversity in your life the way you really wanted to. Our challenge tonight as the class of 2019 is to cherish each and every one of those experiences that has helped shape*

*each of us into the individuals we are today. As we begin a new chapter, our own new individual journeys, may we utilize those memories as a guide, a compass, to great experiences and challenges. Let's take them head on, and ultimately it will lead to great success.*

Member of Natchez St. Mary Basilica

**Scholarships:** \$40,000.

**Awards/honors:** Senior Class President, National Honor Society, National Honor Society Secretary, KEY Club Service Organization, "A" Average Award for six years, Highest Average Award in College Statistics, College Algebra, Honors Physics, Art II, and Biomedical Research, Outstanding Mathematics Student Award from Copiah Lincoln Community College.

**Athletic Awards/Honors:** Highest GPA for Cheerleading, Varsity Cheer Captain, All American Cheerleader

**Activities:** Cathedral Cheerleader, All American Cheerleader, Varsity Cheer Captain, Mississippi Spirit Competitive Cheer Team.

**Favorite subject:** Science.

**Favorite service project:** Natchez Humane Society and St. Jude. St. Jude due to a cousin being a patient and watching the progress made in her health over the years.

**Plans to attend:** University of Southern Mississippi.

**Plans to study:** Biomedical Sciences.

**VICKSBURG ST. ALOYSIUS**

**VALEDICTORIAN: MATTIE CARLYLE DERIVAUX**

**GPA: 4.75 - ACT: 31**



**From her speech:** *In performing arts, Mrs. Chesley taught us the three rules of improvisation. Rule one, there are no wrong answers. Rule two, forward the action. Rule three, "yes, and?" Little did Mrs. Chesley know, she was teaching us valuable lessons that will continue to stay with us for the rest of our lives. She taught us that in life, you are doing exactly what you are meant to be doing in that given moment. There are*

*no wrong answers. There may be regret, but what you chose is what God meant for you to choose. There is a reason for everything. She taught us that no matter what you encounter in life, do not stop. Forward the action. If there is an obstacle, keep going. Finally, Mrs. Chesley taught us to take chances and to take risks. She taught us to say yes to things that we would not normally say yes to. You might not know*

*where you end up.*

Member of Vicksburg St. Paul Catholic Church

**Scholarships:** Merit Health River Region Joe & Feeney Elliot Scholarship; Herb Dewees Alumni Association Scholarship; Knights of Columbus Scholarship; Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg Scholarship; University of Mississippi: Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship, Academic Merit Scholarship, Leader Scholarship, 1848 Scholarship; Delta Honors Scholarship; Red Carpet Bowl Scholarship; Anthony Cozzani Memorial Scholarship; ERDC Alumni Scholarship.

**Awards/honors:** Delta Honor Graduate, St. Aloysius Gold A Award, St. Aloysius Gold Service Award.

**Activities:** Flashettes, Mock Trial, Retreat Team, Liturgical Team Captain, School Musical, Key Club, President of Interact Club, GIRLZ Group.

**Favorite subjects:** Mathematics.

**Favorite service project:** Jacob's Ladder Christmas party through the Interact Club, because it was so much fun to see the students of Jacob's Ladder having so much fun.

**Plans to attend:** University of Mississippi.

**Plans to study:** Biomedical Engineering.

**SALUTATORIAN: LAUREL CLAIRE STRELZOFF**

**GPA: 4.65 - ACT: 32**

**From her speech:** *I'd also like to thank everyone's families for being supportive throughout our lives. You helped and encouraged us to study, you rolled with the punches when the uniform changed practically every year, and most importantly, you helped us dream about our futures. Whether we're going far or staying close to home, you mean the world to us. Our successes are also due to the relationships we have with one another. Our class is very close knit. People have come and gone, but every person here has friends that have supported them. We're all going different places after high school, but none of us will forget the good times we've had with each other."*



Member of: Vicksburg St. Michael Parish

**Scholarships:** University of Alabama at Huntsville Platinum Award.

**Awards/honors:** St. Aloysius A Award, STAR Student, National Merit Finalist.

**Activities:** Mock Trial, Quiz Bowl, Math and Science Team, Interact Club.

**Favorite Subjects:** Mathematics.

**Favorite service project:** Luminaries, when the students create a prayer labyrinth using candles in bags to remember loved ones – because the end result looked so pretty and we were doing something nice for our community.

**Plans to attend:** University of Alabama at Huntsville.

**Plans to study:** Computer Science.

**LEE ACADEMY**

**VALEDICTORIAN: MADELINE CLAIRE RIDDICK**

**GPA: 4.00 - ACT: 27**

**From her speech:** *As we part ways, I ask my fellow students to keep God a top priority. God has enabled us to make it this far and with him anything is possible. I know soon we might be overwhelmed by the transition to college in the fall, so I chose the verse Isaiah 43:2 to remind us that God is with us at all times. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not*

*overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." This verse is a great reminder that no matter what the circumstances are, God will not abandon you.*

*I hope we all will remember the knowledge, values, and morals that have been instilled in us by our parents, teachers, and school. I wish everyone great prosperity and happiness in the years to come. The class of 2019's future is bright. As Ms. Shive would say "carpe diem."*



Member of: Clarksdale St. Elizabeth Parish and graduate of Clarksdale St. Elizabeth School.

**Scholarships:** Delta Honor Scholarship, Girls State Scholarship, Academic Excellence Scholarship, VFW Senior Athlete 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:** Soccer Team Most Valuable Player, Soccer All-Conference, Soccer All-Star, Cheer All American Award.

**Favorite subject:** AP Government and Politics.

**Favorite service project:** Pulsera Project, because I got to raise money for South American youth for their education, school supplies and cleaning supplies. This service project is very close to my heart, because each of the bracelets that were sold were made by a different artist from South America and all of the proceeds went to improving their condition of life.

**Plans to attend:** The University of Mississippi

**Plans to study:** Public Policy/Pre-Law

**SALUTATORIAN: RUTLEDGE LAWRENCE**

**AGOSTINELLI**

**GPA: 4.0 - ACT: 31**



Member of Clarksdale St. Elizabeth Parish graduate of Clarksdale St. Elizabeth School.

**Scholarships:** All from the University of Mississippi: Academic Merit Scholarship, Salutatorian Scholarship, 1848 Scholarship, Delta Honors Scholarship, Mississippi Star Student Scholarship.

**Awards/honors:** Headmaster's List for six years; National Honor Society Officer of Service; Class Favorite;

HOBY Representative; The Exchange Club Student of the Month; STAR Student Award; Juke Joint Paper first place; Superlatives: Mr. Lee Academy, Most School Spirited, Most Intellectual, Most Popular; Hall of Fame; Chase Bailey Legacy Award; The American Legion Citizenship Award.

**Activities:** Football, Golf, Key Club; farming, including chopping cotton, grading turnrows, planting and harvesting crops; youth incorporated concession stand.

**Favorite subject:** Physics.

**Favorite service project:** The Way of the Cross Passion Play (Stations of the Cross). In this play, I am one of the three Roman soldiers who crucify Jesus as well as conduct him through the entire play. I have been a part of this since ninth grade and each year The Passion

Play brings together our entire Catholic community on Good Friday at noon to watch which is why I enjoy this so much.

**Plans to attend:** University of Mississippi

**Plans to study:** Accounting

## Top Catholic students

### FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL

**SALUTATORIAN: MARY BETH VANLANDINGHAM**

**GPA: 4.0 - ACT: 33**

**From her speech:** *We have so many other things to be grateful for as we finish up this chapter of our lives. While, of course, we all haven't had the same high school experience, we went to the same school and had some of the same teachers. We've all arrived at the same destination, which of course, is here and now. When I was writing this speech, my senior quote came to mind quite often. It was from 2 Timothy, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." This message is very important to me, and really resonated with me these last couple weeks of high school and I feel that it applies to all of us at this moment. We have just finished the long, long race that is high school, and now it's time to relax and enjoy the time we have together before moving on into the world.*



Member of Pearl St. Jude Parish

**Scholarships:** Carl and Nancy Herrin Scholarship, LuckyDay Success Scholarship, Federal Pell Grant Full Time, Academic Merit 10 Scholarship, 1848 Scholarship 2, MESHG, and the Salutatorian Scholarship.

**Awards/honors:** First place in DECA State, Hospitality and Tourism Team Decision Making category, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, MS Scholars, Distinguished Service Graduate, Florence High School 2019 Hall of Fame, and ACT High Honors.

**Activities:** St. Jude's Young Apostles, Florence Mayor's Youth Council, Varsity Cross Country Team, DECA, BETA, RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) Club, Yearbook Staff.

**Favorite subject:** Science.

**Favorite service project:** 35 hours Altar Service/Blood of Christ and Mayor's Youth Council.

**Plans to attend:** University of Mississippi.

**Plans to study:** B.S. Chemistry with Emphasis in Biochemistry.

### CENTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

**VALEDICTORIAN: MARY ELIZABETH LINDSEY**

**GPA: 4.76 - ACT: 33**

**From her speech:** *I'm not going to stand here and talk about what a great future we have in front of us, because frankly, I don't know what the future holds for us and, let's face it, I'm only 17, so any life advice I could give you right now would be limited in scope. I do know what I want all of us to have in the future and that's purpose. I want everything you do, whether it be a trip to Chick-fil-a or running for office, and every word you say, whether it's "spilling the tea" with your bestie or saying goodbye to someone for the last time tonight, to have a purpose. No meaningless, redundant, empty, insignificant, or senseless actions. Don't live your life because that is how you were told it's supposed to be lived; live your life because you choose to live it that way. Don't give into monotony or do something just*

*because that's what is expected, take risks and do what is meaningful.*

Member of Olive Branch Queen of Peace Parish, graduate of Southaven Sacred Heart School.

**Scholarships:** University of Memphis: Cecil C. Humphreys Merit Scholarship, Herff Merit Scholarship and Valedictorian Scholarship. National Merit Corporation Scholarship, WREG Quiz Bowl Scholarship.

**Awards/honors:** National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar, Center Hill STAR student, Center Hill Hall of Fame, Mississippi Scholar, Outstanding Representative and Outstanding Bill at Mississippi Youth Legislature, Rotary Club April Student of the Month, and graduate of special distinction, 2019 Coach's award for archery, Academic Archer.

**Activities:** National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Knowledge Bowl, Youth and Government Club, Archery

**Favorite subject:** United States History.

**Favorite service project:** Memphis Union Missions care package drive. I got to gain an appreciation in what goes into running a drive. I got to rally people and make a difference in my own back yard. I also got to have fun with other classmates as we came together just days before Christmas to wrap boxes. I gained the most satisfaction when I actually went to drop off the boxes as I got to see all the other efforts the mission was undertaking and got a warm feeling when I saw our boxes added to the other pile of boxes, knowing that they would help someone have a better holiday.

**Plans to attend:** University of Memphis

**Plans to study:** Biomedical Engineering



### STARKVILLE ACADEMY

**VALEDICTORIAN: JOSEPH NICHOLAS**

**CHROMIAKY**

**GPA: 4.00 - ACT: 31**

**From his speech:** *Instead of measuring our time here in semesters or years, we should measure it in all the friendships we have enjoyed these last four years, and in all the smiles and tears that were created. We should also measure our time in the memories that we have made. Memories that include, watching the 2016 girl's soccer team win the state championship.; watching the 2017 football team win the state championship; all of the fun pep-rallies that the cheerleaders have thrown us; watching the band play during the halftime show on Friday nights; and all of the special occasions we have shared together, including homecoming, senior parties and prom. This is how we will ultimately measure the time we spent at Starkville Academy – not in periods, not in semesters, and not in years – but in the times that we shared together. We all knew this day would come, and we are finally here with our future in our hands. We all have our own dreams to accomplish, but no matter where we are, high school is always going to be a chapter in the story of our lives.*



Member of: Saint Joseph Catholic Parish

**Scholarships:** Mississippi State University: Freshman Academic Excellence, Colvard Future Leader, Study Abroad, God at the Speed of Light Endowed Scholar-

ship, Oktibbeha County Alumni Chapter Annual Scholarship, Anchor Club Scholarship.

**Awards/honors:** Scholar Athlete Award (10-12 grades), 2019 SA Senior Athlete Award.

**Activities:** Anchor Club, Get Swept Up, National Honor Society Cleanup, Night Out on Crime, Homework Project, Greater Youth Service Day Project, Volunteered at Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Favorite subject:** Science.

**Favorite service project:** Homework, a week-long program volunteering at different service organizations around the community. We have volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club, Starkville Animal Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, the Palmer Home Thrift Store, and Saint Joseph Catholic Church. Homework is a wonderful program that has allowed me to give back to the community through service work. It has also allowed me to teach the community about God and Christianity through service.

**Plans to attend:** Mississippi State University.

**Plans to study:** biology, with plans to attend vet school.

## Parish celebrations



KOSCIUSKO – St Therese Parish presented graduates with Bibles as a graduation gift. (l-r) Mary Swinney, Janie Espino, Vanesa Martinez, Karla Nash and Ivan Garcia with Father Odel Medina, ST. (Photo by Jose Martinez)



LOUISVILLE – Sacred Heart Parish celebrated the graduation of two high school seniors with a party following Mass. Both young men participated in the readings and will be sorely missed as altar servers. Pictured at the ambo on the left is Joseph Barnhill who graduated from Nanih Waiya Attendance Center. On the right is Reese Fulton, a graduate of Louisville High. Barnhill is entering the U.S. Army and Fulton will start East Mississippi Community College this fall. (Photo courtesy of Paula Fulton)