

# CONGRATS

# CLASS OF 2021



## Moments that matter

Sydney Zelinger '21  
Editor-in-Chief

One of my favorite moments from each school day is walking through the halls and being greeted by someone who is not typically on my daily radar. An enhancer to these moments is being complimented by that person or having them stop their rush to class to engage in a short conversation. When I let myself sit with and value these interactions, they can make a bad day turn around. As a checked-out senior eager to receive my diploma, I look forward to the split second when I stand onstage with Principal Sean Hughes, even if it is just for a folder exchange, smile, and handshake. Looking back at all of the moments I have had with those around me, I wonder if I ever took them for granted.

Reflecting on my four years at LM, I begin to remember short and sweet conversations I've shared with people who I don't necessarily have a special relationship with. I recall copy-editing a page for *The Merionite* as an inexperienced sophomore, and one of the Editors-in-Chief told me that my edits showed great potential to be in Management one day. I remember the first time performing in groups for the LM Dance Team and trembling out of nervousness due to the deathly stares from the upperclassmen. Afterwards, one of the seniors came up to me and applauded my energetic performance. Each of these tiny moments has shaped me into the person I have become today, but there are some greater occurrences that are even more important to cherish.

This year was so difficult, especially because of the isolation we faced, but it left me personally with a fresh sense of gratitude. I learned to appreciate a new-

found relationship with someone who entered my life with great intentions and changed it for the better. They taught me that life is more than all of the exterior stresses that come with being a teenager, and that it is okay to lean on someone in a time of need. I think this is quite reminiscent of a prudent lesson that a longtime teacher of mine expressed to my class. At the end of each school year, Spanish teacher Sean Capkin reintroduces a quote from Robert M. Pirsig, in which he says, "We keep passing unseen through the little moments of other people's lives." Life usually works that way, but to anyone reading this eager for some words of wisdom, I hope that as you walk through people's lives, maybe stay there a little longer, treasure it, and perhaps something stronger will come out on the other end, something greater than the little moments.

## Character counts

Dhaval Sharma '21  
Editor-in-Chief

Recently, someone told me that everything happens for a reason. They said that no matter how bad something may seem, it was always meant to be. Initially, and even now, I'm skeptical about the idea of a preordained destiny, but the underlying message has stuck with me since. I believe that anyone can put a positive spin on the majority of bad situations, creating a sense of fulfillment in lieu of regret.

Everything from an awkward interaction to not getting onto a team or group can have beneficial side effects. Maybe that awkward interaction pushed you to become more eloquent. Maybe that failed goal pushed you to work harder, increasing your chances of success for other ventures you may have. I guess it can be compared to character development in books; even though characters in the majority of novels go through hardship and failure, they end up a better person at the end of

their journey. No one sympathizes or enjoys a character who was perfect from the beginning! If you had the chance to redo your time at LM and do everything perfectly, would you really? I think the answer for most people should be no; each failure has eventually led to who you are right now, someone who is hopefully a better version of the freshman version of you. If everything worked out from the start, who knows what you might be like now. Pompous yet more successful, lazy yet more well off, unbearable yet more popular—the potential trade-offs may not be worth it.

The closest example I can think of is in the novel *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison. Essentially, the main character had to go on a soul-searching adventure to discover his past, meeting new people and piecing together the history along the way. If someone had just narrated his past back to him at the beginning, he wouldn't have changed as a person. While it may be cliché, the journey did matter.

I don't believe that everything is meant to be. I personally don't think there are strings of fate attached to our world. While you can make a bad situation have positive effects, it simply will not happen naturally. Everything is what you make of it, with only a few exceptions here and there. My entire message is fairly simple: with enough optimism and will, you can always make the best out of a bad situation, even turning it into a good one. While it might be obvious, I did not begin to follow it until recently because I have had many regrets throughout most of high school. However, looking back now, I wouldn't think to change anything.



Photo by Anika Xi '23/Staff

The Editors-in-Chief for *The Merionite* 2020-2021.  
From left: Sydney Zelinger, Elliot Ginzburg, and Dhaval Sharma.

## Reflect and appreciate

Elliot Ginzburg '21  
Editor-in-Chief

After what has felt like a lifetime, the novel coronavirus's wrath on school life is beginning to dissipate. Sudden changes relating to mask wearing, social distancing, and in-person learning have provided me with little time to reflect on the unrelenting challenges this past year presented to us.

Behind the many memorable moments of our senior year, this school year has been exceptionally difficult. Hours upon hours spent listening to teachers lecture through our computers as we sat in our bedrooms was not easy. I will admit that virtual school was somewhat enjoyable at first. But after so many weeks of a groundhog day routine, turning on my Zoom camera at 7:30 in the morning became mentally and emotionally demanding. There were days I wouldn't close my computer until very late at night—typically working on an upcoming issue of *The Merionite* or prepping for a TSA conference. I enjoyed every minute of what I was doing after the school day—and typically much of what I was doing during the school day too. However, many of

the interpersonal interactions I had previously relied on to push my intellectual curiosity in the classroom and in clubs like *The Merionite*, Debate, TSA, Writing Fellows, and others had largely disappeared.

The pandemic has taught us the importance of our daily interactions with others and the loss we felt from the breakdown of our personal connections. As we seniors dive into a summer filled with newfound freedom, I encourage the rest of you to take advantage of your numbered days as LM students. Remember, every day you walk into the Kobe entrance marks one day closer to your graduation. Take advantage of every conversation or salutation you share. One of the most valuable ways to interact with and learn from the many diverse personalities at LM is to escape the constraints of your social circle. I had the opportunity to strike insightful conversations and find common ground in engineering teacher Mark Piotrowski's room with people I never would have engaged with had I only surrounded myself with my close friends. The time I spent fostering interpersonal

relationships allowed me to gain a better understanding of my academic interests and helped to develop my leadership skills in my extracurricular endeavors.

The significant moments that should have shaped my high school experience were largely lost this year. Leadership conferences, community service robotics opportunities, car wash fundraisers, a TSA trip to Orlando, and so many other opportunities were snatched away, both for me and for my peers. Instead of regretting what this year could have been, I hope to inspire you to take advantage of creating connections with your teachers and fellow students. Who knows, your favorite teacher could become a lifelong mentor or motivate you to pursue a new interest. I hope the traditional senior year that the Class of 2021 missed will serve as a wakeup call for every student that enters our school to treasure each interaction and experience. Our school is truly a remarkable place for finding your academic passion and personal interests, and it really all starts with a simple conversation.



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The Merionite

## Dear fellow seniors...



**Owen Wetherbee '21**  
Valedictorian

LM truly is a crazy place. However, despite all its faults, it has been our place for the past four years, and there's something to be said about that. LM has shown us persistence through daily Learning Center link emails, ingenuity through the plethora of ways to skip gym class, and that "character counts" through constant grade-based evaluations. Most importantly, LM has let us shine. After all, we are awesome, and when I looked around the crowded stadium that day — enthralled in the herd mentality that comes with an entire grade cheering on one kid playing football — I realized just what a variety of excellence was contained within our ranks.

One day while he was fitness walking and talking about the postulance of life — as one does when fitness walking — my friend, Benji Elkins, told me that he didn't really think adults knew what they were doing. I wasn't utterly convinced until 45 minutes later when, with 400 people crammed shoulder-to-shoulder in a single, closed-off stadium, a group of ten adults told us to "take our masks off."

Just look at what we have accomplished this year. In the face of the rising need for equity, we organized demonstrations and birthed organizations like CREI to create discourse and address some of the issues in our school. We used social media and town halls to hold our school's administration accountable and make a difference.

Moreover, despite all of the complications of the last year, we are ending the year with perhaps the most impressive achievements LM has ever seen. Our basketballers won their first district title since 1996. Our tennis players hit their way to become undefeated state champions. Our LM scientists achieved the first Science Olympiad state title in school history. Our resident lawyers finished with an undefeated Mock Trial season. Our runners and kickers brought us Central League championships in cross country and soccer. In short, we are kind of insane.

So, if you are a senior, just remember these crazy things you have done and are able to do. Remember this excellence and that you were a part of it. Bring all this success out into the world so we can create a generation of adults where Benji's proposition does not apply.

And, if you see this but aren't a senior, I don't really know why you read this article, but you're cool too I guess—and good luck at LM without us!

## A deeper purpose



**Fiona Pollack '21**  
Salutatorian

such limited resources, and infinite ways to spend them, how can we ensure that we do the greatest amount of good?

One response to this challenge is effective altruism (EA), an emerging research field and social movement aiming to improve the world as much as possible. Effective altruism started as an investigation into the effectiveness of global health charities, and quickly led to the realization that not only are the best charities better than others, they're many orders of magnitude better. Directed to a top-rated deworming charity, a donation of \$100 can cure 100 children of intestinal worms, with an average rate of just \$1 per child. Directed to a top-rated malaria charity, a donation of \$3,000 is, on average, enough money to save a life.

But EA goes beyond charity. We each have something else that's just as valuable to give to the world: our careers. An average adult will work approximately 80,000

hours over the course of his or her life. Whether you want to tackle global poverty or AI safety, social justice or animal welfare, biosecurity or climate change, if you work hard and choose wisely, your 80,000 hours are your best opportunity to do an incredible amount of good.

In his recent book *The Precipice*, Oxford philosopher Toby Ord estimates that there's a one in six chance that humanity undergoes an existential catastrophe by the end of this century. For me, after more than a year of working and thinking in the EA space, I've decided that doing my best to help ensure our continued existence is the greatest good that I can contribute. I now plan to work on existential risk reduction, and will pursue a concentration in Global Security at Harvard next year.

If I have any advice at all for younger students, it's this: don't just go through the motions of high school, checking off the boxes presented to you, as I did for too much of my time here. Instead, find a deeper purpose for your life, and, in the spirit of EA, be ambitious and effective in your drive to do good. It's easy to feel powerless against the problems that plague us, but there truly are no limits to what you can achieve on behalf of humanity, if you decide to do good better.

A note from the writer: If my arguments about charity moved you, I'd really encourage you to consider donating to the Deworm the World Initiative and the Against Malaria Foundation. Likewise, I would encourage you to visit 80000hours.org to learn more about critical career paths you can take to help make the world better.

## My kind community



**Mia Schwartzberg '21**  
Student Body President

The LM students and wonderful faculty truly have fostered a tight-knit community that transcends to individual relationships. The bonds and friendships that students make with one another can last a lifetime. Walking through the halls while fellow classmates greet you with a "hello" or "I love your outfit today," never fails to brighten my day. Even with the mask mandates, LM students continued to show the same kindness and commitment to each other in both the classroom and the hall. That in itself shows the exceptionally welcoming and kind nature of the LM student body. Teachers also play a large role in building the LM community. Not only do teachers serve as mentors for knowledge, but they offer students a support system. Especially

I like school. You might think that I am obligated to say something like this as student body president but no, I genuinely cherish this sentiment. There is something special about being a student at LM. After starting the school year virtually, I was able to recognize with clarity the importance and privilege of attending LM.

In a year like this one, the LM staff continued to offer support throughout the most challenging yet impactful times.

There are so many paths you can take at LM. Whether choosing courses, clubs, or athletics, each student has a unique opportunity to create an engaging high school experience. During the transition from middle school to high school, the faculty and students rewarded the ability to get involved. Personally, I was able to find my way into Student Council, yearbook, and was able to dip my toes into many other clubs over my four years at our school. Having the ability to explore various activities helped me discover my passions, and this is yet another one of the amazing features our school has to offer. Our school provides the perfect space for students to find their community inside and outside of the classroom.

As my fellow seniors and I prepare to leave high school, I am able to reflect on the past four years and how they have prepared me for the rest of my life. I am confident in my ability to be a part of a community with passion, kindness, and spirit. I also know that my time at our school will help me utilize every opportunity I am presented with. When I was told as a freshman to get involved, it was one of the best pieces of advice I could have received. It made my time at LM incredibly special and helped me develop a passion for being at school.



Nine steps to be successful in high school



Teresa Lu Romeo '21

feasible, pack a Clif Bar for the drive to school (white chocolate macadamia is a personal favorite). I firmly believe that happiness in high school is directly correlated to how good your breakfasts are. Seriously, prioritize your health.

3. Ask for help

Older and wiser people than I have spoken on the importance of working together. It's okay to ask for help! As Halford E. Luccock once said, "no one can whistle a symphony." Isaac Newton famously put it, "if I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." If you want to go fast, go alone. Sometimes it seems easier to take on a burden for yourself. But if you ever want to go far, you have to go together. You have to work together. You have to stick together.

4. Find time to read

Researchers have found that students who read more frequently tend to score higher on the SATs. If for no other reason, start reading because of this. In all seriousness, reading is incredibly fulfilling. It teaches you things you'd never learn in school. It forces you to approach ideas from perspectives you'd never think of yourself. I've spoken to so many people recently who regret not reading more in high school. Start carrying a book around when you go out! You won't regret it.

1. Reject imposter syndrome

I may not know you, but I do know this: you are not a fraud. You deserve everything you have. Imposter syndrome can hit like a ton of bricks, especially when you find yourself in a minority. I've been there and it's terrifying. But you can't let the fear get in the way of success. If you're lost, chances are that everyone else is too. Just because you're the only girl at a programming event doesn't mean you're any less brilliant. Don't be afraid to call yourself a poet—I assure you there's a white guy out there with two mediocre haikus that's already doing the same.

2. Eat breakfast

This one is both straightforward and easy to do. Wake up five minutes earlier to make instant oatmeal. But if that does not seem

5. Say yes!

If your friend wants to join a new club, go with them! If your teacher tells you about a cool opportunity, pursue it! High school and college are about taking risks—don't be afraid to try new things. Show up to soccer practice! Compete in a debate tournament! Once I learned to be comfortable with the uncomfortable, I got the chance to do things like publish astrophysics data and research Spanish linguistics. It pays off, I promise. Opportunities are like rainbows—if you wait too long, you miss them.

6. But also quit the stuff that's making you sad

Once you master the art of saying yes, you also have to learn to say no. Take a second now and reflect on what's stressing you out. Is it absolutely necessary that you keep doing it? My life, for example, became infinitely more enjoyable when I stopped playing music for fifteen hours a week. You don't have to continue doing something just because you always have. Cut the toxic people out of your life! Take honors classes if APs make you cry! There's absolutely no shame in doing what's best for you.

7. Do your laundry

Wash your clothes every week. It takes five minutes. Don't be like me and put it off until tomorrow because you're just SO busy tonight. You're always busy! You won't do it tomorrow! Take it from someone who spent the majority of high school living among piles of dirty t-shirts. If you don't do your laundry, you'll end up with no matching socks and you'll have to lie on your college housing forms. And no, your parents doing it for you doesn't count—you're basically an adult, for crying out loud.

8. Find something to care about

Don't listen to anyone who tells you it's cool not to care. Caring is everything! It's okay to be fascinated by Fibonacci when all your friends hate math. It's okay to spend money on a fancy sketchbook for the aesthetic. Don't read Nietzsche—nihilism isn't worth it. Buy scented candles because they make you happy. Tell your friends you love them.

9. Remember that school isn't everything

High school drama can seem all-consuming, and your French grade may feel like the end of the world. But at the end of the day, there is a lot more going on in the world than what's covered in *The Merionite*. People are hurting, countries are suffering, and the Earth's climate is undeniably changing. We are fortunate enough to have access to an objectively wonderful education, and it is our responsibility as informed citizens to do everything in our power to help.

A letter to the Class of 2021

On a balmy August afternoon, a group of soon-to-be freshmen entered the halls of LM to participate in some orientation activities. As your class sponsors, we were not sure what the Class of 2021 was going to be like, as many of you hung back, assessing your peers and new the building, uncertain of what the next four years would hold. After some ice breakers, a rambunctious scavenger hunt that took place all over the high school grounds (no, this activity has not been held again), and ice cream sundaes, we knew that we had met a special group of students—students who we would watch grow into the amazing young adults you have become.

When we think about the Class of 2021, dedication immediately comes to mind. At your very first class election in the fall of 2017, your classmates stepped forward and were determined to lead your class with fundraisers and activities. From our very first hallway wars and maroon & white game to winter formal and a pandemic, as a class you were dedicated to making it through these difficult situations together and have given your all in the name of school spirit here at LM.

When your senior year started in the fall of 2020, instead of looking forward to senior activities such as Radnor Week and Amazing Ace, you all had to navigate staying healthy and participating in online school while supporting your mental health and, for many of you, grueling college applications. You were thrown a huge curve ball this year and still, with the dedication we have grown accustomed to with the Class of 2021, you rose to the occasion and took on the challenges that were presented to you. We are beyond impressed with your academic and athletic achievements that we have had the privilege of witnessing over the past four years; But, what we value most, is seeing the kindness that

all of you exhibit on a daily basis. There is no doubt in our minds that the Class of 2021 will go on to do great things and have amazing futures. What we hope the most for all of you is that you continue to spread kindness and acceptance. Take the dedication that we have seen you all exhibit over the last four years and know that you can weather any storm in your way. You all now get to move to the next stages in your lives but know that you are all now part of an elite group of individuals. You are now LM graduates and with that honor comes the lifetime membership into the LM Family. We are so proud of you all but know that your LM family is, and will always be, there for you and can't wait to see what your futures hold. Wishing all of you the best!



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## Go forth and serve



**Camille Vandever '21**

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! Commencement is upon us and our experiences at LM are behind us. However, I don't know about the rest of you, but to me graduation feels a little anticlimactic in comparison to everything that happened this past year.

Although graduation may be the most "normal" event to have happened to us recently, it does not lessen the significance of that achievement. Graduating high school is a big deal, especially considering the hoops we've had to jump through. I'm proud to have been a part of

the progress that we've made as a school, and I'm even prouder of the enthusiastic nature of our younger peers to keep moving forward.

Whether you're going off to college, vocational training, the workforce, or somewhere else, I can say with certainty that we are prepared for what the future holds. I say this with confidence because I have had the privilege of being a part of the LM community. I have witnessed the resilience of our student body during tough times, the intense drive to make our school more equitable and accepting, the kindness of strong friendships, the wide ranging passions for academics, arts, and athletics, and the unyielding strength of our character.

At the risk of being cliché, I will say this: we have all of our lives to look forward to. We have the opportunity to explore, to learn, to fail, to persevere, and to achieve great things! With all of this opportunity in front of us, let's lean into our passions, fight for what we believe in, and never give up.

I'm sincerely grateful for the wonderful teachers, staff, and students at LM. I truly believe that LM is a special place because of our culture and the strength of our community. We came in to learn, and now it's time to go forth and serve. Stay in touch!

## Life changing choices



**CeCe Rae '21**

As someone who is, at most, four years older than anyone in this school, I'm not entirely sure I am in any position to give advice, but I do have one piece of advice. In the past couple of weeks, I've been asked many times to recount and reminisce on my high school years, and, throughout most of those conversations, I have always ended up telling others something along the lines of this: Dawgma is the best decision I made throughout all of high school.

Now, there are many reasons for

this, with the most obvious being Dawgma and its resulting officer positions probably going a ways in helping me get accepted into college. However, that's not why I say it. Dawgma gave me a community of people who really shaped me into the person I am today. The club allowed me to develop my skills, both technical and in leadership, and helped me discover what I actually want to pursue as a major and eventually a career. Most importantly, it did a lot to bolster my confidence.

Funny enough, I almost didn't join. I almost did not go to the first meeting and, knowing myself, if I had not gone to that one, I never would have at all. However, I decided to go and it turned out to be the best decision I made in high school. So, what I am trying to say in my own rambling way is that if there is one tip I could give you to succeed in high school, it is this: go to that meeting. I know how frequently freshmen and sophomores simply roll their eyes, but it is true. If there is a club or sport that you have any interest in, go to it. No one says you have to stay forever. You may not even end up liking it, but take the chance. At most, it is only a couple of hours afterschool and that's one small price to pay. Who knows? It just might change your life.



## Memories matter most



**Emily Shang '21**  
**Opinions Editor**

"After this, we're done right?" "This is the last thing we have to do!" "After this we're free!" With no hyperbole, I can safely say that my friends and I have texted each other these lines hundreds of times over our four years at LM. Without fail, every time promises of the end of hard work, stress, and studying left our mouths, a new exam, competition or final would pop up on our calendars. Somehow, even as time dragged the most tedious tasks to the past, our shoulders never felt unburdened and the future never looked free from onerous events.

I'll be the first to admit that sometimes high school was not a lot of fun. But looking back, my

happiest memories were not ones where I sat at home, relaxing after a final, but rather spending time with my best friends in the very halls of LM. I remember sharing earbuds that blared a podcast whilst frantically writing a paper with a friend, more than I remember the grade I received on the paper itself. I remember vigorously competing to complete the *New York Times* Mini Crossword in Room 220 under the watchful eye of Mr. Stettner, not the Calculus test I took afterwards. I remember seeking solace from stress on my best friend's living room carpet, giggling through the a.m. hours on a school night, but I cannot recall what we were so stressed about.

All this to say that high school is overwhelming, but you should still strive to stop and smell the roses, because the bad parts of high school are only temporary, and never as bad as they may seem. I know this sentiment doesn't necessarily alleviate any of your worries about AP exams, college essays, or that grammar mistake in your English paper, but remember that the memories are just as important as the diploma you will one day receive from LM.

For seniors, the anticipated summer before college is before us: a summer of pool parties, minimum wage jobs, and road trips. And if I'm speaking honestly, without the pressures of school before me, I feel a little lost. Like Gucci Mane once said: "If a man does not have sauce, then he is lost. But the same man can get lost in the sauce."

## One trapeze to the next



**Andria Johnson**  
**Gifted Education**

The class of 2021 is of special significance to me; this class is the first group within LM (of many, I hope) that I have been able to watch grow in its entirety over the course of four years together. And they were a trapeze bar for me.

Have you ever heard the parable of the trapeze? It resonated with me, seventeen years ago, when I graduated from college and embarked on my teaching career. My mindset then was much like yours now—sadness for the end of an era, anticipation for a new adventure, and absolute terror that I didn't have all of THE ANSWERS. (THE ANSWERS is this expectation that a person has to know everything as it applies to every situation which is balo-

ney. Nobody has THE ANSWERS.)

Every time I encounter a major change in my life, my mind drifts back to this parable. It starts like this: "Sometimes I feel that my life is a series of trapeze swings. I'm either hanging onto a trapeze bar swinging along or, for a few moments in my life, I'm hurtling across space in between the trapeze bars." You are currently clinging to the trapeze bar of your high school career. Some days it's harder to hang on to that bar than others; maybe that math midterm made your hands sweaty, causing your grip to slip. Or maybe you nailed that Science Olympiad exam, and your grasp isn't strenuous. In fact, the trapeze bar feels natural, like an extension of your body.

Soon, another trapeze bar is going to appear. You have to release your hold of the current bar to grab onto the new one. And you are inevitably going to experience "space in between," a transitional unknown that incites an array of feelings: dread, panic, anxiety, adrenaline, and exhilaration. This transition is absent of comfort from your trapeze bar; only the thrust of your efforts and experiences can hurdle you to the next bar.

Don't be nervous because you have spent the last year in uncertainty. You sacrificed seeing friends and family, maybe your last summer of camp, applied to colleges you weren't allowed to visit, committed to jobs that may have fallen through, and participated in clubs and sports that weren't able to compete. But still you defied gravity. You masked and you marched. You remained flexible and resilient. You can handle anything.



# LM Matriculation 2021: Go Forth To Serve...

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Corey Chmara  
Maya Christianson  
Leo Cieri  
Ava Clifford  
Trent Cohen  
Pelayo Coll  
Yulissa Contreras  
Phillip Cook  
Sarah Cooke  
Ally Cooper  
Isabel Coopersmith  
Akira Covert  
Dennis Coyne  
Megan Craig  
Michaela Craig  
Brandyn Cronin  
Nicolas Crosbie  
Daisy Cunningham  
Elijah Cyr  
Bella Czarkowski

Harcum College  
University of North Carolina-Wilmington  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Bard College  
University of Pittsburgh  
Unavailable  
University of Arizona  
Unavailable  
University of Maryland  
College of William and Mary  
University of Michigan  
Mount Holyoke College  
Unavailable  
Indiana University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Vanderbilt University  
Continuing studies at LM  
Case Western Reserve University  
Saint Joseph's University  
Millsaps College  
Unavailable  
University of California Berkeley  
Franklin and Marshall College  
Unavailable  
University of Delaware  
University of Michigan  
Pursuing business  
University of Virginia  
Drexel University  
Northeastern University  
Florida Atlantic University  
University of Colorado-Boulder  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
Pace University  
University of South Carolina  
University of Pennsylvania  
Bucknell University  
University of Maryland  
Villanova University  
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North Carolina State University  
Cornell University  
Carleton College  
Temple University  
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Tulane University  
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Washington University in St. Louis  
Unavailable  
Temple University  
University of the Sciences  
Northeastern University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Temple University-Japan Campus  
The Ohio State University  
Occidental College  
Bentley University  
Northeastern University  
University of Virginia  
University of North Carolina  
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Howard University  
Cornell University  
University of Vermont  
Temple University  
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Auckland University of Technology  
Temple University  
Muhlenberg University  
Temple University  
West Chester University

Robert D'Aquila  
Eleanora Danz  
Phoebe Danz  
Wilson Davis  
Samuel Davison  
Katherine Dee  
Rachel Deegan  
Cecilia Denis  
Paul DeSouza  
Jena Dessain  
Sofia deStefano  
Daniel Dilsheimer  
Sebastien Dion  
Rona Dizengoff  
Maiya Do  
Maeve Donoghue  
Edward Douglas  
Sophia Dowdall  
Owen Downey  
Jack Dubin  
Alida Dunleavy  
Alexis Duong  
Aidan Dutwin  
Maia Earl  
Mats Egberts  
Jonathan Eke  
Jamie Eldridge  
Benjamin Elkins  
Tamrick Else  
Marley Evans  
Nathaniel Farber  
Molly Feinstein  
Kylie Ferguson  
Tarik Ferron  
Evan Fine  
Hanna Fiorentino  
Angelina Fisher  
Robert Fleur  
Henry Folk  
Eli Forman  
Rachel Forman  
Maximus Forster  
Isaac Frank  
Kisara Freeman  
Tara Gabor  
Robert Gaddy  
Aiden Gale  
Morgan Gale  
Tamar Galvin  
Trey Gannon  
Brandon Garcia  
Lily Garcia  
Lily Garton  
Ella Geers  
Alex Gerstein  
Laura Getselman  
Davis Giangiulio  
Alexander Gibbon  
Molly Gillston  
Elliot Ginzburg  
Sebastian Giraldo  
Seth Gladstone  
Rivkah Gold  
Jada Goonewardene  
Andrew Gordon  
Charlotte Gordon  
Sydney Gould  
David Greenwood  
David Gross  
Benjamin Guo  
Lily Guo  
Madison Halpern  
Sydney Halpern  
Ahmed Hamad  
Anne Hamilton  
Asher Hancock  
Laura Hansroul  
Cherinet Hariffo  
Zsanece Harley  
Jason Harmon  
Zachary Hassett  
Arnold Haynes  
Samuel Hecht  
Marcell Henderson  
Zoe Hill

University of Connecticut  
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Franklin and Marshall College  
Pennsylvania State University  
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Brandeis University  
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Clemson University  
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Pennsylvania State University  
Continuing studies at LM  
Boston College  
Bucknell University  
Drexel University  
University of South Carolina  
Pennsylvania State University  
University of California-Berkeley  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Career as a music artist  
Concordia University  
Hanz University  
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Mount Holyoke College  
Gap year, University of Pennsylvania  
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Lincoln College of Technology  
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Lehigh University  
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Temple University  
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University of Arizona  
Tulane University  
Loyola University Chicago  
Kutztown University  
Pennsylvania State University  
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George Washington University  
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Tufts University  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
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Temple University  
Ursinus College  
Kutztown University  
Tufts University  
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University of Maryland

Melina Hillsberg  
Daniel Hofferman  
David Holland  
Margaret Hollis  
Gavin Hong  
Vienna Hong  
Morgan Hopkins  
Luke Hu  
Mitchell Huffman  
Vivienne Hughes  
Alexis Hunter  
Matthew Hurowitz  
Sarah Hurst  
Mika Itkin-Ofner  
Ayana Jackson  
Nitya Jaisinghani  
D'Shawn Jemison  
Ellissa Jeudy  
Sage Johnson  
Skye Kades  
Max Kahn  
Liam Keating  
Tessa Keefe  
Théa Kerekes  
Evan King  
Iyanah Kinney  
Russell Kirkpatrick  
Ami Klinghoffer  
Mia Klinghoffer  
Daisy Knight-Surie  
Andrew Koban Payne  
Boris Kohler  
Philip Kolea  
Michael Kowalski  
Gwendolyn Kozlars  
Gabriel Lapinski  
Ella Lawrence  
Eliana Leach  
Jessica Lee  
Zeyin Lei  
Rose Leinhauser  
Nathaniel Levin  
Nathaniel Levinson  
Matthew Lexa  
Madison Li  
Thomas Li  
Emerald Lin  
Jeremy Lipetz  
Noah Lipsitz  
Claire Lu  
Teresa Lu-Romeo  
Kailey Luo  
Benjamin Lustig  
Connor Luttrell  
Tefo Maphorisa  
Lucas Markovits  
Storm Martin  
Maya Masotti  
Connor McCabe  
Bridget McCann  
Mason McCaughey  
Lillian McClure  
Dylan McCormack  
Caitlin McGinty  
Samuel McGuire  
Hannah McLaughlin  
Hayden McManus  
Grace McNally  
Sean McPeak  
Octavio Melendez  
Nathan Meline  
Phoebe Mennis  
Sabrina Mercaldo  
Cole Messinger  
Meredith Meyer  
Vikas Miller  
Justin Minerva  
Donacien Modest  
Christian Monaco  
Margaret Monahan  
Ariel Monson  
Devon Mooring  
Charlotte Morales  
Jayden Morene  
Declan Morgan

University of Michigan  
Pennsylvania State University  
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Smith College  
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Temple University  
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University of Virginia  
Pennsylvania State University-Abington  
University of Maryland  
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George Washington University  
Waldorf University  
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Temple University  
The Ohio State University  
University of Vermont  
Skidmore College  
University of Toronto  
University of Pennsylvania  
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University of Pittsburgh  
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College of Charleston  
Boyer College of Music and Dance  
University of Pennsylvania  
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University of Tampa  
Suffolk University  
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Georgia Institute of Technology  
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University of Pittsburgh  
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La Salle University  
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Temple University  
University of Waterloo  
Muhlenberg College  
College of Charleston  
Champlain College  
Boston College  
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Emerson College  
University of California Santa Barbara  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Rhode Island School of Design  
American University  
University of Notre Dame  
Haverford College  
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Tufts University  
University of Maryland  
Howard University  
Culinary Institute of America  
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Matin Morrison  
Paige Morrissey  
Lucas Mortensen  
Jonathan Mosenco  
Jack Moses  
Naomi Mulugeta  
Jacqueline Munis  
Christian Murray  
Xavier Murray  
Ezekiel Myers  
Orestis Narliotis  
Brian Nguyen  
Sage O'Connor  
Eleanor O'Keefe  
Genevieve Oliver  
Damian Omar  
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Elijah Philippe  
William Pitonyak  
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Fiona Pollack  
Maurice Pollard  
Dorice Porter  
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Luna Roland Harcourt  
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Dominique Scutti  
Harper Segal  
Samuel Seidler  
Maxwell Serota  
Hannah Shalaby  
Emily Shang  
Dhaval Sharma  
Ekaterina Shchepetova  
Aidan Shea  
Guokai Shi  
Sarah Silverman  
Erin Simpson  
Abigail Skariah  
Dashawna Smith  
Kariana Smith  
Taylor Smith  
Ella Sobol  
Joshua Soiferman  
Jonathan Sommer  
Noah Sommer  
Gunner Spaeth  
Jane Spencer  
Owen Spencer  
Cheyenne Stanley  
Kate Steel  
Olivia Steinberg  
Joshua Steinfeld

Unavailable  
Tulane University  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Pennsylvania  
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Harvard University  
Stanford University  
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Continuing studies at LM  
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Gap year, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
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Drexel University  
University of Delaware  
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Syracuse University  
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Princeton University  
Emerson College  
University of Roehampton London  
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University of Vermont  
Pennsylvania State University  
University of Pittsburgh

Leo Steinriede  
William Stephanou  
Daya Stevens  
Allison Stewart  
Ellen Stickney  
Jack Stockmal  
Samuel Stoller  
Aaron Street  
Ella Stuccio  
Luca Stuccio  
Claire Sun  
Sophia Sweetman  
Sofia Taberski  
Ethan Tedgi  
Harun Thomas  
Celine Thomas Philip  
Casey Thornton  
Amanda Tonsey  
Benjamin Tooke  
Mia Tralies  
Zachary Traynham  
William Treiman  
Amir Tucker  
Adrien Van Rawley  
Camille Vandever  
Noella Varet  
Ciani Walls  
Elizabeth Ward  
Libi Warmund  
Benjamin Warren  
Tiani Washington  
Adin Wessels  
Owen Wetherbee  
Noah Wheeler  
Luke Willette  
Benjamin Williams  
Kristen Wohlrle  
Levi Wojnilower  
Zachary Wong  
Madeline Wood  
Celia Wright  
Lewis Yancy VI  
Shuqing Yang  
Gal Yovel  
Grace Yu  
Amit Zaga  
Arghavan Zeidi  
Sydney Zelinger  
Alexander Zhang  
Lucy Zhao  
Maren Zigmund  
Faris Ziyad

Manhattan School of Music  
Continuing studies at LM  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Rider University  
George Mason University  
Continuing studies at LM  
Bucknell University  
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Skidmore College  
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University of Pennsylvania  
New School's Parsons School of Design  
Amherst College  
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Delaware County Community College  
Howard University  
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University of Florida  
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Ohio University  
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Wake Forest University  
Continuing studies at LM  
Oberlin College  
Georgetown University  
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Hawaii Pacific University  
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Cornell University  
Colorado College  
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East Stroudsburg University  
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Vanderbilt University  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Maryland  
University of Maryland  
New York University  
Lehigh University  
Harvard College  
Unavailable  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Unavailable

The matriculation plans as shown for the Class of 2021 are information volunteered to *The Merionite* by the members of the graduating class.

*The Merionite* or LM is not responsible for the accuracy of their reportings. Those students listed as “Unavailable” opted not to respond or were otherwise unable to be reached.

*The Merionite* wishes our graduating seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors.



## Highs and lows



Christian Owusu '21

As my four years at LM come to an end, a number of events come to mind, and with it a clearer view of what these four years have meant for me. I entered LM as a student fresh out of Valley Forge Military Academy, and as one could guess, I was overwhelmed. The classes, my peers, and even the school culture were all unknown to me and all I remember is how nervous I felt. In many ways, LM felt like an entirely new world and I thought I'd never truly fit in. But even I, a scared little kid from New Jersey, found a home at LM and am truly grateful for everything the school has given me.

Like all institutions, LM has had its issues and shortcomings, but as the Class of 2021, I think we should all try to remember the good as we begin to exit. From the yearly Radnor game, to Maroon Madness, to Winterfest, LM always made

sure to build a sense of community and school spirit. Aside from this, LM gave us the ability to make meaningful change where we saw it necessary. We were able to make clubs, like the "Council for Racial Equity and Inclusivity" and "I Will Breathe," both in response to pressing issues within our community and beyond. I've never seen another school with a stronger student body and an even stronger institution backing them. I now see that this allowed myself and many others to grow and discover the issues that matter to us.

The reason for LM's support of students and cultivation of school spirit is because, at its core, the school cares deeply for the success of its students. With some exceptions, all teachers and staff I've met truly love their students and believe in us unconditionally. We all came into LM a little unsure of who we were and what we'd want to do in the future, and the staff helped shape us into young adults ready to begin pursuing careers. If there is anything I want the students of my class to remember, it's that LM truly wanted us to become the best version of ourselves and the staff in place did a generally phenomenal job at helping us achieve that. LM has had its ups and downs, but all I feel when I think of my four years here is immense gratitude, and the knowledge that LM will always hold a place in my heart. That being said, I wish the Class of 2021 all the best, and pray we never forget what this school has done for us.

## Reflecting on reflecting



Isaac Berman '21

As students leave high school, they might not feel inclined to reflect on the experience. This may be because after four years of high school English, the words 'reflect' and 'reflection' now make you feel sick to your stomach, or you're simply too busy reminding uninterested classmates how ready you are for college. It also may seem that reflections on high school only serve a purpose to the future principals among us—those who will one day tell bored freshmen how they wished they'd participated in more clubs. So, with all that in mind, I'd like to do some reflecting on reflecting.

Looking in the rearview mirror at the past four years, a few things stick out to me. In particular, I'm struck by the great changes we've all undergone.

These changes came not only in the departments of personal hygiene and respect towards our substitute teachers, but in our appreciation for each other, our comradery, and our ever-growing list of finely-tuned skills and unique achievements. I can recall countless moments when classmates' accomplishments have inspired me to take a moment to pause and reflect. Moments when robotics tournaments were won, and I thought about how I wished I'd joined the team or when the best essays in class read more like a novel by Dickens than a high schooler's paper, and I wished I'd made a better effort on my own poorly punctuated essay. Yet for me, these moments of reflection were idle and fleeting. I never joined the new club, or wrote the essay worthy of literary admiration. I simply wished that I had, and thought that I should.

While writing this, I have finally realized that the act of simple reflection does one no good. None of us stray from our well-beaten paths because we casually think we should. And so, as we leave high school and go off to be surrounded by a new batch of interesting and motivated people, don't bother reflecting. Don't waste your peers' nudges towards personal growth on internal "shouldacouldawouldas." Just join that club, write that paper, try that sport. Do now, reflect later.



Nicholas Severini  
World Language

## A punctual message

For many of this year's senior class, it has been an amazing four years and an incredibly unique final year of high school. This last year has made everyone grow as students and as future leaders. The resiliency you have shown has been second to none, and it has most likely prepared you for many of the challenges you will face in the future. Oftentimes I tell my students to take a deep breath and reflect on all of the positive things they experience. All these challenges we face make us stronger and teach us how to better navigate our futures. We cannot control everything, but with determination, resiliency, kindness, and an open heart and mind, anything is possible. I am wishing everyone the best and ready for many awesome achievements (small and large, the simple things in life count just as much) in the future!

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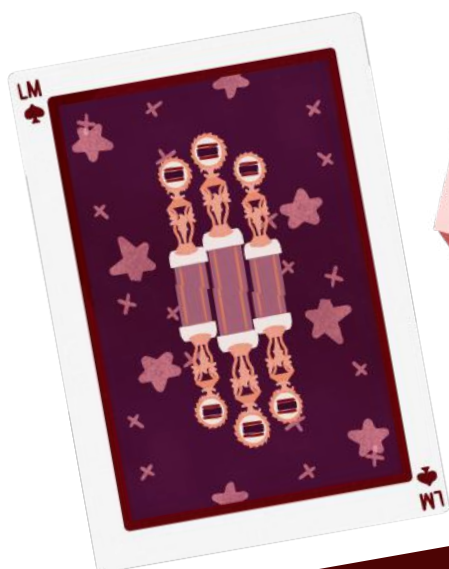


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## TSA

TSA had a successful season with 42 event placements at both the regional and state level, including a record level eight first places at states.



## Basketball

The boys' basketball team became district champions as well as made it through to state semi-finals.



## CREI

The new organization began their work to diversify LM's clubs and promote inclusivity as well as holding an activities fair.



## Science Olympiad

The team honored Michael Stettner's memory and won their first ever state title, advancing to nationals where they medaled in six events.



## PLAYERSFest

LM PLAYERS assembled a virtual production, preserving theatre in year when live shows were not possible.



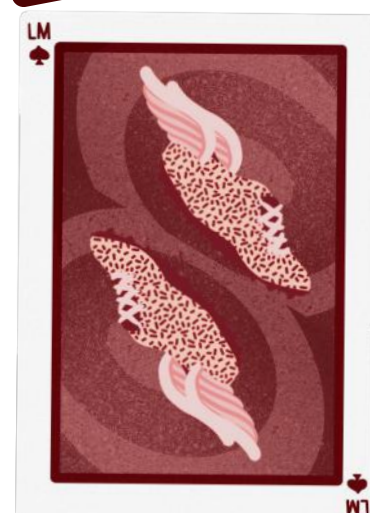
## Mock Trial

Mock Trial was victorious in their regional tournament, advancing to states.



## BuildOn Gala

BuildOn fundraised \$19,000 to construct a school in Burkina Faso through their gala event.



## Cross Country

The boys' cross country team won their first Central League tournament in five years.



## Prom

Seniors enjoyed a special prom celebration in the courtyard.



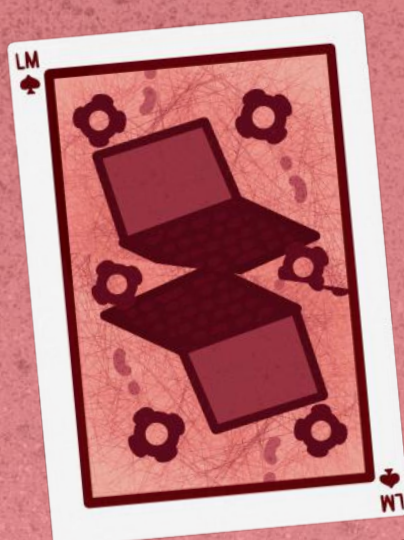
## SAGE Conference

SAGE organized a successful conference with workshops and a variety of guest speakers.



## Soccer

Girls' soccer won the Central League tournament with an undefeated 12-0 season.



## CodeLM

Students from schools nationwide participated in the coding competition and won prizes sponsored by the Susquehanna International Group.



## Tennis

The boys' tennis team triumphed over Hershey High to win the state championship.



## Volleyball

The girls' volleyball team placed first in their central league competition.



## Self-discovery



**Talia Bierschwale '21**

As I reflect on my LM experience, I would like to share some advice for underclassmen that I hope is useful as they move through their high school years. The first thing is to remember that it's never too late to step out of your comfort zone and try new things. As a sophomore, I went from never participating in service work to throwing myself into the BuildOn community. I ended up loving it so much that I was set to go on the service trip to Guatemala (pre-pandemic plans), which was way out of my comfort zone but very exciting! Second, make efforts to meet new people each school year by joining a club or talking to

people in your classes. You never know how that one new connection might change your path, and you definitely don't want to be hung up later wondering "what if...?" Taking risks and pursuing what your heart desires leads to my next piece of advice—find something you are passionate about. This does not have to be something related to school. It's natural to not know what you want to do with your life while you are still in high school or even college. The fact that you are young enables you to try different hobbies and interests that uplift you and make you feel happy. Personally, volleyball wasn't just a sport, it became a source of passion, physical expression, and friendship that grew stronger each year at LM. Showing random acts of kindness to people that you may not know, such as a smile or a compliment, could be the highlight of their day as well as a highlight of your own day. My last piece of advice may sound cliché but just be yourself. High school is a crucial time for self-discovery. Express yourself however you please. I had moments when I was criticized for the way that I expressed my sense of style. I decided that it's my life, and I need to express myself in the ways that are true to me. Time flies and sometimes it may seem slow and endless. Take it all in, form memories, and enjoy high school as much as you can.

## Best of luck



**Ed Monroe  
Campus Aide**

Congratulations Class of 2021! I hope your time here at LM was filled with learning, laughter, and fun. Use your high school experiences for the rest of your life. Your education does not end here or when you walk across the stage to receive your diploma. Strive to learn something new every day. This will serve you well. Surround yourself with people whom you can learn from and listen to. When you continue to educate yourself, it expands your mind, which will lead you down a successful path. Best of luck!

## Perservering through a pandemic



**Keene Brogan '21**

If I had to recount every time someone called the past year and a half "unprecedented," I would probably lose my mind. In every lecture, class, and conference, someone has proclaimed how this once-in-a-lifetime event has changed the course of our lives. And there is some truth to that. After March 12 of last year, each of us became a different person. Maybe you picked up a new hobby, started talking to a new group of friends, or lost someone special. Whatever it may have been, your life definitely changed.

While we tried to figure out how to put on a Players production this year, we encountered unanswerable questions in every meeting. There was simply no way we could play out the almost infinite possibilities. Can we have a live audience? Can we bring students in to work? I found those same questions being raised in many conversations with friends throughout the year. Are we going to have prom? Is graduation going to be online? These questions were even a common topic of conversation at the dinner table with my family. When can we see Grandma and Grandpa again? Can we meet our baby cousin yet? As each of these conversations unfolded, I was over-

whelmed by the countless possibilities that the future could hold.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, everything has been inconsistent and constantly changing. This is unlikely to stop, but it is somewhat calming to know that there is consistency in the inconsistency. Moving forward, everything will be different, and that is something we all need to prepare for and adapt to. From the constant anxieties this last year brought, I was able to derive useful skills for the future. After stressful meetings or tense conversations with friends, I forced myself to calm down and "wait out the storm" until we could act on our problems. I focused on what I could do in the moment, leaving considerations of the future for another time. Some may call it procrastination or ignorance but, for me, it is a powerful strategy to help me succeed.

Even though our situation is unique, the past four years have taught me that change is always inevitable. Whether you're beginning high school, starting the college application process, or leaving for college, the lessons that our experiences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic have taught us apply: stay centered, use what you know, continue to push forward; and in the timeless words of Douglas Adams' A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, "Don't panic."

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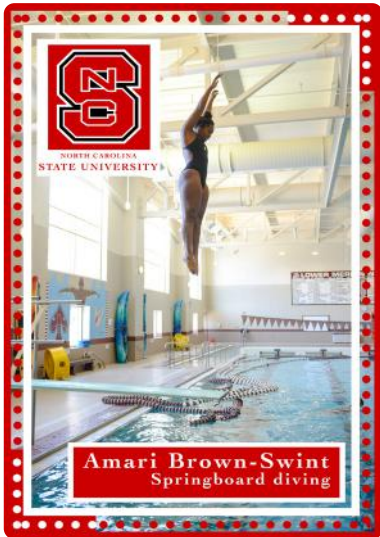
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## Aces Commit



“Along with the supportive nature of the team and amazing coaches, I committed since it is the number two ranked swim and dive women’s team. I will miss the LM sports family and knowing everyone in the athletic department.”



“I committed because I love the area, coaching staff, and opportunities for students. I will miss all my teammates the most and all the memories we made playing together. Younger athletes, do not stress out because everything will work out.”



“I loved Drexel’s team culture. It’s a very supportive and fun environment where your team becomes family. I will miss bonding with teammates and playing with my sister. I’ll also miss the support of students and staff who came out to cheer us on.”



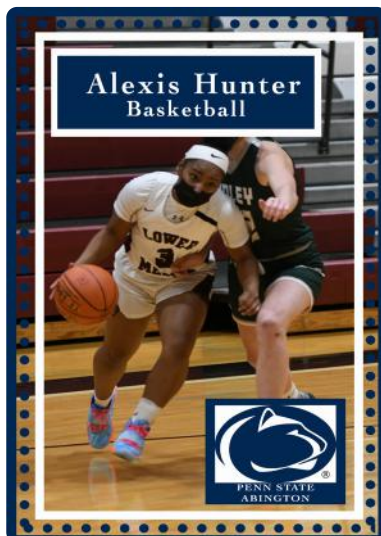
“I committed since it has a beautiful and unique campus. The women’s soccer program is a true family, which will set me up for collegiate and lifetime success. Up and coming athletes should make the most of their time because playing sports is an unforgettable experience.”



“I committed because of its academic and athletic offerings, perfect location, and competitive athletic conference. I will miss my coaches, teammates, team bonding, and meeting incoming freshmen.”



“I chose Rider because it felt like the perfect fit for me and gave me unique opportunities. I will miss the school pride and spirit with LM sports, but I will continue to have this for my college career.”



“I committed to Penn State Abington because I love their playing style and how close we began to be in the beginning. It immediately felt like home from the gate.”



“I am committing there because I want to compete at the highest level I can and the ACC conference is super competitive. The thing I will miss the most about LM sports is the guys I have been training with.”



“I committed because I like the school area, the vibe, and the competitive program fits me as a runner. I will miss the friendships, coaches, other teams, memories, and my ability to be a top competitor at LM.”



“I committed for swimming because I loved the team, campus, and coach. It felt like the right fit when I walked on campus. I’m going to miss all of my friends and coaches, especially participating in meets and the energy of the team.”



“I committed to Brandeis because of the proximity to Boston while still having its own campus. I enjoyed the team when I visited and the coach was nice. I recommend that younger athletes fully immerse themselves in the team and the sport.”



“The thing I will miss most about LM sports is getting to play with your neighbors while also representing your school. A tip for younger kids is to enjoy every moment and the relationships you gain.”



“Watching the way the girls who are already on the team support each other and care about each other is one reason that I wanted to commit to UVA. My advice to younger athletes would be that it is all about the big picture.”



“What I’ll miss most about LM sports is the relationships. My advice for younger athletes is that the worst thing you can do is shy away from seemingly impossible tasks. Look at yourself and tell yourself nothing can stop you.”



“I committed there because of the academic reputation of the school and how well I related to the coaching staff. What I will miss most about LM sports are team activities and post season games during summer.”



“I committed due to its excellent swim and medical programs. I will miss spirit dinners, spirit families, Centrals, Districts, and fun dual meets. Younger athletes should enjoy their sport, work hard to achieve their goals, and have fun.”



