The Panther

Issue 1, December 2017



Blue Ribbon Excellence: Providing the Keys to a Bright Future

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St. Peter Academy

A Blue Ribbon School
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From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the first issue of *The Panther*! This is a magazine committed to letting St. Peter students express themselves with artwork, cartoons, articles, essays, or fictional writing. I wanted to help make a change to our school community for the better, by having each of us share a little of what's inside. In doing so, I think we'll all grow closer together. I believe that some people can't figure out how to say things to others. But people don't have to limit themselves by communicating through words alone. Picasso mourned a friend's death through his art. I want this school magazine to allow students to announce who they are to the world or at least the school. The more people express themselves, the more they are understood as a person.



I would like to give a big thanks to Mr. McCarthy who encouraged and approved of my idea to start the magazine and Mrs. Agnew who was happy to serve as my advisor. I would also like to thank all those who took part in this magazine, and I hope to see more students' art and work for the next issue. Remember, this magazine is also your magazine. Whatever comes from this, also comes from you. I have been learning a lot about what editors have to go through to complete their work in time. As this is only my first issue, it will not be perfect, but you can help me out with some suggestions. Send me an email at juliansaintpeter2019@gmail.com.

Enjoy the very first issue of the Panther, and I hope your Christmas is full of glee and delight!

Julian Fontenot

Founding Editor

Grade 7

Principal's Perspective

By: James McCarthy



The St. Peter Academy educational community is proud to announce that our school has received recognition as a National Blue Ribbon Institution. St. Peter Academy was established as a Catholic elementary school by the Sisters of the St. Lucy Filippini in 1952. Although the student population has fluctuated since these early years, the school's Catholic identity and high academic standards have never wavered.

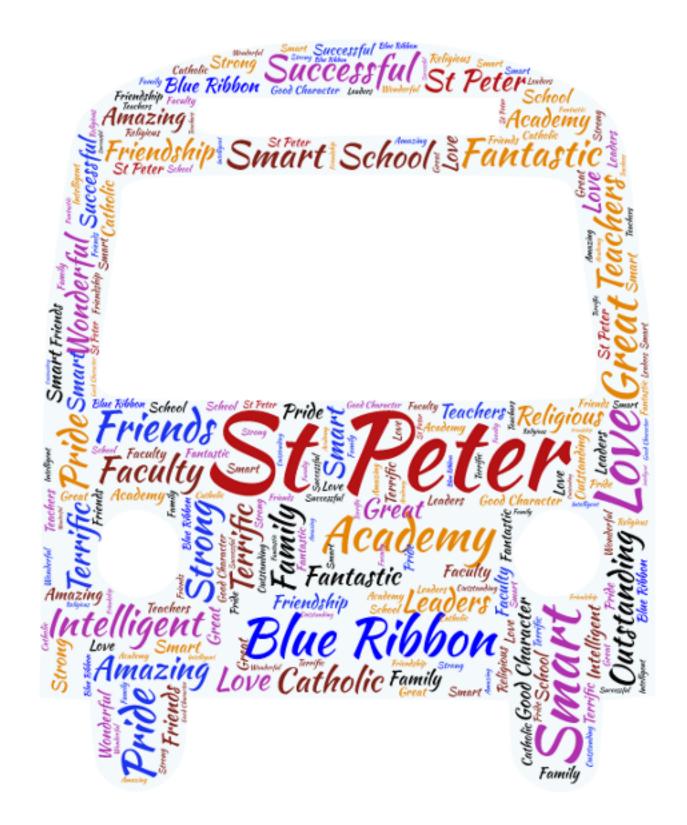
St. Peter Academy has now, as in the past, hosted a cadre of dedicated and knowledgeable teachers. The teachers offer a well-balanced student experience of traditional elementary studies seasoned with a valuable religious

experience, technology applications, science and engineering exploration and real world problem-solving skills.

St. Peter Academy is a true melting pot of cultures, tradition and languages. Throughout the school year the students celebrate their diversity and unity with a culminating event on Heritage Day held each spring.

The motto of the Academy, "Providing the Keys to a Bright Future," provides the academic foundation of the school. Students are challenged at their current academic level and motivated to progress in their studies. Students are challenged to leave their comfort zone and experience educational social growth. Due to this challenge, the school was able, in the past three academic years, to raise its standardized test scores (Terra Nova) thus being recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education as an exemplary school.

During the 2017 school year, the Dept. of Education chose 50 private schools throughout the nation to be honored with a school of excellence award and St. Peter Academy is so proud to be one of the 37 Catholic schools chosen. On November 7, 2017, in Washington D.C., a team of educators and parents accepted the award from Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education, on behalf of the Academy. The Academy formally celebrated this newly acquired status at the 11 a.m. Sunday liturgy on November 19 presided over by Bishop John Flesey. At this mass, a plaque and flag received from the Dept. of Education was blessed and installed in the school.



This is What Blue

Ribbon Looks Like...























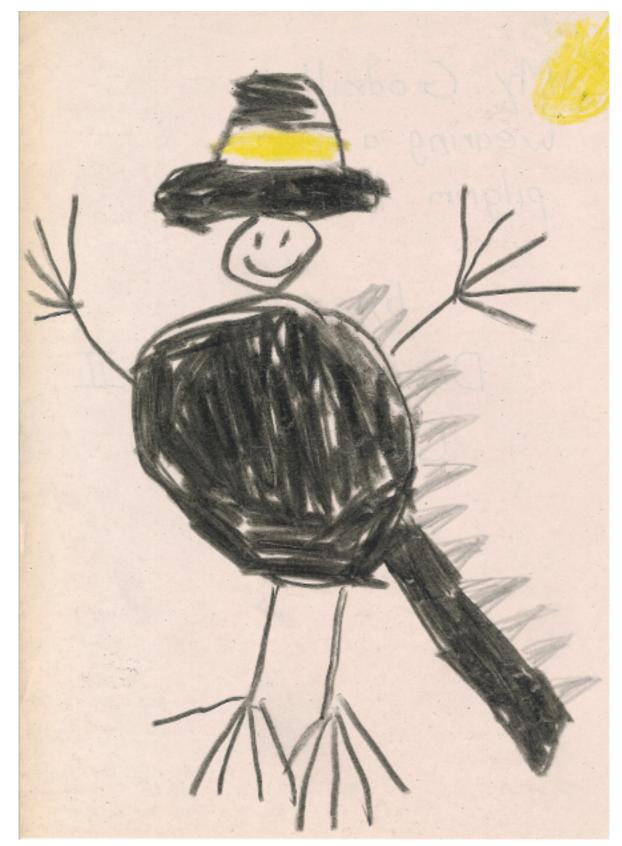






Drawing By: Ryan Rodgers Kindergarten

Drawing By: Devyanni Dutta Kindergarten



My Godzilla Wearing a Pilgrim Hat
Drawing By: Daniel Marshal II
Grade 1

JOKES
By: Jack Lyons
Grade 7



What did the bird who hadn't studied do for the test? **He WINGed it.**

What did one horse say to the one next to him? **Hey NEIGHbor!**

Where do kings keep their armies? **Up their sleeves.**



How can you eat while you sleep?

You take two turnovers and a roll.

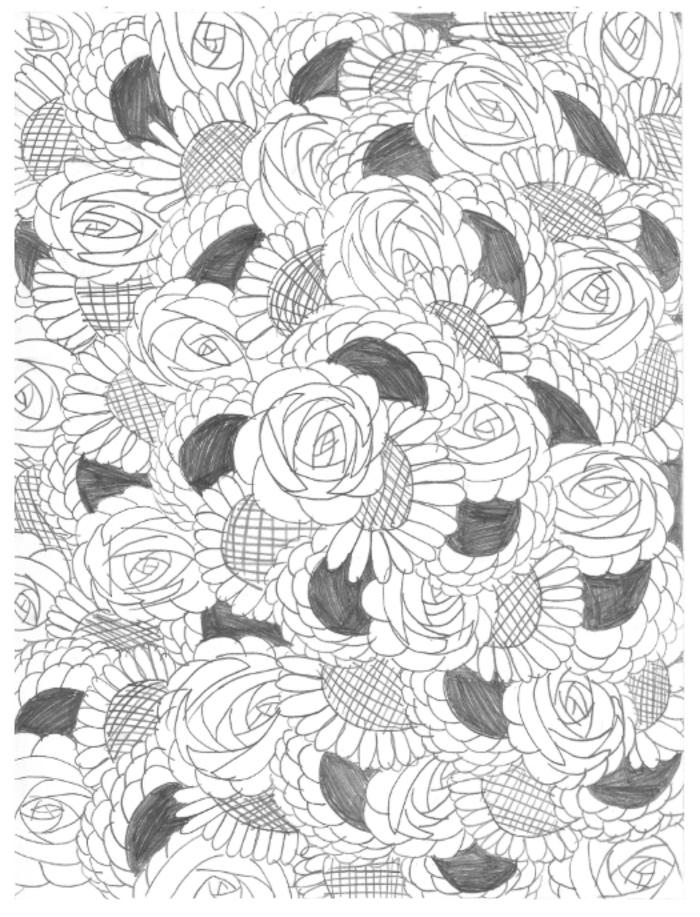
A comedian, a detective, and a kid walk into a restaurant.

The manager said, "What is this, a joke?"





Drawing By: Emily Castillo Design By: Brigitte Lenihan, Skyla Corley, Emily Castillo, and Arianna Cruz-Solis Grade 7



Drawing By: Mary Calianese Grade 3



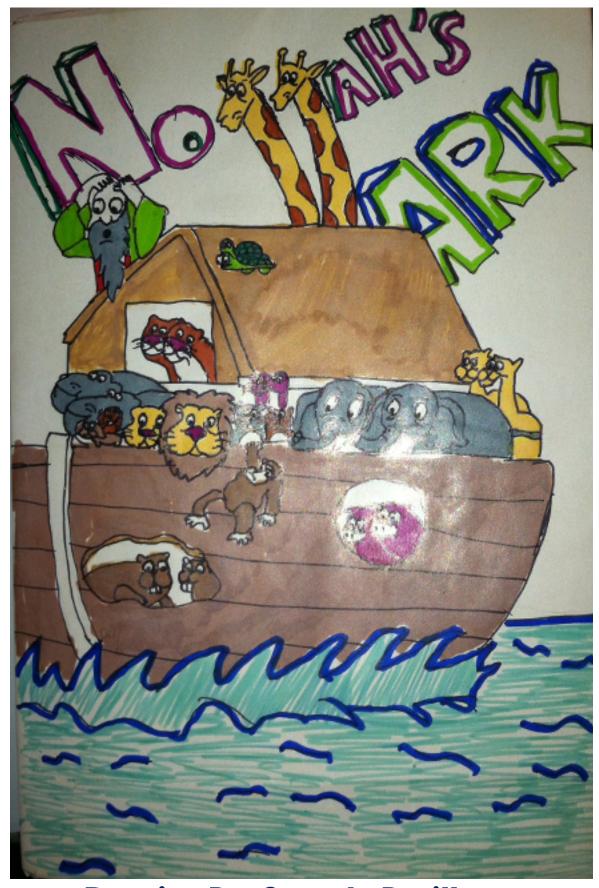




Comics By: Sophia DePol Grade 8



Drawing By: Julian Fontenot Grade 7



Drawing By: Amanda Bonilla Grade 8

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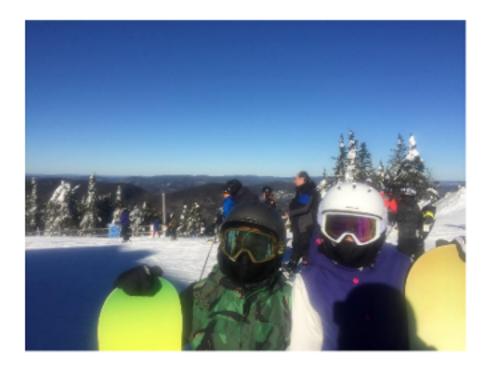
My Wish

Poem By: Kelsey Fontenot

Grade 8

Mine be a lodge high in the mountain; The whistling wind in empty space Covers the desolate bay of snow; Forever powder shall leave no trace.

For oft I surf the rugged terrain; In my haven no one shall intrude; The roaring fire beneath my face, I relax in newfound solitude.



Book Buddies

By: Cristina Collins Grade 8

Little ones come around! Book Buddies is an amazing program for children young and old. Book Buddies was founded last year by Kelsey Fontenot. This program is a great program for children in Pre- K 3, Pre-K 4, and Kindergarten. We meet on one Wednesday every month. During the time period of 30 minutes, the young children will pick a buddy to read with them. When they pick their book and their buddy, they will sit down and either the older student will read to the younger student or vise-versa. This program enriches the young children's minds and helps them start learning how to read, discovering new books, and exploring their love of learning. It is enjoyable for the young and old children to form bonds with each other and find the joy in teaching and reading.

Book Buddies is a great program and it has grown a lot from last year. There has been a large expansion in the program. There has been a growth in the number of little ones and big ones. Book Buddies is a growing program and it is a great way to get involved with the school and find a love for books and teaching. The young kids will melt your heart and you will look forward toward the next meeting. I love the Book Buddies program and I know you will too.



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Advice Column

By: Isabela Quirola Grade 5

Dear Isabela,

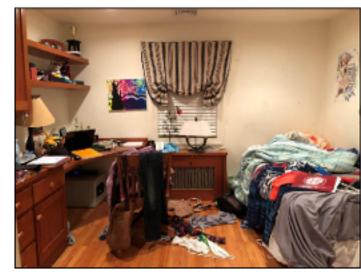
How can I make my daughter clean up her room? I am a mom out of ideas. Please help me!

Truly Yours, Linda Evans

Dear Mrs. Evans,

Start with small chores. Don't use rewards: she is not a dog. Instead, remind her how much you love her, and that everything in her has a purpose, and that this will make her more responsible.

Truly Yours, Isabela



Dear Isabela,

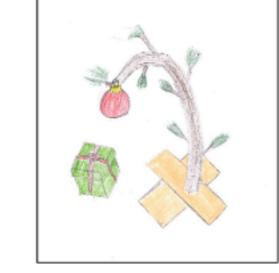
My name is Lucy Ricardo. How can I get unlimited presents for Christmas, but absolutely no clothes?

Yours Truly, Lucy Ricardo

Dear Lucy,

Remember there are plenty of days until Christmas. Use them wisely. Always have a smile. Don't annoy your parents with your demands, and be extra charming.

Yours Truly, Isabela



Fanfiction

By: Arianna Cruz-Solis Grade 7

Battle of the Bands

Thalia's Point of View

"Fine, I'll go to dumb high school," I yelled at Artimes.

Why would you need to go to school when you are a Rockstar? My name is Thalia, and I'm the lead guitarist in the Half-Bloods. If you never heard of us, we are an all girl band. I used to be a part of the Hunters (another all girl band), but I quit and made one with my friends. Artimes wants to go to the Goode High for preforming arts. The WORST part is the enemy band is also going there. The Half-Bloods' sworn enemy is the boy band, the Demigods. We all hate them. Let me introduce ourselves. The Half-Bloods is made up of me, Piper, Annabeth, Hazel, and Reyna. The Demigods is made up of Percy Jackson, Jason Grace (my brother), Nico di Angelo, Leo Valdez, and Frank Zhang. No matter how much we hate each other, there is no more hatred than Annabeth's towards Percy. Ah, Percy Jackson, where do I begin to describe him. He is 6'4, has jet black hair, sea green eyes, and he is super muscular. On the other hand, Annabeth is strong, smart, and someone awesome to have around. She has curly blonde hair, a perfect, tan, fit body, and startling blonde gray eyes. The Demigods live in New York, while we live in California. That means we had to take a flight across America to go to school in a small state called New Jersey. I don't mind the Demigods that much because my brother is one of them, so I obviously have to cheer him on. He's my little brother. I was scared. I didn't like planes. Well as long as they are on the floor. I'm sorta scared of heights.

"Ugh," I left. I went in my room and started packing. Annabeth won't mind. She loves school. I was only a tiny bit excited to see Jason. That was all. Nothing else. "Why me?"

Nico di Angelo's Point of View

"What, how could you be sending us to school with them?" I screamed to Apollo. We had just gotten the news that we had to go to school with the Half-Bloods. I have nothing against them. It's just that Thalia gets on my nerves. I know they each personally hate us. I feel bad for Percy. He chose the wrong one to fall in love with. I started packing my things, (we decided against driving an hour to go to class) so I have everything for tomorrow. I stopped when I found a dust-covered box that has the word 'memories' painted on it with black marker. I opened it and flipped out photos of when both bands were friends. Yes. We all used to be friends until Thalia got a contract to be in the Hunters. She had sworn off boys and moved to California. When she left, we all started heading our separate ways. I whipped a tear of my face and closed the box. I put it in the bottom of my bag. I'll see them in a week. Maybe, we could be friends like we used to be. High hopes for an emo, right? I gave myself a sad smirk, finished, and went to bed. I have a big day tomorrow. I laid in the dark for a while.

-Time Skip- Annabeth's Point of View (First Day in New Jersey)

After getting our stuff from the airport, we called for a cab. Our school is in a small village named Ridgefield Park. Once we got out of the cab I started a live stream.

"Hey, my beautiful viewers, what is going on," I said to the camera.

"Hey guys," Reyna said next to me. "It's our first day in Jersey."

"Yes, it is," I said.

"What are we doing today, Piper?"

"We are gonna unpack and go to Trenton."

"And why is that?"

"Our secret concert. Spoiler: both the Half-Bloods and the Demigods are going to be there." Piper explained.

"I'm doomed," I murmured. "Oh, look we found our house." I flipped the camera, so the viewers could see Hazel run crazy around the yard. Thalia was cracking up.

"Wow!" we all said in amazement as we entered the house. It was awesome. We even have a trampoline in the back. Hazel was the first to run up and start jumping like a maniac, as expected when you're the youngest. Piper went in after her. The doorbell rang. I handed my camera to Thalia, and went to the door. I was surprised when I found... the pizza guy. (Haha. You thought it would be Percy.) I don't think anyone ordered pizza.

"Are you Annabeth Chase?"

"Yes."

"Here you go."

"Sorry, I didn't order pizza."

He smirked and handed me the pizza. When I opened the box, I found a note in the middle of the meat lovers pizza. It said...

Dear Wise Girl,

Hope you enjoy the pizza. Hopefully, Will did a good job. Apollo told us your address if you were wondering. See you at school.

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Love,

Percy

I should have guessed. Percy is so... unbelievable at times, but hey, free pizza. I came back to the yard.

"Who ordered the pizza?" questioned Reyna.

"Percy did," I replied, as I handed her the note. She laughed.

We ate our pizza and got on a bus to Trenton. We passed a bus filled with 7th and 8th graders from St. Peter Academy. They freaked when they saw us. I forgot that were are famous. I waved at them. Gotta show some love to the fans. They dropped us off and we're off.

-Time Warp- (6 days ago) Percy's Point of View

We got our stuff and put it in the back of our bus. We have a short, one-week tour in New Jersey. Our first stop is in English town. I got on the bus and made my bed. When I finished and went to the 'living room' where Nico was sleeping on the couch, Leo was drawing on Nico's face.

-Time Warp- (First Day of School) Annabeth's Point of View

"Hey, follow me," he said.

We went into the office. They assigned us to a guy named Luke to show us around. Once it was just me and him, he was acting annoying, he kept on asking me out. Even after the first 20 times I said 'NO.' He started getting mad. He threw me to a locker and was about to hit me when someone grabbed his arm. Of course, it was Percy. Percy started beating up Luke.

"Why-don't-you-listen-to-her. She-said-no" He said in between punches. "Listen-to-her." When he was done, Luke needed plastic surgery to look the way that he did 5 minutes ago.

"You didn't have to do that."

"I did."

"I had it myself."

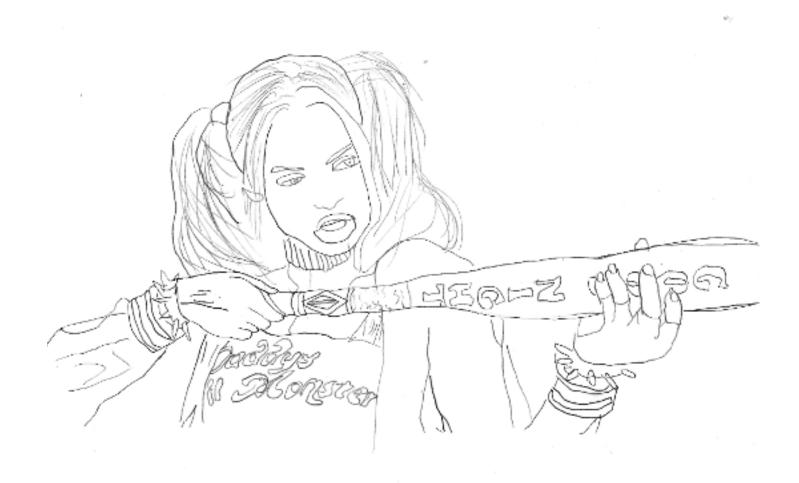
"Better him than you."

"You're gonna get in trouble."

"Some people are worth the trouble." He gives me his signature lopsided grin. It got me so mad.

"Tonight, my house, Battle of the Bands."

The End?



Drawing By: Edward Asante
Grade 7

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The Trenton Trip

By Ella Czvekus Grade 8

On November 17, the seventh and eighth graders went on a field trip to our state capital, Trenton. I personally loved this field trip! After a fun bus ride, we arrived at the state capitol building. We entered the building, went through security, and we landed in the halls of the building. The building was beautiful. It had marble floors and stair cases, amazing chandeliers, brilliant gold accents. We traveled to many different rooms and learned about what happens there, what it takes for a law to be finalized, how the representatives do their jobs, and how the meetings are run. We were also informed

about different terms that had to do with law and government. After we visited both the House of Representatives wing and the Senate wing, we headed to lunch at Café NJ. (The food was very good!) After lunch we participated in a Make a Law Workshop. In this workshop we took our seats, gave an oath, learned about what goes into making a law, reviewed over a potential law, and voted on it. I loved this because I really felt like I was part of the government voting on the law! I thought the trip to Trenton was a wonderful, interactive, and fun experience. I definitely recommend this trip for the classes in the future.



The Scholastic Olympics

By Michael Konig Grade 8



The Scholastic Olympics at Saint Joseph
Regional High School was a very unique event.
It was well organized, well presented, and well
executed. The competition is the only one like
it in the Northern New Jersey region, and the
school clearly works tirelessly to make sure it
is the best event it can possibly be.

When I arrived, I had a bit of down time before the competition began. The talented band was playing some ambient music before Principal Michael Bruno walked over to the podium. He explained the processes of the event, including how we would be lead to our rooms, how we would be called, and what to do after the competitions. I then watched as, one by one, my friends began traveling to their respective rooms. I had competed in the computer competition, so I was sent to the media center. There, my opponents and I took our seats at our computers and pulled up the tab with the quiz. After everyone finished, the moderator

explained how we had a bit of extra time before we could go back to the gym. He told us that he could tell us the results since he had time to. I originally signed up for the competition for a bit of fun, but I ended up winning my competition by a single right answer. Naturally, I rushed to any of my classmates as well as friends from other schools to tell them the great news. After some snacks, we were ready for the trophy presentations. I proudly stepped up to receive my prize from Michael Doherty, the director of admissions. I have seen him before, and so he was proud to be handing me the trophy. I had an overall great day at Joe's.

Not much can be said other than the school clearly knew what they were doing when coordinating the Olympics. Everything went so smoothly that I almost forgot that I was at a high school. The Olympics were enjoyable, organized, and memorable.

Alumni Corner

By: Tyler Petrie Class of 2016

t was truly a privilege to attend St. Peter Academy, and I will be forever grateful for that experience.

St. Peter Academy is an outstanding academic environment which helps to prepare its students for high school, college and beyond. But St. Peter Academy is so much more than just a school. St. Peter Academy is a place of worship where students are free to practice their faith and express their love for God.

St. Peter Academy is a community where students enjoy care, support and encouragement from their teachers, their classmates and the entire staff. St. Peter Academy is a home where students can always find comfort and safety, a place where each student feels welcomed.

Yes, St. Peter Academy is a great school that individually develops each student so that they can reach their full academic potential. But more than this, St. Peter Academy is a "special place" where each and every student feels important and respected.

My parents have instilled in me many important values. These values include: integrity, hard work, determination, patience, service, family, and of course, faith. St. Peter Academy shares these same values and works hard to promote these values to its students.

St. Peter Academy also taught me the importance of using your time and efforts to do something productive and helpful. And that is exactly what I plan on doing. At this time, I am currently enrolled as a sophomore at St. Joseph Regional High School.

One of my goals is to attend college and study political science and world affairs. I hope to get a job in the field of international relations, environmental policy or perhaps political theory. I believe everyone should do what they can to change the world in a positive way, and that is precisely what I plan on accomplishing.

I know that the road ahead is long and rough. And I know that I have a lot of hard work ahead of me, but thanks to St. Peter Academy I am confident that I have the tools and determination to achieve my goal of making the world a better place.

Word Search

Blue Ribbon Edition

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EDUCATION	PRINCIPAL	TERRA NOVA

Back Cover Art By: Emily Brightman Grade 7

