

WORD OF THANKS

Every year the 8th graders write “**Word of Thanks**” essays to express their gratitude to others as they prepare to graduate from St. Louise de Marillac School. We’ve included two essays below, but are also proud of all of our graduates. Congratulations and best wishes 8th graders. You will be missed! Take everything you’ve learned and use it to make the world a better place. We know you will do a great job in high school and beyond!

BY CHASE T. MOSES

If I have learned anything in my nine years at St. Louise, it is the importance of having faith and belief in your life. During my time here, I have learned of God’s loving relationship with us, the importance of Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, and much more. I have also learned there are many individuals less fortunate than you and me, which has made me realize the enormous importance of appreciation and giving thanks. Therefore, I would like to take a moment to say “thank you” to the most important people during my time at St. Louise.

First of all, I would like to thank my parents for loving me unconditionally. You always supported me and cared for me. You gave me a loving home, faith and countless more things I may have taken for granted in my life. There were times when I may have not always agreed with you or understood and I’m sure there will be more of those times. However, when I look back on them I could always see the manner in which they will benefit me later in life and help me become a better person. It is also comforting to know that I can come to you with any of life’s challenges and you will offer support and guidance rather than simply criticizing or judging. I also would like to thank my grandparents for their encouragement, love, support, and for saying “yes” when Mom and Dad say “no”.

During my time at St Louise, I have had some wonderful teachers who have gone well beyond expectations to help us in our journey. You stay

after school to help with clubs, sports, productions, or simply if we’re having difficulty in a subject. All of which isn’t required or even expected. From the first day, you have been committed to our growth educationally and spiritually. Thank you for your motivation. Thank you for your inspiration. Thank you for your patience. And thank you for giving us the confidence and courage to follow our dreams.



I would also like to thank my classmates. We have grown up together like brothers and sisters. Sometimes we argue and sometimes we may not see eye-to-eye but we were always there for each other. Even though we may now go different ways, we will always be linked to St. Louise. You made me laugh, you made me think, and you motivated me to get better. You have all made me a better person. We have such a great class who I’m certain is going to do great things. Thank you for being my

classmates but more importantly, thank you for being my friends.

It would be difficult to discuss how much I’ve grown in my faith without mentioning Father Joe and prior Priests. You have made such a difference in my life. Thank you for introducing God into my life and showing me how to follow His ways. Thank you for your caring and understanding nature. And especially thank you for your sacrifice. The faith you have instilled in me will last a lifetime.

And finally, I would like to thank God, for without Him, none of this would be possible.✝

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BY NATALIE KLEIN

"Who is to say if I've been changed for the better? But because I knew you I have been changed for good." This quote comes from a song in the Broadway Musical *Wicked*. It is sung as the two main characters are parting ways to pursue their dreams. As we students leave the first stage of our education, this quote seems appropriate as well. My time at St. Louise de Marillac has been blessed by friends, family, priests, and the faculty members.

First, thank you to my parents. Without their decision to send me to St. Louise nine years ago, I would not be standing here right now. They have guided me throughout my life by encouraging me to make moral decisions along the way and to be considerate of others' feelings. Their decision to send me to St. Louise has instilled morals in me that I will rely on for the rest of my life. They have also taught me the importance of family. I can always rely on them for both wanted and unwanted advice. Even though it isn't always immediately appreciated, I know you are always looking out for the best. Thank you for the countless sacrifices you have made for me.

I am so thankful for the many friendships I have built at St. Louise. Every student in my class has had an impact in my life over the last 9 years. We have become a family and we compliment each others strengths and weaknesses. Sure, there are the many small subgroups of friends, but during High Ropes everyone could sense the bond between our class. We were always there to cheer each other on in any given activity. Some friends have come and gone, but the memories will last forever. Personally, my friends helped me grow. We have shared laughter and tears together which made us stronger as individuals along the way. They have become more like a big family to me. As we go our separate ways in high school, I am confident that these friendships will continue to grow and make new memories.

The faculty here at St. Louise has made a tremendous impact on my life. Each teacher has taught me countless lessons from the Ten Commandments

to defending my faith in Apologetics. We started in kindergarten adding one plus one, now in eighth grade we are solving complex quadratic equations. The lessons were not merely out of the textbook, but life lessons I will always carry with me as well. You have modeled the behavior for hard work and Catholic values. Thank you for helping me grow as a student and individual. Also, thank you to the staff who keeps the school a clean and safe place to learn, preparing countless lunches, and always going the extra mile.

At St. Louise the curriculum is based on our Catholic religion, and no one sets a better role model in practicing our faith than our priests. Every Friday Mass the priest break down the gospel so we can understand it and incorporate it into our lives. It is hard sometimes to understand the gospel passage and our priests do a very good job of putting it into scenarios that we can comprehend. Not only do the priests give homilies but they also support the student body at sporting events, fish fries, and fund raisers. This may seem minor, but it means a lot and is greatly appreciated. It reinforces your commitment to us and our education. Thank you for everything you do for the school and parish.



Lastly, and most importantly, I thank God. Thank You for the opportunities and all the blessings You have given me. I thank You especially for all the people You have put in my life who have helped me become who I am. Thank You for all the obstacles you have put in my life to make me a better person. The poem, *Footprints in the Sand*, says it best by saying "It was during your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." There is no greater love than the sacrifices You have made for us, your children.

As we move on to the next chapter of our lives, I believe we have all been changed for the better. As the song from *Wicked* continues, "So, let me say before we part: so much of me, is made of what I learned from you. You'll be with me, like a handprint on my heart." Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing family. ✨