

SPENCERVILLE ADVENTIST ACADEMY CLASS OF 2020

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES • NEW HOPE CHURCH • JULY 19, 2020

What you are about to read is different from any senior biographies written before. This is the 21st graduating class from Spencerville Adventist Academy, and as we all now recognize, one of the most unusual senior year experiences ever.

The biographies of graduating seniors were created by asking them to fill out a survey form. This year, due to COVID-19, we decided to ask them some questions never asked before. The responses were so heartfelt and poignant, we wished to preserve them for you to read. So what you

will find is part biography, part interview, and part facts. Allow them to tell you how they've been affected, and what they've learned while doing distance learning.

To be very honest, many schools have what is called "senior survival week." We would venture that this particular COVID "experiment" ranks as a similar event, except that the life lessons are truly ones that they will take into college and adulthood.

Please be aware that they were surveyed in April 2020 when they did not think they were going to have an in-person graduation.

Obviously if you are reading this, you now know they did, although not to the level it would have been. We did not change their answers to reflect what was an ever-changing landscape for them.

Seniors, congratulations! You have succeeded in ways that many seniors before you have not. You are wiser, tougher, more contemplative, and more college-ready than you might have been had not COVID happened. We wish you well. Please remember to keep God with you. He sustained you these past few months. He will do so forever in your future.

SASHA ANAMARIE RAM, PRESIDENT



Sasha described herself as outgoing, selfless, and . . . she couldn't quite come up with the third word. So we will supply one for her. Leader. During her high school years she was president during both her junior and senior year. She participated in drama all four years. This year you would have been able to see Sasha in the lead role of Annie in "Annie." Favorite memories of SAA are the high school spiritual retreats and the sophomore class trip. Next year look for her at Montgomery College where she will major in criminal justice, eventually becoming a criminal investigator.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
10 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
English, Math

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Lanning
Mr. Soper
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Cooksey

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To become an actress,
photographer, or
YouTuber

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
The person who has
been my best friend
since I came to
Spencerville

WHAT I WILL MISS
High School
Spiritual Retreats

CALEB ANDREW SALAZAR, VICE PRESIDENT



This four-year senior has served in a leadership capacity serving as vice president for three of his four years. His senior year he also was the music coordinator for the Student Association. You can tell he likes music because he has been in honors choir, drama, and praise team all four years. The last two years he has helped with campus ministries, Cultural Appreciation Society (CAS), and the Happiness Club. Not only does music feature strongly, but so does worship. His favorite high school memory is the high school spiritual retreat. "Leading out in worship and in turn hearing everyone connected

through worship is something that I'll never forget," writes Caleb. Plans next year include attending Montgomery College where he will major in communications hoping eventually to become a speech pathologist. Caleb says he is helpful, dedicated, and tardy. Better work on that last one before next year!

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
12 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
English, Choir

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Martinez
Mr. Soper

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be paid as a singer/performer

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My friends; those who are moving away and I might potentially not see again; and definitely, Mr. Soper. His jokes never get old.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Getting the opportunity to worship with the student body. It will forever be something I'll miss dearly and will never forget.

FINAL WORDS

Each and every one of you has left an incredible impression that I will take with me forever. I am beyond grateful for all the lessons I have learned, and am grateful for the experience. Overall, thank you to my class for literally being the best.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I didn't get to say goodbye. Some close friends are moving away and I wish it had ended differently. But there are unimaginable blessings coming out of this time as well. Senior year has been an interesting one, but I know it's all in God's plan.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

That you can still be late to class even if it's online.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will hopefully be working at a public school as a speech pathologist, helping kids be successful and confident in themselves.

”

PAULETTE VELAZQUEZ VEGA, SECRETARY



Paulette tells us she is independent, confident, and adventurous. She served as social vice president her sophomore year, and class secretary for both her junior and senior years. When not in class you could find her playing soccer (two years), singing in the academy and honors choir (four years), singing with the praise team (four years), a member of CAS (two years), the Happiness Club (two years) and part of the Model UN (one year). Paulette's favorite memory is the sophomore study tour to Michigan and Chicago. Next year will find her attending Andrews University, majoring in not one

but two majors—business management and Spanish (with concentration in language, literature, and culture). Eventually, she would like to become an entrepreneur or CEO or business administrator or work in international business or in human resources or marketing. So many choices, so little time!

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To start my own business, break a world record, and own a race car (preferably a Ferrari)

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My friends, who have become like family, and the teachers, who have

supported me in growing into who I am today

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss seeing everyone each day, the study tours, and going to different trips and churches with the choir. I will also miss study halls with friends.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I'm spontaneous and free-spirited. When I was five, my family and I went to a concert. When they weren't looking, I walked up on stage and started dancing and singing. The artist stopped and acknowledged me. Best five minutes of my life.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It didn't allow us to finish senior year, have a class trip, and get to have a normal graduation.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that I enjoy keeping myself very busy. Being in quarantine meant that I couldn't do what I usually do and it was up to me to stay productive. I kept myself pretty occupied doing homework, working out, cooking, and learning new things that we don't learn in school.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I have had a great college experience, gotten 1-2 master's degrees, learned a third language, and gone abroad to another country. I also will be a successful businesswoman. After college I will work for a big company, gain experience, then start working on my own business, and invest in stocks or real estate. I would hopefully own a house somewhere in the suburbs or near the beach. I would have traveled to Bora-Bora, France, Italy, Brazil, and Spain. I will travel a lot because of my job, but also for fun. I will be surrounded by my loving family and will have made lots of new friends along the way. I will probably be in relationship or *maybe* engaged, but I don't know for sure and I don't guarantee it, honestly.

”

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS

Algebra I,
Algebra 2, Bible 10,
Bible 12, Choir,
Pre-Calc

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mrs. Agwu
Mr. Martinez
Mr. Soper
Mr. Lutz

FINAL WORDS

To my class: Thank you for being part of my life for the past four years. I will never forget the memories we made as a class. We finally made it to graduation so CONGRATS EVERYONE!

To my teachers: Thank you for everything you've taught me. Thank you for motivating me to be the best person I can be. I will forever be grateful for your dedication & patience. God bless!

To my friends: Thank you for all the laughs, the hugs, the lunch table conversations, the support, the jokes during study hall, the advice, and the food. I am rooting for you all and look forward to making more memories in the future. Love you all!

NOOR IMAD MADANAT, TREASURER



Noor came to SAA in her junior year where she played in the band, was on the volleyball team, and also did Acro for one year. Her favorite high school memory was the trip to Southern “because it gave me a feel of college as well as fun moments with my friends.” Apparently a good impression was made because Noor will be headed to Southern Adventist University next year to major in nursing. However, eventually she would like to be a sports fitness trainer. She says she is creative, outgoing, and real, so we think she can figure out how to combine nursing with fitness and change the world one person at a time.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

2 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT

Math

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mr. Mathis
Mr. Cooksey

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be a fitness trainer and help people achieve their goals

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My class

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I've traveled to four of seven continents before I turned one.

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss all the jokes and trips I had with my class as well as the memories made with them.

FINAL WORDS

I would like to say thank you to the friends who made my high school memorable and thank you for all the laughs and fun times.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It affected obviously graduation, but it also affected the last moments and memories I could have made with friends.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that if I put my mind to something I can do it.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will (well, seeing how much life can change in an instant) hope to be married, maybe one or two kids. and pursuing my dream and career while traveling the world with my family.

”



NINA EDEN PALIVELA, PASTOR



Nina is one of the few “lifers” in this class. A lifer is someone who has attended all of their education at Spencerville Adventist Academy. She describes herself as joyful, strong, and determined. While in high school she played trumpet in the band (first chair the last two years) and sang in the choir for all four years. You could also find her on the volleyball team, captain of the cheer squad, participating in CAS, as well as serving as class pastor for the past two years. Her favorite memory is when the band traveled to Disney World. It was Nina’s first time going there and she found it absolutely magical. She made unforgettable bonds and memories with her bandmates. College choice is still being decided, but she knows she wants to major in Biology. That will hopefully lead to a career in some medical profession such as a doctor or surgeon.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
15 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
All Science
Bible
All History

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Froelich
Mr. Cooksey
Mr. Soper

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To become a model

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
I will miss Mr. Cooksey and his witty humor. I will miss seeing Mrs. Froelich each morning in band.

WHAT I WILL MISS
Cheer practices. I especially loved stunting with the Acrosquad coaches. And I’ll miss playing in band every morning.

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS
I *love* dancing. Busting a move is how I express myself.

FINAL WORDS

I would just like to thank SAA as a whole. You helped me understand who God is and strengthen my faith in Him. Because of you, I’ve learned so much history about the Church and what we are called to do.

“
How did COVID-19 affect you the most?
COVID has affected my family members that worked on the frontline of the pandemic. They really inspired me and taught me that when God has called you to do something you must listen and walk in faith.
What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?
I adapt very quickly to given circumstances.
Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?
I will be financially stable with my pet dog or chameleon. Hopefully my modeling career would have taken off and I’ll be somewhere helping people for sure. I’ll be traveling the world and spreading the gospel.
”

LIFER

WILFREDO JOSUE FLORES, SOCIAL VICE PRESIDENT



Will is another of our “lifers.” He’s walked SAA hallways for most of his young life. During his high school years, he served as class representative for the student association for two years. His last two years he has worked as the social vice president. When not in class you could find him in drama, honors chorus, in CAS, the Happiness Club, and Yearbook. Will is also a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). His favorite memory was the choir trip to Indianapolis in 2019. Will selects three interesting words to describe himself: curious, easy-going, and pensive. All three seem to lend themselves to his choice to major in sociology

where he can learn of and think deeply about the human society and social issues. All of this will happen next year at American University.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
13 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
World History
Government
Creative Writing

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Cooksey
Mrs. Jordache
Ms. Dever

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Mr. Loukota,
Ms. Thompson,
Mrs. Wetmore, and
Mrs. Lanning

WHAT I WILL MISS

Special K Loaf, chapels,
spiritual retreats

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I'm left-handed.

FINAL WORDS

It's kind of surreal that after 10+ years of being at SAA I'm finally stepping into a new chapter of my life. I wish it didn't end this way, but I'm grateful for each and every person that has come into my life thus far. Teachers and classmates, thank you for the memories and new experiences. I'll never forget where I came from.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I learned not to take human interaction for granted.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I am a very hands-on learner and I appreciate being in an actual environment of learning.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be working at a stable job and hopefully be settling down. I hope I'm helping others and the world in any way I can.

”

ZACHARY WILSON ALIGNAY, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



Zach was fairly predictable during his high school years. He was a class officer twice, both times serving as sergeant-at-arms. He was involved in one extracurricular activity for three years straight—Acrosquad, two years as captain. But then he surprised everyone this year and participated in drama. Unfortunately what everyone missed was his rendition of Daddy Warbucks in “Annie.” Trust us. It would have been good. Zach stays with his predictableness on his favorite memory—Acrofest and the Acro tour. He’s headed to Andrews University next year where he will major in mechanical engineering. That will lead him to become an inventor “that would put Dr. Doofenshmirtz to shame” (Google it). Zach says he is nice, loud, and athletic, of which two might work well for an inventor.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
7 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT
History

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
All the teachers get a 10/10. I'd definitely take classes from them again.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To go to the moon

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
All the teachers because they were very supportive

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
I don't like eggplant.

WHAT I WILL MISS
Firesides

FINAL WORDS

Rhymiel and Ivan, you open bananas upside down even when there is a better way to open it.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I learned it is easier to wake up at 12 in the afternoon.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned my room is a very hard place to do homework in.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be working as an engineer and building new and innovative technologies.

”

BEREKET MEKONNEN GEREMEW, SA CLASS REPRESENTATIVE



This four-year senior sang in both the academy choir and honors choir all four years. He played soccer for two years, was part of CAS, and helped with Hornet's Corner (morning announcements). Bereket's favorite memory were all the trips with the choir. He's not going to be too far away since he plans on attending UMBC or Towson University where he will major in computer science. He hopes to become either a software developer or an IT project manager. What is nice is that he says he is caring, compassionate, and happy, and computer science programs will always benefit from such people.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS

Math, History,
Spanish, English

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mr. Uhrig
Mr. Mathis
Mrs. McEowen
Mrs. Masotta
Mrs. Fuentes
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Cooksey
Mr. Tyman

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

Become a great cook

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Coach Tyman,
Mr. Loukota,
Mrs. Jordache,
Mr. Cooksey, Mrs. Banks,
Ms. Thompson

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss seeing my friends. I will miss the courtyard and how chaotic the commons and gym were (That's a good thing by the way. Don't get rid of it.)

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

That I like to make cool shapes and names with pancakes

FINAL WORDS

Miss y'all, hope you all have a great time in college. Don't forget your high school friends.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Both my parents were affected by the virus so that affected me and my siblings. My mom had to close her business and that affected our family greatly. Also, COVID took away my senior year and I won't be able to have a proper goodbye.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

That I'm easily distracted. But another thing I learned was if I start one assignment, I could just power through and finish everything in one day.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will have a great job, married, and one kid (of the four I'm planning to have).

”

LAURA ZOBEIDA WORTMAN, SA CLASS REPRESENTATIVE



Laura found her niche when she arrived at SAA and stuck with it. She played volleyball all three years and sang in the academy choir and honors choir. Her favorite memory was going to Tennessee with the girls volleyball team during her sophomore year. She's headed to the University of Maryland next year to major in government and politics. Laura says she is quiet, interesting, and sweet. We think we can all agree that we could use more of that in politics today. She's not sure what she will do in her career, but knows she wants to reach out and help others in some way.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
3 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
English, Government

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mrs. Hess

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To learn a rare language or to be the CEO of a business empire

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I love Broadway musicals.

FINAL WORDS

I would like to thank everyone for being a part of my high school years, all the kind people, and for all the amazing memories.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It made me grateful for all the blessings that are in my life.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that being able to set up my own work schedule can be very productive and fulfilling. If I really focus and put my mind to it, I can accomplish a lot in just a day.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will have my master's degree and be traveling all over the globe. I will have invested in real estate and be successful both financially and with my personal achievements. I will be a hard-working, resilient, confident woman.

”

JOY GERMAINE UZOMA AGWU, CO-VALEDICTORIAN



Joy came to SAA two years ago. In her former school she was vice-president of her class. She was involved in drama, praise dance team, Creative Writing, Run Club, and Track. At SAA, she continued with drama, joined the Happiness Club, CAS, peer mentoring, and was the Treasurer for the Student Association. Her favorite memory comes from her former school: “I enjoyed eating lunch in Ms. Gracia’s classroom back at TA, where I made some of my closest friends outside of my best friend group I’ve had since middle school.” An SAA memory that lingers is last year’s Senior Night. The event was fun,

but what made it perfect was hanging out with Laura and Paulette afterwards, laughing until the wee hours of the morning. Her college plans aren’t entirely determined, but she’s guessing it will be the University of Notre Dame where she will major in English. This will lead her to a career as a prosecutor. Joy says she is hard-working, creative, and active—all will serve her well as she embarks on a new phase in her life.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
2 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
English,
Creative Writing,
Biology

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Gracia (TA)
Mrs. Camps (TA)
Mrs. Hess
Mr. Cooksey
Mr. Wiedemann

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be a writer

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Aside from my mom and sister, I think I will miss my classmates most. Not my best friends, because I will be intentional to stay in touch with them, but the people I only talk to occasionally in classes, and were more close acquaintances than friends. Those people I will miss the most. I wish I had more time to fortify those friendships.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Acro-Squad. I was able to make friends across grades, that I likely would have never really spoken to otherwise. I also enjoy learning the skills and pushing myself past my fears in a sport I never saw myself doing. Acro is one of the few things I love solely because I love it—it has no professional advantage for me. I’ve loved being on the team, and I will miss it most because I doubt I will go to a school where I will be able to further the skills I’ve developed on the team.

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS

I take quotes. If I hear someone say something funny, profound, or something I want to remember, I write it down in a notebook I carry everywhere. I often review them, and am reminded of what was happening when I took them. I like to have a record of such everyday things, and it reminds me that there is always something good to remember every single day.

FINAL WORDS

Mrs. Hess: Thank you for being a great teacher! There were certainly times that I struggled in your class, but I always appreciated that I was growing from your teaching. Every assignment and project made me a better writer and reader. Also, thank you for always letting me eat in your class. I want you to know that I was planning on giving you a box of Frosted Flakes as a goodbye gift, since I always forgot to offer you some of my in-class snacks.

Ms. G: Thank you for being there for me through college applications and interviews. I cannot tell you how reassuring it was to have your help for that first interview, and I want you to know that you were a strong factor in me doing so well in them. Thank you for always caring and listening.

Coach Daniel and Coach Tara for Acro: Thank you for putting me on the team, with no experience and being absent for one of the try-outs. Thank you for pushing me past my fears, and being understanding when I struggled. You guys are the best coaches I've ever had, and being on the team was one of the highlights of my year.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I never got to perform in Acro home show, and I really looked forward to it. Corona happened two weeks before it was to happen. I never got to perform in front of my dad, my sister, or my best friends. I can live without graduation, but the senior trip is supposed to be the last bonding time with classmates. I looked forward to spending quality time with my class and my closest friends.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I've learned that I'm really an introvert. I did pretty well with distance-learning. I plan out my day and talk to my friends once or twice a week. I made a system that works for me. I would thrive in a stay-at-home job. I probably would have loved this time at home if it happened last year. I didn't have to miss out on so many final experiences in high school.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be happy and successful in a field I'm passionate about. I will be working in a city, likely DC, but living in a nearby suburb. If all goes according to plan, I will be a prosecutor in the federal system, making efforts to become DA soon. I will be training for a marathon and well-traveled. I will have a strong relationship with God, and have a community that supports that.

”

JACQUELINE ELISE ATTERBERRY



For those who don't know, Jackie is a twin. But she has her own unique view on life, so be sure to read everything to know who she really is. This four-year senior started easy and then picked up year by year. Her freshman year she played bells. By her sophomore year she sang in the choir and played basketball and soccer. Junior year she still played basketball and soccer, still sang in the choir, but she added the Happiness Club, and CAS. Her senior year she went full steam ahead, singing in the choir (section leader), a defensive leader in soccer, and was Sergeant-at-Arms for CAS, as well as stayed with the Happiness Club. Jackie's favorite memory was doing her signature move at the TA game this school year, as well as being part of Russell's proposal to Lindsey. Next year will find her far away from Maryland attending La Sierra University. Her major and career are currently undecided. But this funny, determined, caring young lady will definitely make a difference in whatever she decides to do.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I want to excel at my craft and love what I do.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

The people, my class, my crew, soccer team, the high school, the faculty, the booster club

WHAT I WILL MISS

Playing soccer, working for Pacheco, jamming out with Russell, singing in choir, doing intramurals for soccer, spending time with friends

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I like to cook and write music.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

6 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
AP Literature, Bible, History, Choir

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

I enjoyed all my teachers.

FINAL WORDS

I haven't given up on seeing my friends again. I know it's all possible and I know we can survive this together.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I missed soccer tournament, singing recital, mission trip, senior class trip because they all were cancelled.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

Communication is key.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

Probably finishing up schooling, either with a PhD of some sorts, or in the middle of medical school.

”

KATELYNNE SIMONE ATTERBERRY



This would be the “other half” of Jackie, since alphabetically she comes second, but certainly deserving of our full attention. She eased into high school from SAA’s middle school program starting with soccer, drama, and honors choir. And that’s pretty much where she stayed for the rest of her high school years. One exception came in her junior year where she played basketball. Had you been able to come to the production of Annie this year, you would have seen her debut as one of the orphans, who coincidentally was also named “Kate.” Kate’s favorite memory at SAA was the sophomore study tour to Michigan. She says she is hard-working, funny, and self-sufficient. All these are great college attributes which will be put to good use in sunny California attending Pacific Union College. Major and career are not yet decided, but if you read where she sees herself in 10 years, you might add caring and helpful to her list of descriptors.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
6 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
English, Bible,
History

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Soper
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Mathis

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I’ve never really thought about my ambitions, I have always just wanted to help people and make them feel good. But I have always loved the game of soccer, I guess my secret ambition is to be a professional soccer player.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

I’ll miss my friends, but I’ll also miss Mr. Martinez and Mr. Soper.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Lunch with my crew, my soccer team, those weird and hilarious talks in Mr. Mr. Soper’s office, 9th period study hall, my praise team, and my class

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS

I went to public school until the sixth grade.

FINAL WORDS

To the crew, The 3 musketeers, and drama peeps: Please don’t stop texting and Facetiming. I love you guys probably more than myself. Y’all are the best thing that happened to me and I am going to miss you guys more than you could know. You have gotten me through all the hard times, the good times, and High School as a whole. Y’all mean the world to me and I only want our friendships to grow. I will miss you all. I love you so much.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It took away the last couple months I had with my class. It took all the great memories that we would have had at our class trip. It took away the experience of seeing each other get into college. It took away my graduation—the day I’ve been dreaming of since middle school. That feeling of accomplishment was taken from me without warning, and now I’m here, stuck, waiting for answers that won’t come. “Unusual” is an understatement.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

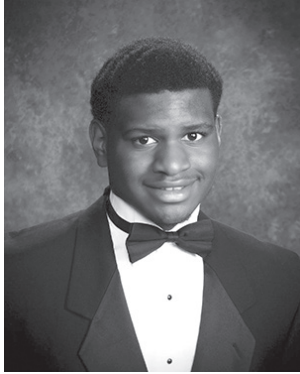
I hate being inside.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will hopefully be working as a chiropractor to help people with pain, or helping them recover from injury as a PT or working to save people’s lives as a paramedic or EMT, maybe with a spouse, and a hypoallergenic puppy, in a nice house or apartment in California or wherever.

”

CALEB XAVIER BAILEY



Caleb says he is lively, authentic, and bright. He played JV basketball during his freshman and sophomore years. His favorite memories of high school were all the study tours. He's headed to McDaniel College in the Fall where he will major in engineering. His end goal? To become an architect.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
9 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT
Math

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Mathis
Mr. Cooksey

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be an actor

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My friends that I have grown up with.

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss our community. We were all connected as one big family.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I'm a vegetarian.

FINAL WORDS

I miss you all. It really sucks that this is goodbye, but it is what it is. Honestly, the time I spent with you has all of my happiest memories. Until we meet again.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I didn't finish out the way I wanted to. I missed great times and memories.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

That I'm an early riser no matter what. I can't stay up past one more than two days in a row, and I can't sleep past 10:30 a.m.

”

SAVANNAH MORGAN BAYLES



Athletic, persistent, and empathetic are the self-described words of this four-year senior. She is certainly accurate about athletics because her high school resumé is filled with sports. Savannah has played Women’s Varsity Basketball all four years. This past year she served as co-captain. She has also played varsity softball all four years, again this year as co-captain. Savannah added volleyball to the list this year. But she’s not all sports, because she has also been a class representative, a media specialist, been part of the yearbook team, and sang in the honors choir. Her

favorite high school memories are the Texas Tournaments and going on the Puerto Rico mission trip. Look for her on the campus of Washington Adventist University next year where she will major in psychology.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
7 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
PE, History

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Cooksey
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Tyman

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be successful and happy in whatever I decide to do in my life

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Teammates, coaches, all the people I’ve gotten close to, teachers

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS

I used to do ballet and tap dancing when I was younger.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Going on trips and playing on the sports teams

FINAL WORDS

It’s hard to say goodbye to such a unique and lively class. Despite our differences, we have grown to be a family that is very supportive toward one another. I want all of you to know how important you are to me and that I will always value and cherish the last couple years that we had together. I am proud of what we all have accomplished as a class and as individuals. I wish you all the best of luck and I will miss you all.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I missed sports, my motivation to do anything (I have no motivation to do anything), my focus (I can’t focus either).

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

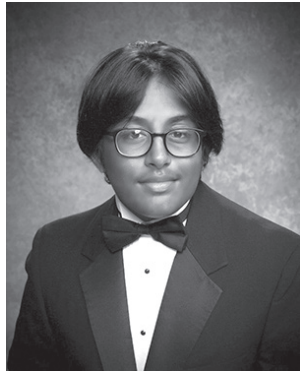
Stress takes a huge toll on your body, mentally, physically, and emotionally.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be successful in my career, maybe married, have a dog or two, and probably still living in Maryland.

”

RUSSELL RICHARD BENJAMIN



Composed, humble, and inquisitive is how Russell describes himself. His sophomore and junior years found him serving as Sergeant-at-Arms for his class. This year, he moved to the Student Association where he served as Secretary. All four years found him in choir, drama, and part of the Praise Team (two years as a leader). Russell also tried his hand at Broadcast Journalism, joined CAS, worked with Campus Ministries, and played soccer. Russell tells his favorite high school memory in this way: “It was probably the mission trip to Peru in my junior year. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to donate one of my guitars to the children there and to even be able to receive a gift from their principal (a book in Quechua about their culture). The experiences I had on that trip were especially humbling and really changed my outlook on the world in a way I won’t ever forget.” His college experience will begin at the University of Maryland, College Park campus, where he will major in computer science. He hopes to become a user interface/experience designer.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
9 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Broadcast
Journalism, Choir,
Spanish III,
Bible, Calculus

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Martinez
Mr. Soper
Mrs. Levterova
Mr. Wiedemann

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

Be a polyglot (know several languages), learn as many instruments as possible (cello is next!), and pursue photojournalism

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

I’ll miss everyone. Every single faculty member has helped me grow in one way or another, and I’m so incredibly indebted to them for that. Mr. Martinez, specifically, helped me realize my love for film and photography. I owe him so much for exposing me to one of my biggest passions and helping to foster that interest by inspiring me to buy my first camera. I’ll miss all of my friends and classmates who I’ve come to know over the years. To name a small few out of the large handful: Xavier, Rhymiel, Chris, Aliya, and Lindsey have all helped me grow in more ways than I can imagine.

WHAT I WILL MISS

I’ll miss the incredibly close community that Spencerville offers to its students. Most of all,

I’ll miss the weekly chapels and all the opportunities for student-led worship.

I’ll miss being able to make music and to help lead worship in that medium.

I’ll always cherish the memories it’s provided me and how much it’s grown my spiritual life.

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS

I’m a huge fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder because I played the video game “NBA 2k13” so much as a kid. Russell Westbrook will always be my favorite player in the NBA!

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

COVID-19 obviously affected me by completely dismantling my day-to-day routine and secluding me at home, but, on top of that, it's significantly affected my family. My mom works in healthcare, specifically with the elderly, so I've gained an even greater appreciation for those in the medical profession knowing the toll it has had on my mom and my family as a whole to combat this pandemic.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

Distance-learning taught me about how diligent I could be in my work. With teachers posting all their assignments on Sunday nights, I couldn't resist working until all my assignments were done for the week. I got in the habit of having all my work done by Tuesday at the latest. Not because of over-ambition, but because I wanted to have as much time as possible to relax during the week.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I hope to have completed a B.S. in Computer Science and a M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction with a minor in psychology. I imagine myself to be actively applying my love for design, marketing, and innovation while working for companies that foster creativity and expression in the ever-growing tech industry. Right now, I see myself designing digital experiences and online campaigns primarily for Adobe who has produced groundbreaking software for creativity in recent years or Adidas to incorporate my interests in clothing and sports with a brand that I've come to love. I could see myself situated either in the greater Seattle area or in the San Francisco Bay area. If I'm not in either of those places, I'll be working digitally and exploring the world, taking pictures and making videos along the way to document my experiences.

”

FINAL WORDS

To all of Spencerville Adventist Academy, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for helping prepare me for the next stage in my life in more ways than I can count. Even though it's not in the most ideal of circumstances, it's my time to move onto bigger and better things. I promise I'll remember the lessons you've taught me. I'll continue to love to learn, live to serve, and I'll do it all for Christ.

ERIN LEEANN BEERS



Erin says she is a bird-lover, caring, and driven. We might also add secretive as she didn't really give us much more information about herself. But here's what we do know. She was the class pastor her sophomore year. She's played on the soccer team for all four years. This year she was a captain. Erin sang in the honors choir her first two years. The campus ministries team welcomed her during her junior and senior years as did the Happiness Club. Erin will make her way to Ohio next year where she will attend Kettering College majoring in Biology. This will be her first step on her way to becoming a physician's assistant.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT
A & P, Biology,
Algebra 2

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Hess
Mr. Soper
Mr. Lutz

ALYSSA KIERRA BROWN



Alyssa was involved in sports during her high school years. She was captain of the basketball team her freshman year as well as being captain of the volleyball team that same year. Her sophomore year she played volleyball, and worked on the yearbook. Junior year was the same, except this time she was a captain. And senior year finished up with volleyball (also as a captain) and softball. Her favorite high school memory was the Andrews Preview Trip. It must have at least made an impression because Andrews is on her list as a college to consider, but so is Southern Adventist University.

Her major is decided though—pre-physical therapy working toward a career as a physical therapist. That’s absolutely perfect for someone who describes themselves as passionate, caring, and motivated.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
3 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
American History,
All Science classes

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Cooksey
Mr. Tyman
Mr. Mathis

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be an outside hitter for UCLA’s women’s volleyball team

To live in either Hawaii or California and have my own physical therapy practice.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Coach Tyman

WHAT I WILL MISS

My friends and hanging out in Coach Tyman’s office

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS

I’m scared of heights, but I’m still adventurous.

FINAL WORDS

Kids, don’t date in high school.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It completely ruined the ending of my senior year, specifically the class trip and softball.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that I don’t like long distance learning and that I need my friends.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will probably be working at a PT office or starting up my own practice. I will be in either California or somewhere where it’s Fall all year around.

”

OLIVIA GRACE BROWN



Olivia's list of accomplishments sound a bit like the beginning of a nice resumé. In her freshman year, she played the role of Vivian in drama, sang in the choir, and also was on a praise team. Her sophomore year she was in drama and choir, but added broadcast journalism where she co-wrote the Sonscreen nominated film, "The Awakening." In addition, she was on the skit team, participated in CAS, and sang on two praise teams. Junior year brought *The Sound of Music* where she rocked the song "Climb Every Mountain" as Mother Abbess, sang in the choir, directed Lunchmeet as part of Broadcast Journalism, was on the skit team, CAS, and again sang on two praise teams. Her senior year continued with drama. You would have loved

seeing her as the malevolent Miss Hannigan in *Annie*. Olivia sang in the choir, wrote, edited, and acted in "Mirrors" for the spiritual retreat, represented the black community in CAS, wrote the Black History Program, and sang on a praise team. Her favorite memory is going to Puerto Rico with the choir her freshman year. "It was the best trip ever with amazing food, bonding with people, beautiful beaches, and everyone being so nice. I have so many stories to tell, videos to show, and pictures from that trip that I'll cherish forever," she wrote. Olivia is headed down south to attend Oakwood University where she will double-major in English (emphasis in professional writing) and Vocal Performance. As for her career—she says, "I've always had a hard time choosing one thing, but I don't think I have to." Clearly this self-described hard-working, interesting, passionate individual is headed wherever God leads her.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
5 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Choir, Drama,
Broadcast
Journalism, English

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mrs. Jordache
Mrs. Masotta
Mr. Martinez
Mrs. Lanning
Mr. Soper

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I have a lot of dreams and ambitions, but I'm not sure they are secret. Here are my top three: performing original music in a sold-out stadium, being on Broadway, and starting my own performing arts school.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Mr. Lutz, Mrs. Jordache, Mr. Martinez, Mrs. Lanning, Mr. Soper, Ms. Dever, Mrs. Mattox, Mrs. Sheahin, Mrs. Banks, Ms. Thompson, and Mr. Loukota. Oh, and my friends.

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss the drama performances, praise team practices, choir trips, and talking to my favorite teachers after school. SAA also gave me a lot of opportunities to create (write short films, edit, make music, speak) so I'll miss that aspect as well.

FINAL WORDS

To my friends, you are the most intelligent, funny, beautiful, and caring people I know. Y'all are dope. I love you guys and I'm glad I got to make as many memories with you as I did. I can't wait to make more with you guys in the future.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Honestly, the quarantine gave me a lot of time to focus on things I enjoy most. I've had a lot of time to make music, write stories, and dance! It's given me a lot of time to breathe and learn things I wanted to learn, but never had time to.

I'm disappointed that I'm not getting the *real* senior experience. All the things I looked forward to about senior year were cancelled, like my last musical, senior trip, class night . . . but hey, I'll have a great story to tell my kids one day.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

What I learned about myself: I've mastered the art of procrastination and multitasking.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be 28 years old (woahhhh). Ideally, I'll be doing what I love (writing and making music) and getting paid enough to live comfortably off of that. I'd have a couple of dogs by then (probably wayyy too many dogs). I'll be living on my own (probably in some sort of city) and taking the opportunities God and life give me.

”

JOSHUA DAVID CARUTHERS



Josh, who says he is funny, smart, and athletic, spent his two years at SAA playing varsity basketball. He also played alto and tenor saxophone in the band. His favorite memory was the class-on-class games. Josh will attend Andrews University next Fall where he will major in Marketing leading to a career as a marketing manager who we all know need to be smart *and* funny.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
2 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Senior English,
Spanish I

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Tyman
Mrs. Hess
Mrs. Masotta

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be a model

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

I will miss all of my friends I made over the past two years.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I used to play the piano.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Hanging out with my friends during 8th and 9th period and after school.

FINAL WORDS

I miss you all and I wish you all the best in life.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

COVID cancelled everything I was looking forward to like the class trip and intramurals.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that when I set my mind to do something, I can get it done.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will have a successful career in marketing. I will be married to Zendaya. I will have a flying car and property on Mars.

”

SAMUEL ROBERT DAVIS



Sammy likes sports. That's pretty obvious when you see that he played varsity soccer all four years (last two as captain). He also played varsity basketball all four years, also as captain the past two years. His favorite high school memory then is no real surprise as he enjoyed winning the Texas basketball tournament. What may surprise you is his choice of words to describe himself: adroit, contumacious, and evocative. You might want to google them. The first word will definitely help him with the last two, particularly if he demonstrates those on the Howard Community College campus next year where he will major in general studies. His future career is still undecided.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To be a songwriter

WHAT I WILL MISS
Sports and working
out with Coach Tyman

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
I enjoy music on
a deeper level.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Freshman and
Sophomore English

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Tyman
Mrs. Jordache

FINAL WORDS

w

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It affected my sleeping schedule.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

Nothing I didn't already know.

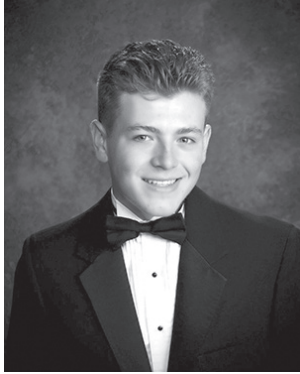
Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be trying to do the things I love.

”

LIFER

JACKSON RAY FAEHNER



Jack says he is witty, determined, and stubborn. That probably means he can get exactly what he wants when he wants because he can flash a smile, tell a joke, and before you know it, people give in. Not bad traits to have. We're not sure he used those in school, but he did play basketball all four years, three of them as captain. He also played spike ball, futsal, and flag football. Jack's favorite memory is watching his team win the tournament in Texas. College won't take him too far away—just to Michigan where he will attend Andrews University majoring in mechanical engineering.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I want to learn Hebrew or Greek to better understand the Bible.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Sam Faehner

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I have broken my arm, big toe, thumb, and ankle.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Playing basketball in front of family and friends

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I got so bored I shaved my head for fun.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

Unfortunately, a buzz cut doesn't look as good on a webcam as I thought it would.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will have a major in mechanical engineering working somewhere in California.

”

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

14 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS

History and Math

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mr. Cooksey

Mr. Lutz

Mr. Hess

Mr. Soper

Mr. Wiedemann

Mrs. Hess

Mrs. Jordache

FINAL WORDS

Mr. Wiedemann, you will become viral on TikTok. I believe in you.

LINDSEY SYLVIA LYNELL GISPERT



Lindsey said she is bold, spirited, and imaginative. We'd also add leader since she spent her entire high school career involved in some type of leadership. Her freshman year she was class secretary. By her sophomore year, she had advanced to class vice president. By junior year she'd jumped the fence to the Student Association as SA secretary. And this year she capped it off at the top—SA president. Lindsey isn't all leadership. She also sang in the choir for three years, spent three years in drama (you would have seen Lindsey performing the role of Lily, a ditzzy blonde, in this year's *Annie*), two years in broadcast journalism and praise team, CAS president for three years, and cheer team for two years. That just makes you tired reading it. We didn't mention the year in skit team, playing the lead in the Bible drama, directing a schoolwide music video, a spiritual retreat video, and campus ministries. Lindsey's favorite high school memory was going to SALT her junior year. "It was so refreshing and spiritual," she writes. Next year will find her at Savannah College of Art and Design majoring in Performing Arts with a minor in film and television production. Her chosen career is yet to be decided but she plans on having her own company that combines her love for live performance and God.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Spanish I, II, III,
Broadcast Journalism

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Martinez
Mrs. Masotta
Mrs. Agwu
Mrs. Levterova
Mr. Soper
Mr. Kahler

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
I want to learn how to play the drums and be in a band.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
I will miss Mrs. Paul-O'Neil and Ms. Thompson who have supported me endlessly in my high school career.

WHAT I WILL MISS
I will miss Special K-Loaf on Wednesdays, serving my student body on SA, and chapels every week.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
I was in the Miss Maryland Teen Pageant this year.

FINAL WORDS

To all the students continuing on in your high school careers, savor every day you have with one another. Respect the adults around you and be sure to always thank them for everything. High school can be hard sometimes but it can also be a lot of fun. I wish you the best of luck in your futures and I'm always a resource for any of you.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?
COVID-19 has made me appreciative of my relationships and reminded me to not take anything for granted. Also, it has encouraged me to grow in my personal relationship with God. Plus, quarantine has given me a lot of time to explore my passions and be with my family. Also, COVID took away my senior year and I won't be able to have a proper goodbye.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?
I learned that the perfect recipe for me to get work done by myself is with music, a spinny chair, my dog as a classmate, and lots of water and gummy worms.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?
I will be 28 years old and hopefully be engaged, happy in my arts career, and have a reptilian pet of some kind. I will have traveled some and have a strong relationship with God and a healthy loving community around me.

”

VANESSA NATALIA GUTIERREZ



Vanessa played varsity volleyball for both her junior and senior years. Those same two years she did not play basketball, but she did something better—she managed the team. It would make sense then that her favorite high school memory is the basketball tournaments. Since managing a team can't be easy, it's a good thing that she tells us she is generous, spontaneous, and patient. These are all things we're sure she practiced during each game. Her future plans go in a different direction. Vanessa plans to attend Andrews University where she will major in Biology. This will be the first step in her path to becoming a pediatrician.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
7 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Math and Science

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Soper

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I want to start my own business.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My friends and the staff members

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I taught myself how to play an instrument.

WHAT I WILL MISS

The class and sports trips

FINAL WORDS

To my friends, I will miss all of you and I hope you all get to where you want in life. Thank you for always being there for me and supporting me.

To Ms. Gatica, thank you for guiding me through the year. I'm so glad I met you this year. I really appreciate all you have done for me. I will miss you.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I didn't get to experience a graduation and the end-of-the-year events we had for the senior class. I didn't get to have a proper goodbye. I also lost motivation.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I like to be out most of the day and I really enjoy socializing and being around people.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be working in a hospital as a pediatrician. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to travel the world to help others in need and in hospitals.

”

ADAM MISAEEL HENRIQUEZ



Adam wrote that he is loud, funny, and annoying. The funny part shows up a bit in his various answers (read all he wrote). The loud might come from playing sports. Adam played on the volleyball team for a year, soccer for three years, and basketball for all four years. As for annoying? We don't know. We'll let you determine that on your own. His favorite memory was the Texas tournament. He's headed next year to the University of Maryland where he will major in computer science, eventually becoming a computer security analyst, who last we checked, were neither loud, funny, or annoying.

We're guessing there's a lot more to Adam that he has yet to reveal.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT
Math

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To be a music producer

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
My friends

WHAT I WILL MISS
My friends

FINAL WORDS

I'm not who you think you are.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?
I was bored.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?
Nothing I didn't already know.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?
I will be driving a Ferrari in the Hollywood Hills. Just kidding. I will probably be sitting at a desk all day. Ha!

”

LIFER

ERICA LAUREN HOWELL



Erica didn't give us much to go on so we will share what we know. First and foremost, she's considered a "Lifer." That makes three so far in this class if you're reading in order. She did manage to stay busy during her high school years. When not in class she played soccer for three years, was part of the Happiness Club for two years (working as art director for one), was a peer mentor for two years, and on the Secret Service Team. Those last three would suggest she's right on target by describing herself in three words using words such as empathetic and hardworking. On the third word, Erica could have said helpful, but that's not what she chose. Instead she said sarcastic, which simply means she brings a bit of spice to life. Future plans include attending the University of Maryland, but the rest is undecided.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
12 years

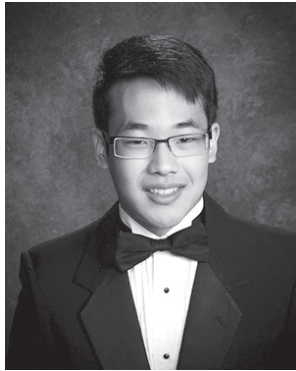
FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Creative Writing

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
My friends

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?
I will be fulfilling God's plan for my life.

CHRISTOPHER KAKERU INAE, CO-VALEDICTORIAN



This four-year senior only gave us the shortest of responses. He spent his last two years on the Acrosquad. Chris' favorite memory was the trip to RingFest this year. Next year he will attend Andrews University and major in mechanical engineering to become the obvious—an engineer.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Calculus, A & P,
Physics

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Hess

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
Work for Elon Musk

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
My sister

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
I really like cats.

WHAT I WILL MISS
Acro practice

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I got to sleep more.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I am more productive at home.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be working for either Tesla or SpaceX. I want to be debt free, hopefully living at my own house with solar panels and a Tesla model 3. Getting married would be nice.

”

ZOË CASSELLE JENKINS



Zoë says she is empathetic, curious, and gauche. Now who wouldn't want to spend time with a person who cares about others, is curious about the life around her, and brings a bit of awkwardness all at the same time? During her freshman year she participated in orchestra, drama, volleyball, and softball. She went to a different school her sophomore year, but there she added yearbook editor, Black Student Union treasurer, Chemistry club, Model UN, and played in the pit orchestra. Her junior year found her back at SAA where she added pit orchestra, social VP for CAS, assistant director in choir, became a peer mentor, and joined the Happiness Club. Zoë capped everything off her senior year by founding Senior Sisters, becoming CAS Vice President, outreach director of the Happiness club, Cheer team, peer mentor, played in the orchestra, was assistant director in choir, and last, but certainly not least, had the role of Miss Hannigan in Annie. It is unfortunate we could not see Zoë on the SAA stage one more time. Zoë writes of her favorite memory: "Every cheerleader knows that you spend more time with your team than anyone else. They become your friends, then, they become your family. The feeling of being surrounded by a gym of people cheering for your team, standing beside your friends, is indescribable." New York is where you should look for Zoë next year where she will attend New York University Tisch School of the Arts. She will have a double major of Political Science and Theatre. Career is yet to be determined.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be on Broadway or to be a criminal psychologist

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Mrs. Jordache, Mrs. Thompson, and Ms. Gatica: these women have continually supported me throughout my time here at SAA and have been like extra mothers to me.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Senior class trip, going to Ms. Gatica with Miriam and Caleb, drama, and the little conversations I had with my classmates in and out of class.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I am a classical music connoisseur.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Dealing with death in the family and the uncertainty of my future during an important year of my life.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I am a self-proclaimed introvert, and have definitely grown more into that identity.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I would like to broaden my horizons by jumping feet first into graduating from school and traveling as much as I can. From there I would hope I landed a satisfying career and would be financially secure. All I want is to be happy and at peace with myself and that is where I'd like to think of where my life will be in ten years.

”

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

3 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS

Creative Writing, AP Government, Drama

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mrs. Jordache

Mr. Lutz

Mr. Martinez

Mrs. Lanning

FINAL WORDS

Mr. Soper: Thank you for putting up with me doing my makeup in class every day.

Ms. Dever: When in doubt, you were always there to listen and understand and push me to be better.

Mr. Lutz: As an avid reader my whole life, and sporadic writer for part of it, taking your classes has certainly impacted my work—something I'm passionate about, and it opened my mind to see the world in different perspectives.

JEHLYSSA KARINA JUNEI KENNEDY



Jehlyssa split her high school years between Atholton and Spencerville. The first two years at AAA, she sang in the choir, played in the band, played intermurals, was co-captain of the volleyball team, and involved in the Student Association. Arriving at SAA, she played volleyball, played in the band and orchestra, played intramurals, was a co-captain of the cheerleading squad, participated in CAS, and Model UN. Jehlyssa was also Pastor of the Student Association this year. As part of that role she gave devotionals during Hornet's Corner. She has two favorite memories, one from each school.

The first was getting to know one of her best friends when they were placed next to each other in computer class her freshman year. The second would have been her senior class trip had she been allowed to take one. Next year will find her in Tennessee attending Southern Adventist University where she will major in nursing as a first step in a pre-med track.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
2 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Math (loved Geometry), A & P

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Paul-O'Neil
Mr. Villanueva (AAA)
Mrs. Villanueva (AAA)
Pastor Mark (AAA)
Mr. Cooksey
Mr. Hess
Mrs. Hess
Mrs. Froelich
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
I guess now it's not a secret anymore, but I would love to travel and start my own business.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
I will miss my closest friends the most. They know who they are and

the support we have given each other.

WHAT I WILL MISS
Being able to sit down and chat with my friends at lunch (when I didn't have meetings) and being able to catch up with them. I will also miss coming home to my

family since I'm going away.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
People don't know I'm an "old soul" that loves old movies and music (40s and 50s).

FINAL WORDS

To my closest friends: I will miss seeing you every day, laughing with you all. Most of us are not going to the same places and I'm going to miss that. I'll hopefully hang with you all in the summer before we leave. Keep being supportive friends. I know what you are capable of and you are going to go far. I love you all. I can't wait to see what we'll do.

To my teachers and principals: Thank you for pushing us students to our true potential. We may not totally appreciate or recognize what you do for us now, but as we graduate and move on we will see how much it has affected us. I haven't been at Spencerville for very long but you all have made a positive impact on me and I'm going to miss you and all the opportunities you gave me to grow.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

COVID-19 affected me the most by making me feel uncertain if I'd have a graduation or even a fall semester for my freshman year of college. I like the idea of being home and being flexible sort of like "home-schooling."

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

During this distance learning I've learned that I love to work from home and spend time with my family. It's flexible and stress-relieving as well as an easier way to end senior year despite what it has wiped out.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be 27 years old. I will probably be living on my own, not in Maryland though. I'm undecided but maybe at that point I will be almost done or done with medical school, if I do choose to go into it. I may or may not be married yet. We'll see what God wants for me. I'm not sure but hopefully I will be healthy, not too stressed, enjoying my life and doing something successful that I love waking up in the morning to do. I would also love to travel the world in my 20s.

”

LARISSA KAE KRUEGER



Hard-working, dependable, and passionate are the three words Larissa chose to describe herself. She led a balanced high school career with a little bit of everything. She was co-captain of the junior varsity volleyball team her freshman year and continued to play volleyball for the remaining three years. She was in drama for two years, a member of the Happiness Club, vespers leader for two years, a peer mentor, and worked for a staff member. Her favorite memory happened on the Sophomore Study Tour trip. “We had gone down to Chicago for the day,” she writes, “to the Museum of Science and Industry. Several of us had decided to go into an exhibit called the Mirror Maze. Basically, the mirrors reflected in ways that made it appear that a person was one place but they were actually in a different place. We decided to take a photo with a few friends. As we were smiling, we heard a loud bang. Puzzled, we look to find Kate rubbing her nose and knee. To her, it had looked like we were right there, and she was just going to photobomb. We all had a good laugh and thankfully Kate was okay.” More memories will be made when she travels to Walla Walla University. Her major and future career are still being decided.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To become a chef at a five star Michelin restaurant

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My friends: Erica, Erin, Natasha, Kate, Jackie, and Lorena. I will also miss my classmates, and all of the experiences I have had with them.

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss the people the most. The many friendships and acquaintances I have made I will take with me beyond the school building. The teachers have always been willing to help, whether it is with school or personal life. I will miss working for Mr. Soper and hanging out and chatting in his office with friends. I will also miss helping to plan and attend Spencerville church youth vespers.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I won three coloring contests when I was around 8. I got \$40 worth of gift certificates to two toy stores and one to a grocery store.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Well, the biggest disappointment it brought was the cancellation of mission trip. Missing out on the end of senior year activities has been difficult but it has made me value my friendships and relationships with friends and family.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that I get distracted fairly easily and that I really miss talking and laughing with my friends.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

Hopefully I will be doing a job that I enjoy and love doing. I would love to be able to travel the world and try all different kinds of food. I also hope to have a dog (maybe two) and a bird that I can love and who knows, maybe I will even be married. We will see what God has in store for me.

”

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

7 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS

Art, Creative Writing, Bible, Math

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mr. Lutz
Mr. Soper
Mr. Cooksey
Ms. Dever

FINAL WORDS

I just want to say to all the teachers I appreciate their interest in us as well-rounded students. They not only care about our academics, but so much more beyond that. They are approachable and will guide you in whatever situation you may be facing. They want the best for you and they go out of their way to help you. Even with everything in their personal lives, they still want to reach out to students and help them.

MIRIAM ASEGEDECH LUKA



Miriam played bells her freshman year. The next year she added academy and honors choir. Her third year she continued choir, and added cheerleading and CAS. Rounding off her high school career, she was cheerleader captain, a member of CAS, and the co-founder of Senior Sister. Her favorite high school memory was the yearly TA and SAA soccer game. Miriam tells us she is ambitious, caring, and loving. She will need all of that and more as she heads to American University to major in Biology on a first step toward a medical degree.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
9 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Biology

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To become an entrepreneur

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My friends and teachers

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I enjoy cooking.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Going to Ms. G's office with my friends for lunch.

FINAL WORDS

To my besties who made my years at high school memorable (you know who you are). I miss you all. I miss talking to you guys and having human interaction! Thank you for making every day amazing!

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

COVID changed how I had hoped to end my senior year. I knew I would not have the cap and gown experience I had hoped to have my whole life. It also affected my hope into having a graduation party which is big for my family. It made me scared since my parents and aunt (who lives with us) are all healthcare workers, working with people with COVID-19. It taught to not take things for granted.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

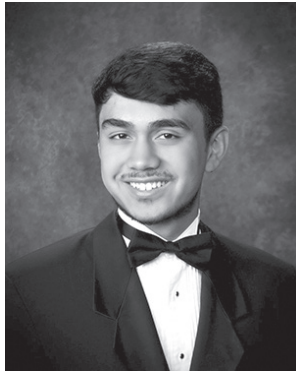
I learned to not take human interaction for granted! It's hard when you are all alone and just watching everyone from a screen without talking to your friends!

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be successful! I will be finishing up medical school, also having several other business endeavors such as an online shop or restaurant, etc.

”

MATTHEW KARIM NASHED



This four-year senior says he is ambitious, optimistic, and fearless. We could add athlete, musician, and smart. He sang in the honors choir and played violin in the orchestra all four years, three of which he served as first chair violin. This year he sang on a praise team. As for sports, Matthew played on the basketball team for all of his high school career. We know he is smart because he has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years. His favorite memory is having fun on Senior Night basketball with all his family and friends watching. Matthew won't be too far from us

next year as he is planning on attending the University of Maryland, College Park Campus to major in Microbiology. His final destination is to become a radiation oncologist. See? Smart.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Biology,
Chemistry,
A & P

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Serrano
Mrs. Hess

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To help and serve others

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

I will miss Mrs. Paul-O'Neil the most because of how she cares for all of her students. I have seen her come on basketball and choir trips and she cares a lot for her students' interests, which makes me feel cared for and special.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Attending basketball and choir trips. For example, the annual Texas basketball trip and the Honors Choir trip to Indianapolis.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I enjoy learning new things in science.

FINAL WORDS

I miss seeing everybody and I hope everyone is safe and taking safety precautions during this unusual time.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It affected me spiritually as I have spent more time studying the Bible and praying. It also affected me socially as I miss hanging out with my friends.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I am capable of doing homework.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be starting radiation oncology fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. I will be working hard to care for the sicknesses of others, especially cancer.

”

KELLY BEJARANO MENDOZA



We'll make this short, because Kelly has offered so much of herself in writing, it's just best to let her do it. As a part of the high school she played basketball, and was a member of the Happiness Club. Outside of school she also did competitive swimming, kickboxing, boxing, and karate. She's headed to Montgomery College where she will major either in Biochemistry or Biology. Eventually she would like to become a surgeon. She says she determined, curious, and goal-oriented, so we have no doubt she'll make it.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
7 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
A & P, AP Literature

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To be a writer (side job) and I want to publish books and write songs.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

The people who made life feel worth living: RK, Soli, Thea, Lindsey, Zoë, Lorena, Keyla, Jocey

WHAT I WILL MISS

Having a Christian influence around me

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

The biggest dream I had up until, maybe, freshman year, was to take something I did for fun, rock climbing, and become professional at it. I wanted to climb a ginormous boulder, something massive like The Nose of El Capitan, and watch the sunrise.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I recognized that I am so blessed. Sometimes we get caught up in our struggles and I realized I have the most important things; a brother that will always defend, protect, love me and make jokes until we cry of laughter (even after fights), a beautiful, strong, determined mother who always will do her best to keep us safe, healthy, and strong, and an inspiring dad who will always put aside his sleepiness to be with us and talk with us.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

No matter how introverted I am, how much me-time I love, and how much personal space I like, a hug from my hug-loving friends can definitely be missed.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will have my own cute, little apartment with a lot of natural light, plants everywhere (including vines), with white and navy blue walls. I'll have a room dedicated to music; I'll have guitars with many pedals, a piano, a nice microphone, and a nicely decorated wall to upload videos on social media for fun. I'll have an older model car because I want to save on other things. I will be a master at budgeting so that I can take vacations in places I always wanted to visit. I want to be almost done with my studies (agh!!!) and, at this point probably, know the people I will work with for the rest of my life. God will maybe be showing me who He'd like me to marry at this point. In my head, it will be an Adventist doctor from Spain who loves to travel and preach, but I'll let God choose for me.

”

FINAL WORDS

Soli: I will never forget you, so don't ever think I'm not a call away. Thank you for listening to my rants and, honestly, your advice is the absolute best. You always listen intently to what I say and I did not overlook it, so thank you.

RK: If I had to name one person who pushed me the most in general, it'd be you. You somehow managed to make me more confident and to finally play louder in bells. I'm still working on being loud and confident. I loved every moment with you, I always learned something new or laughed until we got into trouble (haha). Work hard, you are capable of doing so many great things.

Keyla, boofius: You and I have been through so much, but we came out as even stronger friends than initially. Don't stop trying to strengthen your relationship with God, He will always be there for you. I love you. Never forget how precious you are. You were one of the people it was easiest for me to talk to; it was effortless! We were only friends for half a year, but it felt like we grew up together! I'm gonna miss our friendship, but I know you're going to impact so many people throughout your life. Te amo <3

Thea: YOU ARE THE MOST INSPIRING LADY EVER. Your friendship has impacted me in ways I could never fully express on paper. You showed me, by example, what a strong, determined woman could be like. I know you had struggles, yet you made such a tremendous, positive impact everywhere you went. You are a huge role model to me.

Lindsey: I could never match your energyyyy, but I loved being with you. You are a cheerleader at heart and I love it!! Please, even when life brings you down, be a cheerleader for yourself. You deserve it for bringing so much happiness and joy to everyone around you.

Lorena: My love, you are so precioussss and talented!!! You sing like a princess, draw like a professional, and dance beautifully. You are one of the strongest people I know; no matter how hard life gets, you keep pushing. Don't ever lose that quality. Stop to feel sad, but never give up on yourself.

Zoë: Can I just say, you have to be one of the funniest people I've ever met? You filled my life with laughter and I love that. You are so sweet, too. There was not a moment I was with you and felt cast aside or excluded. Thank you for that. Don't stop pushing to get to where you want and also know, it's okay to not know where you want to be all the time.

Jocey: you were one of my favorite people to hang out with, one on one. In a friend group filled with extroverts, you were my relaxation. I loved your jokes and sarcastic humor, your bluntness, your intellect, and the stories we wrote on that app you showed me. I have to admit they never ended the way I thought they would. You had a knack for seeing things how they were and getting to the root of the problem almost immediately, and I have to say, as someone who overthinks a lot, I loved being with you because everything felt like it made more sense with you. You were so nice to me and were one of my favorite people to be with. I'm going to miss you so much. :(

REBECCA OLUWADEMILADE OLIYIDE



Rebecca started out slow, but ended up being super busy by her senior year. Her freshman year she played volleyball. By her second year she was in drama, on skit team, in broadcast journalism, and co-president of CAS. Junior year didn't find her slacking. She did drama and skit team again, was still co-president, and added cheer/spirit squad. By her senior year she was doing cheer squad as captain, drama, Senior Sisters mentor program, a peer mentor, and was CAS program director. Rebecca's favorite memories involve all the trips she went on throughout the years. Nursing is calling

her name and she will begin that journey at Bowie State University. She hopes to become a nurse practitioner. This is a career that should fit her optimistic, dependable, enthusiastic personality just fine.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS

Science

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mr. Lutz

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

I will miss Ms. Thompson and Ms. Gatica the most.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Special K Loaf

FINAL WORDS

Just wanted to say that I'm going to miss high school so much. Class of 2020 is the best class hands down. I apply what I've learned from my teachers in my daily life and I'm grateful to have been taught at Spencerville.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

COVID-19 affected me the most by not letting me get the traditional high school experience.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

That online classes isn't for me. That school helps me be more social.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will still be happy and blessed. I will be working somewhere where I'll have the opportunities to develop my skills in my career. Overall I will be living my best life as a grown independent black woman.

”



ALIYA KYLA PEMBERTON-LIGHTBOURNE



Aliya sang in the academy and honors choir for three years. She participated in drama for two years, was involved in feeding the homeless for two years, and worked as a film editor her junior year. But we think what is most unusual about her high school resumé is the traveling she has done. There was a mission trip her junior year. Then we have her favorite memories of traveling to Puerto Rico with the honors choir, traveling to Japan for a two-week internship at Temple University Japan, to Europe with the Chesapeake Conference, and finally to Peru with SAA and ADRA. That's pretty amazing for a high schooler. Aliya won't be traveling far for college though. She's going to attend Towson University right here in Maryland where she will major in International Business with a minor in Japanese. Aliya describes herself as anti-social, a loner, and unique. Perhaps this will serve her well in her future choice of career. She hopes to eventually become an international attaché or diplomat where one may need to be a bit detached and adaptable to reach the most people and do the best job.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
13 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
History, Choir,
Broadcast Journalism

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Kittleson
Mr. Martinez
Ms. Thompson
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Cooksey

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To reside in Tokyo, Japan

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
Ms. Thompson, Jacqui Whitsett, and Mrs. McEowen

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
I enjoy learning about various cultures, especially the Japanese culture.

WHAT I WILL MISS
Participating in the various mission trips

FINAL WORDS

Everyone be safe until we meet again.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?
Having to participate in online classes

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?
Online classes are not for me.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?
I will be living abroad working for either the United Nations or an embassy.

”

JOCELYN PATRICIA POLANCO



Jocelyn sang in the honors choir for three years. She joined CAS for two years and the Happiness Club for one. Softball got her attention for one year. There is no favorite memory that stands out, but lots of memories with her friends. Jocelyn says she is reserved, caring, and needs more sleep. Not sure that last one will happen next year when she heads to college at Howard Community College to major in chemistry. This will be the first step toward a career in forensic science.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
9 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Science

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
All of them are great

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
I want to learn how to yo-yo.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
All my friends

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
I have never broken a bone before.

WHAT I WILL MISS
The community at SAA

FINAL WORDS

Thank you for spending time with me and helping me become the person that I am today.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

I can't spend the rest of my senior year with people I've known for four years.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I still fall sleep at 10:00 p.m. despite my classes all being after 12.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be working at the FBI as a forensic scientist while developing my relationship with God.

”

RHYMIEL TOLENTINO PRUDENTE



This four-year senior says he is awkward, determined, and a hard-worker. He spent his time playing in the orchestra all four years, the last three as concert master. Rhymiel was part of the Spencerville Ringers and the choir for four years as well. Soccer was his choice of sport for two years. The remaining two years were spent on Acrosquad. His favorite memory was any high school trip he went on because he could travel with his friends and always have funny, awesome memories. Next year he will be attending Andrews University. He is still deciding his major, but he knows he'd like something in the medical field.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I would like to be a professional cheerleader or gymnast.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

To be honest, I really don't know who I would miss the most because I would just miss everyone. But if I really had to

choose it would be people in my praise teams, Acro team, and the bell ringers.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Definitely the close family kind of feeling that I always feel in the school, and how everyone is basically friendly and accepting of you. I will

also miss the amount of care that the teachers have for their students because that really was a great inspiration to me.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I don't like playing the violin because I like the piano better.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA

4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS

A & P, Senior Bible, Creative Writing, AP Calculus, AP Literature

TEACHERS I ENJOYED

Mr. Lutz
Mr. Hess
Mr. Wiedemann
Mrs. Jordache
Mrs. Lanning
Mr. Martinez

FINAL WORDS

To all my teachers, I really appreciate the time you took to help and encourage people like me to learn and grow in our relationship with Christ. To all the friends that I ever had, thanks for being there for me throughout all these high school years. Hopefully we can stay in touch after this as I will always treasure the memories that we had.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

To be honest it really was a big letdown because it was like not being able to see the ending of a good movie. All these things that I was hoping for in high school built up to this last year and ending it halfway through really made me dissatisfied. That was the one thing that really stuck with me because I worked so hard to have an awesome end of the year with all of the different performances and things but then it was all taken away.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

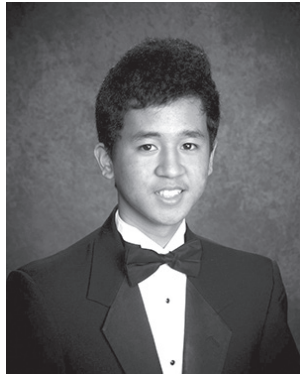
I really learned how much face-to-face talking/human interaction meant to me. Usually, I am a giant introvert and did not like being around people but with this distance learning I really missed that. I also learned that procrastination is ten times harder to overcome with distance learning with me just being at home.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I would want to be working in a job that I love doing and also travel the world to see my family in different countries. I would also like to still be fit and be part of an acro team or a gymnastics team.

”

IVAN RAE TANGONAN RADA



Ivan played bells for all four years. So it is natural that his favorite high school memory is hanging out with the bell choir at an amusement park after RingFest 2018. Ivan will attend Andrews University to major in computer science with his end goal of becoming a software developer. And, Ivan, we think Andrews University has a bell choir . . .

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
All Math, Physics

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Lanning
Mr. Wiedemann

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I'd like to be a world record holder.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Mrs. Lanning. I'll miss ending the school day with bells. She wasn't harsh or strict, but made practice fun.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Being in a small school and having a small campus.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I've never traveled outside the United States.

FINAL WORDS

To the students, realize that high school can be a good time. Make it be a fun experience before you graduate.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Having online school made me procrastinate more than usual. I became unmotivated for the first few weeks. But I did my work, or most of it. And I'm still trying to stay positive.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that just being at school physically was a big motivator. Staying at home seemed fun until it happened.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

Hopefully I will have found a job that's fun and nice paying, of course.

”

LORENA SOFIA FELICIANO RAMOS



Lorena showed up at SAA two years ago. Her first year she was a member of the Happiness Club. But this year she branched out considerably. She tried out for drama for the first time ever, and surprise! she landed the leading role of Annie in *Annie*. It is unfortunate that she didn't get the chance for a performance. It would have been good! She was secretary of the Happiness Club this year as well as the art director for CAS. Lorena's favorite memory was meeting all her friends. She is headed to Andrews University to major in Art. She will put her degree to good use as an art therapist.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
2 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
English, Art

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Hess

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
I'd like to be a dancer.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
My friends

WHAT I WILL MISS
My friends

FINAL WORDS

Thank you guys for being there for me and helping me grow.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Not seeing my friends, no class trip, no drama performances

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I'm very introverted and like learning by myself.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be hopefully working as an art therapist.

”

KEYLA NAHOMI REYES



Keyla tells us she is thoughtful, kind, and energetic. Keyla sang in the choir for two years, did Cheer team for two years, played volleyball for one, and was in drama for two years. This year you would have seen her as one of the “meaner” orphans in the drama production of Annie. Her favorite memory was during a women’s retreat. Keyla celebrated her birthday with her friends. “They showered me with love, hugs, and snickerdoodles they had made for me. At that moment, I realized how much God had blessed me with amazing friends that I’ve been praying for.” She will attend

Towson University in the Fall to major in Family and Child Development. This will lead her to a career as a Child Life Specialist.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
3 years

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Paul-O’Neil

FINAL WORDS

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

The one person I’ll miss the most is Mrs. Paul-O’Neil. When I see her or come by her office, she always welcomes me with open arms. Mrs. Paul-O’Neil is always there when you need her. She’s very dedicated to her job and each of her students/SAA family. She has been like a second mother to me.

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss after school activities and school trips like retreats, drama, and cheer.

Overall, I want to say thank you not only to Spencerville, but all of the staff and friends I’ve made along the way. Before coming to Spencerville, I felt lost and alone. Going to Spencerville gave me an opportunity to see Jesus through friends, teachers, and staff. I’ll forever be thankful for all of the love and kindness I’ve received during my three years at Spencerville.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

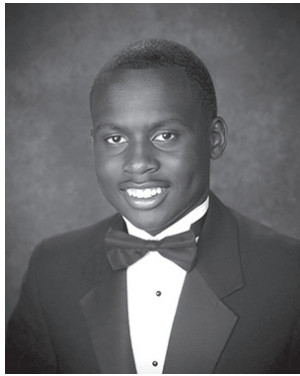
This gave me an opportunity to have a closer relationship with God that I’ve desired for a while. Although the virus was not expected, I think God’s timing was perfect. He used this time to prepare me in the future so I can become the woman He wants me to be.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be working at Children’ National Hospital in the Child Life department. I hope that God would bless me with a family of my own.

”

KWAME QUAMINA ROBERTS, JR.



Kwame played on the soccer team and was captain. His favorite memories involve all the school bus trips. Kwame tells us he is entertaining, annoying, and active. He's not sure what college he will attend, but he wants to major in film. His career is not yet set, but he has a lot of ideas of what he wants to be. We're guessing whatever it is, it will be entertaining.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT
History

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Cooksey
Mrs. Masotta
Mrs. McEowen
Mr. Tyman

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

I want to make millions.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Everyone

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I like to draw, and enjoy watching golf.

WHAT I WILL MISS

The environment and sports

FINAL WORDS

I miss all of you and I wish this year could've gone as planned and I hope in the future we're able to do the things we should have done.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It affected me socially and did not allow me to get closer to people I wanted to get closer to.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I have a sleep problem.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will have a job that can provide me with a steady income; plan to move up in the ranks, so I can eventually raise a family and live a stable life.

”

MATTHEW JOHN SOLIMAN



Matthew did a little of this and that during high school. He sang in the choir one year, dabbled in art, and played in the band one year, and last year did some personal fitness. Senior year he took it easy. His favorite memory comes from his sophomore year, specifically the first semester. “There were some good memories there,” he writes. “It was a fun few months for me.” Matthew says he’s funny, organized, and trustworthy, all great characteristics for college. Right now he doesn’t know which one that will be or what major either, but he’s thinking about architecture or maybe law.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
7 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Computer Science,
Bible, English, PE,
Personal Fitness

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Strack
Mr. Lutz
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

RK, Kelly, Ivan, Keyla,
and Matthew

WHAT I WILL MISS

I will miss the times me
and my friends always
messed around in class.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I have four brothers and
one sister-in-law

FINAL WORDS

Don't worry
about the
things you can't
control, but
focus on the
things you can.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

The quarantine prevented me from some of the activities I enjoyed the most, particularly going to the movies and going out to eat with friends.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

That learning in person is much easier for me

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be doing something that I enjoy that makes good money. I see myself in a small apartment or condo.

”

MARVENIS ELIM ST. LUC



Marvin played JV soccer his freshman year and served as captain. His favorite memory was going to Texas with the basketball team. He'll be attending Montgomery College where he will major in Cyber Security.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT
Bible

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Every teacher
I've been with

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To become
a millionaire

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Everyone

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I was born three months
early and weighed
2.1 pounds.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Playing sports
for the school

FINAL WORDS

I hope that everyone is staying safe and connecting with their families, and most importantly, connecting with God because of the times in which we are living.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Not being able to see my friends on a regular basis

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

That I can stay up all night

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

By God's grace I will have a successful business.

”

XAVIER NEO TAYLOR



Orchestra was where you would look for Xavier all three years. He spent two years singing with the choir, one year performing in a Bible drama, and played soccer for a year. His favorite high school memory involved the sophomore class study tour trip. He's headed to Andrews University to major in communications. Xavier's ultimate goal is to become a lawyer. We wish this creative, optimistic, hopeful senior well in his future.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
3 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
English, History,
Creative Writing

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Cooksey
Mr. Mathis
Mrs. Hess

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To become a famous author

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
I will miss my friends the most.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS
My favorite number is 24.

FINAL WORDS

I miss you guys and I hope we can all get together once more to have one last hurrah.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?
I feel like I was robbed of one of the most memorable times of my high school life. This was the time I was supposed to spend reminiscing on all of my accomplishments and memories from high school.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?
I learned that I can get very creative to develop something new.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?
I will be out of law school working on a case in my house in New York writing in my spare time.

”

GISELLE NAYELI VASQUEZ



Now days are what Giselle said were her favorite memories of high school. She's funny, caring, and independent. We also hope she is pleasantly surprised that she has a graduation that allows her to say, "I did it!" Good job for finishing well (and being able to walk across a "stage"). This four-year senior will head to Howard Community College first and then transfer to the University of Maryland. Giselle looks to major in nursing. This funny, caring, independent, and we will add successful *graduating* senior should do well.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
4 years

FAVORITE SUBJECT
Bible

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Soper
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

Even though she is not at the school anymore, I met her there, so the person I will miss the most is Mrs. McEowen.

WHAT I WILL MISS

The environment

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

COVID-19 affected my senior year in many ways. I am the first to graduate in my family since my siblings failed and my parents immigrated here, so it is sad that I won't get the chance to walk across a stage and think "I did it." It would just probably be over a computer screen now.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learned that it is okay to just be on your own. I would be around loads of people on my regular day, but now it's just rare and sad.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be the most successful I can be for my family and provide for them as they have for me. I will be living life, hopefully with no more COVID-19. I will be doing what I have been dreaming of since I was 10 for myself and my parents.

”

FINAL WORDS

I miss you, our talks, our lunches. Your room was a safe environment for me as well as all my friends to come in and you would help with our life and school.

Ms. G., I miss you and our talks.

THEA GRACE WANGSNESS



Busy high school days were part of Thea's life. Her freshman year she was in drama, volleyball, Bible leadership, and a Praise team. The next year found her again in drama, playing volleyball, on a Praise team, doing Ted Talks, participating in Mock Trial Rhetoric, a member of CAS, and a speaker during Week of Worship. Thea's junior year brought drama (playing Elsa Schraeder in *The Sound of Music*), founder and president of the Happiness Club, art director for CAS, a peer mentor (as well as founder of the Peer Mentorship Program), on yearbook, and a member of the ASL

Club. She rounded off her high school career with drama (where you would have seen her as the sophisticated and refined Grace in *Annie*), president of Happiness Club, a peer mentor, and a member of CAS. Thea's favorite high school memory was the first Happiness Club chapel. "It was really great to see my vision and hard work realized," she writes. "I'm really proud of what the club has grown into and I'm excited to see how it continues to prosper." Look for her next Fall in chilly Minnesota where she will attend the University of Minnesota majoring in Global Studies and Sociology. She hopes to be a foreign service officer/diplomat leading eventually toward a United Nations delegate on the Human Rights Council.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
6 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Creative Writing

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Cooksey
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

Learn all the languages I can, and have pet goats in a small house on the top of a Peruvian mountain.

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

I will miss mis amigos.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Happiness Club and all the wonderful people in it

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I started a recycling and book club with my best friend in third grade. We were the only two members and made pizza boxes into dart boards.

FINAL WORDS

I'm grateful for every person I've encountered and every experience I've had, good or bad, because it's shaped me into who I am now. So thank you for being a part of my life. And now, class of 2020, onward!

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

My family and I went down to Florida earlier than we expected because of online school. So without the virus that wouldn't have happened.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I learn best in classroom settings and dislike busywork, so without the in-school aspect or consistent lectures, it's difficult for me to focus and complete the plentiful assignments.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

Hopefully I will be a foreign service officer, deployed anywhere in the world. I'm hoping to focus on the Middle East region because I feel diplomatic work there would be heavily impactful. Because of my prospective languages, I could be stationed across Europe, South or Central America, some parts of Africa, or the Middle East. I will probably be taking courses online for my master's degree.

”



NATASHA ANYA WEBER



Natasha is one of six “Lifers” in this class and tied for second place in spending the longest years at SAA. During her high school years she played varsity basketball all four years, this past year as co-captain. She also played softball for four years, again this past year as co-captain (had season been allowed to be played). Also a flute player, she was in orchestra for one year. Her favorite high school memories involve all the school and sports trips, especially the SWAU basketball tournament. Natasha says she is hardworking, athletic, and kind. Each of those will be especially handy when attending Andrews University in the Fall where she will major in Pre-Physical Therapy eventually working as a Physical Therapist.

JUST THE FACTS

- YEARS AT SAA**
14 years
- FAVORITE SUBJECTS**
A & P, Biology
- TEACHERS I ENJOYED**
Mr. Lutz
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Wiedemann

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
All my teammates from the sports teams that I’ve been a part of, and the coaches

WHAT I WILL MISS
Playing team sports and all of my friends that won’t be going to the same college as me.

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS
I was born in California.

FINAL WORDS

Appreciate and make the most of the time and memories that you made with your friends because you never know when your life is going to get flipped. Quality over quantity is very important when creating friendships.

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?
It didn’t give me the opportunity to make final memories with my friends and classmates. I wasn’t able to go on my last mission trip or play my final softball season. Our class trip and many other senior “traditions” have been taken away from us seniors. Not being able to see and spend time with my friends has been very hard.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?
I don’t like it at all, and my sleep schedule is non-existent with classes starting at 12:00 p.m. for me. It has taught me to be more disciplined and how to prioritize what is more important.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?
Traveling if COVID-19 has been cured, graduated with my DPT, working, and possibly married?

”

JACQUELINE LEANNE-MARIE WHITSETT



Jacqui was in drama for two years, and sang in honors choir for two years. She also went on a mission trip in her junior year. Her favorite memory was “the spring picnic at the end of the year when we get to dress casually, play games, hang out with friends and laugh. We also sign yearbooks and have that one final memory with them before summer.” This self-described cheerful, caring, and smiley senior will attend Southern Adventist University to major in social work. She would like to work with foster children or an adoption agency.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
9 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Choir

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Martinez
Mrs. Serrano

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION
To see the world

PEOPLE I WILL MISS
I’ll miss my friends and the memories I have made at SAA.

YOU DON’T KNOW THIS
I love photographing landscapes.

WHAT I WILL MISS
Banquets and mission trips

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It made me sad since we missed out on a lot of really fun things you get to do before graduation.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I have to be self-motivated and make sure I’m getting all my work done on time.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

Working in my career, traveling, married, and possibly children.

”

FINAL WORDS

Thank you for all the support through the years of attending SAA. Thank you for helping along the way and preparing me for college.

RONALD KEVIN WILLIAMS



Known as RK, this four-year senior is sociable, observant, and passionate. He's also musical as he played in orchestra and the bell group for four years, and the band for two years. During his junior year he also joined CAS. RK's favorite memory was at the beginning of English class when he made Chris laugh while drinking and he ended up spitting water all over Russell. His plans involve attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where he will major in computer science eventually leading to becoming a software developer.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
9 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Calculus

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mr. Lutz
Mr. Soper
Mrs. Jordache

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

To reach master rank in chess

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

All my friends

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I'm very interested in cooking.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Music classes and lessons in person

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

Getting used to distance learning was hard for me and I missed seeing my friends at school.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

That I benefit a lot from the positive influence of my peers and teachers

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I want to achieve master rank in chess and be working as a senior software developer.

”

FINAL WORDS

Thank you teachers and staff for reaching out to us when we needed help and making distance-learning engaging for us.

JESS-LINTON DARIEN WILSON



Jess was a part of the Student Association at Atholton Adventist Academy, his previous school. He also played basketball and was a part of NHS. When he came to SAA he played soccer, joined CAS (this last year as treasurer), played in the band, and was also part of the NHS. His favorite memory was the band trip to Disney World and college visits to Oakwood and Southern. However, those two trips didn't convince him to leave Maryland. He will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park campus majoring in Kinesiology. He'd like to become an orthopedist.

JUST THE FACTS

YEARS AT SAA
2 years

FAVORITE SUBJECTS
Band, A & P,
AP Calculus

TEACHERS I ENJOYED
Mrs. Froelich
Mrs. Jordache
Mr. Tyman
Mrs. McEowen
Mr. Wiedemann

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRET AMBITION

If I told, it wouldn't be a secret now, would it?

PEOPLE I WILL MISS

My real ones

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS

I've always loved cars.

WHAT I WILL MISS

Sixth period study hall
and laughing with my
friends

“

How did COVID-19 affect you the most?

It made college stuff more difficult. My eyes got tired from looking at screens all the time.

What did you learn about yourself while doing distance learning?

I like all-nighters better when I'm not doing a project, typing an essay, or studying for an exam.

Describe yourself in 10 years. What will you be doing? Where will you be?

I will be on a beach with the love of my life relaxing and making up for the lost Spring break of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

”

FINAL WORDS

Thank you,
Coach Tyman,
for letting
me use your
microwave
for my lunch.
You're the MVP.
Listen, we all
know you will
miss me.