

## 2011 Latin Open House Speech

My name is Elizabeth Ernst, I graduated in the class of 2010 and I am currently a freshman at UC's College-Conservatory of Music, majoring in ballet. I know, you were probably expecting an engineer or something, but everyone will value from a Latin School Education no matter what you choose to do after high school. I was accepted to every college that I applied for and offered scholarships to most of them. And almost all of the class that I graduated with would be able to say the same thing, and our interests are all completely different.

Latin School prepared me for college in so many ways. First of all you learn how to manage your time. There is nothing like having a couple of papers, midterms, and on top of all that having it be tech week for a ballet performance. I would find myself with an hour break in between dancing and my classes and notice that I have a paper to write, a test to study for, I should probably get something to eat, and a nap would be lovely. Latin School teaches you how to achieve all four of those things in that hour. I never had to skip a class or ask for an extension on a paper that week. It's because I always had something to do while I was here. I was never bored. Some would believe that all that homework was a bad thing, but watching some of my friends from other school struggle in that change from high school to college, and not having to go through that myself, makes it all better.

Latin school also teaches you how to be a good student. There were many classes where I had to take notes without any kind of power point or notes on the board. This is something that is pretty common in my classes now, and I have learned how to get the important stuff down without missing a thing. I also learned how to study while I was here. Coming from a school where test preparation was glancing over the material once, I did not know how to study when I got here. But I learned really quickly!

This school also offers a really fantastic set of classes to take. After five years of math here, I was able to test out of all the math requirements that I needed this year. After four years of a foreign language, I was able to test out of my foreign language requirements because of the awesome language teachers here. But the thing that helped me the most was four years of public speaking. I am not afraid to get up and talk in front of a crowd of people that I don't know anymore. I am a very naturally shy person, and that really helped me come out of my shell and not be so afraid of talking in front of other people.

Transition into college is another point I would like to bring up. I graduated when I was sixteen years old, but no one ever would have guessed that when I got to UC. I was treated like an adult from the moment I walked in the door as a prep to the moment I walked out as a senior. We were never treated like we were younger than other high school students, and it was easy to forget myself that I am younger than the people I go to school with now. As long as you don't make it a problem, I have found that it never is a problem.

But the thing that sets Latin School above the bar is the amazing faculty and staff. I have never seen a group of teachers who are more passionate about teaching than the one here. There is no place else on this planet that you are going to find a Mr. Whitehead, a Dr. Carroll, a Mr. Lane, a Mr. Goldfuss or a Mr. Barczak. The seemingly infinite amounts of knowledge that come from these people never ceases to astonish me. I don't know of any other biology class that reads a book, and then discusses it over tea and scones, or how you could be having a very intellectual conversation with one of them and then it turns into a light chat about the movies. And then another will teach you how to write a perfect paper, or give you the best lesson in history ever. And how could I forget Mr. Haegele who never fails to put a smile on your face every time you see him. I mean I don't know how you couldn't smile at the man wearing a bright pink suit, but that's just me. And then there are the cafeteria ladies who are always so happy, and Mrs. Vater will know the names of all the new students within the first week of school. These people all really care about the students and want them to succeed; it's not just a job for them.

When I was a junior I had a scoliosis repair surgery and I missed about two months of school. All of the teachers worked with me tirelessly to make sure that I wasn't going to fail the classes or repeat the year because of something I couldn't control. They would help me during their lunch breaks and their free periods or they would even let me crash on their couch when I was feeling a little weak. A few of the teachers have even come to some of my ballet performances. I can't thank them enough for what they have done for me.

Latin School was probably one of the best choices that was ever made for me. I would be an entirely different person had I gone elsewhere and that scares me a little bit. It has given me every opportunity I can ask for whether it be going to a leadership conference, or choreographing for the school play. Every day I find a new way that it helped me prepare for college and I'm sure I will keep finding new ways. Come to this school, learn everything that you possibly can, and then become one of the leaders that we are famous for. Come. Learn. Lead.