

Good afternoon. My name is Meg Stone and I am a 2007 graduate of Covington Latin School. I have been asked to speak with you today about how CLS prepares its graduates for college. I was thrilled when asked to speak to you today about this topic because I'm such an advocate of the Latin School education. I'll begin by telling you a little about me. I am a 19 year old senior, by credit hours, and in my third year at Murray State University. I am working toward completion of a double major in Psychology and Sociology. After next year, I hope to begin graduate school and plan to pursue a Doctorate in Psychology.

My parents often tell me that when they share my academic progress with friends, many seem overwhelmed that this can be achieved at such a young age. The reason for this achievement is simple, the preparation provided by Covington Latin School.

First I'd like to share with you my thoughts on the academic preparation CLS provides. I came to Latin school as a prep in 2002. From the moment I walked through the front doors, there was an immediate sense of excitement coupled with a small amount of fear of the unknown. At that time, I would have been described as a better than average student, but don't recall the phrase "academically gifted" ever being associated with my abilities. Initially, I, like many that walk the halls today, had some anxiety when considering if I had what it takes to be successful among students that are considered "the best of the best". Once I began interacting with my classmates and teachers, I quickly began to thrive due to the positive academic competition among students. I found that by surrounding myself with like-minded individuals, in an environment that not only challenges, but anticipates success, I was continually encouraged to reach my full potential, and I did.

Aside from being a part of an environment where your peers constantly challenge you to excel, CLS has an extraordinary support team of faculty members that is like no other. As you have the opportunity to meet faculty members during this open house, I encourage you to note the passion and genuine caring displayed by each teacher. Because the student to teacher ratio at CLS is small, I was able to develop a close relationship with each one of my teachers. They guided me, motivated me, and at times saw things in me that I didn't see in myself. They instill pride and a commitment to excellence in every student. Ultimately, the faculty at CLS takes the business of creating tomorrow's leaders very seriously.

In terms of curriculum, the educational foundation received at CLS easily prepared me for college. As you may have heard, the school places a heavy emphasis on writing, and it has really paid off for me during my college years. Since coming to college, I have many friends that are amazed with my ability to construct lengthy papers in lightening speed; regularly receiving high scores and comments from my professors commending the structure and quality of the work. Writing becomes second nature to CLS students and, in my opinion, is really the most fundamental tool needed to be successful in college. From an overall academic standpoint, I was immediately able to test out of many freshman classes due to the knowledge base gained at CLS. I was well prepared and found the freshman workload no more challenging than my senior research paper here at Latin School.

I would also like to quickly touch on your suspicions of why taking the Latin language would be important in today's world. Though you are hard pressed to find any place in the world that speaks Latin, its derivatives can be found in several languages, including English. As I am currently studying to take the GRE next month, a standardized test required for graduate school, I cannot express to you enough how helpful Latin has becoming during this studying process. There are words on the GRE practice tests that I have never seen in my life, but sometimes I recognize a Latin derivative in the word, and because I know what the Latin word means, I am able to make an educated guess as to what that English word means. This is just another advantage that CLS graduates have over other college students.

Second, I would like to share with you my thoughts on the social transition from CLS to college. A common misconception about CLS students is they are all work and no play. This couldn't be

further from the truth. During my time at CLS I ran track, cross country, and was a cheerleader. I was also editor of the newspaper, was in various clubs, was a member of student council for 4 years, and found time to volunteer at the Covington Ladies Home and the Salvation Army after school. These were all extraordinary experiences; and not opportunities that I may have been afforded at other schools. While our sports teams may not win state championships, we are like-minded students that enjoy being together. I assure you that participating on a team that plays with heart and gives it their all builds character, comradery, and friendships that are unlike any other. As I went through the college application process, I was able to demonstrate that I was a well rounded student that participated in various activities. This, in conjunction with my academic scores, afforded me to be accepted at nine of the ten colleges where I applied; the majority offering generous scholarships. Because CLS offered me the opportunity to demonstrate myself as a well-rounded student, I have been afforded the opportunity to earn my 4 year undergraduate degrees nearly cost-free, based on scholarships.

Also from a social adaptation standpoint, you may be wondering how the CLS graduates, younger than the traditional high school graduate, transition socially to the college campus. Today, I am likely the youngest senior on the campus of Murray State. I live 5 ½ hours from home and have learned to become a self reliant individual. Academically, I have been honored as a member of the Dean's List every semester since joining the MSU community. I am a member of PsiChi Honors Society, a departmental research assistant, play intramural sports, am Vice President of my sorority, work at the Battered Women's Center on campus, and volunteer weekly for Big Brothers Big Sisters. My story is not unique. Scattered across the country, my graduating class has not only successfully made the transition to college life, but many are leaders on their campuses. This success is rooted in one common foundation: the discipline, motivation, and belief system that is instilled in each member of the Covington Latin School community.

In closing, I would like to share that the CLS experience does not end at graduation. My classmates and I regularly visit the school and catch up with the faculty when in town. Through my CLS experience, I have made lifelong friendships and gained a sense of belonging to a community that is comprised of extraordinary and unique people. Though life may take me down many roads in the future, my home will always be at Covington Latin School.