

## **Lilia Cardosi**

St. Jude School, Class of 2016

The Philadelphia High School for Creative & Performing Arts -

Valedictorian, Class of 2020

***What role do you think St. Jude School played in your life? Preparing you for high school and beyond?*** My time at St. Jude School has not only allowed me to learn and improve academically, but morally as well. I ventured into high school reminding myself of the same values that St. Jude implemented into my own life, the principles of unconditional kindness, care, support, and respect. As I now progress to a new chapter, I will continue to uphold and share these ideals within everything that I do.

***What is your favorite memory of St. Jude School? Why?*** Though there have been many exciting events, memories, and friendships established throughout my time at St. Jude, one of my favorite moments was the day that I shadowed the school. I didn't attend St. Jude School until 5th grade, so I decided to visit for a day the year prior. From the moment I entered the building, I immediately felt welcomed by the staff and students, who were eager to be a part of this creative learning environment. My short experience, partnered with my newfound sense of belonging, were major factors in my decision to attend St. Jude School. I classify this memory as my favorite because it showcases St. Jude's loving environment, and marked the beginning of my time with this community.

***What role does your Catholic faith play in your life?*** My Catholic faith has served as a guide throughout my life, aiding my decisions, my judgement, and my respect towards others. The values that my Catholic faith has taught me remains essential to my everyday routine, even without daily theology classes.

***What are some of the challenges you face as a young adult?*** As a young adult, I now face the challenge of entering a new chapter in my life. I find myself questioning if I am on the right path for my chosen career. The task of beginning college while navigating the world on my own is frightening, but it is a necessary aspect of growing up.

***What would people be surprised to learn about you?*** Besides my intense love of dance, I have also developed a love for writing throughout my high school experience.

***Anything else you would like to share?*** I am honored to be a part of such a special class!!