

Band and Beyond...

By Morgon Armock, Olivia Goode, and Margaret Needham



Sydney Woodman attends Saint Mary's College. She is studying communicative sciences and disorders with a minor in psychology. This means she will go on to graduate as a speech-language pathologist. She hopes to work at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital someday. Coming home to find a job sounds important to Sydney, and part of her love of Grand Rapids comes from memories of her time right here at All Saints Academy.

She learned things from ASA that are still very important to her today. When All Saints Academy began, Sydney was in 6th grade. She was brought together with new classmates coming from four different schools. She believes ASA helped teach her who she could really be, and that started with how to treat others. She remembers thinking it didn't matter if she didn't know what she wanted to be when she grew up,

but it was never too early to be as kind as she could to everyone she met. Having always attended a Catholic school from preschool until college, she couldn't have asked for better. Having religion integrated into every class really had a huge effect on her. Even now, she lives on the same floor as her school's dorm chapel. She attends church every Sunday. It is and will always be very important to Sydney.

When Sydney was in band at ASA, the director was Mr. Doe. She remembers band being one of the best parts of the day. Mr. Doe was a band director who let her play awesome music which she really loved. She almost didn't continue band into high school at West Catholic. She did, though, and now she plays in the University of Notre Dame band through a co-exchange program with Saint Mary's College. She was and still is very happy she continued on with band. Sydney's favorite part about Notre Dame is the people. Some of her closest friends are in the band. Another great opportunity that comes with being in the band is going to amazing places. In just three years at Notre Dame, she has visited Pittsburgh, Boston, Phoenix, San Antonio, East Lansing, Chicago, and Orlando. She has performed with the Boston Pops Orchestra in front of the famous composer John Williams. She has also played at Fenway Park, in front of the Alamo, marched through the Magic Kingdom in Disney World, and football games all over

the country. She cannot express how blessed she is to have been part of this beginning band at ASA.

Now, she is a student ambassador and she plays in many bands at Notre Dame including the marching band, the concert band, and the hockey band. She also serves as a service commissioner for the band. She has helped plan a fall-break service trip to Detroit and Flint for 54 band members, as well as other small service projects around Notre Dame. Aside from that, her student ambassador job has kept her busy guiding tours of the school for prospective students. She loves showing off what she loves about both schools, St. Mary's and Notre Dame, so this is a wonderful opportunity to do both.

Sydney has some advice for current ASA students, sharing some very wise perspective. "Make sure to look back at your time there fondly. Life will move on, you will grow up, but always remember where you came from. Keep relationships up with friends, keep mementos of your time, keep talking to your teachers. There will be times when you'll be nostalgic and want to reflect on your memories in elementary and middle school. Let yourself remember the really good times, the funny times, even the difficult times. Because it's over before you know it."