



CLASS of 2017 VALEDICTORIANS

KAITY RADDE - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The handful of students in the class of 2017 who managed to maintain a 4.0 throughout high school are a diligent, heavily involved group that have spent four years working hard here at Adams. In the wake of rigorous classes and exams, the exhausting days rewarding ones, these five students have achieved or neared academic perfection. They, like the entire graduating class, are ever-nearing their future as doctors, lawyers, politicians, engineers, and the countless other possibilities the future may hold for them. *The Tower* would like to recognize and congratulate the four valedictorians of this year's graduating class as they step out into the world alongside their peers.



Elijah Grammer

Elijah will attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall, and he plans to major in humanities or social sciences. He mentioned going to nationals for mock trial and state for marching band, Big Band Bash, and beating Penn in Quiz Bowl as

favorite memories, but he also listed several "little things" he would always remember about Adams. Those included Mr. Bart making pancakes, Zach Thomas's puns, Anne Raymer, Mr. Weaver's "quote tote," Robert Howard's hair, and the way Dr. Mika says "his," to list a few. During his high school career, he and his team won a Mock Trial

State Championship, and academically, he was a National Merit Finalist and completed the full IB curriculum. Aside from things mentioned before, he participated in National Honor Society, was clarinet section leader for marching band, and was a member of the jazz and pep bands.



Robert Howard

Robert will matriculate to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut this fall with plans to major in mathematics. Placing a finger on one favorite memory was difficult for him, but he said the most special was winning the final round of

mock trial state with his team this year. It had "always been a dream" for his team, and the team they were up against to win and go to nationals was a close match, so winning was an unforgettable "combination of surprise, elation, and relief." Robert was a National Merit Finalist and an Indiana Academic All-Star, and he also received two research grants from the Indiana Academy of Science and was the tenth place Outstanding Witness for Mock Trial Nationals. Other groups he participated in are Science Olympiad, which placed sixth in the state, band, and National Honor Society.



Alyssa Ignaco

This fall, Alyssa will

attend Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and major in biomedical engineering. She called this year's entire Science Olympiad season her favorite memory, as the team performed throughout the season. "I was really happy to be part of such an amazing and hardworking team for my last year of Science Olympiad," she explained. She offered advice for next year's seniors: stay motivated, even if you feel like giving up. "Just try to stay focused and manage your time wisely." Alyssa was also a National Merit Finalist, participated in John Adams' Volunteer Association (JAVA), and was a member of National Honor Society.



Jack Lloyd

Jack will attend Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina this fall as a Carswell Scholar. He plans to double major in biology and French. As a four-year member of the cross country team and a captain senior year, he called

the yearly camping trip his favorite Adams memory. He received a research grant from the Indiana Academy of Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, won the Stockholm Water Prize, and served as the National Honor Society Co-Vice President and Student Government Treasurer. After three years of mock trial, his team placed fifth in the state, and he won the best attorney and witness awards. He also participated in the Indiana Honors Program in Foreign Languages and received their Award of Excellence.

THE JOHN ADAMS

TOWER

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The Tower is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Letters to the Editor must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Letters to the Editor must be sent to slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us, or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyck-
enham Dr.

Editorials are written by the Editorial Board of *The Tower* (comprised of Mariah Rush, Kaity Radde, and Alice Goulding) and are designated as such.

The Tower thanks the *South Bend Tribune* for printing services.

We at *The Tower* also request that readers consider donating to help pay for the printing & production of our newspaper. Your donations will help the growth of a voice for the local community; your help and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Letters from the Senior Editors, Mariah Rush and Alice Goulding

Mariah Rush

Former Editor-in-Chief

In all honesty, it seemed as if this year would never end. The late nights with my history books, the endless rewriting of college essays - a countdown to graduation started as soon as I walked in the JA doors the first day of school this year. But, here I am, somehow feeling uncertain about leaving. One of the reasons for this feeling can be found in Ms. Lewis' newspaper class - for one year now I have had the immense privilege of being Editor-in-Chief of *The Tower*. Every day the class is filled with either intense Sporcle games, or equally intense "Hamilton" duets with fellow editor Alice Goulding and now Editor-in-Chief Kaity Radde. This year, the paper had a record number of nine girls and three males in the class, making every day a pretty female dominated event, and probably not the greatest time for those boys. But, with the presidential election occurring this year, we all undertook spirited discussions about what was happening, and put that energy into our writing as well.

In addition to the Sporcle playing fun, this year *The Tower* raised more money than previous years through our now annual Tower Rock, and an amazingly successful fundraiser at Chipotle, allowing us to actually have the ability to print our issues. With the help of new staff reporters this year, we received much needed help with writing articles and planning our events. Although *The Tower's* staff was smaller in number this year, I would not have had it any other way. With many of my close friends nearby to talk to about the insane political happenings, class was a much needed escape every day. This year I was able to write a senior spotlight on my best friend, cover the election, television shows, and help innovate the paper itself.

This year we have also broken new ground with partnerships with the *South Bend Tribune* that will happen in the future. I am completely convinced that Kaity, as the new Editor-in-Chief,

will take the paper to amazing new places above and beyond what we have done this year.

But, what is a newspaper class without its magnificent teacher? In her second year gracing us with her presence, Ms. Lewis has helped *The Tower* grow and expand beyond anything it had ever done before. She has given us all the support we needed and allowed us to shape the paper as we liked, and always gently told us when our ideas may have gone too far. She makes this class seem like a fun club, instead of a place I have to go to in fear of doing credit recovery.

Joining newspaper my sophomore year was at first a choice I felt like I had to make in order to become a writer and get into the college I wanted. But junior year it became something I needed in my life, and tried to convince my best friends to do as well - which was successful in three people's cases (shoutout Alice Goulding and Taylor Waldron, and for a time, Niki Hakimzadeh). For any students that are curious about newspaper and love Starbucks, anything to do with current events, and can successfully string a sentence together, you should doubtlessly join *The Tower*. I don't want to end this too cheesily, but joining *The Tower* was one of the best decisions I made during high school.

Alice Goulding

Former Managing Editor

I joined Newspaper fall of my junior year. My first two years of high school were perfectly fine, but underwhelming; I didn't feel like I'd really found my niche. Joining *The Tower* has proven to be one of the most fruitful and rewarding experiences during my time at Adams. It perfectly combined my love for discussing current events, reading *The New York Times* (and *Buzzfeed*, on occasion), hanging out with friends, and, of course, writing.

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Alice Goulding's Letter from the Editor, continued

With every interview of Adams students who felt disenfranchised by the administration's disciplinary policies, every endorsement of local political candidates, every op-ed on the state of reproductive rights in Indiana, I found more of a love for journalism. I now hope to become a journalist one day, and I never would have considered the career path were it not for *The Tower*.

This year certainly wasn't a slow one for news; the presidential election seemed to dominate every other conversation I had this year, and newspaper class was no exception. This year, I wrote articles analyzing pressing campaign issues, as well as op-eds chronicling the double standards that Clinton faced. Together with my two fellow editors, we wrote a two-page endorsement of Clinton; in the days following the election, we compiled and edited stories that broke-down what only can be described as the most unprecedented political event in American history. I wouldn't have wanted to witness all of the madness that has ensued in Washington since January with anyone but my newspaper family.

I also need to mention my two fellow editors: Mariah Rush and Kaity Radde. Without the two of them, I probably would have capitulated to the stress of senior year brought on by college apps and the Trump administration. But they helped keep my spirits up, whether it was engaging in political debates while editing stories, making Starbucks runs while picking up the paper, or taking countless "Hamilton" and "Harry Potter" quizzes during the lull between issues. Working alongside these two bright and charismatic women was one of the greatest aspects of senior year.

After mentioning my dream of becoming a journalist to some adults, I was told that I was throwing myself into a dying industry. I can tell you two things for sure – one, given the state of politics today, journalism is a vital part of our society if we have any desire of maintaining the integrity of our democracy, and two, the drive and passion I see every day in Kaity and Mariah (and all the other members of *The Tower*) in no way reflects the attitudes of people working together on something losing its relevance. Journalism is here to stay, and I'm confident that the two of them will make an indelible mark on the industry.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you a million times over to our advisor, Ms. Lewis. Her guidance and advice was always helpful, but her sense of humor and fashion – I want her shoes – is what I'll remember most about her. Reading aloud news headlines to each other about Sean Spicer, live-streaming the inauguration, and discussing the daily happenings at Adams always was one of the highlights of my day.

Thank you to everyone who read the paper this year. A lot of time and energy goes into each issue, and we appreciate everyone who has supported us this year, both financially and morally. If anyone is even vaguely interested in joining *The Tower*, I say do it! You'll become a more effective writer and a more culturally and politically aware person, but you'll also meet some of your closest friends and come away with memories to last a lifetime.

ADVICE FROM TEACHERS

CASEY CARROLL - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Although the end of the year is always exciting, outgoing seniors tend to be nervous about moving on. To help with the pressures of adulthood, some members of the John Adams staff have thought of advice that has been useful to them and that will hopefully help you succeed. The following will hopefully stay with you and help you throughout your lives:

Mrs. Johnson:

"Celebrate, Celebrate, Celebrate! While reaching toward one's goals and aspirations, remember to savor what happens along this road to success. Every event becomes a reunion . . . an interesting observation is that with each event you attend, you will not never have the exact same people in the room, again. Congratulations!"

Mr. Kern:

"Do not act poorly in public because once you gain a bad reputation it is hard to ever change it.

Do not hope for help from someone else. Work to gain what you want.

Be cool to everyone (even if they do not deserve it)."

Mr. Ruml:

"Find out what you want to do and do it. Wake up and love what you do."

Ms. Troxel:

"After high school, this advice I took,
Never leap before you look.
Enjoy the summer and the sun,
Before real life sucks out the fun.
Travel, go places, but then come home,
Family's forever - don't always roam.
Keep your integrity, come what may,
But above all else, seize the day!"

Mrs. Fisher:

"Remember that no matter how successful you become, always seek to treat the people around you with respect and decency, whether it's your professor, the lunch lady in the dining commons at college, the guy emptying the recycling at your office, or the person taking your order at the restaurant. People will remember you for how you made people feel, not by the position you held, the award you won, or the money you made."

Mrs. Hernandez:

"Remember to take time for yourself, but not too much time, and every class you skip is money out of your pocket. Join a club or organization (not necessarily a frat or sorority) that peaks your interest and follow your passions. Be prepared to fail and try again."

Mr. Tubbs:

"The only one that cares how smart you are is your family. What the rest of us care about is what you do with it."

Ms. E. Zablocki:

"Early is ON time
On time is late
Late is unacceptable"

Mrs. Freel:

"Let yourself be silently drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. It will not lead you astray." -Rumi

Ms. Stevens:

"Stick with it, be you and be careful not to get caught up in the 'popular.'"

Mr. Seitz:

"You cannot always control what happens to you, but you can always control how you react to what happens to you."

SENIOR SURVEY

Congratulations to all Adams seniors!

A
Summer Abu Sheikh
IU South Bend
Mrs. Jeffers/Mrs.
Raymer

Erica Adams
Clark Atlanta University
Ms. Guthrie/Ms. Farrow

Luis Aguilar Pacheco
Ivy Tech
Ms. Beatty/Ms. Muniz

Nour Alshurafa
IU South Bend
Ms. Costello/Mr. Grosz

Elizabeth Alters
IU Bloomington
Mr. Ebright/Ms. Lee

Luis Alvarez
IU Bloomington
Ms. Costello/Mr.
Ebright

Mark Anella
Occidental College
Mr. Seitz/Tim the
Engineer

Yaneli Antillon
Ivy Tech
Mr. Alvarez/Ms. Miller

Yuliana Arevalo
Ms. Beatty/Ms. Miller

Yanisel Arroyo Vargas
Ivy Tech
Ms. Costello/Ms. Miller

B
Kajimere Baker
IU Bloomington

Emmarie Ballard
Purdue University
Ms. Raymer/Ms. Za-
blocki (Science)

Theodore Banik
DigiPen Institute of
Technology

Dylan Banke
IU South Bend
Ms. Costello/Mr. Hard-
man

Cleo Barnes
IU Bloomington
Mr. Clark/Mr. Marquez

Chelse Barney
Ivy Tech
Ms. Costello/Mr. Tubbs

Josh Bendy
Rose-Hulman Institute
of Technology
Mr. Cline

Ta'Litha Benman

Ms. Kreis/Ms. Kubacki
Lily Bennett
Ivy Tech
Mr. Burkhardt/Mr. Hard-
man

Gabriela Bevacqua-
Collins
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Mr. Elrod/Ms. Worsham

Ivan Blount
Front Range Commu-
nity College
Mr. Hall/Mr. Nelson

Sidney Bolden
Ms. Johnson

Heydi Bonilla
Bethel College
Mr. Hardman/Ms.
Muniz

Lauren Bramlett
Saint Mary's College
Ms. Costello/Ms.
Kubacki

Alija Bravo
Mr. Bart/Mr. Ruml

Amanda Brewster
Creighton University
Ms. Stanton-Verduzco/
Ms. Zablocki (Science)

Marcus Briggs
Vincennes University
Mr. Kern and Mrs.
Beatty

Ana Marie Broden
Purdue University
Mr. Weaver/Ms. Za-
blocki (Art)

Ariana Bueno
IU Bloomington
Mr. Bart/Mr. Elrod

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Eastern Kentucky Uni-
versity
Ms. Hoston/Mr. Ruml

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IU South Bend

Mary Claire Burnett
Western Michigan
University
Mr. Clark/Ms. Costello

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Saint Mary's College
Mr. Cline/Ms. Raymer

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Mr. Clark/Mrs. Raymer

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Purdue University

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Serena Campbell
Ivy Tech
Ms. Costello

Tori Canarecci
Ball State University
Ms. Hoston/Ms.
Stanton-Verduzco

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Esai Cardenas
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Ms. Costello/Mr. Ruml

Bri Carmichael
Ball State University
Ms. Raymer/Ms. Wor-
sham

Kaleb Cavanah
United States Marines
Mr. Nowicki

Vanessa Cervera
Saint Mary's College
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Raul Chavez
Ivy Tech
Mr. Louise/Ms. Miller

Nathan Chrzan
Valparaiso University
Ms. Costello/Ms. Za-
blocki (Art)

Nadia Columbus
Mr. Ebright/Mr. Kings-
ton

Peter Cook
Mr. Leatherman/Mr.
Olsen

Cassie Copeland
Harding University
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Guthrie

Abraham Coria
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IU Bloomington
Mr. Cline/Mr. Long-
necker

Jessica Craft
Hope College
Mr. Ebright/Mr. Wilson

Eduardo Cruz
IU South Bend
Mr. Clark/Mr. Nowicki

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Dame
Mr. Hall/Mr. Weaver

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Spencer Dant
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Mr. Grosz/Mr. Houck

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Ivy Tech

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Aubren Kubicki Kalamazoo College Ms. Stanton-Verduzco	Tavonte Malone Ball State University Ms. Costello/Mr. Lam- bert	Thai Miller IU Bloomington Ms. Hoston	Kyreece Parker University of St. Francis Ms. Costello/Ms. Fisher	Stephen Richards United States Navy Mr. Kern	Vanessa Silvestre Se- gundo Ivy Tech Ms. Beatty/Ms. Miller	Jack Tomlinson Ivy Tech Mr. Marquez/Mr. Ufkin
Aibaan Rahim Kuern Ivy Tech Ms. Miller/Ms. Beatty	Ana Karen Manes Ms. Beatty/Ms. Miller	Katelyn Minx Bethel College Ms. Hernandez/Ms. Raymer	Lametrius Parker Ms. Costello/Mr. Kern	Zoe Ricker St. Mary's College Mr. Cline/Mr. Hall	Adam Sharpe IU Bloomington Mr. Bart/Mr. Cline	Avianna Torres IU -Purdue University- Indianapolis Mr. Clark/Mr. Walsh
Kennedi Kyle IU South Bend Ms. Hoston	Aidan Manier IU Bloomington Ms. Costello/Mr. Hall	Jose Miramontes Ms. Costello	Anthony Passero Lamar University Ms. Costello	Romeldo Rivera Arizona State Ms. Costello/Ms. Lee	Mackenzie Shields Western Michigan University Mr. Lambert/Mrs Kern	Karla Torres Ivy Tech Mrs. Farrow/Mrs. Fisher
L Nick LaFountain Trine University Ms. Raymer/Mr. Hall	Hannah Mann IU South Bend Ms. Gresham/Mr. Kern	Laurn Mitchell Purdue University Ms. Costello	Adrienne Patterson	Emily Rizek University of Central Florida Mr. Hall/Mr. Kern	Alex Sibilla Ball State University Mr. McCown/Mr. Wilson	Nam Tran IU South Bend
		Jessica Monroy Ivy Tech		Laura Reith Mr. Clark/Ms Costello	Grant Simpson	

Senior Survey continued

Maya Tribble
IU South Bend
Mr. Hall/Ms. Kern

Abigail Trzaskowski
Ball State University
Mr. Clark/Ms. Stanton-Verduzco

Jason Turner
IU South Bend
Ms. Farrow/Mr. Kingston

V
Joseph Varga
Wabash College
Mr. Longenecker/Mr. Weaver

Bryce Varga
IU-Purdue University Indianapolis
Mrs. Raymer/Mr. Wilson

Angel Vargas
IU Bloomington
Mr. Cline/Ms. Stanton-Verduzco

Natalie Vida
Ms. Costello

David Vidzraku
Ivy Tech
Mr. Brewer/Ms. Costello

W
Nate Waddell
Ms. Farrow/Mr. Hall

Taylor Waldron
IU South Bend
Ms. Stanton-Verduzco/Ms. Raymer

Quentin Ward
Ms. Costello/Mr. Hall

Alana Weldy
IUPUI
Ms. Costello/Ms. Kern

Benjamin Welker
IU South Bend
Mr. Bart

Angel Wheeler

Jack Wheeler
Purdue University
Mr. Ebright/Mr. Ruml

Ja'maya White
IU South Bend
Ms. Hoston

Kaila White
IU South Bend
Mr. Hall/Ms. Jones

Lexis White
St. Mary's College
Ms. Kern/Mr. Wilson

Lizzie White
Hope College
Ms. Costello/Ms. Dickerson

Nakia Wilburn
Indiana State University
Ms. Farrow/Ms. Hosten

Jalen Williams

Calumet College
Ms. Costello/Mr. Lambert

Zion Williams
Purdue University
Mr. Ebright/Ms. Stanton-Verduzco ...just in time for the end of the year

Olivia Wilson
Manchester University
Ms. Costello/Ms. Stanton-Verduzco

Cameron Wojtys
IU Bloomington
Mr. Hall/Ms. Kern

Coranne Woods
University of Toledo
Mr. Burkart/Ms. Farrow

Z
Rachael Zeiger
Purdue University
Mr. Clark

Monsette Zimmerman
United States Army
Ms. Farrow/Mr. Tubbs

Zoie Ziolkowski
Grand Canyon University
Mr. Clark

SENIOR QUOTES

Elizabeth Alters

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world." -Mr. Keating, "Dead Poet's Society"

Andrew Burgess

"GO LONG!"

Marisol Capistran

"Don't let fear stop you from being happy."

Aaron Davidson

"The first stop to greatness is wanting it."

Ta'Karzja Driver

"Procrastination at its finest, putting in a senior quote last minute."

Tavonte Malone

"Not a hooper but I'm always balling."

Aidan Manier

"No." -Rosa Parks

Rocio Rodriguez Saucedo

"Lions don't lose sleep over opinions of sheep."

Jalen Williams

"I don't get tired."

Free Websites with Senior Pictures by

South Bend Alumni Association

Class Pictures - Reunions - Birthdays - Obituaries



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PROM

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

This year, prom was held at the Century Center in downtown South Bend. The Senior class student government worked hard in putting together and coming up with a Hollywood theme. While planning for prom, they held two fundraisers, a bake sale and a Chipotle night, to make sure this prom would be a success.

When it finally came to the big night, students arrived at a spacious venue and danced with a view of the river lights that changed to Adams' colors for prom. In addition, there was a photographer, photobooth, and popcorn. Student Government sponsor, Tamera Kreis-Fisher said, "We had a few of the students who really put a lot of work in with coming up with decoration ideas, while the rest of the senior class student government worked to bring the ideas to life."

According to most of the students, the hard work really paid off. Sydney Granlund, a JA Junior, said, "The Century Center was so pretty. I loved the decorations and being able to look at the river lights all night. My favorite part of the night was the photobooth for sure." She continued, "However, I just wished that the music they played would've been better." Senior Chad Steele, joked, "Prom was fun, but I'm just upset they didn't play Backstreet Boys or NSYNC."

Overall, prom was a success. Junior, Regan Yoder, added, "The student government did a really nice job of putting things together. There was a lot of space and it didn't feel overwhelming or too crowded. And the photobooth was really cute!" When it came to the end of the night, it was time to crown the prom king and queen. John Adams crowned Senior Kyreece Parker as the prom king and Senior Halle Green as the prom queen.

Although the music could have been better, Adams' students had a great time hanging out with friends and enjoying the spacious and spectacular view of the river lights. Fisher added, "A lot of hours went in to make this prom a success, but I feel as though we did a terrific job!"

RETIRING TEACHERS

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

As is with every school, the teachers at John Adams are a necessary and invaluable part of every child's education. Therefore, it is worth celebrating their times here. This year, Adams has three teachers retiring. This year, Mrs. Hooker, Mrs. Steiner, and Mr. Burkart are retiring. Each of them briefly detailed their time here and their favorite memories.

Mrs. Steiner said that "working at John Adams has definitely been the high point of my career." She will miss the students and faculty when she leaves, and she made it clear that she enjoyed her time teaching at Adams. Her favorite memories are those of her students saying "bonjour madame" to her as they walked by her in the hallway. It always "made her day" to hear her friendly French students greet her in this way. Her retirement caps off seven years teaching at John Adams.

Mr. Burkart explained how Adams has had a big impact on him his whole life. "My parents were in the first class at John Adams High School, and they met at Adams." He called it "the honor of his lifetime" to be part of the John Adams faculty and to be involved in the school. He has "enjoyed every moment" and heaped praise on his fellow staff members. His favorite memories were when he "looked at the joy on the faces of students who passed the ECA and knew that he helped them springboard to the next challenge in their lives." He is very happy to have aided students in their quest to learn and made an impact on their lives.

Mrs. Hooker has "enjoyed her time at Adams." She said she was glad to return to Adams after starting her career there and then being relocated to Clay. She always enjoyed "being able to help the students with any situation [in which] they needed support." Mrs. Hooker is known at Adams for being a supportive, kind-hearted vice principal.

We at The Tower appreciate these teachers and administrators for their service to John Adams and their hard word making our children better people and citizens. The impact they have on children's lives are often profound yet immeasurable, and they provide invaluable support to the community and the country as a whole. We hope their retirements are pleasant, relaxing, and enjoyable.

DEAR FRESHMAN ME...

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

Dear Freshman Me,

I am so glad you stopped wearing patterned leggings with UGG boots. Thankfully you have learned that highlighter orange is not your color, Venti Vanilla Bean Lattes are not coffee, and that bangs did not make you look like Zooey Deschanel. Moving on from your questionable fashion choices, thankfully by the end of your freshman year, you adapted an acceptable wardrobe that is equally stylish and versatile: all black. While this choice tended to make you look perpetually upset and angsty, it delivered. The semi-goth aesthetic gave you that time of isolation you needed to grow.

Remember that first lunch of the first day of freshman year? Yeah, me too, and we never looked back. From that second day in 2014, you've packed your lunch, and your stomach thanks you. You learned early on that eating lunch in the cafeteria was not only extremely loud and stressful, but that finding a favorite teacher who shares the same lunch as you builds great relationships and gives you complete access to their microwave.

After learning your lessons in both fashion and food, you learned to prioritize day to day what mattered most. For example, some nights, you had to make the tough, tough decision to write the rest of your Elrod essay rather than catching up on season whatever of "Pretty Little Liars," but who are we trying to fool? You always attempted to multitask, utilizing split screen options to your advantage and begging for that 24 hour extension.

So, Freshman Me, the point of this letter, I think, is to give you some long overdue advice. Avoid the main hallway near the boys bathroom during the second week of school - there will be a fire. Also, cash in on your absences now, Credit Redemption will morph into something called the Credit Recovery Intervention program, and you will not like it. Oh! And a man named Jim Seitz will be the principal next year, and he will introduce these things called tickets, avoid avoid avoid. He is a nice man, do not judge too harsh too soon, he helps you out more than you can possibly understand right now. Don't forget, try harder in Spanish I, because you'll have Mrs. Stanton for the next two years and she is the real deal. Also, before I forget, you'll rejoice by senior year because Tim the engineer will be transferred and you'll no longer get anxious while walking to after school activities.

Girl, you really should've joined the newspaper earlier, I'm not sure why you were so afraid to write and to have people read it. Regardless of whether they like your writing, they read it, and it was yours; that's the cool part. You'll love The Tower and the staff you work with so much. I should warn you now, you'll make the best of friends with people you never imagined while also losing the people you thought you could always count on; that's just high school, and it's okay. We all grow and move on to hopefully do bigger and better things, leaving our mistakes behind and learning from them for the future.

Speaking of your future, it's looking pretty great right now, kid. Don't be too worried and I wish you would stress less over the little stuff, it all works out and you'll be more than content; you'll be overjoyed at all the benefits reaped from four years of hard work and dedication to your goals. All those sleepless IB induced nights actually meant something, 49 scholarship applications later and you'll be pleased with the monetary payoff to further your education. I can almost hear your sigh of relief.

COLLAGE COURTESY OF HUNTER MELANSON

