



All Saints TRIFECTA

The last time I heard the word “trifecta,” I was accompanying my father to Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. Needless to say, I am not much of a gambler and we didn’t win. Happily, this year’s Trifecta was a sure bet. The top three ranking students of the Class of 2018 at John Paul II High School are All Saints Catholic School graduates. In a high school that draws a diverse student body from all over the diocese and indeed

from north Dallas and Collin County, it is truly remarkable that Benjamin Gitzinger, Morgan Steele and Katie Abel went 1-2-3!

At ASCS, we educate the whole child. We strive for excellence in faith, academics, character and service. I had the great privilege of watching Morgan and Katie grow up from the time they entered kindergarten and I taught all three students in Orchestra during their middle school years. I can unequivocally say that these three students embody excellence in each of these four areas.

Ben, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2018, will attend the University of Texas at Austin in the fall, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Ben was the recipient of the UT Engineering Honors Scholarship. He is a National Merit Finalist, captain of the Cross Country and Track team, plays in the JPII HS Orchestra, is an Officer in the National Honor Society, and is President of the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, among other things.

Morgan, the Salutatorian of the Class of 2018, will attend the University of Delaware in the fall, majoring in Applied Molecular Biology

and Biotechnology. Morgan is the recipient of the University of Delaware Telkes Scholarship. Morgan is the Vice President of the Senior Class, plays in the JPII HS Orchestra, and is an Officer in the Orchestra, Mu Alpha Theta, and Ambassadors. She is also involved in the Pro-Life Club, Key Club and is a Eucharistic Minister, among other things.

Katie will attend the University of Notre Dame in the Fall. Katie is the Student Council President, is involved in the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, is an Officer in the Mu Alpha Theta, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Ambassadors, Volleyball, Cross Country and JPII HS Orchestra, among other things.

When I asked Ben how ASCS helped prepare him for high school, he remarked, “The small supportive community of All Saints helped me become a better leader and more confident in myself in academic settings.”

Morgan commented, “ASCS definitely prepared me for high school. Thanks to the time management skills that I developed at All Saints, I was able to quickly adjust to the new routine and additional homework at JPII.”

Katie added that, “ASCS instilled in me a work ethic that allowed me to easily adjust to the rigor of high school classes. Also, similarly to JPII, All Saints



Ben Gitzinger, Valedictorian



By *SHANA DRUFFNER, Director of School*



Morgan Steele, Salutatorian

involved in as many activities as possible, because it's a great way to find friends and to learn more about yourself. Be open to new opportunities and experiences."

"I would ensure that the graduating class knows that every choice you make in high school could have an effect on your future. If you choose to make good decisions like doing your homework and getting involved in activities on campus, you'll be rewarded with many options for college!" Morgan said.

Katie added, "High school can be challenging, but if you establish a strong relationship with your teachers, you will always be able to turn to them when you need help."

Lastly, faith plays an integral part in all of their lives. They were each involved in their parishes during high school — Ben at Our Lady of Angels, and Morgan and Katie at All Saints. All three plan to be involved in campus ministry in their respective universities.

I distinctly remember our final orchestra concert in eighth grade. The Class of 2014 played "Viva la Vida" — "Long Live Life" — without a conductor. It's a tradition we have every year symbolizing their independence as they begin a new phase of their lives. We wish Ben, Morgan,

Katie and their families the best in the years to come. May God go with you as you venture forth. All Saints will always be your home and we are proud of you! Congratulations and best wishes.



Katie Abel

encouraged each student to develop as a leader by being involved in numerous extracurriculars, such as Orchestra, Student Council and more."

All share favorite memories, from singing Mass songs with Mrs. Koss in kindergarten, to winning the Quiz Bowl at the Beta Club convention in eighth grade, to winning the volleyball championship in eighth grade.

When asked what advice they would give to the ASCS Class of 2018, Ben remarked, "I would advise getting

To learn more about our school, please call All Saints Catholic School at 214-217-3300 to schedule a private tour. We will be happy to show you how your child can achieve Excellence in Faith, Academics, Character and Service.