



Notre Dame School - Alumni Testimonial

Four graduates from the Notre Dame class of 2004, Amanda Clapp, Dana Meith, Jilly Jefferson, and Hannah Moravec, found themselves reunited as freshmen at UC Berkeley. Meith and Jefferson, who attended Mercy High School, entered the university in the fall of 2008, along with Hamilton High School grad Clapp, and Moravec, who attended Pleasant Valley.

The girls look back fondly on their formative junior high years, and credit NDS with helping build the foundation of their academic habits, and eventual success. According to Meith, “Notre Dame helped build my determination...when you’re in a small school, you have a support group who can encourage you to do anything.”

Notre Dame’s disciplinarian foundations helped the girls develop study habits. “I remember how we had strict uniforms. Even if we didn’t like it at the time, I think they helped us feel grounded and concentrate on academics,” said Clapp.

According to Moravec, Notre Dame’s diverse range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities were helpful in broadening horizons and exposing her and her peers to many cultural elements. “I’m glad we were able to take music and art classes all the way through junior high. We didn’t have to pick what we wanted to study—we got to do it all. I think that helped in high school with having a broad range of knowledge,” said Moravec.



The strong Catholic education gave the girls another key life tool. “I like that we were given a chance to discover our own personal spirituality. It’s something that remains with me today,” said Jefferson.

The four girls agree that the work ethic developed at Notre Dame stayed with them not just till the end of eighth grade, but through high school and even into their young college careers. “Notre Dame definitely helped develop my work ethic. The high expectations from teachers became high expectations for myself, which didn’t disappear at the end of eighth grade,” said Clapp.

“We were expected to do such high levels of work. My first year of high school was easy in comparison to what I was taught in Notre Dame. But we were given the tools along the way to succeed,” said Meith.

After four years of separation, the girls still find a strong common thread from their days at Notre Dame. “We stayed with the same small group of people for nine years. We went through so much together and experienced so much as a group. That gives us a connection that doesn’t disappear after four years at different schools,” said Moravec.