

Olivia Eck

Class of 2011

Flash back to my first day of kindergarten at St Monica School in 2001. I was taking pictures by the front door with a nervous smile on my face. My sister Madaline, who was in first grade, seemed unaffected by the sight of the tall brick building looming over us, but I felt different. The bell rang, and I shakily dropped my mother's hand and walked inside. "Welcome to Junior Kindergarten!" Mrs. K had said with an eager smile on her face. The moment she said that, I immediately felt welcomed into the St. Monica family.

Since that first day of kindergarten, my opportunities to grow as a person have been endless. St. Monica has provided a small tight-knit class for every grade, and each with two amazing teachers to help. The field trips that I have been on in my past 10 years at St. Monica have been not only educational, but also a bonding experience for the class. The classes become closer and closer throughout the years. My experience here at St. Monica has truly been an amazing time for learning and growing. I have learned about my friends, teachers, and even myself. As students come and go, I have made new friends, while keeping the old. When I do not understand something, a teacher is always willing to help me understand. One thing that has really helped me connect to God is being able to participate in church by serving and reading. St. Monica's ability to provide so much for me has not only made my experience better, but also my grades.

Flash forward to 2010 and I am in 8th grade and walking into school without hesitation. St. Monica has taught me to learn, live, and love through Jesus. This school has definitely left an impact on my life with the people here, and made me the student I am today. I am proud to say that I am a SMS grad and that I have learned, lived, and loved through Jesus. I am now prepared to walk out with my head held high, ready to embrace a new chapter of my life, while never forgetting the lessons of the old.