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October 2007 Newsletter

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Interview: Kaitlyn McCrea

We occasionally interview former A+ students who are now in college. The students reflect on various issues such as the college application process and college life. This month we spoke with Kaitlyn McCrea, 19 years old, a graduate of St. Basil's Academy in Jenkintown, who is now a sophomore at LaSalle University.



Kaitlyn, why did you choose to go to LaSalle?

We have a strong family connection to LaSalle. My grandfather is a Professor of English there, my father is a graduate, and my mother recently earned her RN degree at LaSalle. Despite that, I wasn't sure I wanted to



First Annual A+ Essay Contest

Who is Eligible

Students in grades 9-12 who are attending high school in Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks, or Delaware counties in Pennsylvania.

Requirements

A typed, double-spaced essay of no more than 500 words.

Topic

Several schools and school districts around the country have penalized students for content posted on social networking websites such as MySpace and Facebook. In addition some have policies that restrict students' ability to participate in these websites.

Should schools and school districts be allowed to place these types of restrictions on students' freedom of speech in the name of safety?, If so, how much should

apply there, but when I visited the campus I felt that it was the right school for me. I didn't want to be too far from home and still wanted to be able to come home on weekends since I am very close with my family and my four younger siblings.

Did you feel well prepared academically for college?

Yes, St. Basil's Academy prepared me well academically. There is a lot more homework and a lot more reading in particular than in high school, but it is manageable. You have more free time to complete the work even though there is more of it.

What about socially? Did you feel prepared?

Well, one thing that was different was that I attended an all-girls high school. Having boys around both in dorms and in my classes has been different! Many of my classmates from St. Basil's also attend LaSalle. So I see a lot of familiar faces, but I have also made a lot of new, close friends, which has been great. My advice to freshmen is to smile, be open-minded, and put yourself out there. Everyone is in the same boat!

What advice would you give a high school student who is starting the college application process?

Not to stress! Keep in mind that if you don't get into a certain school, that it is not the end of the world. I also think it's a good idea to do a lot of research on-line first and figure out which schools appeal to you in terms of their size, location, etc. Once you've narrowed down your choices, then go visit those campuses. Some of my high school classmates applied to ten or twelve colleges and made big trips to visit a lot of campuses, but I don't really think that's necessary if you do the research first and know what you want in a school.

What was your experience with A+ SAT prep?

SAT prep helped me a lot with both math and vocabulary in particular. My verbal tutor emphasized learning new vocabulary and helped me a lot with test-taking strategies and my math tutor helped boost my math score.

Do you have any other advice?

Yes, I wish I had taken an SAT Subject Test in English so that I could have

they be able to restrict students' online activity on these social networking websites?

How to Enter

All submissions should be emailed directly to us at office@aplustutoring.com.

Deadline for Submissions

December 1, 2007

Prizes

Three winning essays will be chosen. The top three essays, as determined by a panel of A+ writing instructors, will each receive a \$200 check and be presented with a certificate of achievement. The award will be presented at the student's school.

Terms

By entering this contest you agree that, in the event you are chosen as a winner, you will have your photo taken when we present you with your prize and certificate of achievement. A+ intends to furnish this photograph to local community newspapers and feature it on its website.

Good Luck!



Featured Student

From time to time we like to recognize a student who has made significant academic progress. This month we are pleased to highlight Max Carchedi, a 5th grader at Shady Grove Elementary School in the Wissahickon School District. Max has been working weekly with

our tutor, Sherry Moman, since April 2007. They have been using the [Wilson Reading System](#) to improve his Word Attack skills, phonics, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar.

Sherry reports that Max always focuses on the task at hand, consistently does his homework, and is a pleasure to work with. Max was recently tested by the Reading Specialist at his school. His results showed significant improvement in various skills, especially in Word Attack where he is now testing significantly above grade level.

In addition, Max's mother has noticed that his improved abilities have boosted Max's confidence over the past six months. He will continue to work with Sherry through the completion of the [Wilson Reading System](#).

Congratulations to Max and Sherry on their success!

Educational Websites for Students

[This site](#), created by Columbus State University's College of Education in Georgia, is the home of the "Problem of the Week" math contest and features math problems aimed at all ages, from elementary school level through high school. The math educators also supply problems and answers that are part of the current White House Math Challenge, a presidential

placed out of some of LaSalle's introductory English courses, especially the ones taught by my grandfather!

effort to boost interest in math and foster problem-solving skills.

Looking for a funny book to read? Check out this [American Library Association link](#) to "Books To Make You LOL @ Your Library."

Follow [this link](#) to "Teens' Top Ten," a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of teen book groups in five school and public libraries around the United States--no adult input allowed!

Quick Links

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