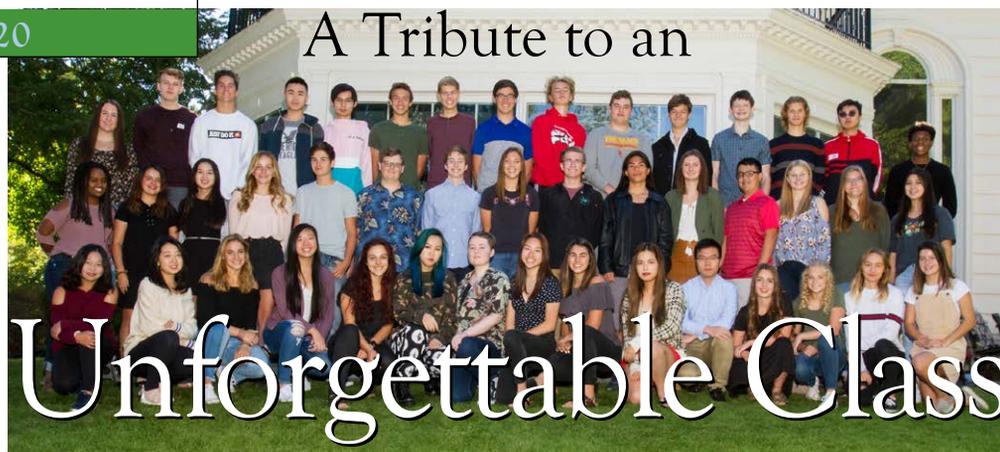


**The Class of 2020
at the start of their
junior year**



A Tribute to an

Unforgettable Class

**“I’ve learned
the most from the
students who’ve
suffered through
something—it’s
the sufferers
that teach us.
Quarantine has
been suffering,
too, in the name
of other people.
So have protests.”**

**Chad Rigsby
English
Teacher**

I have known many of you since you were five or six years old, which means that I’ve seen you in all kinds of states—states of dejection, states of triumph, states of hilarity. I was at the corn maze in kindergarten when the cannon malfunctioned. I saw all the tears. I was there on PSAT day, there at State B and State Soccer, there at the coffee houses and plays and talent shows. I was at the forums where you fought for your school. I was in many of these places with your parents. Rarely has a Saint George’s class brought such a combination of genius and artistry and athleticism and humor and bravery. Now that you’re graduating, there’s this sense that our work is done, and that you’re fully formed, but of course that’s the illusion.

One of the flyers you dropped on my porch during your senior prank had a line in it about how this year’s seniors are “The Lost Class,” and there’s some truth to that. What’s lost is a chance to say some slow goodbyes to childhood; for you, some of life’s tricks have been unmasked. There were supposed to be celebrations for people of such accomplishment, but the sad truth is that life doesn’t care that much if you’re smart or fast or funny, only parents and friends do. Since our last day of school, you’ve witnessed a whole planet retreat into their homes as an act of collective sacrifice to protect their most vulnerable, and then watched again as many of the same frightened people, young ones mostly, came outdoors to brave the same pandemic and tear gas and beatings to stand against injustice and brutality. You are all part of this, one way or another. We all are. We saw it together. These braveries are interconnected.

Any teacher worth their salt knows that they learn more from their students than their students ever learn from them. In my time at Saint George’s, I’ve learned the most from the students who’ve suffered through something—it’s the sufferers that teach us. Quarantine has been suffering, too, in the name of other people. So have protests. One of these days, you’re going to step out the front door to a world where you can have a barbecue again by the side of the lake, or hug a friend without worrying, or look at the stars without a fear of the city. That particular success is for you and you alone—no other graduate ever got to feel it.

We are trained to tell one another that what makes us special is the victories and the awards, and so it’s a strange and backwards sort of tribute to tell you that you were always bigger than these things, and that you still are.

I was looking forward to standing with you on graduation day, I’ve been looking forward to it for a long time, looking forward to prom. You parents have, too. We were going to say goodbyes in our various ways: take your picture, give you a peck on the cheek, give you a hug. We were going to hand you a diploma. We were going to tell you to be safe. We were going to say good luck out there. But we all sacrificed it so that some little kid, a stranger somewhere, could keep on playing canasta with his grandma, talking about the old days. So that some little girl could steal ten more years with her dad. The sting of it—your parents feel that, and so do you. But it is not lost, only missing—we gave it away together. And this separates you from every graduating class in the history of celebrations, and so is cause for hope and solace and even for a sort of joy.

—Chad Rigsby, English Teacher

Class of 2020 Colleges & Universities

Alex Anderson

Oscar Angell

Mary Bade

Lydia Bergquist

Norma Broderick

Bennett Clark

Sarah Coleman

Liam Elsensohn

Caleb Flegel

Noah Galow

Callie Gee

Grace Harrill

Caroline He

Krystal Huang

Miya Jacobs

Elijah Kangas

Skyler King

Sydney Lennemann

Jack Liao

Maria Madero

Marcus Manson

Michael McCarthy

Christopher McIndoe

Kahlysta McKethen

Kathryn Moon

Alec Nittolo

Sarah Nolte

Winston Poppel

Tung Quach

Chiara Ravasia

Braxton Rickard

Dan Rigsby

Marshall Roll

Taylor Sande

Caiden Snyder

Jocelyn Thew

Sydney Wilcox

Sarah Wu

Lucy Yan

Lily Yang

Sean Yao

Lisa Yuan

Kevin Zhong

Jacky Zhu

Wells College, Aurora, NY

Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

Gap Year

Northwest University, Kirkland, WA

Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane, WA

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Whitworth University, Spokane, WA

Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, OR

Washington State University, Pullman, WA

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

The New School, New York, NY

University of San Diego, San Diego, CA

Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA

Washington State University, Pullman, WA

University of Washington (Honors), Seattle, WA

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Montana Technological University, Butte, MT

Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Carroll College, Helena, MT

Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA

Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Boston University, Boston, MA

Spokane Community College, Spokane, WA

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Spokane Community College, Spokane, WA

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA

University of San Francisco (Honors), San Francisco, CA

Hofstra University/Zucker School of Medicine, Hempstead, NY

University of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

University of California-Davis, Davis, CA

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

University of California-Davis, Davis, CA

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

New York University, New York, NY

Graduation

Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020 are planned for July 30, 2020. Look for photos & videos in August at

www.sgs.org/magazine

