



Star of the Sea School 309 15th Street Virginia Beach, VA 23451
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Hi, my name is Tess Enderson. I have been at Star of the Sea Catholic School since pre-kindergarten. I have had such a great experience here and I would like to share some of it with you.

One of the most important things we do at Star of the Sea is praying together as a Catholic community. It is nice to have a safe spot where we know we can always pray for each other. Prayer partners are a tradition which enhances our Catholic faith and our responsibility in being good examples for the younger students. Prayer partners will always be one of my favorite things here at my school. As soon as you enter pre-k you are assigned prayer partners. Each year they change, but I can remember almost all of my prayer partners. Every eighth grade class gets the kindergarten students as their prayer partners. When I was little, I always looked up to them. It is crazy to think I am one of the eighth graders now. We usually do activities with our partners monthly or more often and they are always fun. An example of an activity we do is Little Saints Day. The kindergarten class dress up as saints and they and their partners introduce themselves as the saint. I still remember when I was in kindergarten and I was Saint Theresa the Little Flower of Jesus.

Another tradition is the sports program here at Star of the Sea. We have basketball, cross country, track and field, cheerleading, field hockey, and golf. I have played on multiple sport teams while I've been a student at Star of the Sea and they are always fun and exciting. My favorite sport would have to be basketball. Once you become a third-grader you are allowed to start playing. I played on the team from third to sixth grade. I know I always learned a lot and laughed a lot. One of my favorite memories is my dad coaching my older brother's team from third to eighth grade, leading them to an undefeated season in their eighth grade year.

Star of the Sea prepares us well for academics in high school. We are taught strong study skills and good organization skills which are crucial if you want to do well in high school. I have watched both of my brothers, who attended Star of the Sea through elementary school and middle school, excel in academics in their high school. My oldest brother, Grant, now attends the University of Virginia and is continuing to use the skills Star of the Sea has taught him. My second oldest brother, Seth, is now a high school junior and will have taken five A.P. classes by the end of the year. He hopes to follow in Grant's footsteps as he begins to look at colleges himself. Part of what has made them so successful is the foundation that was started here at Star of the Sea.

Last, but not least I am grateful for the relationships I have made here at Star of the Sea. The teachers are so dedicated to teaching us. They teach us not only the academics, but our Catholic religion and the values our faith teaches us. When I think about graduation here in the spring I know I'll miss the many friends I have made here. But I know that the friends I have made here are friends I will stay close with for the rest of my life.

I could go on and on talking about how much Star of the Sea means to me as a student and as a person. But I'll end here by simply saying I am grateful that my family has chosen Star of the Sea Catholic School for our family.

--Tess Enderson, Class of 2014