

My name is Jonathan, and I am a 2014 graduate of St. Mary's Academy. One thing I know for sure is that St. Mary's Academy prepared me **very** well for continuing my education at Christian Brothers Academy.

Of course, it all starts with the teachers - some of whom I'll talk about today. But all of them were so helpful and nice to me. They brought something special to the classroom too.

Mrs. Boronczyk made everything come to life in the classroom. When we were learning the different kinds of mixtures, she made all of us root beer float to help us understand the concept. And of course, everyone **loved** that!

Next, there's Mrs. Stachowski. She made learning **FUN!** I would walk into her classroom excited about what we would be doing that day. (The candy didn't hurt either!)

Mrs. Vinette challenged me to be a better student. One that practiced organizational skills and being held accountable for my responsibilities: skills I still use today - that I see are setting me apart from other 8th graders.

And lastly, the crown jewel of St. Mary's Academy, Sister Bernadette... with her gift of story-telling, she put the world at my feet. She captivated my attention through civil wars, worldly adventures, but mostly, guided me in strengthening my relationship with God. The class **so** loved hearing her stories

My years at St. Mary's Academy have been like a home away from home. Everyone was - and still is - so friendly and inclusive. With small class sizes, they helped me with what I personally needed to succeed. I felt important.