

A Thank You To The Tartan

By: Gabbi Byrd

Before the Tartan, I was set on a future that I never thought would change. I thought I would go to college, get a degree in nursing, and work in the medical field from there. I also had the same few friends too nervous to ever make new ones, for fear that they would find me odd or we would not be compatible. However, this proved wrong when I walked into the room that quite honestly changed my perspective and motivations forever.

When I first entered the classroom, I noticed there weren't many people in there; it was much smaller than my other classes. I was greeted by smiles from my new classmates and teacher, Mrs. Tuchfarber. As I eased into the class, I also noticed that this was definitely not your average class. In other classes, the teachers tell you what to do, when to do, and guide you through step by step; however, in the Tartan, it is student-led and you write whatever you want, whenever you want (as long as you are on task each day). This type of learning environment allowed me to improve my time management skills. I also learned that communication with others, especially in the world of journalism, is key.

Through conducting interviews, sending constant emails, and writing endlessly, my eyes turned toward a new possibility: a new life. I have always loved writing but I was so used to writing essays, FRQs, LEQs, etc., but Mrs. Tuchfarber and my amazing co-writers and editors taught how to write professionally through the style of articles. I learned how to introduce the issues I have experienced not only to my classmates but to the whole school; the issues that matter and give a voice to those who feel silenced. This is when I fell in love with the world of journalism. I realized that this may be what I want to do in the future, that this may be the rest of my life. The chaotic and messy world of writing never seemed more clear.

Here is where I would like to say thank you. Thank you Mrs. Tuchfarber for teaching me what writing truly is, that it is not just essays and sophisticated words that many times are unclear to me. She has shown me that journalism can be exciting, magical, and even a career, my career. I want to thank the editors for your honest critique of my articles, teaching me how to write well, and being so dedicated to this newspaper; you will never understand how grateful Oak Hills is to have you. Thank you to the writers, both new and experienced, for making me smile on my worst days with your crazy stories and brainstorming ideas, and for writing relevant and amazingly articulate articles that both myself and the community can read. Thank you, Tartan, you have taught me more than I ever thought possible and I hope to continue with the program next year!