



S · P · I · C · E

SPECIAL PEOPLE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION ®

St. Catharine Parish • Spring 2018 • Issue 17

ST. CATHARINE PARISH AND SPICE ARE VERY PROUD OF TWO PARISHIONERS WHO GRADUATE THIS SPRING!

Megan Ryan from THE Ohio State University TOPS (Transition Options Post Secondary) Certificate Program and Casey King from Bishop Hartley High School. Congratulations on all your hard work and success! Thanks for putting SPICE in our lives!



When our daughter Megan was born with Down Syndrome 24 years ago, many things in our future were unclear. As with many life experiences, questions we had were based on the unknown. We were pretty experienced parents, but not in the world of special needs. A major concern of ours was what kind of education Megan

would have - or more like what kind of education would she "be able" to have. Our hope was for Megan to have a Catholic education and that she would be able to attend the same schools that all of our other children had attended. Megan was welcomed with open arms and graduated from St. Catharine grade school and then Bishop Hartley High School. On May 6, 2018 she graduated from The Ohio State University TOPS Certificate Program. Every time when we were not sure of our next step, God would put great people in Megan and our lives. Yes, there were no road maps, but it truly has been a wonderful journey.

SPICE has been a major part of Megan's and our family's life. SPICE has been a driving force in our journey with special needs. Megan and the great people in her life have been the inspiration for SPICE, and SPICE has been our inspiration to show others that a Catholic education is possible for those who so desperately want it. Megan not only just graduated from the TOPS Certificate program at THE Ohio State University, but she will continue learning and more importantly will continue to teach all of us!

Ever since I was a little girl, I have always wanted to receive a Catholic education because I knew the fact that Catholicism played a prominent role in my family for generations. My family promised me that I would attend the best Catholic school there is, Bishop Hartley High School; my family put its financial stability at risk to appease my needs. An extremely special group called Special People in Catholic Education (SPICE) came into our lives and my family and I are forever indebted to this program. We were not quite sure if I would be able to have a full-time interpreter, but SPICE became the final piece that made a full-time interpreter a reality



for me at Bishop Hartley. The support of SPICE is one of the reasons why I was able to sustain success in the past four years, which I hope will be carried over into my next four years as well.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

With that being said, I am going to continue my academic and soccer careers at Capital University where I will be majoring in Biology. I hope to pursue a medical degree after graduating from Capital. My experience at Bishop Hartley High School was more than exemplary and included numerous factors: faith empowerment; lifelong friends; endless services; better education; unbreakable community; exceptional role models; proud Hawks. Most importantly, though, at Bishop Hartley we are children of God. All of these significant experiences in my life would not have existed without the support of SPICE.

SPICE AT ST. CATHARINE BEGINS TO ENSURE ITS FUTURE!

SPICE has started an Endowment fund with the Catholic Foundation to ensure its future operations. We feel this is the best and most positive succession plan that SPICE could have. Plans to fund this endowment will not affect SPICE's current funding items. Anyone interested in more information or in contributing towards our future's endowment, please contact us through St. Catharine's rectory.

Thank you for putting SPICE in our lives!

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2018 SPICE DINNER HIGHLIGHTS

On behalf of the planning committee for the 2018 SPICE St. Patrick's Day Dinner, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the dinner's most successful year ever! There was an army of enthusiastic volunteers, the highest number of attendees in the event's history, and a record setting \$35,000 was raised to support the needs of children in our school and parish. It was a night that truly highlighted the generosity of spirit that is alive and well in our St. Catharine community as we answer God's call to inclusion. Thank you to all who helped bring the night to life--see you at next year's party on MARCH 2, 2019!

*Justin and Marin Santorsola,
Co-Chairs SPICE St. Patrick's Day Dinner*

