

# Tradition. Class. Pride.

*The three underlying qualities of SLUH*

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Many of the cross-country runners reading this will recognize the above headline. The three words located at the top of this page were created by Coach Jim Linhares to be placed at the top of cross-country stationery. But this tidbit of wisdom has stirred up a much greater response than most letterheads. "T.C.P." has become a rally call for the squad, describing not only the runners' motivation at meets, but also their attitudes at practice and their behavior anywhere they represent St. Louis University High XC. Tradition, class, and pride are much more deeply rooted in SLUH than just one athletic team. These five syllables define the structure, the atmosphere, and the lifestyle which is SLUH.

Tradition is the easiest of these terms to define because it is the seed from which the others grow. It is a solid concept rooted in the past. Tradition goes much farther than the planting of a seedling school on the campus of St. Louis University in 1818. It involves much more than the school's transplant to the south side of Oakland Ave. SLUH's roots lie in its tradition, which is much deeper than just the history recounted in the Parent/Student handbook.

The traditions around school involve little things from doughnuts on Friday mornings given to underclassmen staplers of the *Prep News* to the large scale, elaborate Mass of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate together as one class at the beginning of every school year. The traditions at SLUH give identity to our school and to us as students. Traditions as silly as painting ourselves blue and dancing around in 40-degree weather to support our football team are just as important as the tradition of senior advisors, who make the transition from grade school to prep school all the more easier for the freshmen.

Class is a much harder concept to define. Many people think of class as James Bond relaxing at a dimly lit social engagement, clasping a sifter between his fingers and dressed so impeccably that no woman can resist his charm. This is not the full meaning of "class." Class in a physical sense around SLUH is clearly in full bloom. The sign placed on the back of the scoreboard last year tastefully announces to passers by on Oakland and slow-moving vehicles on 40 east that we are SLUH, a Jesuit, college preparatory school founded in 1818. Class is the brick pillars and ornamental iron gates put up on the Oakland entrances to the

school and the football field. Getting rid of the wire which once capped the fence surrounding the faculty parking lot was a grand move of class. The directory signs placed in the hallways, the mission statement displayed in every classroom, the gate to the student parking lot, the new bleachers, the blue stripe lining the hallways, and much, much more were all created to give the building a classy atmosphere.

But class is not just a physical concept. The blossoms of class may be pretty to look at, but they also have a much deeper purpose. Class is the attitude which causes students to smile and say hi in the hallways, even to complete strangers. It is the cheers

which we scream at soccer games for our team, when we do not lower ourselves to chastising the opposing team. Class is found in the perennial seniors who refuse to partake in the stereotypical act of frosh-bashing that is seen in movies like *Dazed and Confused*.

Class at SLUH develops into an atmosphere ripe with love, togetherness, and friendship. It is one of the truly unique aspects of SLUH that is hard to find elsewhere in life.

*"Tradition, Class,  
and Pride call us  
to just one  
truth....happiness"*

Pride is often thought of as sinful. Pride is one of the seven deadly sins, and it is what destroyed Adam and Eve and caused Arachnia to claim she was a better weaver than Athena. This is not pride at SLUH. Pride is not meant to have a negative connotation. We have words like arrogance, superiority, and haughtiness to describe pride taken too far. Pride is not meant to be arrogance, as it is often mistaken for here at SLUH. Pride at our school involves the spirit we display at sporting matches, the quality we put into our school work, and even the fierce, undying belief that the Jr. Billiken is a sacred symbol, definitely not a goofy looking monkey with a plump aura about him. Pride is probably the one thing that separates "SLUH boys" from Spartans, Cadets, or any other high school student. The beliefs that SLUH is our home, that we belong here, and that SLUH is an undeniable part of our identity are the beliefs which make up the pride we have here at SLUH.

Tradition, Class, and Pride are not qualities associated with being arrogant, spiteful, mean, superior, haughty, or aloof. Instead they call us to be humble, forgiving, kind, respectful, friendly, and social. But above all, these three mottos call us to just one truth....happiness.