

Alumni Spotlight

MICHAEL ARTLIP, CLASS OF 2016



Michael Artlip flies through the air as an accomplished gymnast

We are proud to spotlight an outstanding young alumni, Michael Artlip, who attended St. Mark's from Pre-K through 8th grade. At the age of three, Michael's parents, Kathy and Mark Artlip, enrolled him in gymnastics classes because he was, "always flipping and jumping off the furniture at home, so we wanted him to focus that energy in a controlled environment." While he was at St. Mark's, Michael practiced five days a week, for a total of over sixteen hours each week. He earned state-wide and regional recognition in the 5th grade. After graduating from St. Mark's in 2016, he went to Strake Jesuit, where he participated in Quiz Bowl, eventually leading the Strake team to the national level of competition. He served as the Math Club President, was a member of National Honor Society, and spent four years as a diver on the swim team. Somehow Michael still managed to devote time to his studies at Strake; he was named the Valedictorian for the Class of 2020. He continued his training in gymnastics, earning a spot on the men's gymnastic team at Pennsylvania State University, a NCAA Division 1 program. We caught up with Michael recently to hear more about life as a college athlete, his studies at Penn State, and his favorite memories from St. Mark's.

MAKING OUR MARK: What is your favorite St. Mark's memory?

MICHAEL: My favorite St. Mark's memory is definitely the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. I had never been before, so it was exciting to finally

see some of the nation's most famous buildings and monuments in person.

MOM: Did you have a favorite class or teacher at St. Mark's? What made it special?

MICHAEL: My favorite class at St. Mark's was Ms. Mayr's Algebra I class. The course helped my curiosity flourish because Ms. Mayr was always happy to answer my questions and discuss advanced topics with me. I cannot thank her enough.

MOM: Who influenced you most during your time at St. Mark's?

MICHAEL: Ms. Mayr served as a superb teacher and mentor during my time at St. Mark's. She helped me realize that learning can be really fun, sometimes even addicting. I attribute much of my academic success in high school and college to this realization.

MOM: How did St. Mark's prepare you for high school and college?

MICHAEL: St. Mark's prepared me very well for high school and college. It takes a lot of responsibility and discipline to succeed in high school, and it takes even more in college. Practicing personal responsibility was heavily emphasized during my time at St. Mark's, so my transition to high school and college could not have been smoother.

MOM: What are you studying now?

MICHAEL: I am currently studying electrical engineering with a minor in mathematics at Pennsylvania State



At St. Mark's in Pre-K, Artlip was Class of 2016

University. After college, I hope to pursue a master's degree in a STEM discipline.

MOM: We watched you do gymnastics at the St. Mark's Talent Show; what is it like being a college athlete?

MICHAEL: Life as a college athlete is really busy but a lot of fun. It sometimes feels like there aren't enough hours in the day when you have to attend class, study, practice, and rehab while also maintaining some semblance of a social life. You make great friends, have unforgettable experiences, and develop a fantastic support network along the way though, so all the effort is worth it. Also, there is no better feeling than achieving a hard-fought victory with your teammates by your side.



As Strake Jesuit's Valedictorian, Class of 2020



St. Mark's Episcopal Church



Rev. Kristin Sullivan, School Chaplain

This year has been one with so many changes. We have had to change the way that we attend school, shop, interact with others in public, and much, much more. But one thing that has not changed is God's relationship with us and our need to connect to the divine in our lives. While we have not been able to gather together in the chapel this year, we are still having chapel every week. By embracing the gifts that technology offers, we gather together for prayer and learning in cohort groups. Even though we are not all together in the chapel, we are still connected to each other in the act of common prayer.

In previous years when I had a dedicated religion room, I used to place a long piece of butcher paper on the wall outside my room. Sometimes I would pose

a question, other times I would simply write, what would you like to pray for. Students would stop before coming in for religion, on their way to another class, or in a free moment during the day. I have deeply missed that interaction this year, so a few weeks ago I introduced a digital prayer wall in our chapel service. This digital wall lets us add our prayers and pray for one another. It is a physical reminder of our connection to the community. The kids have loved seeing their prayers and the prayers of their peers, teachers, and families on the board, and because it is so accessible, more students and families are utilizing it. It is a simple thing, but in times like this, simple connections to comfortable routines ground us in who we are.



Right: Mrs. Lutz's Pre-K Class Enjoys Virtual Chapel

