

Alumni Profile:

Maddie Brasser

Maddie (aka Minion) attended The Southport School from 2008-2014, from 3rd-8th grade.

Today, she's 22 years old, a senior at Castleton University in Vermont, majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Anthropology.



This one in-a-Minion **matters**

Alumni Profile:

Maddie Brassier



Maddie Brassier's story will likely resonate with many of you.

As she reflects on her life journey thus far, she shares some memories about her foundational experiences at The Southport School.

Maddie says TSS gave her the tools, support, and confidence to help her become the person she is today: self-assured, accomplished, determined, and happy.

First Day Ready

"I stepped out of the car at age eight on my first day at TSS. I didn't know which way to go or turn. Ms. Forry welcomed me, helped me with my name tag, found my locker, and guided me to my homeroom. For the first time ever, she made me feel seen. She heard me, too, when I asked her, in a soft apologetic whisper, 'call me by my nickname Maddie, not Madeleine.' I remember those moments of validation."



A Transformative Shift

"I still use two column note-taking, flash cards, and Quizlet just as TSS taught me. If I didn't go to TSS, I'm not sure where I would be academically or socially. I know I'm more confident today. I carry a 3.4 GPA in college now, I've been a three-year starter on Castleton's lacrosse team, I live off campus in my own apartment, I'm considering grad school, and I've developed meaningful relationships as well. I take great pride in it all."

Social Emotional Awareness

"Every school needs to be aware of their students' mental health. I'm dyslexic and have anxiety, I've had them all my life. I've been dealt some really big emotional challenges that include bullying and loss of friends, but with the support of family, friends, coaches, and unexpected acquaintances, I've navigated my own life journey. I have found leadership through self-direction."



A TSS Reflection

"I remember the literal spotlight on me for what felt like an hour during TSS's Year End Recognition night. Uncomfortable for me, yes, but my parents loved it! Those ten minutes validated their decision to move me to TSS. For me it was the community—soccer with Coach Demunnik, recess wall ball, the San Francisco trip with Dr. Buckingham, hanging out with Ms. Warner after school, playing computer games with Ms. Plante, having friends with not just one group but many. I thank you all for giving me a chance."

What matters.

Your support of the Annual Fund connects our community and provides the resources to make life change for students like Maddie.

Today we have 117 students, 38 teachers, 26 administrators, 11 advisors, shared leadership roles including faculty mentors, department heads, and co-curricular directors. We're excited for what the future holds for all of us, and for Maddie too.

The deeper message of our mission is to provide transformative educational experiences that have lifelong impact on our students. We remain steadfast in this approach to the whole child each and every day.



"The Southport School provided the foundation for our daughter to build a sturdy house for academic success. The school's approach to developing the whole child reached our family as well. Validating rather than accommodating our daughter's challenges not only helped her overcome obstacles but also improved our family dynamic."

—Kim & Willie Brassier



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