

Portrait of a *Graduate*



Frances Cates '17

Pre-Med Sophomore, University of Texas at Austin

- UT Austin; pursuing bachelor's in Plan II (humanities based interdisciplinary program) and Public Health, pre-med track; Forty Acres Scholar; Distinguished College Scholar in the College of Liberal Arts, Health Leadership
- St. Jude Pediatric Oncology Education 2023 Intern
- Hutchison School '21: Cum Laude Society, Ideal Hutchison Girl, Latin Book Award (thanks, Mrs. White!), English Book Award, Tri-Sport Athlete Award, Peer Council President



8th Grade, GSL

Right now I'm working on a research project called the Cancer Needs Assessment through Dell Medical School – attending focus groups and round-table discussions in low-income areas of Austin to explore community members' beliefs about and awareness of screenings for cancer. We are particularly interested in identifying barriers to receiving screenings that Austin community members face, and will be presenting our research at a symposium. I still love sports (which I started playing at GSL) and play intramural soccer for fun!

GSL taught me to love reading and writing and, most importantly, how to express myself and communicate my ideas through writing. In Lower School, I remember being so excited to go to the library each week, because Mr. Willis would always have something new for me to read.

In Middle School, I remember class discussions about S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* with Mrs. Hendry, *To Kill a Mockingbird* with Mrs. Buckner, and *Of Mice and Men* with Mrs. White. I truly started learning how to express my opinions in Ethics class with Ms. Ranson. When I was deciding where to attend college, it was extremely important to me that I be in a place where I could study the humanities along with taking hard science classes for my public health degree.

Besides the academic passions I cultivated at GSL, GSL taught me what a community should look like. The people make GSL the amazing place that it is, and the support system is unparalleled. Whenever I am searching for communities in college, I reflect on the friendships and community I experienced at GSL to gauge whether something is the right fit.

Every teacher at GSL influenced me. I remember struggling in Mrs. Woolard's seventh grade math class, and she was the first person to help me understand that challenges, academically and in general, are integral to growth, and that asking for help is the best way to get through them. I also loved Mrs. Slatery's science class (I still remember the periodic table song and use it for college chemistry) and playing basketball for her in eighth grade. A class that really excited me was Latin with Mrs. White, and I got to visit Pompeii last summer after learning about it in seventh grade!

My advice to current students is never be afraid to ask for help from older students, teachers, and other mentors! Asking people who have been in your situation is the best way to learn about what you might want to do in the future.

GRACE-ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Memphis, Tennessee