

An Altamont Senior's Farewell and Advice for His Sixth-Grade Self (and You)

By Mose Stephens

In the fall of 2017, I began my first year at Altamont. Seven years and one pandemic later, I am getting ready to graduate and begin a new chapter of my life. I have loved my time at Altamont, and I will miss going to school here next year. As the finality of the next few weeks dawns on me, I have begun to reflect on my time as an Altamont Knight.



If I could offer my sixth-grade self some advice, I would have a lot to say. First, I would tell him to always try new things. Don't drift through your school years by playing it safe. The monotony of school can be very draining, but you shouldn't allow yourself to fall victim to it. If going to school feels like you're just clocking in and out every day like a zombie, you need a change of pace. Altamont has many great opportunities to get involved in things. Try to join the classes you think are too challenging, the sports you don't think you

can do, and the clubs you don't have enough time for; it's worth it.

My second piece of advice would be not to let yourself fall into a social clique or be exclusionary. Altamont is small enough as it is. As someone who started high school right after Covid, I know how socially isolating and boring school can get, but it can also be a lot of fun *if* you branch out and say yes to things.

My final piece of advice would be to develop good habits. As I look back on the past seven years, I can remember countless late nights of staying up until early in the morning, cursing myself for horrible time management while trying to get several assignments submitted. Being a decent student isn't just about weathering the storm of a busy schedule. It's about developing the habits that help you deal with *all* your tasks. Also, don't be afraid to ask for help from your teachers and friends. I know for a fact that my grades wouldn't be nearly as good as they were if I didn't have reliable classmates who were willing to help me out occasionally.

Altamont is an amazing school. I am grateful to have been privileged enough to go here. It's a great community with amazing teachers and students. Tell the truth, think for yourself, be kind, try new things, recycle your paper, yadayadayada – you know what to do. Go Knights!