



St. Mary's Academy

Piper Winder

How Are You Focusing on Fun in 2023?

All through the pandemic, I have been able to work on myself and be happy with spending time alone. That experience has helped me grow so much not only as a person but as a friend and family member. That being said, now that I am in my last year of high school I am ready to connect with others again.

I have recently joined Rose City Rowing Club. A big reason that I am so interested and motivated in rowing is the community aspect and connection it provides. Feeling like I am a part of something bigger has brought me so much joy. I am able to mentally and physically push myself to the brink of exhaustion knowing and feeling supported in the sense that every other person on the boat put in just as much effort as me. Like multiple gears in a clock working collectively, we are all able to come together and accomplish a race. Plus, sitting outside on the boat, with the crisp air, water flowing beneath you and being with your boat mates, you are truly able to appreciate the moment. That is just one way I am focusing on the fun this 2023.

These past few years, I have been able to rekindle my love for baking. I have always enjoyed the precise way in which baking allows you to create something magnificent and tasty out of basic ingredients. I am very passionate about creative sciences and having a hobby that nicely allows for me to be creative in a more structured way has been very fun. It is not just the act of baking that provides fun in my life but also the act of sharing the baked goods. I personally feel very appreciated when given homemade gifts, so putting in the time and effort to make something from scratch then scheduling time to meet with a friend and giving them the fruits of my hard labor brings me joy.

My hope this year is to continue doing the activities that I enjoy but sharing them with my friends and family as well. I recently started hosting baking events at my house, where I have a few friends come over. We will typically put on a movie or blast some music, socialize, catch up, and bake some yummy desserts together. I strongly believe that you should make any place you go better than when you came, and spreading my own personal love of baking has not only allowed for me to have a fun and exciting time with friends but I'd like to believe that everyone else benefits one way or another from it. Whether that be spending time with each other, relieving some stress, or just eating a homemade cookie.