

1,156

1,156: The number of days that I have attended Stoneleigh-Burnham. 1,156 days of running to class, riding at the barn, and making memories. 27,744 hours of saying that I'm a Stoneleigh-Burnham girl, of being a person who has striven every day to uphold the name of SBS. A lot has happened in my 1,156 days here, to me, my peers, and the School.

To start, let's flashback to 2016, the time when I arrived at SBS. 1,156 days ago, the Class of 2017 ruled the school; I was a tiny freshman, and I couldn't comprehend the idea of boarding school despite the fact that I was living it. Homesickness never seemed to strike me though, as I found my place here quickly. Coming from a rural town in Connecticut, Greenfield chseemed like a city. The barn was paradise, and my class was my family. I got involved quickly, finding my niche in IEA and dipping my toes in debate. I experienced it all for the first time: Mountain Day, the Haunted House, Vespers, and saying goodbye to the first class of owls I saw fly off-campus. Freshman year, I was on cloud nine.

365 days later, I found myself moving into SBS again, this time as a sophomore. During this year, I picked up two leadership roles: Barn Proctor and IEA Captain. Much of my time was consumed at the barn sophomore

year, and I saw the School transform in more ways than one. This was my biggest year of transformation, too. I saw myself zoning in on activities that mattered to me, things that I knew I could improve here as well as programs that I knew would benefit me. Sophomore year was the first time I recognized the relationship that SBS has with its students, of having them give time to improve the School and giving them resources to help them succeed.

Another year went by, and I returned to SBS with fear in my eyes for the first time, for I was to embark on a new journey in my junior year: the IB Diploma Program. Like many before me, I was terrified of starting the IB out of fear of failure. After a year of learning, though, my critical thinking skills have never been stronger. Last year I worked as VP with our StuCo president, Jax, to get rid of the dress code at SBS too, making my junior year the first year I wrote up a policy. I was an RA for the first time, participated in the Junior Ring Ceremony, and was sadder than ever when I realized I only had one year left.

Now, I stand before you today as a culmination of all of these events, and more. SBS has taught me so much about myself and the world around me. While I was once a timid freshman, I am now confident enough to be speaking here with no worries. The opportunities I've been given at SBS are

unlike anything else, and I couldn't be happier. For me, perspective nostalgia is setting in, and although the stress of college applications is here, I'm enjoying every last minute of my time here. My last Mountain Day has already passed, and my last Senior Haunted House is in less than twenty-four hours. I'm only two months in and already I've experienced so many lasts. I'm trying hard to not think of leaving, but it's challenging. It's hard to imagine leaving Stoneleigh-Burnham behind. SBS has given me so much, and I don't know how I'll ever repay everyone here, how I'll ever get in my car and drive away after graduation knowing that I'm leaving this place behind. For now, I'm going to try my best to enjoy day 1,157.

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