

JUST A SEC

...with 8th grader Shannon Farrington.

Q: What has been the best part of your year?

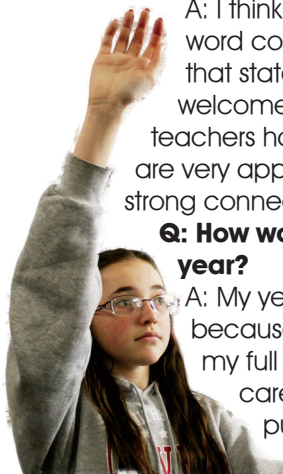
A: Being in Leadership and making a difference in the school community, as well as being in WEB. I loved WEB because it helps you become a leader and also teaches you to connect with kids in ways you haven't before.

Q: What do you love about your school?

A: I think Drake actually defines the word community and holds true to that statement. I felt warm and welcome. I also think that the teachers have a great attitude and are very approachable here. I felt a strong connection to my various classes.

Q: How would you describe your year?

A: My year has been "eye-opening" because it has allowed me to see my full potential as well as what career path I would like to pursue.



HELLO? After an Allies meeting, Emiko Steinke (7) prank calls a local Starbucks. "I hung up on them the second they started talking," says Steinke. "I got nervous."
SPECIAL DELIVERY. Soldiers receive the care packages sent by the students from NJHS, leadership, and volunteers. They sent back their sincere thanks.



photo donated by michelle johnson

YOU'VE BEEN SERVED

Students get involved and make a difference.

By Skylar Levingston

All of the service organizations at Drake had important elements in common, the first of which is making everyone inside and outside the organization feel like they belong. "I got to have a job where I got to greet new students to our school. They were so happy because they felt like they were included, which brought a smile to my face," said eighth grader Sierra Bonner who was a part of Leadership. Another group that supports inclusion is Allies. "I felt like I could just make a community where everyone fit in," said Emmy Pocsi, the eighth grader who founded it. "It's just a place to make friends and help each other out."

These associations also allow students to hold leadership roles around our school. "It's mostly student-run, so most of the planning and work we put into fundraisers and events is all done by officers and members," said eighth grade NJHS

member Rhiannon Danborn. Sources of Strength also granted students the ability to have a student lead organization. Seventh grader Jaiden King stated, "The class focuses on leading others by their peers because students have more trust in their peers than in teachers."

Service organizations are a great way to make friends, as well. Eighth grader Ashley Meyers said, "Allies brought a lot of great things into my life. I got to meet many new people who I've become close friends with, and I have a sparkalicious time with them." No matter what service organization they join, members of the Drake community were able to gain many life skills and friends along the way. "I would say that joining Leadership is a way to make friends, learn more about Drake, and to express feelings," said eighth grade Leadership student Ava Knight.

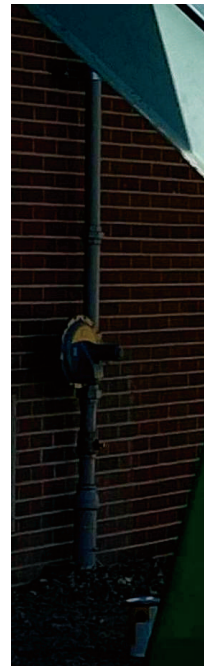


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