

Jonathan Poggi '04



College and Grad Year: Brown University '12

Major/Minor: Biomedical Engineering

Current Job/Internship: I work in a Genetics Research Lab and am also a Chess Instructor

Hobbies: Chess, Running, Reading, Traveling

Career Goals: Doctor.
(not sure what field of surgery as of yet)

Latest Feather In Your Cap:

My progress in the genetics lab has led me down the path toward developing and characterizing a model for a few forms of childhood epilepsy. This research will, hopefully, lead to the advancement of drug research for the treatment of this disorder.

What You Love About Your Studies/Work:

Learning! At Brown, I have essentially no restrictions on what classes I choose each semester. As a result, I look forward to every one of my classes, eagerly absorbing every piece of knowledge it has to offer. The world around us, from the tiniest microorganism to the very fabric of the cosmos, is fascinating and I relish every minute of my time in this environment.

Talk a bit about transition from Sage to high school and college:

Academically, the preparation Sage gave me was phenomenal. I learned how to think and how to approach problems and new material. This allowed me to handle the new course load and still have time to participate in the track team and hang out with friends. The ease with which I transitioned to college also reflects the fundamental skills that I gleaned from Sage. As Sage had always been a place where I could express myself and feel comfortable with who I am, I began this stage in my life's journey with confidence and a firm understanding of my core values.

What skills did Sage help you develop the most?:

From what I have observed, it is very easy to learn how to memorize material as it is presented to you without ever stopping and trying to understand the big picture; why is this the way it is, and how can this material be related to that from other topics or even other subjects? Through Sage, I came to realize that much of the world's accumulated knowledge is related in some way. One must simply pause to think about it. In every class at Sage my teachers encouraged me to do just this, and I've found it invaluable in nearly every aspect of my life.

Fondest Sage Memory:

Imagine spending every day with your 11 best friends, talking, laughing, and learning together. Choosing just one memory is absolutely impossible, so I shall pick one that I am fond of! I remember sitting in a circle on Mrs. Vaughan's comfy chairs with my classmates as we acted out our graduation video. We spent hours laughing at our portrayals of various fictional icons. Someone was always ready with a random comment or comical observation, and I would leave each session with my "sides" hurting from laughing so hard.

Words of Advice to Sage 8th graders Preparing For The Next Step:

It was at Sage that my interest in chess flourished, and so I am going to offer advice with that in mind: Bobby Fischer once said that "chess is life," believing that during one's life, he or she must make and commit to certain choices, much like a chess player would when moving a piece. At every turn, there are so many options, so many paths that can be selected and traveled. Just as one must decide among a myriad of possible moves and courses of the game, I have found that with an open mind, one also carries this out through life. With each step taken, each move made, it becomes harder and harder to change the course of the game. Regardless of whether or not you agree with Bobby Fischer's philosophy, you will journey through a life dependent upon your own choices. Even though you may know where your feet are taking you, strive to grow and learn with each step.

Shout-outs:

To my teachers back at Sage: it's a result of your guidance and insight that I am where I am now. Thank you!