"The education is second-to-none, but it was the people who really made it special."

One of my greatest accomplishments was being awarded the Laureate Award by my peers for excellence in patient care in the top gastroenterology department in the country. Today, I am involved in the care of heads of state, famous athletes and everyday people — Country Day helped prepare me for my job.

As a kid I never read a book that wasn't related to a sport, but my English teacher, Beverly Hannett-Price changed that. Reading became infectious and opened doors for me that would otherwise never have been opened. I ended up taking Shakespeare in college because of Mrs. Hannett's influence and later passed my love of reading onto my daughter.

I cultivated some lifelong friendships during my time at Country Day and I still remain close to the friends I made there. To this day, out of the 55 students in my graduating class, I keep in touch with about 20. In fact, for the past decade, a group of us Country Day alumni take an annual trip together!

Today when I come in contact with patients from Michigan and I tell them I attended Country Day, they don't ask me about the school's well-known alumni…they ask, "Did you have Mrs. Hannett as a teacher?" and I'm proud to tell them that yes, I did have that distinct privilege.

I think that speaks volumes about the influence Country Day has on its students.

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