



# Seth Gelwarg

## 2020

Seth Gelwarg is truly one of the greats: caring and polite, inquisitive and unassuming, and a work ethic that is simply unmatched. I believe at Salisbury we want our students to give more to the community and demand more of themselves in the classroom. Seth certainly has done so. As a former teacher and college advisor noted, “Seth possesses maturity, vision, depth of personal character and talent. Humble to a fault, he would be easy to overlook, but don’t make that mistake.”

In my classroom, I have a poster that has several sayings about winners and losers. My favorite: “Winners say, ‘It might be difficult, but it is possible,’ whereas the loser says, ‘It might be possible, but it is too difficult.’” Seth, you are a winner. In your time at Salisbury you have taken twenty-nine courses. In the past two years, you have taken thirteen year-long courses. In total, six Advanced Placement classes, five Honors classes, Entrepreneurial Studies, and an independent study. Last spring, I pleaded with you to reconsider the course load you were selecting. Your response: “I can do it.” I love your willingness to push yourself. I love your willingness to work through difficult times. Many students select a schedule that will lead to the best g.p.a.; you refuse to do that. This was not always the case. Mr. Mokriski relishes telling the story of young Gelwarg in Ancient History – “the boy who did not like to answer when called on.” The boy who would turn red. Ultimately, “the boy who refused” refused to retreat, gained confidence, and became a “formidable student forged in the cauldron of Centennial 312.”

The past two years, I have been honored to serve as your advisor and one year as your teacher. One of the joys of this role is receiving feedback from the people you work with every day. Here are just a few of their insights:

If life were a dodgeball game, and I were responsible for picking players, Seth would be my first pick every time. He is all about the effort. Whether it is solving an AP free-response question, collecting and cleaning fridges, or marking a player on the field or court, Seth is tenacious. He doesn’t quit and he always gets there in the end. - Mr. May

Seth is engaged with the material and shows a real interest in the topics we are covering. He is diligent with his homework and turns in high-quality solutions. When he does not understand a concept or problem, he does a good job to proactively seek me out to get one-on-one attention. In the classroom, Seth is a top-notch participant. He always takes thorough notes, is engaged during class discussions, and answers questions I pose to the class. He is respectful and polite and elevates the classroom experience for his peers. - Mr. Beattie

Seth is a model of our student-athlete program, with a clear love for and dedication to the activities available on the Hilltop. In class, Seth was always prepared and competent, but it goes deeper than that. He cared about the material and what he was learning just as much as the desire to be a successful student. - Mr. Scoville

One of the favorite parts of my job is when I have students as third and sixth formers. The growth in Seth has been exponential. He has internalized study skills and is now engaging complex data with finely tuned critical-thinking skills. He has become a top-notch student with a first-rate mind. I enjoy teaching him immensely. He is a great young man, and we are fortunate to have him at Salisbury School. - Mr. Mokriski

Seth’s motor runs on high octane, and it never hits empty. Propelled by a genuine intellectual curiosity and an innate need to surpass his potential, Seth is one of the most driven students I have encountered. He is humble, yet he is hungry. Most importantly, he’s a good guy. - Mr. Grover

Seth, your determination and development in the classroom over the past four years is impressive. Perhaps just as impressive is your humility and growth as a person. Few realize that this spring would have been your tenth season as a varsity athlete, and that you were named captain of three varsity programs. This on top of seven year-long courses, running a business on campus, and helping to steer the Investment Club. I also appreciate your selflessness and maturity. You are someone who has a small group of dedicated friends, and when asked what you will remember most fondly, you said that your tight-knit group played a major role in all of your favorite moments on the Hilltop. Lastly, there is the personal growth, highlighted by your trip to Ghana last spring. The trip was a special moment in the friendship you share with Thomas and opened your eyes to the fact that material comfort is not an obstacle to happiness or success.

All of this is done with little fanfare and no regard for public recognition. As the saying goes, “Well done is better than well said.” Well done, Seth. You make this community better every day, and I am proud of your contributions. In recognition of your academic excellence and scholarly achievement, I welcome you to the Cum Laude Society.

Christopher Cash Russell  
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