

S-P-I-C-E

SPECIAL PEOPLE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION ®

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SPICE TOUCHES LIVES!

After 17 years of talking about SPICE and its great accomplishments, it is easy to forget about the many lives and families that are truly touched and changed



because of SPICE. We have reached out to families that have been touched by SPICE over the years, and they have openly shared the following stories with us. SPICE is making a difference in people's lives!

Michelle Khourie: Signer at the 2017 SPICE St. Patrick's Day Dinner

"We just wanted to share a quick update on our son Connor, a proud product of the St. Catharine SPICE program. Connor was identified in second grade with dyslexia and with the help of SPICE he learned ways to deal with the difficulties he faces in learning. After graduating from Bishop Hartley, he went off to college where he was an Academic All American for cross country. Connor graduated from Ohio Dominican Cum Laude and is currently an Assistant Cross Country/ Track coach at Saint Leo University where he will finish his Masters degree in Business this August, with honors. We were told in second grade that Connor should probably go to public schools where he could get more help. We were told he would never be able to learn like everyone else and that school would be too difficult. Because of SPICE and his hard work Connor is now living a successful life and continues to learn as well as helping others. We are thankful for SPICE and the many ways it helped not only Connor, but the many others students that have been part of the program."

- John and Renee Callahan

"We have 8 children, each with different gifts, abilities and challenges. Several of them have received much needed and appreciated support from SPICE. As a parent, I know this has had a huge impact on their lives. Being able to attend St Catharine and Bishop Hartley has been such a blessing in helping to form their faith and character. Our daughter Maria said, "I'm so thankful to the SPICE program. I was given the chance to really grow as a student. To this day I don't know what I would do in high school without learning what seemed to be simple study habits and other things taught by Mrs. Knox."

Our first child to receive help from SPICE is deaf and was a student at Hartley when SPICE started. He is now in his 30's and is a valuable worker in the family business. I believe that having support from SPICE and St Catharine has been crucial in him still practicing his Catholic faith today. One of our other children who benefited from SPICE spent a year working with the homeless through the Christ In The City program after graduation.

I remember the days when there was not a SPICE program, when our first child started at St Catharine and the principal said at our first meeting, "This school is for average kids, we can't meet your needs if you have learning problems or are exceptionally gifted, we just don't have the resources." Thanks to all who started this program, and to all the people who have fanned the flames, as it has spread to other schools, cities, and states."

- Michael and Lisa Evans

"While our son Joe was at St. Catharine, we knew SPICE was special. But it was when we were somewhere else that we realized just how extraordinary SPICE is and how profoundly it impacted all of our lives.

We moved just prior to Joe entering high school. It became clear within the first week of school, that Joe was light-years beyond his peers in the support program at his high school. He had complex adaptive skills, honed over years of work with Marian Knox, that allowed him to maintain a traditional curriculum in upper or honors levels courses. Throughout high school, Joe was an honor roll student and upon graduation, received the award for academic excellence. Thanks to SPICE, he was accepted and received scholarships to both the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and CCAD in Columbus. Joe graduated with high honors from CCAD in 2013 and is currently a graphic designer for Abercrombie in New Albany.

Besides helping Joe deal with his weakness, SPICE also helped him embrace his strengths. SPICE taught Joe that his learning disability wasn't WHO he was, but simply the way his brain worked.

It's hard to put into words what SPICE has done for us except to say that it allowed our son to flourish in the face of what at times seemed to be nearly insurmountable challenges. It allowed us to watch him walk across a stage and accept a college diploma and to see him successfully navigate a professional career. It



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Connell

has provided him the foundation to move forward for the rest of his life, while never free of the challenges of his learning difference, but with the tools to continue to grow and thrive."

- Mary and Jeff Connell

"SPICE and Mrs. Knox helped me develop many important skills to be successful in school and in life,

- The support SPICE gave St. Catharine helped provide the staff and services that helped me develop a better understanding of the ins and outs of my learning disability.
- SPICE gave me the tools I needed to level the playing field each day in the classroom.
- SPICE gave me strength and confidence.
- SPICE allowed me to shine. No kid wants to be different in a bad way. But being different in a good way was cool.
- SPICE gave me truth and validation. I was different
 and I was always going to learn differently. They
 helped me understand that I was not the only one.
 And that it was not just okay to be different, but that
 differences were truly the "spice" of my classroom.
- The only way to get through school when you have a learning disability is to have a sense of humor. So, I guess you could say that SPICE helped hone my sense of humor too.
- SPICE expanded my "village". They say it takes a village to raise a child and SPICE provided an expanded support village for not just me, but my whole family..
- Most importantly, SPICE helped me discover art. Because I wasn't good at traditional school subjects like writing or reading, I gravitated toward the things I was good at, like art. All these things contributed to my choice of a career in art. Maybe I can say SPICE also helped me meet my wife since I met her at CCAD?
- I still struggle with the consequences of my learning disability. But because of SPICE, I have the tools to do it!"

 Joe Connell

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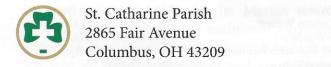
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