

Sentiments of a Grateful Parent

Dear Tom,

This email comes later than I had anticipated. In a way, that is probably a good thing because all of the graduation celebration is past us and that “new excitement” has worn off. As a matter of fact, the college excitement has officially begun. We moved Matthew into his dorm on Saturday and I managed to hold it together (sort of) until we got home and it hit me! Matt wasn't there to say good night to or make sure he's ready to go in the morning. As I know this is all part of life and that baby bird is ready to spread his wings and discover his own path in life, it hit me in the gut like someone punched me!

But, this experience is not about me, it is about Matt and who he has become. He is a confident, eager, and excited young man who is ready to take on the world. It doesn't feel like very long ago I dropped Matt off at the front doors of HTP and he cried because he was scared and although he was very unhappy and hated school, it was at least familiar to him. This new experience was anything but familiar and he didn't know how to live “comfortably while being uncomfortable”.

It took Matt two days to determine that he was never going back to his old school and couldn't believe that he actually (sort of) liked school after all. As Matt said in his graduation speech, he had some trouble getting used to not being able to hide in the back of the class, as strange as this was to him, he enjoyed it. The homework wars were over, as well as the getting up and getting out the door tantrums. He actually liked school!!!! Our family slowly began to heal and we were able to focus on being a family that did more than fought about school.

As the years went on and our district decided they would no longer support our decision to keep Matt at HTP you encouraged Adam and I to fight for what we felt was the best for our child as well as our family. Tom, Adam and I will never be able to repay you and the staff at HTP for the devotion you showed us through this terribly difficult and unsettling time for our family. Not only did you support our fight, you supported our loss. Because of your generosity Matt was able to continue focusing on his strengths, instead of hiding his weaknesses. Because of what HTP was able to offer, Matt accomplished more than anyone in our district ever imagined.

On Sunday when we left him in West Virginia he had a huge smile on his face as he waved and said good-bye. As I watched his silhouette grow smaller and smaller as we drove away I realized how truly blessed we've been because of your generosity.

I look forward to alumni events and continuing to be part of the HTP family!

All my best,

Amy Kasopsky
Parent: Matt '18

Left: Hill Top's graduating Class of 2018 celebrates after a remarkable ceremony in which each student shared his/her personal challenges, experiences at Hill Top and goals for the future.
Right: Matt Kasopsky '18 with his parents, Adam and Amy on graduation day

