



Dear Alumni, Parents & Friends of Hill Top Prep,

Before I enrolled in Hill Top in 7th grade, I struggled. I struggled in school, every day to keep up academically, cognitively and most frustrating for me, socially. You see, I've been an actor since Kindergarten and have always found comfort in the spotlight. That began to change when the spotlight was not on my abilities as an entertainer, but on my disabilities as a student.

As I progressed through elementary school, I began to experience educational challenges. My difficulties grew and I was pulled out of class for special services. My inability to participate academically began to affect my personal relationships. When the other kids saw that my needs were different, they labeled "me" as "different." Suddenly, I didn't fit in.

I was eventually diagnosed with a learning disability. Nonverbal processing disorders are difficult to diagnose, but for students in a middle school classroom, they are glaringly obvious.

At the time, my brother was a student at Hill Top diagnosed with autism. He encouraged me regularly to consider transferring here as well. I dismissed him for a while – until I didn't. When I seriously considered enrolling at Hill Top, it became clear to me that the small class size – there were only four students in my 7th grade class – was exactly what I needed to support my academic differences. More importantly, being around other kids who also didn't quite fit in a traditional classroom allowed me to be myself and to continue to feel comfortable about who I am.

Five years later, I am so grateful to make the long commute on the train from Philadelphia every day to Hill Top where everyone knows me, everyone supports me and everyone challenges me to get things done and get them done right!

It takes commitment and dedication for the Hill Top faculty and staff to provide this unique experience for students like me who are struggling to be successful at school. The support of Hill Top friends and families is also important. Gifts to the Annual Fund not only support the unique programs at Hill Top, but also help others know that great things are happening here.

So, please make a gift to the Annual Fund at Hill Top today. The work done here to help students and graduates be successful is groundbreaking. Your support at every level helps the School make sure that different learners, like me, have opportunities to be successful in school and beyond.

I know my senior year will be bitter-sweet as I prepare for college and a career in film. I'm excited to move forward knowing that my Hill Top family is always here to support me and challenge me to be the best me I can be.

Sincerely,
Katie Bradley '19



HILL TOP
Preparatory School