

Hannah Bradt

Mr. Speice

ISM 3A

13 March 2017

### Say Yes to the College

Over the course of the past week, students were finally able to enjoy their Spring Break. Whether it was a ‘stay-cation,’ a cruise to paradise, or a trip to the mountains, relaxation was a common theme. For myself, however, my Spring Break was somewhat contradictory, presenting itself as both relaxing and stressful. While I was not worrying about figuratively drowning in a plethora of schoolwork, I was focusing on the one thing that looms in the future of most high school juniors: college visits.

Since I was in the eighth grade, I have had dreams of attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, and over Spring Break was finally able to go on a tour of the school. I spent the beginning of my Spring Break touring Nashville, seeing if I would be able to see myself living in that community, and then traveled to Arkansas to continue my college tour. I found, as I had expected, that Belmont seemed to be the perfect school for me, as far as colleges that are 665 miles away from go. I was able to meet with people who are members of the music school, as well as walk the campus, so that I could experience the feeling of community that came with it. I immediately felt that I would be able to fit into this school.

The following day, I went to the much larger Vanderbilt University, which I had originally assumed that I would enjoy just as much as I did Belmont. However, much to my

surprise, I did not experience the same feeling or enjoyment of this school. As of now, I have decided that, on the occasion that I do decide to attend school in Nashville, I will most likely go to Belmont.

Once I had finished these tours, my family and I traveled to Arkansas, so that I could tour the small school of John Brown University. Located in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, this school is tiny, which I enjoyed. It is comprised of four main schools, all of which are very closely knit, providing a strong relationship between the education school and the music school. I was informed that these relationships are not always typical, but because it was present at this school, I would have a fairly smooth and simple transition between the two schools as I major in music education.

After these college visits, I have much to think about, and more visits to take part in, so that I may continue to gain an idea about where I may like to attend school. Thus far, I am certain that I would thoroughly enjoy attending Belmont. However, I am not sure that I would be willing to travel so far away from my family. As I continue to visit more colleges, my ideas will become more clear, although I realize that it is not completely necessary that I have a solid idea of where I want to go as of yet. Through my search for the right college, I continue to keep in mind the opportunities that the ISM program has provided, as I know that I will be entering college with far more experience in education than that of my peers, and for this, I am and will continue to be extremely grateful.