

Finn:

Hello class of 2024; It's Finnegan Barket, and today I have a several students joining me to talk about their friendships that they've developed over their freshman, sophomore, and junior years at Collegiate. These students have gained many friends over their years and are excited to share the many connections and experiences that they've shared together with their friends. Hopefully these interviews will show you just how important friendships are to our class of 2024

INTERVIEW 1 – MARKAYLA ROBINSON

Finn:

Hello, I'm Finnegan Barket, and today I'm interviewing

Markayla:

Markayla.

Finn:

So I'm just gonna ask Markayla a couple questions about friendships through her experiences at Collegiate. So Markayla, how much do your friendships mean to you?

Markayla:

Um, friendships are starting to mean the world to me. Um, I really think in life we really need that person who's just there to support us and be there for us when we need them.

Finn:

Yep. So, um, moving into like freshman year, how did the pandemic and virtual learning affect the way that you made friends?

Markayla:

Um, well obviously I didn't really make a lot of friends virtually just because I was just so driven off. I, I blocked out like the possibility of friendships honestly. Um, I, I just kind of was like, shoot, I just gotta do my work like, you know what I mean? Yeah. That was just kind of my mindset. So virtual learning, I didn't make a lot of friends because I just didn't really care about the friendships.

Finn:

Are you still friends with any of the people that you made during virtual learning or?

Markayla:

Um, yes, I am, um, my best friend. Um, so I'm still pretty cool with her. Well, obviously since we were best friends, but I mean, yeah, <laugh>.

Finn:

So, uh, moving into like sophomore year when we transitioned back into personal learning, do you feel that you formed better connections when you were making friends?

Markayla:

Um, yes, absolutely. Um, I think when we transitioned back, um, sophomore year, I think everybody was kind of going through the same thing uh, especially at Collegiate. The workload was kind of like, you know, intense, you know, sophomore year it wasn't that bad, but, you know, it was just kind of, you know, intense. So I feel like I made, um, better connections and stuff like that. Obviously, like making new friends, especially since I'm a transfer. Um, so like transferring sophomore year and, um, I feel like I was welcomed in open arms by the class of 2024, so it was pretty easy to make friends in this class.

Finn:

Yeah. Do you feel that, um, your friends have been able to support you through tough experience at Collegiate? For example, COVID and the incident?

Markayla:

Absolutely. Um, especially like being a part of a kind of big friend group, um, I feel like we, we support each other to where, um, even if it's just trolling each other, you know what I mean? Um, I really think we support each other, so I really think, um, especially when after the incident, like we took it upon ourselves to kind of meet up and like hang out just to kind of talk about things and kind of just lean on each other, you know, for that extra support because we are the only people that like, you know, are going through this, like, you know, well not going through it, but you know what I'm trying to say, you know what I mean?

Finn:

So like, talking about these tough experiences, what advice would you give to someone who wants to support a friend through a tough experience, but is unsure how to approach a situation?

Markayla:

Um, well first I think that they should just kind of first kind of hold off and be patient with the friend because you don't want to, uh, nudge it down their throat, like the situation. Um, you don't want to kind of talk about the situation too easily. So I think just being patient with the friend and just kind of just being in their corner, you know, keeping an eye out on them and making sure that they are, um, good and when they're ready to talk about it, I think like you should, you will already be there, so it wouldn't even be, you know, a problem so yeah.

Finn:

So last question. Do you think you'll keep your friends made and Collegiate as you move on in life?

Markayla:

<laugh>? Oh... no I'm just playing. <laugh>? Um, yes, I think, I think we would, well honestly, if I'm being like, totally honest like no sugar coat, I do think we're gonna be friends, but I think like, of course it's gonna be a time where like we don't really talk as much because like everyone's gonna be busy, we're gonna have our own lives, you know, like, school is our life right now. So I feel like, you know, we're

gonna have our own lives and stuff, but like, I feel like especially around like Christmas time when like we're coming back home for like that Christmas break and like, I really do think that's when we're gonna like, kind of like meet up and like, you know, still do our thing you know?

Finn:

Yeah, right. Thank you.

INTERVIEW 2 – EZRA SPRUIEL

Finn:

Hello, I'm Finnegan Barket, and today I'm interviewing;

Ezra:

Ezra Spruiel.

Finn:

So Ezra, I just want to ask you some questions about your friendships through your experiences at Collegiate. So just to start off, how much do your friendships mean to you?

Ezra:

They mean a lot because they really help me get through the days and like, help time pass at Collegiate. Yeah.

Finn:

So, um, going kind of to the start of your freshman year, how do you think the pandemic and virtual learning affected the way that you made friends?

Ezra:

Um, it was pretty hard to make friends online because you don't really know anybody and all you can really see are like pixels through a screen. Yeah, so it's kind of difficult to really get to know people, especially because I came to school if not, without knowing many people it was hard to make new friends.

Finn:

Did you make any friends that you're friends with now?

Ezra:

Um, not through virtual, but once I came in person I made a couple friends.

Finn:

So when we came back in person, uh, do you feel that you formed better connections when making friends?

Ezra:

Of course. I mean, I made a good friend named Shawn once I got to school and it was really, it was really easy to talk to him because we were actually face to face. Yeah.

Finn:

I agree. Shawn's a very good guy. Uh, do you feel that your friends have been able to support you through tough experiences at Collegiate? For example, COVID and the incident?

Ezra:

Um, I think they did because they really like, I've had somebody to talk to about things and like bounce ideas off of and help with homework and things like that. Yep.

Finn:

Do you think these experiences have made you closer with your friends?

Ezra:

Of course. I think they did because I mean, I feel I'm pretty close with most of my friends now and I haven't really lost any of my friendships yet.

Finn:

Yeah. So through these tough experiences, what advice would you give to someone who wants to support a friend through a tough experience but is unsure how to approach the situation?

Ezra:

Um, I mean, listening is always the first step. If you're always just there for your, um, your friends, then they'll probably be there for you back. Yeah,

Finn:

I agree with that. And lastly, do you think you'll keep your friends made in Collegiate as you move on in life?

Ezra:

I think I will because I mean, I think the friendships are pretty close, so I think the people that I talk to a lot right now, I'll probably talk to a lot in like four, six years.

Finn:

Yep. Like me and you.

Ezra:

Yeah. Yeah.

Finn:

All right. Thank you.

INTERVIEW 3 – ALIA VANDENBRINK

Finn:

Hello, I'm Finnegan Barket and I'm with

Alia:

Alia Vandenbrink

Finn:

Alia, I just want to ask you a couple questions about, uh, your friendships through experiences at Collegiate. So just to start off, how much do your friendships mean to you?

Alia:

Um, they mean a lot. I would say I've gained more friendships over the past years and grew to specific friends.

Finn:

Mm-hmm. So, um, during the pandemic and virtual learning, uh, how did they affect the way that you made friends differently?

Alia:

Uh, I think freshman year with the pandemic, I didn't really make that many friends, and the friends I did make, they weren't actually real friends for real.

Finn:

Mm-hmm.

Alia:

But after the pandemic I was able to actually like, build more friendships and they grew closer to me. So yeah.

Finn:

Are you still friends with the people that you made during virtual year?

Alia:

Uh, no I'm not.

Finn:

Oh okay. So, um, after virtual year and when we transitioned back into person learning, do you feel that you formed better connections when making friends?

Alia:

Yes, I do. I feel like just seeing people in person, like it was easier to realize what kind of people they are, and so yes, I think I grew closer to them after, um, online school. Yeah.

Finn:

Do you feel that your friends have been able to support youth through tough experiences at Collegiate? For example, COVID and the incident?

Alia:

Um, yes, I would say so. We've been able to FaceTime a lot and just play video games and just be with each other.

Finn:

Have these experiences made you closer with your friends?

Alia:

Um, I don't know. I think we would've been close no matter what. Yeah.

Finn:

I like that answer. What advice would you give to someone who wants to support a friend through a tough experience, but is unsure how to approach the situation?

Alia:

Uh, I would ask someone they're close to on what they could do, and if that doesn't work, I would just ask them myself and if they don't want any help, I give them space unless it's actually very serious.

Finn:

So lastly, do you think you'll keep your friends in Collegiate as you move on in life?

Alia:

Yes, I do. Well, especially the closer ones, but yes, I do think we will stay friends.

Finn:

All right. Thank you.

INTERVIEW 4 – KEVIN HO

Finn:

Hello, my name is Finnegan Barket and today I am here with;

Kevin:

Kevin

Finn:

So Kevin I'm just gonna ask you a couple questions about your friendships through your experiences at Collegiate. Um, so, just to start off how much do your friendships mean to you?

Kevin:

Friendships are important to me, I feel like they help support me and define me as a person.

Finn:

So during pandemic and virtual learning, how did it affect the way that you made friendships? I feel

Kevin:

Like, during virtual learning it was difficult to make friends because we were just talking from screen to screen and didn't have the in-person experience.

Finn:

Yeah. Are you still friends with anyone that you made during virtual learning?

Kevin:

I wouldn't say; because during virtual learning I was pretty shy and I didn't really talk a lot, so.

Finn:

mm-hmm.

Kevin:

Yeah.

Finn:

Yeah. So next year when we transitioned back into in person learning, how do you feel that you formed better connections?

Kevin:

Uh, it was better because we were in person and I was actually able to talk to new people instead of talking to people through a screen.

Finn:

Yep. Do you feel that your friends have been able to support you through tough experiences at Collegiate? For example, COVID and the incident?

Kevin:

Uh, yes. They helped me. They helped support me through the tough experience and I was able to get closer to some of my friends.

Finn:

Mm-hmm. So, um, what advice would you give to someone who wants to support a friend through a tough experience but is unsure how to approach the situation?

Kevin

I feel like just communicating

Finn:

Yeah.

Kevin:

Is a great way because if you communicate, you can hear, you can help offend out what the problems they're suffering.

Finn:

Mm-hmm. lastly, do you think you can keep your friendships at collegiate as you move on in life?

Kevin:

Uh, yes, because I think some of us are gonna still be communicating towards each other, even though we go to different colleges, but I feel like some of us are still gonna go to the same colleges and, yeah.

Finn:

All right. Thank you.

CONCLUSION

Finn:

These interviews show the significance and importance of friendships in the lives of our students in the class of 2024. They show how friendships can support others, create a sense of belonging, and help others get through obstacles together. These friendships have shaped others entirely; whether it be their academics, their personal self, or their mental health, friendships play a crucial role in student life. It is important that we keep our friendships strong, so that we can continue to create the supportive and joyful high school class community that we have in the class of 2024.