

Aaron and Susan Krenz – Parents of Martin (GPL '24) and William (GPL '26)

What led up to enrolling your child/ren at GPL? Was it a long process or short? Smooth or back and forth?

When our oldest son was in 8th grade we considered Great Plains; however, we were hesitant to send our son away for school at that age. We thought there would be more academic and extracurricular opportunities at the public school where he could take “baby-steps” into the real world compared to the small parochial school setting he had known for his entire formal education. We felt this way he could stay with us and still have home church involvement. While he was successful academically and in other extracurricular activities at Marshall, we were concerned about the true education he was receiving. Martin informed us during his sophomore year that he was thinking of switching to Great Plains. We looked seriously into the mission and possibilities of Great Plains and decided it would be a better fit for our family. While Martin joined Great Plains as a junior, our second son, William, came as a freshman. Undoubtedly having them go together made us feel more comfortable. The administration made the process extremely easy and were quick to answer questions as they arose.

Describe what you were thinking and feeling when you dropped your child/ren off at the dorm for the first time?

We were nervous dropping them off for the first time and there were many phone calls and texts those first days and weeks.

Talk about some of the challenges you have worked through and some of the blessings you have experienced.

We have been blessed to see them so often at their activities at school and then on weekends home.

How has having your child/ren away from home at GPL affected your relationship with your child/ren?

We have enjoyed seeing the way they have adjusted to this environment. We see that they are even more attentive when they are home and appreciate the time they have with the rest of the family.

If you had to choose just one, what one thing do you want people to know about GPL?

We love the Christ-centered and challenging education and the familial atmosphere of Great Plains Lutheran! Joining Great Plains was an excellent decision for our family!