

Donna Abrahamson – GPLHS Class of 2025

What led up to your enrollment at GPL? Was it a simple decision or complicated? Were you in favor or reluctant?

I started attending GPL because my sister, Sophie, did, and we've all come here since. Besides that, we didn't really have many other options. The only other choice was continuing in homeschool, but that would've been really lonely. I was pretty excited to come to school here, initially.

Describe what you were thinking and feeling in the days leading up to and on the day you moved into the dorm for the first time.

I didn't really think about moving into the dorm at all. It's just part of the process of coming to school here. I'm not going to live with my parents forever, so I may as well get a preview when I'm still a teenager.

Were those thoughts and feelings different a month or two later? If so, how?

After a month or two of living in the dorm, I was ready to leave. I was socially drained and didn't want to interact with any of my peers ever again. It felt even more lonely than the physical isolation that goes along with homeschooling. The constant bombardment of social interaction was a strange experience, and I really didn't enjoy it at first.

Talk about some of your classes and the activities you've been involved in.

I enjoy the wide array of extracurriculars that GPL offers. They helped me spread my wings even throughout those stressful times, and I learned to grow as a person despite the hardships. I've been in Oral Interpretation (competitive speech or forensics) for three years and really enjoyed the environment there. I've also participated in One Act, our competitive winter theatre production, and the Spring Play. Last year, I was painted green as the Mock Turtle, and I was Rosie Alvarez in this year's musical.

Talk about some of the challenges and blessings you have faced during your time at GPL.

Despite the difficult acclimation to the GPL dorm environment, I really appreciate my time that I've had here. I'm excited to graduate next school year and to be an alumni of GPL. It's a school and time I've grown to be proud of, and I look forward to continuing my time here. Some of the closest friends I have are friends that I met through Great Plains, and I'm sincerely grateful for those relationships.

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

Though it may take a while to get used to and the student relations aren't always perfect, GPL is an amazing place to be. Our dorm is amazing and our school building is great. It hasn't always been my favorite place to be, but now, I'm glad that I'm here and will God willing continue in my education here.