



I attended Selkirk Montessori School for pre-school through kindergarten, and grades 4 through 8. I was the only boy of 8 graduates in 2008. I am currently a grade 11 student at Oak Bay Secondary. Outside of school, I play competitive hockey for Saanich (midget), play tennis and participate on the school track team. I was in the top 3 in long-jump and javelin for my age group on the Island last year.

Transferring from a small independent school to one of the largest high schools in Victoria was a little difficult at first. The main challenges were homework and adapting to a bigger student population.

At Selkirk, I had a limited amount of take-home homework, because I always had time to complete my assignments in class. At Oak Bay, few assignments are completed in class, so most every day I have to carry a backpack full of textbooks and notes home.

Selkirk's senior class was less than 20 people and consisted of 3 grades. I knew everyone very well as we studied together most all day. At Oak Bay, there are over 250 students in each grade – and I am with a different set of kids at each of my 8 classes. Because of the large student body, there are lots of different groups and lots of parties.

Selkirk provided me with some survival skills that helped me cope with my transition to high school. I learned time management and good study habits. These have helped me deal with the large amount of homework. I have been on the honour roll each term. I also learned to be comfortable and confident with who I am. I have therefore not given into peer pressure to try things that I do not want to. I can say No without being shy.

Thank you Selkirk Montessori School teachers and staff for teaching me how to be a good student and citizen.

