



Graduation Essay Compilation - Class of 2017-2018

The following is a collection of essays written by Heilicher's 8th grade students upon the occasion of their graduation. These are their reflections on how their experiences at Heilicher, especially as they relate to our school's core values, have impacted their lives until now, and how they envision their impact into the future.

The essays are presented in alphabetical order, without any additional adult editing. From commentary about the bomb threat to thoughts about the importance of friendship, from Broadway analogies to sports metaphors, the ideas, language and writing are entirely their own.

Ayelet P.

When going to tour Heilicher for the first time, although I was only in pre-k, I could admire the knowledge and power of these children. At Heilicher, I felt like I was going to grow. Even though I had already made up my mind, my parents made me tour Peter Hobart. I purposely failed my assessments. As Oprah Winfrey says, "surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher." I knew how badly I wanted to go to Heilicher, I understood how much it would change me as a student and as a person. So, I did everything I could do to ensure that I was going to Heilicher. The time for me to make the choice about my Jewish education was, clearly, now. לא עכשיו, אמת? "And if not now, when?"

The time to learn is now, the time to help another person is now; the time to care for our environment is now; because if we put it off, it may never happen.

My experiences at Heilicher have shaped me into the person I am today. These memories and experiences will help me continue to grow and learn. Going to Heilicher has educated me to become the person I am and will be.

Zachary N.

“If not now, when?” directly applies to the seventh-grade ancestry project. We chose an ancestor who immigrated to America. I was able to do some of the research on my own using the internet to find documents, but I relied heavily on my Savta to share stories with me about her father, my dad’s Saba. I wanted to understand what it was like to live as a Jew almost 100 years ago. She told me funny things that happened to her while she was growing up - like having large fish swimming in the family’s bathtub as part of her mother’s Passover preparation to make gefilte fish, but she quickly realized that even she did not know all there was to know about her father. He did not speak very often about living in Poland, being separated from his family, or about the struggles he had when he arrived in St. Paul, Minnesota not knowing how to speak English. Unfortunately, we no longer have many living relatives from that side of our family so there was not anyone to help fill in the blanks. As we dug through old photos and letters together, my Savta and I both gained an appreciation of his history and the strength of his character. We also learned some things that even my Savta did not know about her dad. I not only learned some genealogy, but also strengthened the relationship I have with my entire family. I know that I need to take the opportunity **now**, while we are all healthy, to come together, to continue to learn about family history, and to keep making great memories to pass down to the next generations.

Alex C.

A core value that relates to my experience at Heilicher is, וְאָם לֹא עַכְשָׁיו, אָמְתִּי, “And if not now, when?” The time to learn is now, the time to help another person is now; the time to care for our environment is now; because if we put it off, it may never happen. This came up during our sixth-grade trip to Wolf Ridge, when we did the ropes course. I was very scared and didn't want to go onto the tightrope. The more I

waited, the more I got more scared. I finally asked myself, “When do I want to stop, and if I do decide to continue, when will that happen?” I came to this point at multiple times during the ropes course, and I eventually finished it. After that experience, whenever I’m delaying something, I will always try to ask myself, “When will I do this?” and, “Do I want to even do this?” From now on, I will always ask myself, “If not now, when?” This will help in high school, because in high school you can’t turn in assignments late otherwise it will negatively affect your grade. I will be better prepared for school-work, social life, and have better relationships with friends.

Justin K.

Since kindergarten this school has been giving us life lessons through their teachings without us even knowing it. They taught us about real world events, how to work independently, how to work in a group and even how to write a ten-page paper. Projects like the debate and ethics report taught me to work in a group, and trips like Wolf Ridge and Washington D.C. helped solidify old friendships and make new ones. This school has taught me to always make friends with the people around me.

In my seventh-grade debate, most of the time, our whole group would agree on something, but one person did not. At first, I did not know how to handle this, and we just told this person to go with the popular opinion. Clearly this was the wrong approach and this person walked out of the room and refused to work with the rest of the group. I forgot that I cannot assume that this method will work, because everybody is different. We ended up enlisting a teacher, and they helped us work our problem out in the end, by letting the groupmate have their say and still letting us have ours.

A core value that connects to this is **עֲשֵׂה לָךְ רֵב, וְקַנְיָה לָךְ חֲבֵר** “Make for yourself a mentor and get yourself a friend.” I made myself a teacher in that situation by trying

to accommodate with my more stubborn groupmate and made myself a friend by trying to talk with that groupmate and help them.

Levi S.

We are graduating with a grade of 23 students, and because of this, I know each and every Heilicher student very well, and we have a very tight knit community. This is why my friends are so important to me. Not only do they make things fun, but they have also taught me so much.

Something I learned, that I feel so amazed by, is how my friends at Heilicher have become my mentors. This is why, even in kindergarten, the friendships I built are the most key part of my experiences. One day, I came home from kindergarten, and said to my parents that there was a kid who kept on bullying me. He was calling me Levi-Bevi, and I hated it. To my surprise, my parents didn't support me. Instead, they decided that they were going to invite this bully over for a play-date. My parents were expecting a tough, punk, bad kid, and I was expecting a complete bully. But they, and I too, were very surprised by his good manners and sweet temper. Well, since then, we've had countless playdates, or as we call it now "hanging out". Although we've changed from playing with hexbugs, to playing basketball, and he doesn't call me Levi-bevi anymore -- just Levi, and the occasional "Smets."

I know the suspense is killing you, so let me tell you, that "bully" was Leo. Luckily, my parents were there to help me out, but in high school they won't always be there, and it will be up to me to step up. In this situation, my parents were my mentors, but furthermore, they set me up with people who I have learned so much from.

Noah B.

Robby was my best friend since I met him and is still my best friend. He is really supportive of me. We both understand each other in many ways. We always hang out together at our houses and play Monopoly. It is always fun (because I beat him every time). We get things done together and help each other if in need. If Robby was not a friend to me, I would not be where I am today.

Gabe is also one of my great friends. He is the friend who makes me laugh if I'm down or helps me with speeches. Gabe and I have worked together on a lot of whether it was debating on round tables to helping each other on capstone, he was right there when I needed him. He is a funny friend and also very nice.

My friends have helped me in a big way. They have helped me learn and have supported me. They played a big part in my education and gave me so many good memories at HMJDS.

Gabe K.

Through my years at Heilicher I have learned so many things that have shaped me into the person I am today and who I will be in the future. Whether it was learning addition or writing capstone, it all had an impact on me.

One thing that was probably the most meaningful is my relationship with the little kids. in particular Eli and Ezra, who were kindergarteners last year. Whenever I see them in the hall I hear a "Hi Gabe," this might not seem like much, but it actually means a lot to me. It means, I have a legacy. At Friday lunch, they always talk to me like I am their age, which I love. I hope that as I leave this school they understand that they made a mark on my life, and I hope I have made one on theirs. My wish for those guys is to be mensches and continue to be a friend to everyone. I hope that I helped them be who they are... Express yourself as a mentor and as well be a friend.

As these two great, young kids learn and become who they are going to become, I want to pass on my legacy. If they take one thing away, I hope it would be this. As

Ben Parker, (my favorite superhero's grandfather) said, "with great power comes great responsibility." They are future of the school.

Robby G.

Although this is a small school, and we are different than most schools, we have something that most do not have. We know our entire grade by individual names. We are a community.

I met Levi at our first recess in the sandbox. Levi taught me to jump off a swing, play football, and table tennis. I was so sad when Levi told me he was leaving for Canada. What I did not realize is that while we had been friends, he taught me how to make more friends.

Noah Berger is a brother to me. Whether it is Monopoly (which I always beat him in) or video games (which he always beats me in) we always have fun together. He taught me how to interact socially with people and how to be a good person.

Aaron Cox got me to love Dungeons and Dragons (D&D.)

Lexi Greenberg... We were friends our first couple years at Heilicher and frenemies the next, but lately we have been great friends again.

All of these people, as well as this entire school, are my family. I feel I can turn to any of them (even my teachers) about anything. Whether I know them from chess, D&D, classes, or just recess, they have made me me. Family is a gift, and I am so lucky that I have such a good family, surrounded by people who stand by you anytime, anywhere.

Aaron C.

During my time here at Heilicher, I have made lots of friends, and I hope I remain in touch with them in high school. My friends and I have had fun and many funny experiences together.

While in D.C. at the Air and Space Museum, Gabe, Justin and I watched a movie called Journey into Deep Space. For me this represents “Make for yourself a mentor and get yourself a friend.” I was learning with friends. If it were not for my friends, I would not have seen the movie. My learning experience has been enhanced by friends. They have taught me to see other people’s point of view. They have taught me to have an open mind to other ways of doing things. They challenge my thinking. We have all learned at Heilicher that helping your friends learn is something we all can do.

As I look back, I wish all my friends and teachers good luck in the journey to come.

Haya F.

Many kids in school cannot call their teachers their friends, but this is why HMJDS is so special, because we students can have a somewhat personal relationship with our teachers.

עֲשֵׂה לָךְ רֵב, וּקְנֵה לָךְ חֵבֵר – Although to most, this means to get yourself a teacher and a friend, I think that it is important that you find yourself a teacher who **is** your friend, because then you will develop a different kind of relationship. I mean, it is pretty cool that we have a group chat with a teacher. I also appreciate all of the teachers who helped me develop my love of reading. I have, of course, always loved reading. Ms. Dorman used to have to tell me to put my book down while walking to dismissal so I wouldn’t run into anyone. Mrs. Coates allowed my love of reading to grow, suggesting books that would become some of my favorites and letting my library to grow to new heights.

I can implement this core value in high school by not being nervous about talking to my teachers or my friends. So, thank you to all of my teachers and friends who have made these past nine years really count.

Rachel L.

Something about Heilicher that I love, and will miss, is the tight bond between students and teachers. It allows teachers to really get to know their students, and students have input about how they want to learn and what they want to learn about. Even the teachers with a solid lesson plan can adapt to how different students learn. Teachers like Mr. Mintz and HaMorah Esther tell us stories about their different students over the years as a learning experience for us and for them. Ms. Cytron knows when we need extra practice time, she knows the individual students' strengths and weaknesses. Teachers play a central part in my education at Heilicher, but they are also my friends, and have introduced me to some of the most wonderful students who I am glad to have as my friends.

I made my first friend in kindergarten, a dirty blonde-haired girl with chubby cheeks, and if you ask her today, she'll tell you, "We were sitting in a circle, and I had like a cast-type of thing on my foot, and then Rachel went up to me and said 'Hey! What's that thing on your foot?'" The rest is history. Haya and I have been best friends ever since. As an introverted student, it was trickier for me to befriend my peers, but over time, I came out of my shell.

The friends I've made since then are bold, bright, intelligent, caring, and so many other incredible qualities that make me incredibly happy to know them.

Noa G.

I had to miss a year and a half of school due to my parents' jobs. Each time I left, I worried that when I came back, my friends would not include me. In true Heilicher

fashion, my peers not only accepted me back, but caught me up on all the latest news, and truly made me feel at home. This kindness has taught me how to be a better person, and also a better friend.

While I could write about the amazing people at Heilicher all day, it is also extremely important for me to talk about the wonderful education I have received at Heilicher. First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to my parents for giving me the opportunity to have a Jewish education. Heilicher has always mixed a unique style of teaching with chances to discuss Jewish life and morals in every setting. Projects like making my own tallit allowed me to explore and understand my Jewish identity and personal beliefs. Genealogy, in seventh grade, allowed me to explore my ancestry and learn things I had never known about my family (like my great grandfather being kidnapped by an orthodox group at a young age), and to connect with my Jewish heritage. For capstone, I took on the topic of social media, technology, and teens. While students can of course look at their issue as black and white, our teachers and mentors challenged us to go deeper, ignore assumptions, and figure out what we believe, and why we believe it.

Shira H.

During the seventh-grade debate project, we were to argue over renewable energy sources and fossil fuels. I was, inevitably, assigned to the task of arguing that oil and coal were far better sources of energy than solar or wind power. My anxiety only increased when we were told that instead of taking turns presenting our rebuttals at the podium, we would be doing rapid-fire rebuttals, in which the two people straight-up argue with each other. The idea of a no-holds-barred verbal battle sent me into a panic attack. I started crying in the hallway. I was beyond terrified. I was certain that I couldn't handle rapid-fire arguing. It was too intense, and I was too timid. That next day, in Ms. Becker's class, we practiced this new style of arguing. I loved it. I cannot explain the rush that hit me, but it was incredible, and I was good

at it too. I loved how just a few well-chosen words and a trustworthy source could completely smash my opponent's arguments. It was, **arguably**, my favorite part of seventh grade social studies.

That said, the core value that I feel represents my time at Heilicher is 'Guard your tongue from evil , נִצֹר לְשׁוֹנֶךָ מִרָע.' It does not only mean to refrain from doing harm with your words to other people, it also includes yourself. Just as I need to be careful with my words around my friends, I have to be careful with the words I use when I am alone. Words hold weight, and they can do damage. I plan to use my words for good. I'll conclude with a **word** of advice from one of my most favorite authors, J. K. Rowling, "Words are our most inexhaustible source of magic."

Jacob K.

Going into seventh grade, I was not the most politically informed student. I knew the basics, like "Don't be a jerk," etc, but I didn't really have good argument and debate skills. However, Ms. Becker's round tables taught me how to put together arguments, create a rebuttal, and how to be prepared for real life situations in which people will try to prove you wrong.

Topics ranged from abortion to immigration, to LGBTQ+ issues, to even year-round schooling. Using at least two sources, we gathered important facts and developed an informed opinion.

On the day of round table discussions, everyone shares their viewpoint, then someone elaborates on their opinion and calls on another person, who either elaborates or rebuts. There are no teams. It is every person for themselves. Opinions are switched. Points are made. Backs are stabbed. We are supposed to raise our hands... Forget it. This is not America. This. Is. **Hell.**

Just kidding. It isn't THAT bad. But it does come pretty close. Thankfully, Toby and I have never been in the same round table discussion. THEN, it would have been that bad.

Today's issues are really hard. If everyone keeps yelling at each other, we get nowhere, no progress is made. If people start having educated debates, like round tables, we can make progress and life gets better. I will remember round tables as I go into my high school career, making sure to have an educated background whenever debating, making sure to be respectful in debates, and making sure to move towards a good solution, not a victory or a bragging right.

Lexi G.

One of my favorite classes is math. When I don't understand something, I start to argue with the teacher until I understand. I will argue with Ms. Cytron, and she lets me, because she knows that is how I learn.

My other favorite class is Social Studies, because every Friday we get to discuss the roundtable. It is so much fun. You argue your side and get to say what you want. Sometimes you argue so well that people change sides. This is my favorite part of the week!!

The core value, "Guard your tongue from evil," has taught me a lot. Over the years, I realized that I have to think before I say anything and decide if it is evil or not and if it will hurt someone else. I plan on using this core value for the rest of my life by thinking before I say anything, because I don't hurt anyone by my words.

I would also like to thank all my teachers for taking care of me while at school and working very hard to keep me caught up with all the school I miss due to health issues. Some teachers did that by being strict and not letting me argue with everything they say, and some by making it feel like I can come up to them and deal

with what is bothering me, and others by just making sure I am keeping up with the work I miss.

Solomon H.

During my many years at Heilicher, I learned many things that will help shape my future. From solving hard problems, to helping people who felt out of place. Heilicher has always taught me that no matter how much homework or how many projects we have, there will always be someone who needs our help out in the world. A core value that expresses a time where I had to step up was ,לֹא עָלֶיךָ הַמְּלָאכָה לְגַמֵּר, וְלֹא אַתָּה בֶן חוּרִים לְהַבְטִיל מִמֶּנָּה. It is not up to you to finish the job. Neither are you free to withdraw from it.” An example of this was when the seventh and eighth grade had to build the tzedakah box for the 2018 benefit. Originally, we had to have it finished about two weeks before the benefit. In the end, we finished the day before the benefit. Even though we were all really stressed out, we all still had fun thinking of ideas and building the actual final model. This experience taught us that no matter how behind we are, or how stressed out we are, we still should finish the task. In high school, I will face this same type of task, and get stuck on problems similar to this one, but I must power through, work well with a group, listen to others, and make hard decisions. Also, I will have to think not just only about myself, but also future grades, and my future life.

Toby K.

At Heilicher, I shared many life changing experiences with my friends, and learned how to be a better human being. I want to thank all my teachers and peers for shaping who I am today, but the most memorable event that I was a part of throughout my nine years here, was the 2017-18 basketball season. For those of you who don't know, we made it to the finals this past season, and it was one of the best

seasons in our school's basketball history. That is pretty remarkable, considering no one thought we would make it that far, including me. But what made this season unique and special was how close and in sync we were with each other. I have been a part of many basketball teams before, and none of them came close to how close we were this season. We also had a kid from another school, who happens to be my neighbor, on our team, and we treated him like everyone else. Of course, he only played a total of two minutes because of injuries, but we valued him as much as we valued everyone else. For the first time, I felt like everyone was valued and treated equally, and we played like an actual team, unlike past seasons. The core value that I took away from this is

לא עָלֶיךָ הַמְלָאכָה לְגַמֵּר, וְלֹא אַתָּה בֶן חוּרִים לְהַבְטִיל מִמֶּנָּה, It is not up to you to finish the job, neither are you free to withdraw from it.

Everything we did, we did as a team, and we all worked together to make our team better. Of course, this core value doesn't only apply to basketball, but also to the way we interact with each other in society. As I am going to a new school, in a new environment, I will be working with new people, and I will be learning to work with different people.

Leo L.

My experiences at Heilicher have been filled with up and downs, but the foundation of my experience at this school is the core value: כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֻבִים זֶה בְּזֵה "All Jews are responsible for one another." My interpretation of this core value is: We respect each other's differences, and we are all responsible for one another.

At the beginning of the basketball season, I don't even know where the team was at, as I was not on it. The only thing I knew about the team was that there were laser pointers involved. When I joined, I noticed that there were many arguments about stats, skills, and other pointless things between the teammates. Shortly after I arrived, every player took a survey which asked how we could improve team spirit,

bonding, and inclusion. Our team's mindset and mentality became so much better after we took the survey. We rarely argued with each other anymore. Before the survey was taken, every player was in a different place, and my teammates and I would have never guessed that we would have earned second place. To my and the team's surprise, we did just that, and throughout the playoffs, we all treated each other equally and set our differences in skill aside to fulfill our ultimate goal: Winning the championship. Although we came up short, everyone associated with the team's success; players, coaches, and parents were tremendously proud of how we came together in unity to bring the trophy back to the beautiful Heilicher halls.

Gigi S.

כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֻבִים זֶה בְּזֶה. All Jews are responsible for one another.

As many of you know, in fourth grade my house burnt in. Yes, it burnt in, not down. The only thing I had was the pajamas I was wearing when it happened, the shoes I grabbed, and a stuffed animal a policeman gave me, which I still have to this day. Everyone in the grade knew I did not have any other clothes except the ones I was borrowing from my cousin. All of the sudden people in the grade not only gave me hand me downs - some people bought clothes for me. Oprah Winfrey once said, "Real integrity is doing right thing, knowing that nobody is going to know whether you did it or not." Some people would just leave things in my locker, and I want to thank the people who did it anonymously. I also want to thank the teachers and students because without you I probably would have failed. It was not just one person who helped me, it was a whole community. This kehillah was kind, loving and charitable. When I am in high school I will use what I have learned but I hope no one has to go through. I know for the future, when someone goes through a trauma, they need help, and it does not matter if they know who helped them.

I am so thankful that I went to Heilicher because of what I have learned, not only academically, and because of the experiences I have had. This school, the faculty and the students have shaped me and made me the person I am today.

Molly S.

וְגַר לֹא-תוֹנֶה, וְלֹא תִלְחָצֶנּוּ, כִּי-גֵרִים הֵייתֶם, בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.

“And you shall not wrong, nor oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

I am the only kid graduating today who has not been at this school for nine years. I came in first grade and was the only one who was a stranger in a strange land. I don't remember what I learned on that first day, but what I do remember is the friendships that have lasted from day one to day 2920.

The only part of my first day that I do remember is recess. Heidi had been instructed by Ms. Vlodaver to hang out with me, just to help me adjust to a new setting and to make me feel welcome. Here is where the core value I spoke about comes into play. Before I arrived, I was not worried about being oppressed or wronged; I mean I was in first grade. I had no idea what that even meant. I was worried about normal things, first grader things, like, will I like the new kids? Will they like me? What even is this new place? But by recess time, with my blankie in hand, I already had a community supporting me, and they weren't calling me a stranger, but a friend. Heidi could have decided she didn't want to be friends with the new kid who wouldn't let go of her blankie, who still sucked her thumb, and kept crying because she didn't want to be there. She was not only following this core value by hanging out with me but making a Hiddur Mitzvah (a mitzvah that is taken to an extra level) out of the core value as she not only hung out with me but she befriended me. Even in first grade kids were following this core value and that is why I am proud not only to have gone to Heilicher but to be able to form friendships that will last for a lifetime. Thank you to everyone for never making me feel like a stranger.

Heidi M.

Walking into Mrs. Hjulberg's class on the first day of kindergarten, everyone was a stranger to me. I saw nobody that I knew besides the GIANT Winnie The Pooh. I was a stranger in a new land. I was a stranger and kindergarten was my Egypt.

Molly Schochet joined us in first grade. Mrs. Vlodayer asked me to hang out with her and I am so happy she did. Now Molly was the stranger. She was different because she was the "new kid" but once I spent my recess with her, I realized she wasn't that different at all. "All Jews are responsible for one another," therefore, I was responsible for taking care of Molly. In 1st grade, I learned to be responsible for others.

In seventh grade, I remember being told to get outside and keep walking. No one knew what was going on, but as one of the older kids, I understood we were not going on a field trip. We walked -- confused -- and carried little kids. I didn't have any shoes because I had given my shoes to some little kids who had just come out of the pool. Some of us also gave them our coats too. I remember it like it was yesterday (scared but afraid to show it), when Yoni Binus announced that the JCC and our school had received a bomb threat. We were going through something that no children should ever go through, but even with that, people were performing mitzvot. "A mitzvah leads to another mitzvah and a wrongdoing leads to another wrongdoing." We were cold because it was in the winter, but we gave our coats to younger kids. The next thing we knew, four little kids were wrapped up in one of our big winter coats. A mitzvah leads to another mitzvah. One coat turned into a coat for four other kids. In seventh grade, I learned how a little mitzvah turns into a bigger mitzvah.

Peyton E.

My time at Heilicher was amazing, stressful, fun, important. But most of all, special. For me, Judaism is a huge part of who I am. I love analyzing Torah text. I love questioning the laws. I love learning about my history and who I am.

Heilicher has helped me through the best of times, and through the roughest.

Last summer, I was in a theater camp (of course!) with a bunch of my friends from Heilicher. There were some kids, making anti-semitic comments about the Holocaust, saluting Hitler, and making homophobic comments. I knew this was not okay. Finally, I had had enough. Two other students from Heilicher and I went to our camp leader and then to the camp director. She was appalled that this had happened and was very sorry. Later, we talked to the kids who were making those comments and discovered that they honestly did not know that it was as offensive as it was. It may seem crazy to us that they did not know saluting Hitler was offensive but, they did not have the education that we have. Heilicher taught me what to do in that situation and I am forever grateful for that. If I had not brought this issue up with the adults at the time, when would I? I know that I would have really regretted not bringing this up with the trusted adult in the situation.

ואם לא עכשיו, אז מתי? And if not now, when?

This year, on February 14, a man went into Stoneman Douglas High school and murdered seventeen people. Since then, I have been on a mission to help eliminate gun violence. My Capstone project was called “Gun Control vs. The NRA.” I was also part of the six who organized the walkout, and I am looking to do more on this issue. If not now, when? Because, really? At this point? It is time. That is who I am. Fighting for what I believe in.

Lauren V.

Some kids say that they don't like Heilicher and they can't wait to leave, but I know that they will still be sad. Now that school is almost over a lot of people are sad to leave. This has been our school for 9 years, and next year we will have to go to totally different schools. About a month ago, when everyone was deciding where to go for high school, 2 of the girls who are best friends found out that they were going to different high school and they started crying. Everyone in our grade is so close. It is so sad that everyone is going to be split up next year.

I feel that our friendship relates to the core value *כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרָבִים זֶה בְּזֵה*, which means all Jews are responsible for one another. Our grade is a community or as we say a kehila, we are all great friends, and we help each other and comfort each other. Even though the core value says, "All Jews," it can still mean all people. This core value has taught me to always help other people and it reminds me of all my good times at Heilicher. The core value "if not now when" can be used a lot more than you might think, it applies to everything no matter what it is, if we keep putting that thing off it will never get done, because for something to happen you have to do something about it. When going to Heilicher I always felt like going here was never going to end, like I was never going to graduate, and I was fine with that. During the school year I would always wish for summer, the summer would come, then it would end and I would always go back to school, it was like a never-ending cycle except it only lasted 9 years. Now the cycle is ending and I have to go to high school. Even though I am sad to leave Heilicher, I am excited to start a new journey in high school, then college and the rest of my life.

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