

Where Are They Now?

St. Elizabeth Catholic High School Regional Arts Program

Drama



Natalie Stocco

RAP discipline? Drama

Year of graduation? 2013

Education? After St. Elizabeth, I attended Guelph University, where I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in English. I graduated in April 2017, and then worked in youth justice for a year and a half before going back to school in September 2018 to pursue a Master of Social Work degree at Wilfrid Laurier University! I am currently living in Waterloo and entering my second year of the program, expected to graduate in April 2020.

What is your current job and what does that entail? Working in youth justice, I was a summer student at a youth probation office in Toronto for four months before securing a full-time job at the Roy McMurry Youth Centre, a youth detention center, for a year until I returned to school. While there, I often did general check ins with youth who were completing probation sentences, which included meeting with youth and writing reports for court on their behalf. At the centre, I worked as an assistant to the Deputy Administrators. This work entailed meeting with youth on a bi-weekly basis to hear out their concerns and advocate on their behalf, planning, scheduling, and at times helping to lead programming for the youth, and generally helping the Deputy Administrators with any work that needed to be done. I learned a great deal at both jobs and am still in contact with some of my coworkers!

Please comment on any skills you feel you have developed in the RAP. The program helped me learn how to manage nerves related to presenting or the beginning of something new. When I am beginning a new job or placement, I often think back to the amount of performances I did within the program. If I was able to overcome nerves, get on stage and perform over and over throughout my high school years, I think I can manage nervousness towards anything! Additionally, the program helped me develop valuable group work skills at a young age. When putting together a performance, you are forced to quickly learn how to discuss, amicably disagree, and compromise. These are skills that I have continuously built on throughout my job and life experiences, and they will always be needed.

What is your most fond memory of RAP? My most fond memory is any trip we took to go see plays in Stratford and Toronto! I always looked forward to those field trips the most, and still talk about some of the plays I saw to this day. They were a great bonding experience for our Drama cohort!

What piece of advice would you have for current RAP students? Take your discipline seriously and be willing to put in the work, but overall remember – nothing is unfixable! When you are putting together a performance and things don't seem to be going your way, it often feels like you are failing or bad at the discipline you love most. Walk away from it, ask for help, and most importantly remember to have fun with it! High school passes so quickly, try to not spend too much of it stressed out about things that are solvable!

If you recall why did you choose to attend St. Elizabeth? I had heard about the RAP program and thought it would be an amazing experience to get to spend my high school years surrounded by people who love the arts as much as I do – turns out I was right!

What else have you been up to that has brought you to where you are today? In 2018, I flew alone for the first time to meet up with a close friend in Bali for two weeks. If you can, I would recommend going to somewhere across the world like that, even if just for a couple of weeks. The country was beautiful, and it also gives you perspective along with a new appreciation for home.