

Erin Doherty

SJRCS Graduate 1997



SJRCS holds a special place in her heart. It offered many opportunities for her to learn, to be curious, to practice leadership, to volunteer, and to understand what it really meant to respect and honor yourself and your neighbor.

SJRCS has always encouraged her to celebrate differences – in third grade she remembered celebrating the Jewish Seder service and meal – an experience that all but one student in the class had never experienced. The teachers were dedicated to each student’s learning and development, and they made classes fun and engaging. SJRCS prepared her well for the life she has led since her graduation in 1997..... and for that she is very grateful.

After graduating from SJRCS, Erin was accepted to all of the high schools to which she applied: Phillips Exeter Academy, Phillips Andover Academy, Bishop Guertin, and her top choice school – Brooks School in North Andover, MA.

Erin attended Brooks School as a day student and was well-prepared by SJRCS for the Prep School experience. She studied at Glenalmond College in Perth, Scotland as an exchange student during her junior year. She was an active member of the student body: a member of the student council all four years, a member of the Phillips Brooks Society, and played Varsity Soccer (4 years), Varsity Ice Hockey (3 years), JV Tennis (1 year) and rowing for JV Crew (1 year). In her Junior year of High School, she was awarded the Wellesley College Book Award, awarded to a Junior nominated by the faculty for her outstanding contributions to her school in leadership, citizenship, and scholastic achievement. Senior year, she was selected as Senior Prefect and was awarded the Headmaster’s Prize at graduation.

After Brooks, Erin enrolled at Middlebury College, but wanted to take a semester to study again in Scotland. She spent a semester at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland. In addition to her coursework, she played on the Women’s Football (Soccer) team, took Scottish dancing classes, and traveled with my new friends around Scotland, Ireland, and Austria. During the summers throughout college, she waited tables to make some extra cash.

Erin went on to study Biology and Environmental Studies at Middlebury College in Vermont. While at Middlebury, she was active in student residential life, event planning, and JV Soccer. During her Junior year in college, she studied at the University of Otago in New Zealand, and spent time traveling around New Zealand and Australia. Erin made the Dean's list several semesters and graduated with Honors in Biology.

While doing her Honors thesis at Middlebury, Erin realized that while she liked science, she was really motivated by interacting with other people. She began considering options for a career that would satisfy that need, and she soon realized that the field of leadership development offered many opportunities to not only support and serve others, but to also develop herself as a better leader and build on the leadership skills and values she had learned in her earlier education at SJRCS.

Erin decided to work in residential life at Middlebury College for two years after graduation. SJRCS had always taught her that forgiveness and empathy were important. At Middlebury she worked with students with many challenges: sick parents, failing grades, eating disorders, drug and alcohol addiction and much more. She was able to see, first-hand, that good people often struggle, or make mistakes. She was proud to be part of the support system for the students.

After two years working at the college, Erin moved to Washington, D.C. to work at a leadership development company, "The Nebo Company", helping to grow and build the business. After 5 years at Nebo, she stepped out of her regular role, for a part-time role working remotely for Nebo, while she and her husband moved to Vienna, Austria for two years for his job at the U.S. Embassy. While in Europe they were grateful for every new day and opportunity to experience new cultures.

Her and her husband returned to Washington, D.C. and Erin is again working full time at "The Nebo Company", and enrolled in the Leadership Coaching Certificate Program at Georgetown University.

It has been nearly 18 years since Erin graduated from SJRCS and she often thinks about the many benefits of attending her beloved St. Joseph's School in Salem, NH. When she thinks about all of the conflicts in the world and how so many revolve around religious intolerance, she is proud to have been at a school where asking questions about religion – all religions – was encouraged, and not against the rules – or the law. Erin learned that you don't pretend a problem does not exist by making it taboo, rather you learn from each other through the sharing of experiences, stories, and traditions.

"Thank you SJRCS for the many doors you have opened, both to me and within me."