

Alumni Profile: Steven Kienle

Steven Kienle's advice to current MELHS students is simple: Don't be afraid to explore any and all interests while in high school in college.

In fact, Steven, a 2020 Metro-East Lutheran High School graduate, said it was the opportunity to try so many different things while at MELHS that lead him to his current career path.

"I'm grateful for the ability to play sports and pursue interests that I would not have gotten the opportunity to do at other schools," Steven said.

One of those interests was playing baseball all four of his years at MELHS, and while on the team, he also spent a significant amount of time working with the coaching staff to maintain the MELHS baseball field.

After high school, Steven went to the University of Kentucky, where he started as an architecture major but soon realized he'd be happier pursuing his interests in agronomy and sports turf management. He earned his bachelor's in horticulture with a focus in sports turf management and went on to work for UK Athletics and several minor league baseball and soccer teams before joining the St. Louis Cardinals, where he is now a member of the grounds crew.

What skills you learned at MELHS helped you prepare for success in college and beyond?

The academic skills I learned set me up for success in college; skills such as research, paper writing, interpersonal communication, and the ability to communicate in Spanish thanks to four years in Spanish class with Señora Covarrubias. I also had the opportunity to begin learning skills as a groundskeeper by helping to take care of the MELHS baseball field.

Favorite MELHS memories?

Playing sports with my friends including baseball, basketball, and competing with the scholar bowl team.



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