

Dear Notre Dame Student,

1. **Welcome the student to Notre Dame and let them know what they will get out of Notre Dame.**
  - a. **Example:** Welcome to Notre Dame. The next four years are going to be some of the best in your life. You will make many friends and memories. Though high school can have many ups and downs, know that the faculty and staff will be there to cheer you on in your successes and lift you up in your failures.
2. **Share with them a memory.**
  - a. **Example:** I will never forget my journey to Notre Dame. I am originally from Illinois and rode a bus for the first two years of my high school life. Though at first it was a perceived inconvenience, I now understand the sacrifice my parents made to send me to such an amazing school. I didn't know very many kids and while sitting alone at lunch my freshman year, seniors Paul Unterreiner and Amy Buehrle along with faculty member Steve Mosley sat with me. They engaged me in conversation and showed me that nobody sits alone at Notre Dame.
3. **Give advice**
  - a. **Example:** You will quickly learn that Notre Dame is a family. Consider your classmates your immediate family members, the other classes your 1<sup>st</sup> cousins, and the Faculty, Staff, and Alumni as your extended family. Treat them with the same love and respect as your family members. They will be there for you today, tomorrow, and the years to come.
4. **Let them know that you will be praying for them.**
  - a. **Example:** As part of your extended family, I will be praying for you as your journey through this school year. I attend daily mass at least once a week and I will offer up you and your class as my petition.
5. **Close your letter.**
  - a. **Example:** Notre Dame will be an amazing experience that will remain with you beyond you four years. Cherish every moment.

Best Regards,  
Alex  
Class of 2005  
Cape Girardeau, MO