

OLIVERIAN

A school as unique as its students.

Oliverian Newsletter May 2019

Letter from the Head: At Home Anywhere

In this month's Letter from the Head, Will Laughlin explores Oliverian's approach to balancing independence and support, and the end goal of giving students the confidence and skills they need to feel at home anywhere. Read more here.



What's New at Oli? We're glad you asked...

- Oli is growing! Help us welcome three new hires: Greg Vogel, Mike Sallade, and Sharon McCallie-Steller.
- Two of our students presented at the Rochester Rock Symposium, which took place April 23 through 26. Stay tuned for a blog article about their exciting research!
- Oli has a new equestrian class on offer: "Horsin' Around." Thanks to our new Executive Director of Program and Culture, Greg Vogel, for bringing his equestrian expertise and horse barn to campus!

Abby Hood Explains Oli's Growth Mindset

Abby Hood is the director of academics at Oliverian and, in her role as administrator of all things classroom-related, feels passionately about the way that students learn to overcome obstacles, achieve success in the classroom, and engage their intellectual curiosity here at Oli.



Oli's unique approach to supporting every student's personal and intellectual journey is rooted in the idea of "growth mindset," a concept formulated by the Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck. Hood sat down with us to share more about what growth mindset means, and how it informs Oli's educational approach to help students flourish at our school

and beyond.

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Senior Spotlight: Aspiring Educator Elizabeth Welch

When Oliverian senior Elizabeth Welch decided to volunteer at a local elementary school for her senior project, she had no idea how much teaching others would help her learn more about herself.



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Oli Students Take Harvard Model Congress by Storm

Each year, high school students from across the country come together to participate in the Harvard Model Congress (HMC), an immersive 3-day conference, which uses simulation to expose participants to the central functions of the American government. Since 1986, HMC has challenged high schoolers to develop their teamwork, leadership, and creative problem-solving skills in order to debate across party lines and draft bipartisan legislation.



This year, seven Oliverian students attended the 34th Boston HMC, held at the city's Sheraton Hotel from February 21 to 24.

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What We're Reading

[Antifragile: Things That Gain from Disorder](#)

According to economic philosopher Nassim Taleb, author of *Antifragile: Things that Gain from Disorder*, antifragility is a characteristic of those things which "benefit from shocks," "[thriving] and [growing] when exposed to volatility, randomness, disorder, and stressors."

Though Taleb writes about antifragility in terms of human health and global economies, we apply his framework to illuminate the benefits of an education that gives students the chance to fail upwards. Read our full review [here](#).

