

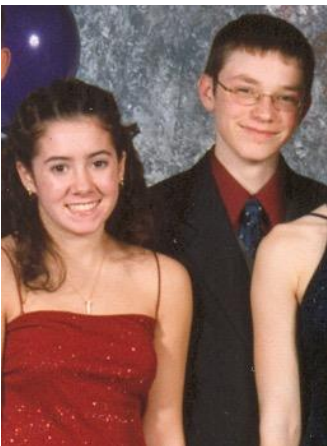
# Company Commander Will Run Philadelphia Marathon for HMS Students

*Proceeds Donated in Honor of Childhood Friend, HMS Occupational Therapist*

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Patrick Knight will run the Philadelphia Marathon. An ambitious goal in-and-of itself, the personal reason he committed to this physically strenuous feat is especially inspiring: he is raising money for HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy to honor his childhood friend and HMS Occupational Therapist, Annabeth Martino.

“Patrick has wanted to run the Philadelphia Marathon for a while, but he wanted to do it for a good cause – something beyond himself,” explains Annabeth. “I was floored when he told me he named HMS as his beneficiary, and was doing it for me... It was a really emotional and meaningful moment.”

Annabeth and Patrick’s friendship began in Upstate New York when the pair was just 12-years-old. Over the years, they have become the closest of friends, and although they currently live states apart – he in North Carolina, she in Pennsylvania – they regularly make time to talk over the phone. Often, their talks focus on her work with students. Patrick beams, “She’s super hardworking and dedicated to the kids. I wanted to do something special to honor her commitment.”



**Left:**

**Annabeth and Patrick in 2002**



**Right:**

**Patrick and Annabeth in 2015**

No stranger to giving back, Patrick is a Captain serving as a Company Commander in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and last year ran the Austin Marathon in memory of a friend who died of a rare respiratory disease. He donated the proceeds from that race to The American Lung Association. “It meant a lot to be able to make that gift, but it’s such a big organization. This year, I wanted the donation to have more of an impact. I wanted to pick an organization with a local mission that really changes the quality of life for the people it serves... After hearing so many stories about Occupational Therapy successes at HMS, it made choosing the school [as my beneficiary] pretty straight forward. It just seems like the students have such a great attitude... I guess I just want the funds raised by this race to benefit them in a positive way. My main goal here is bring awareness to cerebral palsy and the school, and support the students.”

Patrick will visit the school the Friday before the race. He is excited to meet the students he is running for, and see the school in action. In preparation for his visit, Annabeth and HMS Recreational Therapist Kevin Kramer are showing students videos of marathons, and hosting a HMS Pride Celebration the week prior to the visit. “We’re using this as a reason to encourage spirit and pride, to keep the kids inspired and learning in a fun and social way,” says Kevin.

Patrick’s marathon has evolved into something much larger than a run. His inclusion of the school has allowed the event to become a generous gift to HMS, a way of involving students in a community-focused experience, and a means of honoring one its hardworking staff, Annabeth. It means that on November 22<sup>nd</sup> Patrick will not just have a few friends waiting for him at the finish line. Instead, he will also have an expansive network of HMS students, staff and supporters cheering for him across the region.

**If you are interested in supporting Patrick’s run in the Philadelphia Marathon, please visit the following link and select “PHL Marathon” as the reason for your generous donation:**

[www.hmsschool.org/donate](http://www.hmsschool.org/donate)