

ALUMNI

Focus on Alumni
 Each Issue will focus on a particular KMS alum in conversation with KMS students and teachers.

Issue #1
Jesse Marshall
 Class of '97



JESSE MARSHALL & MARGINATION

"We're trying to help Troy, to help make solutions for Troy, to help make jobs. We think that instead of it happening in big factories like a long time ago it can happen in little businesses. And if they work together, Troy can be a good place to work again."

Jesse Marshall, KMS class of 1997, visited our elementary program recently. He shared with our students about his current project, Margination in Troy, New York, where he wants to "recreate the feeling of community" he experienced while he attended KMS.

Here are excerpts from his visit:
 Jesse: What community means to me is people working together. There's 9 of us that live together like a family. We're all different ages from 13 to 60 from all different places and we all work together in Troy, New York on the Hudson River. It used to be where the most shirts in the entire world were made. Then all the factories shut down and now there are a lot of abandoned buildings in Troy. No one has used these beautiful buildings for 50 years.

A lot of jobs left town so a lot of people left, too. The people that stayed are great people.

Madeleine: It kind of reminds me of San Francisco-only the opposite. San Francisco has an over amount of people. And they have an under amount.

Jesse: That's why I ended up in Troy because I want to help cities like Troy be thriving again. We're trying to help Troy, help make solutions for Troy, help make jobs. We think that instead of it happening in big factories like a long time ago it can happen in little businesses. And if they work together, Troy can be a good place to work again.



Jesse's Bio
 Jesse Marshall attended Katherine Michiels School from 1990 to 1997. After graduating from the KMS Elementary Program he attended Synergy then graduated from Lick Wilmerding High School in 2007 and Swarthmore College in 2011 with a degree in political science.

Asher: It's cool to see how to make the world a better place.

Jesse: KMS is a special world that helps people grow and learn. Ever since I left KMS I've been trying to recreate that feeling of being part of a community. This is my attempt to do for other people what KMS does for you...to create a world where people can explore, learn new skills and make the world a better place.

My group is focusing on Troy but I would like other people to do the same type of thing in other towns. We're helping make a road map for other people if they want to do something like this. And I think it something that could work in other places that have the same problems as Troy.

Jesse: What's your favorite thing about KMS?

Soren: The democracy.

Jesse: What do you mean by that?

Soren: Everyone pitches in and explains what they want and you get to decide what you learn about. At other schools they decide what you are going to learn and at KMS you get to decide to do an independent project

and work alone or work with someone else. You can pretty much do anything.

It kind of reflects on the bigger picture of the world. In some parts of the world people dictate what you do and in some parts you get a choice in what you do. And I think here it's more of a choice.

Jesse: That is so special and different from most places.

Aidan: At KMS we try to take as much time as we can and have a project we like doing. Jesse's doing a big project.

Jesse: It's a challenge to figure out what to focus on because there are so many things to do. So learning self-direction and how to be your own leader is really important. You are getting a head start on doing this.

Nina: I liked how you grow your own food and make honey.

Isaac: I think it's nice and cool that you are helping to fix up an old city. And I also think it's sort of sad that they deserted the city and all the factories shut down. I understand why you are trying to bring all the people back in. It's cool that you all live together and you're different ages. 20's, 40's, 60's, 13.



Madeleine tours KMS with Jesse & meets KMS Atelierista, Alden Fletcher (class of '92)

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?



Madeleine

Make movies & musicals



Nina

Be a vet-dancer-painter-nurse



Logan

Mass production of 3-D Printing