Alumni Spotlight
Katie Colbaugh

Class of 2003

Job title:
Crystal Growth, Fabrication, and Production Manager, G&H Ohio

What is the most important thing you learned at Queen of Angels?
I learned wonderful values, at Queen of Angels, that continue to influence my personal life, guide business decisions, and give me a foundation for conducting ethical scientific research.

What advice do you have for students interested in your field?
Keep an open mind and do not be afraid to mess up or break things! The goal of an engineer is to create solutions to problems, and you cannot find solutions without figuring out what does not work first!

Who influenced you the most at Queen of Angels Catholic School?
Ms. Swankler & Mrs. Bell. I was in Ms. Swankler's class for 2nd and 3rd grade. She taught us how to have fun while learning. I remember multiplication tables, science problem solving, and taking breaks to dance (specifically twirling in good spinning dresses). Mrs. Bell taught middle school English. She encouraged us to have our own ideas, introduced us to classic literature, and gave my mom a delicious Italian wedding soup recipe that we still enjoy every Christmas Eve!

Greatest professional accomplishment
I have completed my B.S. and M.S. at Case Western Reserve University, in Biomedical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering. My M.S. research was in crystal growth, which is how I ended up working at G&H. I am currently working on my Ph.D. at Duquesne University, where I am researching new single crystal materials. In February, two crystals, grown in the facility that I manage, landed on Mars. The crystals are the components that allow the SuperCam, on the Perseverance Rover, to measure the composition of the rocks on Mars!

How did your education at Queen of Angels Catholic School prepare you for what you are doing today?
Queen of Angels supported me in taking advanced level Math and Science. PJAS and the Challenger Mission Simulation gave me opportunities to explore science independently, practice the experimental method, and learn about interesting applications of science and engineering.

Best Memory:
It is difficult to choose! I really loved all my time in Drama Club. It was so exciting to put on shows and make music with friends.

Queen of Angels
Catholic School