

Personal Statement from Uliana Pokutnia

“ I was 16 years old when I had to leave my family, friends, country and basically my entire life behind due to the full scale war happening in Ukraine. Besides all the challenges with adapting to the new culture and people during my Junior year, I decided to join sports that I've never done before, after dedicating 13 years of my life in Ukraine to dance.

It was definitely one of the most interesting experiences in my life to go through 3 different sports in one year, to meet all these people and learn some completely new skills. Especially, during my Senior year, while doing soccer, since it doesn't just require to run, like in track and field or cross country, but also use your coordination and thinking. But I absolutely loved it, as a part of it was having great teammates and coaches by my side, even though my parents couldn't be here to support at the moment.

Last year was tough. I miss my family and home a lot, but this experience at Saint Bernard School has helped me to form as a person a lot, and taught me how to handle things on my own, learn and explore new things and it for sure brought some amazing people into my life.”