



## September 2020

This month's Alumni Spotlight features Michael Grima from the Class of 2020. While Michael has only enjoyed the alumni life for a little more than four months, his Golden Eagle pride is soaring as high as ever and his new role has allowed him the opportunity to give back right away. Michael attended St. Jerome Catholic Grade School from pre-K through 8th grade. As many Golden Eagles do, Michael quickly gravitated toward new interests and new hobbies upon starting his high school years.

Michael's involvement began with the golf team where he participated as a freshman and then made varsity his sophomore year. Unfortunately, Bourgade's golf program did not have the means to continue so Michael had to branch off and find new interests. Mrs. Lyn McLaren, Bourgade's Educational Technology Director, encouraged Michael to check out the Golden Eagles' Hi-Tech Team which is a student-led program that assists with technology needs around campus, while also providing educational components to help members advance in their technological skillsets. Michael took a liking to technology and joined the team for his sophomore, junior and senior years. Some of the projects that Michael spearheaded as a member of the Hi-Tech Team included repairing Chromebooks and providing audio and video support in classrooms and around other areas of campus. In his combination of training and tech work, Michael earned an ACER certification making him certifiably equipped to work on and repair Chromebooks. His tech involvement expanded in his junior year when he joined the robotics team, as well.

While Michael's schooling and technology commitments took up a great deal of his time, he still had determinations outside of Bourgade. Michael has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America since age 12. In the summers of 2015 and 2016, Michael volunteered at a cub scout camp where he helped organize outdoor activities and programs. This inspired Michael to continue pursuing his eagle scout status. With pandemic-caused delays, Michael is patiently waiting to pursue his final scout project -- helping re-landscape the track facility at the City of Phoenix police academy training center.

School. Tech. Scouts. What else could Michael fit into his schedule? If you guessed a part-time job at New York West Bakery out in Sun City, Arizona, you would be correct! In 2018, Michael started working at the bakery to help earn money for buying a truck. As Michael's senior year came, he was riding around in a big red Ford pickup. He continues to work limited hours at the bakery, but in the early part of September a new opportunity surfaced and Michael took advantage. Currently, Michael is back roaming the campus of Bourgade except that this time he's getting paid for it. As the school's new Technology Support Specialist and a partner to his not-too-long-ago mentor, Mrs. McLaren, Michael has been essential to helping Bourgade launch its hybrid learning model which accommodates both an in-person learning experience on campus and an online remote learning experience for students who are at home. Michael's days are spent visiting teachers to assist with Zoom connections, virtual classroom settings and projection equipment among other tasks. He was also responsible for the inventory and organization of nearly a hundred Chromebooks for this year's incoming freshmen students.

While Michael's alumni road may have many more miles ahead, he has fully embraced an opportunity to positively impact his alma mater right away. In addition to his part-time work at Bourgade, Michael is pursuing his education in criminal justice at Glendale Community College, and his goal is to become a

police officer. We are grateful for all of Michael's hard work and we are blessed to have his expertise as we navigate an unprecedented, technology-dependent school environment.