

Sayre School
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PRESS RELEASE

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Aaron Lee Returns to His Sayre Family Fold

Aaron Lee returned to Lexington this past week and delighted a group of students and their parents at Sayre School where he was invited to speak for the annual Senior Breakfast. Lee, a Producer of Fox TV's *Family Guy*, graduated from Sayre in 1988.

The Lexington native has been a television writer and producer for the past 15 years. He's served as the Head Writer for the Comedy Central *Roast* series and as a writer-producer for *The Cleveland Show* and *The New Normal*. He's also done stand-up comedy and appeared as an actor in shows such as *According to Jim*.

Family Guy has been nominated for 12 Primetime Emmy Awards and 11 Annie Awards, and has won three of each. In 2009, the program was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Comedy Series, the first time an animated series was nominated for the award since *The Flintstones* in 1961.

Lee has fond recollections of Sayre, and credits his teachers there for the way they supported him and urged him to express what he called *his unique view of the world*.

He likes to recall an assignment he had for his English class when they were reading *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett:

"We were asked to write about it, and I decided to imagine Samuel Beckett as a sit-com writer, and I turned in a script for an episode of *Gilligan's Island* as Samuel Beckett would have written it and to my amazement, my teacher not only liked it but gave me an A for it."

Lee offered numerous stories about how Sayre teachers allowed him to demonstrate his understanding of topics in unconventional ways. He remembered how amazed he was when the school let him borrow video cameras to create a short film about a cartoon dog who took over Cleveland.

"In high school I actually had teachers who were interested in how I wanted to show them what I understood. At Sayre I was given the opportunity to explore lots of interests," said Lee.

It was at Sayre that he discovered his knack both for performance and for parody and satire. Lee not only acted in several theater productions, but he also became known for what one faculty member called, his "always funny, but occasionally edgy monologues" he would do at high school assemblies. Lee said he learned some important lessons regarding propriety and discretion, and alluded to this in the opening remarks of his talk to the Sayre seniors.

"Aaron is a really funny, gracious and generous guy. I am glad he has such fond recollections of his time at Sayre. Sayre grads pursue all kinds of careers. Our hope is that we plant many seeds of interest and that our students leave here confident with lots of choices," said Upper School Art Teacher Bill Berryman.

For more information or questions, please contact Barb Milosch, bmilosch@sayreschool.org or 859-244-2719.

Our Mission:

Sayre School provides an innovative and inclusive learning environment that empowers students to achieve academic excellence, embrace challenge, and cultivate integrity in order to lead purposeful lives in an ever-changing world.