

Hi Janelle,

Here is my remembrance of Kaytlyn. I hope it is what you were wishing for to honor her memory from the time of her life around her surgery. May God bless your family now and forever.

Pat Kline

“If we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace

“Because of your smile, you make life more beautiful.”

“A smile is a window to the soul.”

On December 9, 2019, I was honored to be trusted to perform corrective jaw surgery on Kaytlyn Thomas. She was always a pretty, but quiet young lady in my office prior to the surgery. She didn't smile much, even when asked. Kaytlyn had a facial skeletal problem whereby her upper jaw developed in a much smaller manner relative to her lower jaw, which also just happened to have developed in a much too large manner. Before surgery, she had a year and a half of orthodontics as well as multiple visits for evaluations, discussions and taking records. We performed a 6-hour long surgery on both her upper and lower jaws, and nasal area.

Kaytlyn's upper jaw was expanded by cutting it between teeth and into four separate pieces, placing bone grafts into the gaps, moving her upper jaw forward about 3/8 of an inch, and widening it 1/4 inch. Her lower jaw was repositioned backwards until her teeth and both jaws were correctly positioned. Both jaws required titanium plates and screws to keep them in the desired positions.

Facial swelling was significant for Kaytlyn after the surgery and it was initially difficult for her to see what the surgery really had accomplished!

This surgery is not for the faint of heart. It is as much psychological as it is physical. It is also greatly challenging in both senses of the word. It requires emotional introspection to a degree that the vast majority of us never consider. Our face is intensely personal for eating, talking and breathing. But it is also what we show to others and ourselves with emotion, attraction, embarrassment and confidence, to name but a few attributes of the face. So it is with no small feat of courage and bravery that Kaytlyn went through this mental, physical, emotional and I must say, spiritual journey.

Again, facial reconstructive/orthognathic surgery is not for the faint of heart, mind or soul. These are the realities that help tell you about Kaytlyn's character. With her quiet, humble manner in my chair, I saw a strong young woman, eager to face the world and wanting to avail herself of every opportunity to make her life better, and to achieve her personal goals by doing not what was easy, but rather, by doing what was extremely personal and difficult. That was **Kaytlyn's True Beauty**. Her inner strength. Her parents certainly knew it as they supported her through the long nights in the hospital and at home.

The surgery took 10 weeks of healing with weekly visits at my office. This required elastic traction on her teeth using orthodontics provided by Dr. Jeff Foster from First Impressions Orthodontics Her swelling gradually receded, revealing a beautiful young lady. Her parents may tell you that she began to smile more and more. I like to think we helped her confidence through surgery. We simply nudged along her already pretty face to help her show a wonderful, more confident face and smile to the world - thereby allowing the rest of us to truly see the beautiful person she already was inside! It was her courage that made it happen.

Dr. Kline Remembers Kaytlyn Madison Thomas

She was beautiful in many ways. But it's her courage and strength of character that I remember about Kaytlyn Thomas.

Honored, Humbled and Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Kline, DMD, MD