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Tanalian School

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Education, but more importantly learning and the skills I have gained from it, have defined me, and made me who I am today. Thanks to the amazing teachers and coaches in my life, I have become a leader in my school and community. Many people don't realize the importance of a good education and the value it can bring to your life. Some look at school, learning, and the educational system and think that most of it is a big waste of time. On a practical level, who's going to need to know what year the Declaration of Independence was signed, or how to do advanced algebra? However, while many of the things we learn in school we may never use again, it's the process of learning and discipline that shapes students into the future leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries of tomorrow. I am thankful for every moment spent in school because it has molded me into a person with passion and vision.

One of the awesome things about our school is the involvement and participation that students can have. My freshman year I became involved with Student Government as the 9th grade representative. The next year, I was elected student government president, and helped lead our school in fundraising efforts. As president, it was important to me that we gave back to our community. The student government hosted events like the Harvest Fest and Valentines Banquet to show our appreciation for the people that had supported us. Another important part of my high school career was sports. My 10th grade year I joined the volleyball team. The next year I became a starter. My senior year was the most exciting as our team won the Mix Six state volleyball Championship. It was a big moment for our school and me personally as I earned a

spot on the All- Tournament team. My senior year I was appointed as a team captain on the basketball team. We went 15-2 and while we didn't win the regional tournament we had a great year.

In 2016, my church started bringing together teens to go on a mission trip to Cambodia. I joined the team going to Cambodia and had the opportunity to teach kids English, sports and Bible. One of the awesome things about the trip was the incredible relationships I built with the students at the school we were volunteering at. I was able to play soccer, learn their language, and even try new Cambodian games they taught me. The next two years, our team returned and I was able to see the kids again and continue building meaningful relationships with them.

Looking back, I'm very proud of my high school accomplishments, and I am anticipating the next chapter of my life. However, thanks to my excellent education and the school programs I was involved with, I have acquired the skills to help make my passion a reality. Since a young age, making videos and taking pictures has always been a passion for me. From funny skits to stop action movies, creating short films was a way for me to be creative and make something other people enjoyed. As I got older, I realized that film and photography is an incredible way to tell stories, so I started to invest in camera equipment to increase the quality of videos and photographs I could produce. I think that in my life I want to pursue my passions and do the things I love and enjoy. Film and photography is definitely my passion so I want to learn how to develop this craft even more. The past couple months, I have been looking for further education that can help me achieve these goals.

After looking for a good school that will help me pursue my passions of film making, I finally decided on Taylor University in Indiana. They have an excellent film program that focuses on storytelling and I think that I can learn a lot about video making. There is much in

store for me in the future, and I cannot wait to see what's in store. I have to give all credit first to God, and then to my teachers, family, coaches, and other leaders in my life who have been willing to teach me and help me learn how to achieve my dreams.