

Being a student in the Anchorage School District, it has been full of opportunities and concern. Budget cuts have taken much of the material out of lessons that had once enriched them. As a result, I've participated in several fundraising events, including money for donation, sports, travel money for school trips, or field trips. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have been able to take language classes, specifically ASL, Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese. Learning another language along with their culture has exposed me to other ways of life, effectively making me a more accepting and welcoming person. Especially since I was able to fly to Japan with my school, I truly got firsthand experience. Speaking of firsthand experiences, it may seem strange to have a biology class without dissections, but the school board cut them out of the curriculum my freshman year. Thankfully, my biology teacher had leftover rats from previous years which my class got to dissect. As well as, the Biomedical Career Academy (BCA), which I'm enrolled in, had lab dissections incorporated into lesson plans. Through dissections, my patience, observational and critical thinking skills improved, along with my respect for animals used for scientific research.

The attributes mentioned above I consider vital for when I work in healthcare. Aside from personality traits, having actual skills are necessary too. Adding onto the multitude of science classes I've taken, English courses are just as important. Effective communication is key in healthcare and in daily life. My time in BCA also comes into play here, because the activities done in these classes teach presentation skills, academic and scientific communication, how to conduct proper research, lab skills such as micro-pipetting during gel electrophoresis, among many more. Additionally, volunteer hours are mandatory, specifically forty-five hours per semester. As a freshman, it was intimidating reaching out in my community to find events where volunteers were needed. However, as the years went by, it became easier to email or call someone and ask if they still needed help, making me more socially comfortable and confident.

My education wasn't limited to inside the classroom. The various sports I participated in taught me teamwork truly does make the dream work. I also mastered time management between practices and games, my homework, sleep, and general free time. As well as, my high school showcases presentations on bullying, mental illnesses such as depression, relationship abuse, and screen time among adolescents; all of which increased my awareness of those around me. The information presented in these came in handy when I found out my friend was cutting herself. Immediately, I took action because I knew the consequences if I didn't soon. So, my educational experience helped mold me into a resourceful, technically skilled, and well-rounded person.

As I mentioned before, I want to go into healthcare. Neuroscience, pharmacology, and genetics are my main areas of interest that I wish to pursue. I'm trying to keep my options open as I move into my undergraduate years. The experiences I've gained in school so far, I believe will give me an edge for the future. In college, time management will be a struggle because I'll have to work in order to help pay off my debt. However, I'm confident if I was able to balance six classes, various sports, and time with friends and family all while maintaining my health, I'll be able to manage working while succeeding academically at Colorado State University. Now more than ever, employers are looking for people with the desired skill set instead of what family name they belong to. Which is why I must thank my teachers, family, and sports in making my educational experience not only fun but also realistic in preparing me for living independently. In the future, I'll take all that they've taught me and put it to good use as I travel around the world, helping those in need.