

Ryan Tocktoo

My name is Ryan Tocktoo and I am a high school senior. I live in a small village called Brevig Mission, Alaska. I have always been a hard working student, not just in school but outside of school. I love to challenge myself in school. When I was in middle school I was blessed to be part of a STEM program in Juneau. Also I was a part of ANSEP acceleration. I have been a Youth Leader ever since my freshman year of school. My goal is to become a high school math teacher, because ever since I was a kid I have always loved math. I would love to come back to my hometown, and not only teach math but help my students. I am very excited about my future and feel that with the opportunity your scholarship will provide, it will help many people in my community.

Something I want to elaborate more on is my background. I grew up with an amazing family and many family gatherings. During the summer I love to be outdoors with my family. Growing up I would always help my grandparents with fishing, berry picking and camping. My family feels that I am capable of doing great things and I want to show them I can. Throughout my years of life, it wasn't always easy. There were good days and many bad days. I've lost a few loved ones that played a major role in my life. I had to learn how to cope with life without them. Another challenge that comes with living in the village is addiction. From my own experiences there were bad habits that did not help me in a good way. Something that I personally struggled with is; depression. A way that helps me overcome that is being social with my friends and family. School helped me stay on track and kept me focused. I've always been an honor roll student in my community throughout my high school years. I'm very grateful for that and would love to continue school and accomplish my goals.

As I enter college life, I will enter with motivation, determination, and hope. My aspiration for college is to get through every hard obstacle I will face. My aspirations are becoming a math teacher as of right now. Becoming a math teacher really interests me because I have always loved math since I can remember. I have chosen this major because I really want to come back to my region and teach math.

There comes challenges in college and I wanna be able to keep going to college and not return home until I reach my goal. I had a similar experience going away from home to pursue my education. I went to MEHS my sophomore year and it wasn't easy. I was dealing with a lot of homesickness and I believe it prepared me for college. My aspirations of becoming a math teacher as of right now. Becoming a math teacher really interests me because I have always loved math since I can remember.

I said I've always wanted to become a teacher but that could change. Some other jobs that really interest me are being a firefighter and a dentist. I knew ever since I was young I have always wanted to help people, that is part of the reason why I want to become these things. Whether it was helping people with math, fires, and teeth. I want to become a firefighter because it caught my eye ever since I was young. I always thought it would be fun and interesting. That feeling of helping someone with their house or saving someone's life will fulfill my heart. Also, I want to become a dentist because I grew up in an environment where people don't take really good care of their teeth. Ever since I was young, taking care of my teeth has played a huge role in my life. I want to teach young kids that teeth are very important and worth taking care of. I believe that I not only have the ability to become an excellent dental hygienist, math teacher, and a firefighter, but that I will be a friendly, caring, and a calming presence to my patients and students.