

I have grown a lot through my experiences in my high school years and built a strong leadership foundation. I have stayed on the honor roll, volunteered in my community, attended church, and worked a part-time job. My goal after high school is to become a kindergarten teacher and make a positive impact in the lives of young children. I feel passionate about serving my community and giving back.

When someone asks me why I want to become a kindergarten teacher, I reflect on how far I have come. When I was three years old I moved in with my grandparents. My parents had just been kicked out of our apartment and my mom was moving into a tiny trailer with no room for me or my sister. I remember being jealous of my other siblings who got to stay with my mom. I did not understand why. However this was not a huge adjustment for me or my sister because my mom would leave us at my grandparents house for “a fun weekend” and we would end up there for a week. We had a room, bed, clothes and our favorite snacks. Soon enough we were enrolled in preschool, soccer and dance to keep us busy from the chaos that surrounded our family.

At the age of seven, my parents separated. It was messy and they fought a lot. As a result, I had separation anxiety and struggled to leave my Grandma to go to school. I had many people helping me at my elementary school that I will never forget. Nurse Jane allowed me and my grandma to sit in her office until I calmed down enough to attend class. Mrs.B, who was a counselor, pulled me from class once a week to talk and gave me my favorite snacks to help me feel a little more special. These people helped me through some of the hardest parts of my life.

My vision is to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education and a teaching certificate from the University Alaska Fairbanks. This is the closest college with an accredited elementary education program and most affordable with in-state tuition. After college I plan to pursue a teaching career at my own elementary school with the Russian Immersion program in Anchorage. I have been volunteering with the first graders and have learning about classroom management, kids' attention spans, and how to make learning fun.

Being a kindergarten teacher would allow me to provide a safe space for children in my community. This is very important to me and I know that I have the heart to make a difference.

Thank you for considering me as a recipient for the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship. I am grateful for the opportunity to apply and promise to use any awarded funds wisely.