

Speech

I haven't been at The Community School long, but the time I've spent here has been nothing short of memorable. I've been to several schools over the years, some better than others, but none really cared about their students. I cruised through my classes, put in as little effort as I could, and watched the clock countdown until I could leave every day. It wasn't a place I was excited to be, and it wasn't a place that was excited to have me.

In my six months at The Community School, I can say with confidence that I have learned what a school is really meant to do. It provides a safe and comfortable environment to learn in. It enables you to take on everyday life with the utmost confidence. It teaches you the value of knowledge, and opens your mind to the skill you never imagined you could harness.

When I started at The Community School, I was captivated at how easy it made learning. I came in every morning excited to go to school. All I ever really wanted was a place that would not only challenge me, but nurture me in the process. It seems that, with other schools, you're only offered one of two extremes: either you're given a life vest in knee deep water, or you're thrown into a tank with the sharks. It was impossible to get what you really needed in that kind of situation, which is what makes my time at The Community School so greatly appreciated.

Until I started here, I never knew I was good at math. No one ever bothered to sit with me and explain it, so I just kept my head down and somehow managed to fake my way through years and years of math classes. I started this school year doing basic multiplication and division-both of which were dismally weak points for me. Since the third grade I could only multiply by adding numbers over and over again. I started every math class at The Community School on the principle that I was a blank canvas waiting to absorb whatever knowledge was presented. Thanks to the countless hours Tom and

the tutors have spent walking me through problems and explaining formulas to me, along with the attention, positive reinforcement, and reassuringly kind words when something didn't come easily, I'm extremely proud to say that I love math now. That may not seem like a big deal to most people, but something as simple as being able to do math could potentially open up countless paths for me in the future.

The time I have spent here has encouraged me to take my talent and use it to its fullest potential. Never have I witnessed a school invest so much time, and faith, into its students out of no personal gain of its own. The Community School achieves when its students achieve, and that starts with happiness. Not a day goes by that I'm not happy being in the school.

I wish there were more words to express my gratitude, because it feels that thanks alone are not enough. My way of thanking the school for every moment it has spent on me, for believing that one day I will amount to something, is by going out into the world each day and using every tool this school has given me. I plan on making the most out of this experience because The Community School is surely planning on making the most out of me.

Brianna Patrick

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