

Jack [REDACTED]

Personal Essay

Astute High School Decisions

The decision of where to go to high school put an immense weight on my shoulders. I had the choice between going to a public high school where I knew everyone and had lots of friends, or going to a private catholic high school in hopes of a better education, a more personal community, and a place where I knew few people. Friends laughed at me because of the school's catholic beliefs. They called me a "rich kid" for wanting to go to a private school, and mocked me for wanting an enriched education. But I also had friends that supported my decision and put no pressure on me. I too had to choose which path would benefit me the most.

I had a lot to think about. As I looked into my options for high school, [REDACTED] was at the top of my list because that seemed like the most logical option. But as my parents brought up this conversation, they suggested a school I had never considered, [REDACTED]. Many of my family members have gone to [REDACTED]. It was a smaller school compared to what I was used to. There was an equal amount of eighth graders at my school as there were total students at [REDACTED]. This scared me, and I was intimidated by the thought of it. My parents also told me about the academic and athletic success at [REDACTED], and how the education may benefit me more. Gradually, this became a lingering obstacle that I could either acknowledge, or cast away.

I was annoyed that another option was added to the table, and that just made it harder to decide. I began to familiarize this place within my mind, and compartmentalized it into "Important Storage for Future". I wanted to get to know this place, so I talked to my cousins Brandon, Kiernan, and Callan. They all went there, and they gave me great information on how

awesome [REDACTED] was, and highly encouraged me to go there. I found out that you could shadow a current student there for one day, and I thought that was cool; it set [REDACTED] apart from the rest of the high schools. I shadowed a freshman at the time named Kaden, and he showed me the ropes, and what a day in the life of a freshman looked like. I enjoyed it. After my visit I began to seriously rethink where I planned on going to high school.

I applied for an ACE scholarship during the summer, and without that help I would not have been able to experience this gift of attending [REDACTED]. I had to sacrifice some of my past to pursue this decision. I now had a dress code, and was part of a community and school that revolved around Jesus. I had to make new friends, and make a good impression of myself. This was challenging for me because I had never had to change to a new school system. It was a challenge getting used to my new life as a private school student, but I steadily got used to change, as everyone does, and I had become a new person.

Adapting to change takes time, but eventually you get used to it. One year ago, [REDACTED] was out of my sight, and the only change I expected was a new building. Now, I can't imagine myself at any other school. I felt like [REDACTED] was perfect for my wants and needs. I like the academic challenge, and have a spot on the basketball team. I think I made the right decision, and I hope to call this place home for the next 4 years. I can't thank ACE scholarships enough for fulfilling this choice that will change the rest of my life.