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The Expedition to College

Over the years, society has changed from a small percentage of high school graduates attending college to a majority of high school graduates attending college. This societal shift required most high schools to change the way they prepare their students for the next chapter in their lives. I believe that my high school prepared me adequately enough to succeed in college by allowing me to take challenging classes, extra curriculars, and reach out to those who are willing to help.

My high school prepared me for college by engraving it in my mind to always and only take the most challenging classes, such as Advanced Placement and classes from the International Baccalaureate program. For that reason, the majority of my high school classes were at the college level difficulty, since it was considered the norm to only take those AP and IB classes. I was pushed and challenged in every single aspect possible by those classes, pages of homework, never ending writing assignments, and a test every other day. In order to succeed I had to develop practical studying skills and efficient ways to tackle mountains of assignments. I was told all of those skills that were developed would carry over into college and help tackle and conquer any assignment thrown my way.

On top of taking those studious classes, my high school pushed for every student to join a club or go out into the real world and acquire a job. There was a club for every subject and a sports team for every sport; each extracurricular advertising their existence every day. When signing up for classes there was a highly suggested option for sophomores, juniors, and seniors to take a ‘rest’ class which was designed to go out into the real world and work. That push for experience in an extracurricular or a job allowed me to see what it was like to have a massive workload which college guarantees to deliver.

With having a fully loaded schedule, finding ways to complete everything in a timely manner required help. In the four years of attending my high school there were always newer/better resources to help us succeed in any and every way imaginable. With those plentiful resources at our fingertips, all we had to do was extend our arms and take advantage. Two of those resources being counselors and teachers who I visited multiple times a week to discuss what the best plan of action was, in order to get where I wanted to be. All the help I received made me recognize the true help someone is willing to provide and encourages me to extend my arm and get the needed help.

For those three reasons it has been engraved into my mind to know what should be done, at what time, and when it’s time to reach out, take a breath, and ask for help. I’ll always be grateful for all the challenges I overcame and to all those people who helped me jump those major barriers in order to become confident and capable enough to take on the next huge chapter of my life, college.