



## Katrina Miller, Alumna

Mesa Ridge alumna Katrina Miller (Class of 2000) is undoubtedly tenacious and talented. She has overcome hardships, fought to make sure her voice is heard, and poured her heart into her craft - a prime example of the greatness of Mesa Ridge Grizzlies.

Growing up in Widefield, Katrina attended District 3 schools since kindergarten. Upon entering Mesa Ridge as a sophomore, however, she didn't jump into school activities right away. "But if we talk about my senior year, that was magic. A lot of things exploded and started to come together." She joined choir, cheerleading, Spanish club, and most importantly, KMRG News. Katrina would spend hours in the editing room learning the ins and outs of film editing. "That obviously had such an impact on me and such an influence on my life. I had no idea that was going to happen."

Katrina was accepted into the prestigious school of journalism at the University of Colorado - Boulder. Following seven years of rigorous coursework, she graduated with a degree in journalism broadcast production with a minor in history. Since then, she has directed cameras at concert venues across Colorado, including at Red Rocks Amphitheater, and created exhibit videos for museums in Boulder. She even started her own company, Blackat Video Productions.

"But when COVID hit," stated Katrina, "I thought my career was over." Still she persevered. "I just kind of went back to my roots." In the midst of the sadness and loneliness many felt in the spring of 2020, Katrina made a short film titled *The Silence of Quarantine*, which highlighted the experience of elderly African Americans in Boulder during quarantine. The film was highly successful, even becoming an official selection for the 2021 Boulder International Film Festival. It also earned her the Rising Star Award by the Boulder Chamber of Commerce in 2021.

*"Just because a challenge is put in front of you," she said, "it's not the end of the world. It's an opportunity to grow stronger and get over that challenge."*

Katrina has some pieces of advice for Mesa Ridge's current Grizzlies. First, "find your outlet." Whether it's through music, sports, writing, or any other form, she encourages students to release their negative feelings in order to find happiness. Katrina also wants students to take advantage of the resources available in high school. "There are so many smart people to learn from in high school," and high school offers a "low risk" opportunity to try out anything and everything.

Lastly, Katrina believes "it's absolutely important to follow your dreams." If anyone exemplifies this idea, it is her. From Mesa Ridge Grizzly to flourishing filmmaker and entrepreneur, Katrina Miller's life is a shining example of the power of perseverance.

