

Where Are They Now?

What is your name?

Joe Harrison

Where do you currently live?

I currently live in Centerville, OH.

What year did you graduate from Brookville High School?

I graduated in 2005.

Did you attend and graduate from the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (CTC)?

No.

What is your current Occupation?

I am the founder of Virtuojo (a creative marketing agency).

I am the co-founder of Nucleus (a business accelerator/incubator).

What was your post high school education or training?

I did not attend college. I took every opportunity I was given, connected with a lot of people and I worked extremely hard.

What was your favorite high school course?

I really enjoyed English and science.

What do today's students need to know?

We are blessed with the power of choice. We choose to go to college, we choose to get a job, we choose to work hard. But with that power comes a heavy amount of responsibility. In my opinion there are three key components to making the best choices for your life that I wish I would have realized in high school.

1. **Be authentic.** The fear of not being liked, wanted, accepted is what is keeping you from being your true self. A lot of us rely on our roles, our beliefs, our positions and our identities. They're comforting and familiar. They allow us to navigate the world in a safe and predictable way. But, if you think about the moments in your life that are meaningful - I mean truly meaningful - you will always find a degree of realness, of true authenticity. Live there always.
2. **Have integrity.** Integrity means following your moral or ethical convictions and doing the right thing in all circumstances, even if no one is watching you. Put another way, the root of integrity is about doing the right thing even when it's not acknowledged by others, or convenient for you. Choose integrity.
3. **Put people first (be empathetic).** We often talk about putting ourselves in someone else's shoes. That is a good way to think of empathy. When you are having trouble getting along with, or helping someone else, try to picture yourself in the same condition or position they are in. How would you like people to treat you? Treat them the same way you'd like to be treated. Humble yourself and put others first.

The good news is there is no right or wrong answer, there are just different paths. Choose to be YOU and the rest will just work itself out... I promise.

