

A Renaissance Student - Preston Johnson



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Currently, Preston is enrolled in business classes at Mesa Ridge with the goal of starting his own clothing line. He has been interested in fashion since he was little, especially in hats and shoes. He currently works at a clothing store and has used his work experience, along with doing his own personal research, to begin the process of developing his own brand. After acquiring mockups, putting the designs together, and meeting with manufacturers, Preston hopes to start to sell his products online.



In addition to his pursuits in fashion, Preston is also a gifted musician and aspiring R&B artist. He had played the cello for several years since elementary school and recently picked it back up to join one of the orchestra classes at Mesa Ridge. He also has written his own R&B songs and has released some of them on Spotify and Soundcloud. Preston is now collaborating with other musicians and hopes to book a show to be able to perform his music for an audience.

However, Preston might be best recognized by students as part of the stellar Grizzly boys' basketball team. Although he describes himself as a relative newcomer to basketball compared to his teammates, his talent has earned him a place on the varsity team, which is currently ranked in the top ten in Colorado. He views athletics as another potential opportunity to pursue in his future.

How does he stay motivated to do it all? Preston credits his parents for not sugarcoating the necessity for hard work. "My parents were honest about life. I was taught that you had to work hard to be successful." He says that his parents encouraged him to stay dedicated and put in the extra effort early in life to be able to enjoy his later years and to be able to help out his family. "They taught me how to balance since I was young."

It's clear that Preston does not conform to society's expectations or assumptions about teenagers. "Not everyone is the same," says Preston. "At the end of the day, it's what YOU want to do with your life that really matters." With such varied interests as orchestra, fashion, basketball, music production, business, and law, Preston breaks every mold. It is his dedication and personal drive to improve himself, however, that makes him a true Grizzly Great.