

Liberty Academy

Fall 2024

Student Showcase



"Liberty Academy
makes me feel like I
have a chance."
(Current Student)



"Liberty Academy makes me feel at home. When I was at other schools I never felt like I could be myself and had to hide who I was. Now, I'm proud of the person that I am and feel grateful that I can express myself at Liberty Academy." (Current LA Student)



Maple Woods CC The Sewing Lab Jason Breit LPS Early Childhood Center
 KC Farm School Renee Martin Northland Police Academy Nourish KC
 Orange Easel Mark Buhlig  Edward Jones Meals On Wheels
 LPS Transportation Northland Police Academy
 Relentless Pursuit Great Jobs KC KC Clown Guild PC's For People
 Wicklunds CarStar Missouri Conservation Department Vet Center of Liberty
 LPS Copy Center Gary Shultz Jake Pollard + Full Circle KCKCC
 KC Pet Project Chouteau Elementary Rob Leytham + RV Elementary
 MCC Withers Branch MCC Community Colleges Sterling Spicer Real Estate
 Operation Breakthrough **THANK**
 Loulla Efstathiou **YOU!** Beth Beckett
 Ron Green + Jeff Daly Miriam Spencer
 Liberty Community Center Friends of the Pharis Farm
 Rebel Song Academy Summit Salon Academy Assisted Transportation
 Liberty Equestrian Center Kevin Downing Wellington Senior Living Center
 Noel + Peggy Chase Headlines Barber Academy Jo Macklin / Distrkct
 Kansas City Community Gardens Flourish Furniture Bank Urbavore Farms
 Kanbe's Markets The Sewing Lab KC Pet Project Jake Pollard + Full Circle
 Addison Banks + Bruce Holloway Romond Holt Liberty Animal Shelter
 Amber Rios + LMS Cafeteria Staff Patty Stark + Serenity On The Square Yoga
 LPS DAC Taylor Family Apple Orchard LMS Heritage Middle School
 Schumacher Elementary Liberty Education Foundation Sugar Kittens Cafe

Our LA Showcase Process



Roam

Anywhere &
At Any Pace

Inquire

About Ideas,
Experiences, & Activity

Discuss

Journeys, Interests,
& Progress

What Should You See At Each Student Station ?

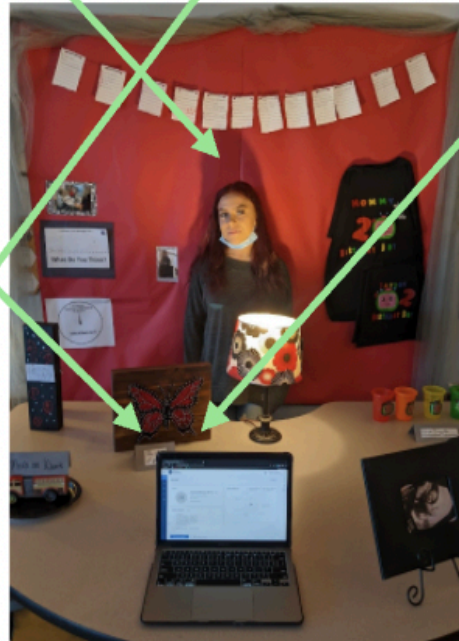
Lots Of
Documents That
Explain Our
Process

Smiles +
Discussion Topics

Project Artifacts
From Burst
Activity

Reflections + Off
Site Trip
Hours

A Display
That Shows
Each
Student's
Personality +
Journey



Great Conversation Starters:



What Was Your Biggest Challenge This Semester?

What Did You Learn This Semester About Life That You Could Pass On To Others?

What Was Your Favorite Off - Site Experience?

What Did You Learn About Yourself, What You're Good At, Or What You Might Want To Do After High School?

What Are You Most Proud Of This Semester?

Which MTC Skill Categories Did You Engage In The Most ?

What Are You Excited To Try Next Semester?

What Are Your Best Artifacts From This Semester?



MASTERY
TRANSCRIPT
CONSORTIUM.

"Wait, What Do You Mean You Don't Use Grades?"



Purpose. At Liberty Academy, our programming is designed for interest based exploration, collaborative menu design, real world off-campus engagement, and long term personal growth.

Our daily environment is communal with a strong focus on human agency, mentor based relationships, and personalized pathway design in a competency based academic setting. Our students don't have classrooms, our teachers don't have desks, and our schedule is subject free and flexible to the hour. Our school isn't designed to help students prepare for specific careers, it's designed to help students figure out what comes next as a result of the things they're learning about themselves. We believe that innate talent and world changing potential come standard in every student. We're designed to help kids find that talent, explore it, and think deeply about how they want to use it.


Process. Our curriculum is not designed around the consumption of standardized content. It's designed around the things that give students the ability to live a life of purpose, opportunity, and stability; contextual and application based learning opportunities, continuous support and care, rich experience, authentic choice and the development of voice, mentorship, transferrable skill sets, and academic competencies that connect to an ever-changing world of work.

Product. Students submit a portfolio of evidence to earn each mastery credit. The featured evidence displayed on the mastery transcript are individual pieces of evidence from a variety of portfolios that the student has chosen to feature. These provide an authentic snapshot of the breadth and quality of work indicative of this student. Additionally, many credits on the mastery transcript have a single piece of evidence attached to them. This evidence was selected by the student from the portfolio of work used to earn that particular credit, and gives the reader a window into the type of work associated with the credit.

What Does This Look Like?



About




Profile

Email: [REDACTED]
 Student Id: [REDACTED]
 Start Date of Enrollment: 8/23/2021
 Graduation date: Not graduated yet
 Address: [REDACTED]

Credit Distribution

Foundational Credit (FC) In progress FC Advanced Credit (AC) In progress AC



Skill Status

Student Statement [Edit](#)


Approved


I believe that creativity and honesty can make the world a better place. I hope to make a living with my art so that I can continue to do what I enjoy and live comfortably doing it. I can persevere through projects and am talented and creative.

[Start revision](#) [Delete](#)

Personal Statement

Evidence details [Update](#)



Coping, Growing, & Learning ★ 

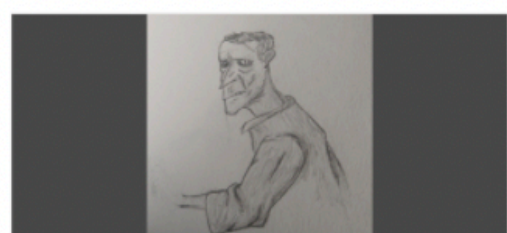
Approved

I created many sketches throughout the semester.

Role:
Duration:

☒ Featured Evidence

Artifact



Skill

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What I've Learned

Highlights

Three to five bullet points. Use verbs to describe noteworthy activities involved in completing the work. May also include the work's accolades or impact.

- I learned it can be hard working with younger kids sometimes but when you get to know the kids and start working with them, it's fun for them and you.
- I chose to showcase this piece of evidence because I enjoy working with kids, and this was a good opportunity for me to practice this skill for a potential career someday.
- Something else I really want you to know is that just because you have siblings doesn't mean it's going to be easy to work with kids. You have to be able to communicate with the kids effectively.
- 5/12/23: I did research and went on trips to decide what I want to do after I graduate
- 10/18/23: Took notes about my after graduation plan

After Graduation plans

I recently completed my research and will continue to explore my options for my future career. I have decided to pursue a career in the field of art, specifically in the area of graphic design. I have been working on my portfolio and have received several offers for internships. I am excited to continue to grow my skills and knowledge in this field.

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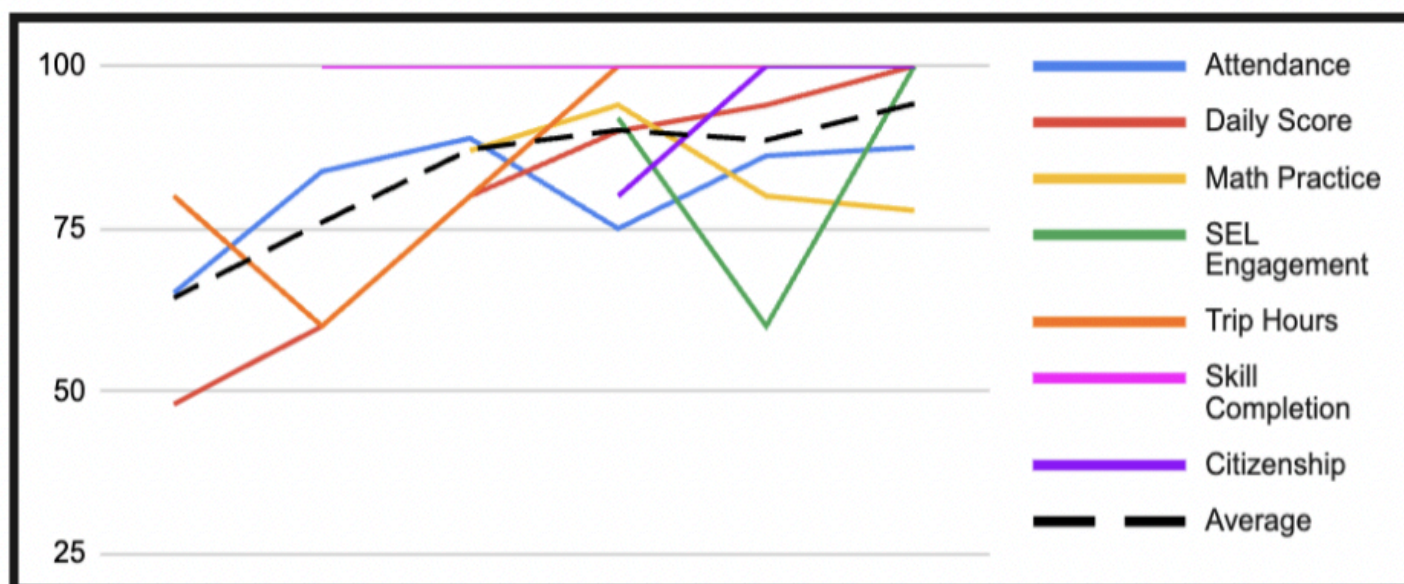


Using Data To Help Kids Grow, Share Their Stories, & Plan For The Future



At Liberty Academy, we value individual growth (personal + academic) above all else and strive to ensure that the data we collect (on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis) correlates to that value. Every student has their own data profile that is used to guide decisions, drive conversation, and build personalized graduation pathways. Our collection process is intuitive, responsive, and designed to be formative rather than summative. We want every student to fully understand how their activity, engagement, and partnership effects their data and how their data effects their ability to grow, heal, transform, and graduate.

LA Student	B2 - 2023 (10/30 - 12 / 8)	B1 - 2023 (9/5 - 10/13)	B4 - 2023 (3/31 - 5/8)
Average Burst Attendance	83.3	94.8	100
Average Daily Engagement Score	2.2	2.9	3.1
Math Engagement	88.9	87	94
SEL Workshop Engagement	50	0	50
Off Site / SL / RWL Hours	12.5	5	8
MTC Skill Completion / Mastery		22	25
Minor Behaviors Charted	2	0	0
Major Behaviors Charted		0	0
Aggregate Behavior Per Burst	2	0	0
Reading / Math / Core Skill Practice			



Explore.



Serve.

Engage.



Heal.

Connect.



Grow.

*1200 Hours
Of Off-Site & Real World
Experiences Per Semester*

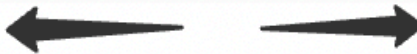


*Personalized Project
Design + Pathway Building*

We don't do public school
like **anyone** else....



*Authentic Skill Practice vs.
Standardized Content
Acquisition*

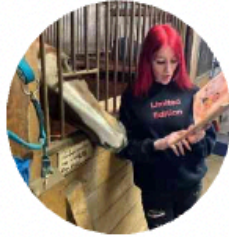


*Over 1200 Skill Based
Personalized Projects Per
Semester*

*30-35 Off-Site Trips Per
Week Customized To
Student Interest + Skill
Preference*

“Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.” (Steve Jobs)

WHAT DO WE DO AT LIBERTY ACADEMY



We use massive amounts of **off - site programming** (career exploration, project work, and volunteering) to help kids better understand their **interests, aptitudes, and next steps after graduation.**

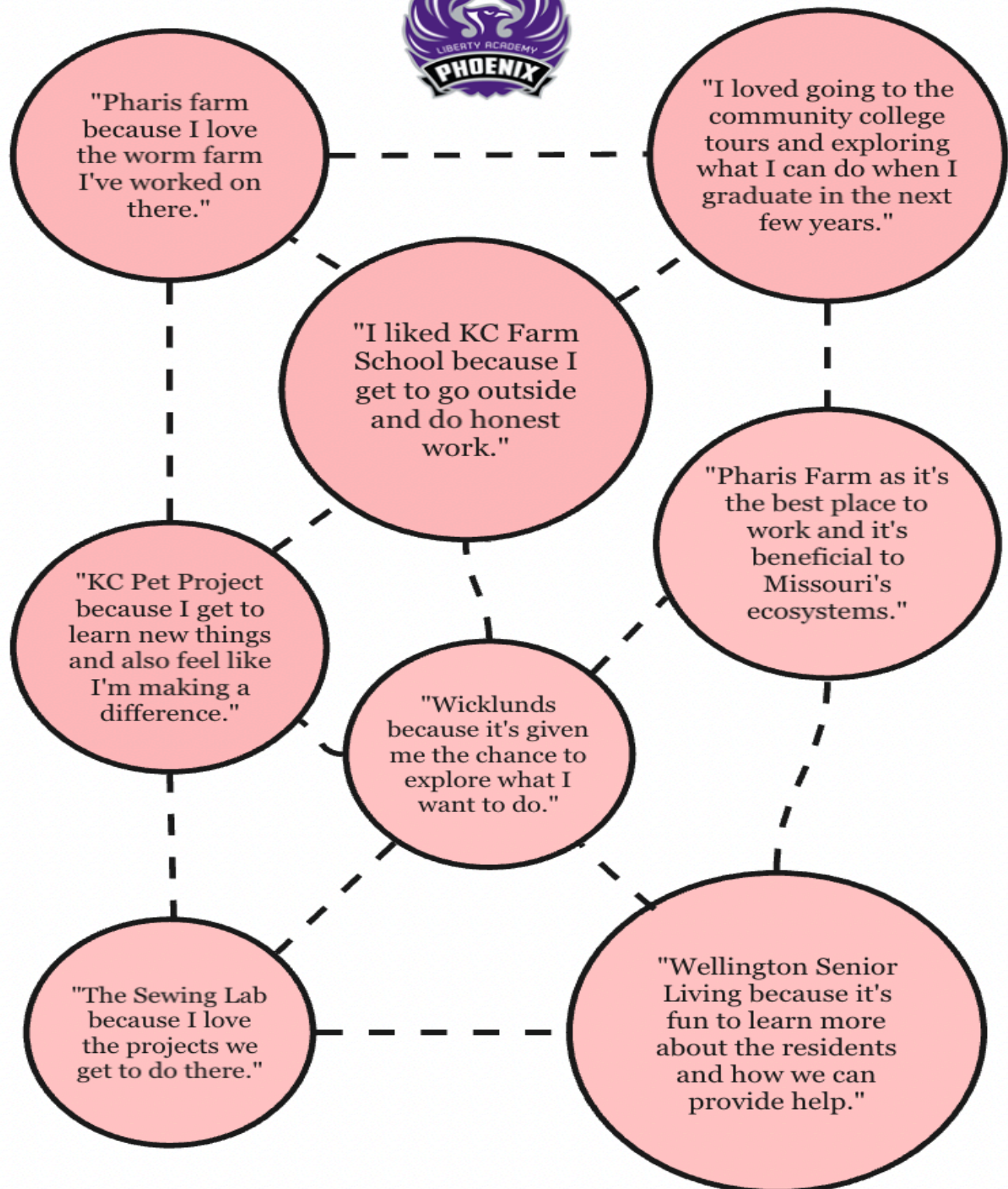
We give students in our community who have fallen behind a chance to graduate on time using **self - guided, skill based portfolios** that serve as **comprehensive learning records** of the past, present, and future.

We immerse students in an environment and culture designed to isolate deficits, heal trauma, increase self-efficacy, and rebuild the **whole child** using **agency, mentorship, conversation, and authentic experience.**

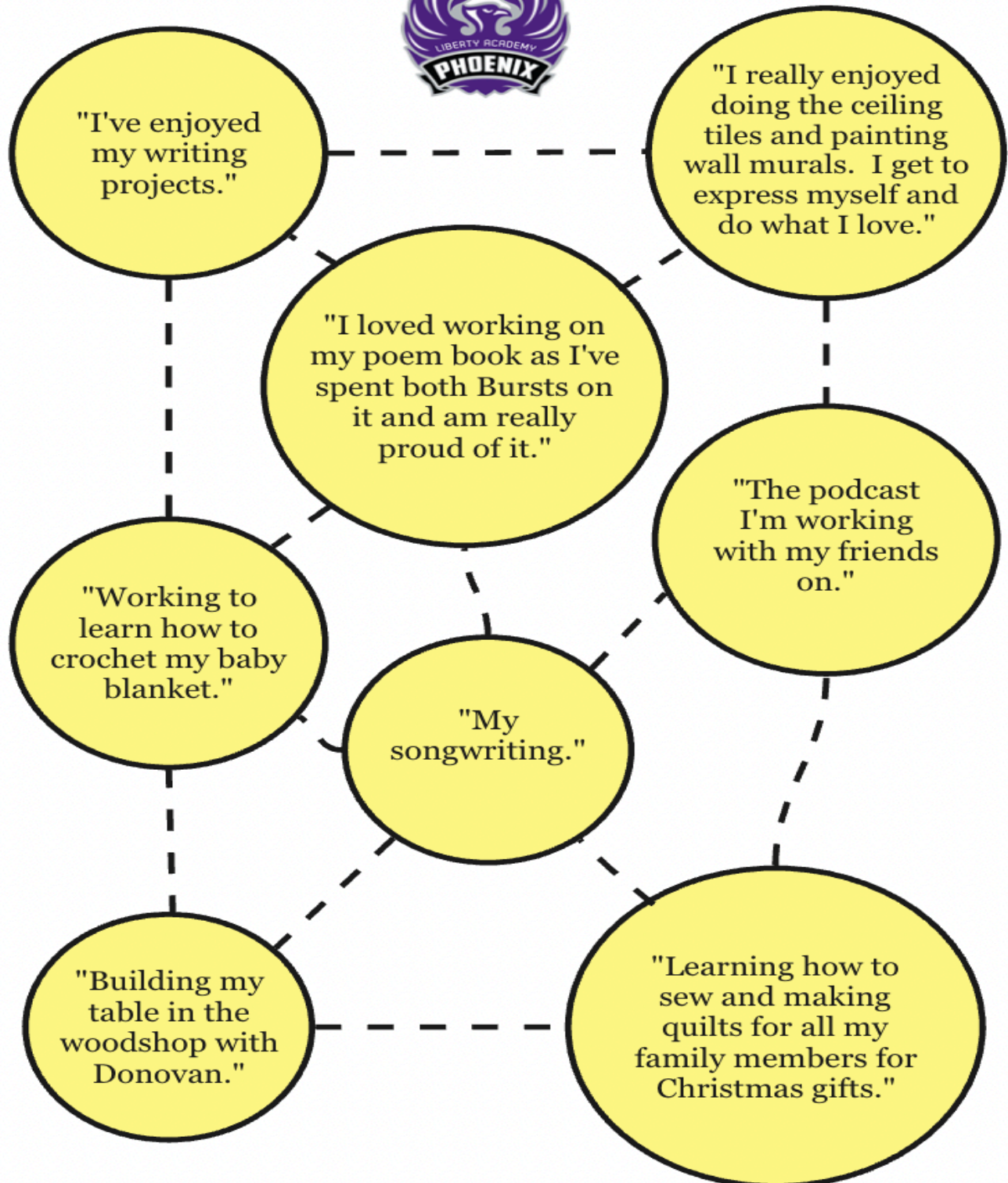
We work to **isolate and patch the academic skill gaps** most necessary for life after high school (reading comprehension, basic number sense, communication skills, computer literacy) using a framework of daily **standardized personalization.**

We give students the opportunity to **design and navigate their own secondary learning pathways** while engaging in a sustainable programming model designed to build and grow the concept of **Match Quality.**

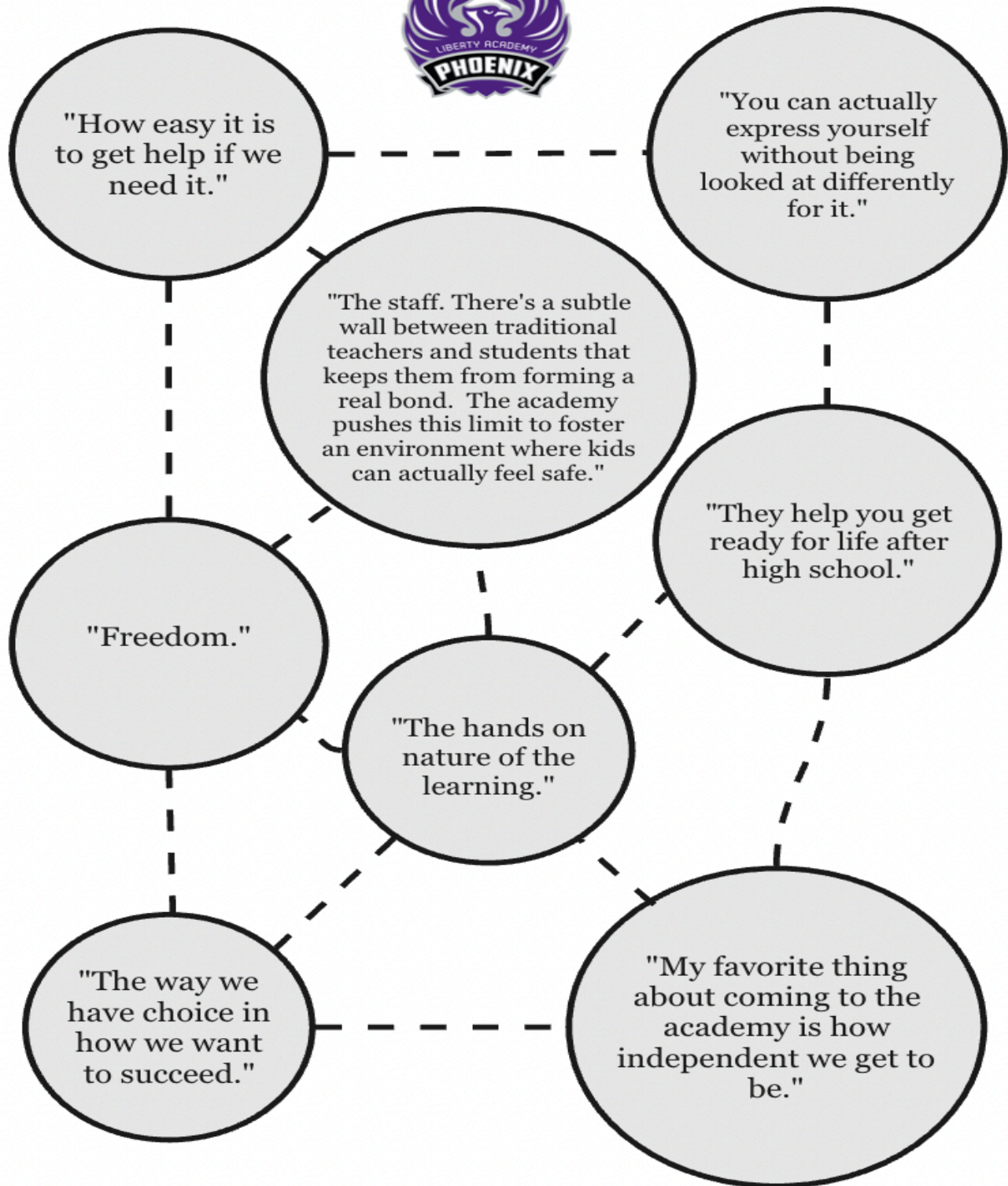
Favorite off - site **career exploratory / volunteering** experience?



Favorite **school project or area of engagement**
this semester?



Favorite thing about going to school at Liberty Academy?



What's the most **valuable lesson you've learned** about life, learning, or yourself this semester?



"Thankfulness.
Before I came
to LA I wasn't
on a very good
path. I love it
here."

"Don't be quick to
anger and just
take your time
with everything."

"I need to
do things I
don't want
to do."

"I've shown the
endurance to
actually finish
things I start."

"That if you put
your mind to
something you
can do it."

"Friendship and
Communication."

"What people
think about
you doesn't
matter."

"If you don't
challenge yourself
in life you will get
very bored."

What's one thing you're **really proud of yourself for** this semester?



"Realizing that I can be myself around anyone."

"That this school is almost solely based on expressing yourself and learning to become independent."

"I'm proud of myself for continuing to come to school even after I dropped out for 4 months and thought I would never go back."

"I've gotten better at everything and in every way this year."

"I never used to cope with change I'm learning to cope with it well."

"The things I've learned at my time at the bus barn."

"I'm proud of the progress I've made and continue to make."

"Everyone learns differently and LA is just more personalized that fits each student better."

Thoughts That Guide Us . . .



"Developing agency is a collaborative effort where both parties stand to gain (and lose). Collaboration, then, is fundamentally about a relationship between two (or more) equals. As such, agency demands individualization, relationship, and equality. Developing a student's capacity to use their agency is difficult, complicated, and very personal work. It's unquantifiable, un-testable, and very nearly an art form. It's also the central role of the educator."

"Like other kids, they don't all conform to the same "standards"; like other kids, they are individual and diverse. Like other kids, they have triumphs, and struggles, and doldrums, and passions, and frustrations, and joys. What an oak tree actually needs is soil and water and light and air, and what a child needs is love and stories and tools and conversation and support and guidance and access to nature and culture and the world. If a kid asks for your feedback, by all means you can give it; it would be impolite not to. But what we should be measuring and comparing is not our children but the quality of the learning environments we provide for them." (Carol Black)

"You can do all the strength finder quizzes you want, but your insight into yourself is constrained by your roster of previous experiences. We learn stuff about ourselves, our interests and our strengths as we try things, so we should have a period of zig-zagging and experimentation like those athletes, like those comic book creators, like those technology inventors. And we shouldn't just see it as a sunk cost, where you say well, "I've started down this path, so now I don't want to get off". That's not lost time. You haven't wasted it. It doesn't mean that transitioning is easy, but you can take what you learned in one domain and bring it to the other." (David Epstein, Range)



A little boy planted a carrot seed.

His mother said, "I'm afraid it won't come up."

His father said, "I'm afraid it won't come up."

And his big brother said, "It won't come up."

Every day the little boy pulled up the weeds around the seed and sprinkled the ground with water.

But nothing came up.

And nothing came up.

Everyone kept saying it wouldn't come up.

But he still pulled up the weeds around it every day.

And sprinkled the ground with water.

And then one day

A carrot came up.

Just as the little boy had **known it would.**



***SCAN HERE TO READ MORE
ABOUT LIBERTY ACADEMY . .***

How Do I Graduate From LA ?



You've Got To Grow To Go . . .

What Data Do We Collect & Value ?

- ✓ Daily Attendance (**LA Standard is 80% or Constant Improvement**)
- ✓ Average Daily Engagement Score (**LA Standard is 2.0 or Better**) (*Using Daily Organizer Scores*)
- ✓ Off Site Career Exploration + Volunteering Hours (**LA Standard is 8 - 12 Hours Per Burst**)
- ✓ Skill Completion % (**LA Standard is 5 Skills Per Burst / 50 Hours = 100% / GP Included**)
- ✓ SEL + Reading Practice + Math Practice (**LA Standard is Weekly Attendance / Engagement**)

Start Here . . .

1

My personal profile numbers (**above**) need to get better from Burst to Burst and / or be improving as I enter the last semester of my senior year . . .

Note: This document is written in student friendly language to ensure clarity and understanding.

2

If your numbers are **good enough** then you'll enter the LA Grad Pathway framework during your last semester (**2 consecutive Bursts**) where you'll use your last two Bursts to better prepare for life after high school. . .

3

In order to move from phase one of the GP to phase two (**last Burst before graduation**) students need to have met standards in **3** of the first **4** areas above and have completed at least **4** of **5** (**80%**) skill completion credits (**25 GP plan hours + 25 Burst hours = 50 +**) . . .

4

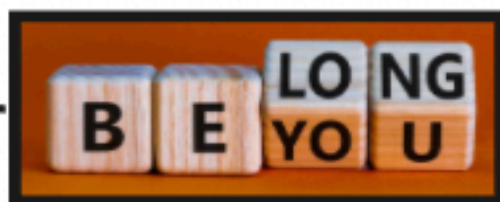
If your profile numbers are **good but not great** then you'll head into your last Burst on probation and need to improve your data in specific areas in order to graduate. If your profile numbers **are great** (**4 of 4 + 100% skill completion**) heading into phase two then you'll simply have to continue that pattern in order to graduate on time. If your numbers **dip below the criteria in step 3** then you'll most likely need to repeat phase one of the Burst pathway process and extend your graduation period by at least one Burst.

5

Any student moving into **phase two** of the Grad Pathway process will also need to create a **final project** (*slideshow, piece of art, journal, presentation, etc.*) that helps explain the top **5 - 10 reasons** why you feel you're ready to graduate and move on to the next phase of your life (**Can count up to 5 GP Hours**). **This should be done after you complete your Phases of The Phoenix project** (**Can count towards 3 hrs of GP Hours**). These projects will be reviewed **prior to graduation approval**.

6

Note: Every Wednesday afternoon we'll be meeting to review your data and check progress in each of the core areas above. LA staff will continue to take into account medical issues or personal hardships that could be affecting your performance and plan accordingly.



What's Your Favorite Thing About Going To School At Liberty Academy? **"The People."**
(CJ Stagner)

At some point, everyone who spends time at Liberty Academy usually says, **"It just feels different."** Creating a sense of **belonging** is foundational to what we do and it starts with agency, trust, support, and acceptance. We want every person that walks through our doors (student, staff, and visitor) to feel as though they're in a great place to grow and someplace they can both be themselves and find themselves. Every Wednesday, we check in with our kids to see how they're doing, how we can help, and how to make sure we're staying connected. Here are the questions we ask and our most recent bank of responses from Burst four:

1

93 % - Strongly Agree / Agree

Even though I might be having a bad day or a rough week, I feel connected to our school, understand what we do and how / why we do it, and genuinely feel as though it's a great place for me at this stage of my life.

7% Disagree

2

95 % - Strongly Agree / Agree

Most of the time I feel very confident that I'm growing as both a student and a person thanks to the environment, opportunities, and community I get to be a part of at Liberty Academy.

5% Disagree

3

93 % - Strongly Agree / Agree

Most days I really look forward to going to school at Liberty Academy. It's a place where I feel safe, cared for by the staff / others, and have the freedom to be myself.

7% Disagree

4

95 % - Strongly Agree / Agree

I'm constantly working to be my best self at Liberty Academy. I'm learning to manage my emotions / heal trauma, challenge myself academically, figure out who I am, and prepare for the future.

5% Disagree

Post Burst Student Reflections (4 x Per Year)

Please use everything you've reflected on and documented above to write a little more about how you feel you've grown as a person over the last 6 weeks? Please be as honest and thoughtful as possible. Our main goal is to help you build your own understanding of the progress you're making and how you're using the opportunities you have at Liberty Academy to better understand yourself and the person you hope to be in the future. (100 Word Minimum)



Over the past 6 weeks I've learned that it's okay to stray away from what you know. It's hard to try new things and at first you will most surely fail. But as you practice, it gets easier. When I first started expanding my knowledge and stepping outside my comfort zone, it made me panic, I was overwhelmed. But I kept pushing through. It's helped me to understand my boundaries as well. Helped me to know when it's okay to step away and breathe. Now I know in the future, I'll be able to know my limits and I'll know pushing myself can help me achieve my goals.

This is the building that saved my life.





Phases Of A Phoenix Graduation Project

Something changes when you learn someone's story. When you slow down and listen to what makes our students who they are. When you hear about their experiences you gain a greater understanding of the decisions they make, the passions they carry, and their perspectives on life. We grow empathetic. We give more grace. We celebrate their wins. We move from acceptance to understanding.

Students at Liberty Academy have often been othered. For one reason or another, things didn't work out at their previous high school. Every one of them has a story to tell. A story that is powerful. A story that is inspiring. A story that challenges our preconceptions. A story that needs to be heard. And in many ways, a story that is still being written.

These are their stories.

Victoria Martinez
6 Bursts
2024 Graduate

Phases Of A Phoenix



Hello I am Victoria, and this is my story...

All throughout school I felt as though something was wrong with me because I never learned as quickly as the other students and I always thought that I was incapable of learning. I always wondered why school was so difficult for me and why my effort was never enough. The more I went through school the more defeated I felt because I would try my hardest to keep up with homework and schoolwork and it still wasn't enough. By this point I was starting to feel worthless and very depressed. At this time I tried communicating with teachers and family members about how I was feeling and I was told by teachers that I was lazy and not putting enough effort into school. My mom heard about this and decided I should try homeschooling. At the time I was going into 8th grade. Homeschooling was going great for a while until the work kept piling up then I got anxious and didn't do the work. I tried going back to public school once freshman year came along but the transition from 7th-9th grade was very stressful. My councilors decided it would be best if I did virtual to see if that would work better for me, so I gave it a try and you guessed it I gave up and just never logged on to zoom meetings or did any of the work. I was very disappointed in myself but I know I wasn't the only one. My mom saw it best that I went back to public school and try to make it through my sophomore year, so I did and it was a rollercoaster always up and down my first semester was very rocky and I felt as though I messed up my education for being afraid and as my teachers would say lazy. But towards the end of first semester I met Maddox and we started dating. He would help me with my homework and when he saw I was wanting to give up he would reassure me that I was capable of doing my work. I will say I didn't not have all passing grades at the end of first semester but I will say he encouraged me to try extra hard in the second semester. For the first time in school I had all A's but of course that didn't last all semester. My grades started to slip as the work piled up and I got put in credit recovery classes but it seemed nothing was good enough.

One of my favorite teachers at Liberty North recommended me to Liberty Academy, and at first I was hesitant because to me at the time it was just another school, what could they possibly do to help me graduate. I was very nervous to start at a different school but I was willing to try if it meant I got to graduate on time. By the time my junior year came around I was very anxious to start at the academy because people would always say that the academy was for bad kids and in my head I was never a bad kid I just needed more hands on and one on one time so that I can properly be taught. Liberty Academy is not for bad kids, it is for the kids who have what it takes and learn in a more hands-on way. When I first started at Liberty Academy I was a little terrified because it was new to me. I will admit it started off a little rocky but the second I got the hang of it I loved it. This school showed me I am so much more than I was treated at traditional schools. I got to try so many different things that could lead to a beautiful occupation when I am ready. At the rate I was going at in traditional schools I wasn't even close to graduating on time, and I came to the Academy with only 5 credits. I thought that I was going to have the same outcome but I was told if I put forth the work I could graduate on time. I have become so proud of myself and everything I have accomplished while being at Liberty Academy. I have no idea what I would've done without this school but one thing I do know is that I no longer feel useless and unworthy. The best part is that I have done so much work and shown so much growth that I am now graduating a whole semester early which couldn't have been done without the resources at Liberty Academy. I am so grateful for Liberty Academy and because of them I now have a future ahead of me.

Worthless → Accomplished

Phases Of A Phoenix



Daniel Smith
16 Bursts
2024 Graduate

School has been hard for me. It never really felt like a safe space for me. I didn't feel like I was able to be comfortable where I was at and never really invested in trying to grow. Covid hit me when I was an 8th grader and I just stopped. I didn't do any of the work. The 9th grade came around and for some reason I was enrolled at the Academy.

I was scared at first to go to the Academy. I was nervous to go to a school I knew nothing about especially during Covid times. I was so used to what I had. School in general already made me anxious and now I would be starting in a system I did not know or understand. I challenged them when I got here. I was hard at listening and very hard headed when it came to working on my school work. I just didn't trust schools and teachers.

After being at Liberty Academy through my Freshmen and Sophomore year, I changed a little. I got used to the school and started to not fight as much with them. I began to trust again. I still struggled a lot with how much they change stuff because I was always scared of change. While being here I learned a lot about how real friendships are and who are fake friends. I also got out of my comfort zone by talking with different people instead of just staying in a corner and being quiet all the time. But the thing I learned the most about myself is I should never let others make me change for them and I should just be me and not care what others think of me. I know who I am, and am proud of who I am. I am not the scared Freshman that started here, but instead I'm confident and ready for what is next.

Scared → Confident



Thank
you





And A Happy New Year !