

My life and education, both past and present, are all credit to my years in the SLCD program. I was originally placed in the SLCD program because I had a speech delay, meaning that I had trouble speaking correctly and clearly. Without my three years in the program, I would never have been able to be the person I am today.

After my three years in the SLCD program, I was placed in special education kindergarten because I still had minor difficulties speaking. My major difficulties had been solved in my years at SLCD. After one month however, they were all solved and the school wanted to put me in a regular kindergarten class. My mother however, opposed because that would mean switching schools so one half of the day I spent in special education kindergarten and the other half in regular kindergarten class. With both classes I graduated kindergarten reading as well as a fourth grader.

The next five years, from grades one through five, spent in my education was in Northside Elementary School. Every year my reading level increase as well as my ability to grasp concepts in school. Throughout my years in Northside, my grades were also very impressive. In all my years there, I had never received a grade, in any subject, lower than a B+. Most of my other classmates couldn't do as well as me and they were born speaking correctly and never needed to attend SLCD. The state test I've took in elementary school was another great accomplishment. On those entire tests, I received a 4, the highest grade possible on a state test. A four meant that I was way advanced for my age and I had mastered the topic on the test. By fifth grade, I had been placed in the enrichment program, a program which is only open to the brightest of the bright. At graduation I was awarded the two highest honors possible The Presidential Award and The Gloria Bell Award. These awards showed my honor and commitment to academic excellence both in and out of the classroom. All my hard work from SLCD to then had paid off but my excellence in school only continued.

My middle school years were held within the walls of Wisdom Lane, grades six through eight. In sixth grade I was placed in accelerated math, the only honors class given to six graders. This class is only given to students who were recommended from teachers and state math test scores. After all of sixth grade, I graduated with a 96 overall average. This was ranked as one of the highest in the school. Seventh grade was another year that I excelled in. I was placed in all the honor classes possible that a seventh grader could take. These classes included honors math, English, science, social studies, and Spanish. I was also placed in an extra class called Science Research which I had to be selected first and then write essays to see if I was what the program wanted. One quarter I received a 101 in science. I didn't even think that was possible! At the award ceremony that year I had won eight awards, almost double of what the next highest person won. It was one of the most amazing feats I had ever accomplished but not the last. I had graduated with a 98 overall average in June, the highest in seventh grade that year. Eighth grade was my finest achievement in life. Once again I was placed in all honors classes and the Science Research Program. I once again remained at the top of my class graduating middle school with a 99 average. Also in eighth grade, I took a regent exam, specifically in earth science, which isn't usually taken in ninth grade. I had received a 94 on it, which my teacher says some students in ninth grade don't even get! In my years there, I also participated on sports teams and after school clubs, such as Stage Crew, Chamber Orchestra, Soccer, Volleyball, Science Research, National Junior Honor Society (which I was president of), Foreign Language Honor Society, manager of school teams, SADD, and Math-a-thon. I also receive twelve awards at graduation and graduated with the highest grade of my class. My years at Wisdom crafted a frame for my four years in high school.

I am currently in ninth grade at Division Avenue High School. I am in all honors classes and I'm loving the experience so far. I made the schools junior varsity soccer team where I am a starting defender. I also have joined many clubs already such as mathletes, debate club, science research, student council, and soccer. I plan on continuing to add onto my list of achievements in the future.

The years I spent in the SLCD program crafted a frame for my future in my education and in my life. The dedication of the people who worked with me had affected me and my life both physically and mentally. With their help I excelled in school and in social after school activities that I am participating in. Their help has also helped me win the awards presented to me so I dedicate all of them to the people that helped me in my years there. Wherever life takes you and whatever life gives you remember anything is possible with the right help and if you believe.

- Michael Comuniello