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Mrs. Kelley Bauer

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As I talk with my younger sister through her first day of high school, I can't help but think about my first day of high school: walking through the hallway to see only half my classmates all sitting two desks apart, no smiling teachers in the hallways, remembering all the struggles that followed, the uncertainty that we may not come back to school for days, maybe even weeks; the pressure of remembering each assignment, basically teaching yourself; communicating with teachers over email about your struggles. Nevertheless, I got through it, learning lessons and overcoming obstacles along the way. Reflecting on those days as a senior, those lessons have helped me learn things that couldn't have simply been taught. They have helped me learn to take initiative, hold myself accountable, grow my skill and knowledge, and make me an example of a profile of a Trojan.

Before my high school journey even began, I had to deal with a lot of uncertainty due to the pandemic. Would I even be able to go back to school? What would it look like? After weeks of postponing, we finally went back to school, on a hybrid schedule. As the only class who has had to do this, each person had to create their own structure and way to deal with it. Everyday, I had to hold myself accountable to finish assignments, homework, and study. After being hybrid for a while, I found myself getting burnt out and waiting to work on assignments until the last minute. When I finally decided that I couldn't keep procrastinating, I found that taking short breaks helped me. However, when you're exhausted and have been working all day, taking a

quick five minute break can quickly turn to hours and before you know it, you're up at eleven o'clock trying to finish your english assignment due at 11:59. Quickly learned that by holding myself accountable I was able to avoid burnout and still get all my assignments done, passing freshman year with a 4.0.

As school slowly started going back to normal, I was finally able to start pursuing my passion: coding. Most of these coding classes are taught through videos, which for me, are hard to learn from. So I took it upon myself to find a better way to learn from them. I found that taking color coded notes while watching the video helped me alot. With a few more coding classes, I was able to start helping my friends. One of these friends told me I should come work with her at BCHS Live! and as it happens, I was looking for a job. So I applied and after an interview, was hired in January 2023. After she graduated, I ended up taking her spot and am now helping run the organization. Had I not shown initiative and set goals for myself, I probably wouldn't have a job right now.

In my job, I have been able to grow my skill and knowledge in computer science. I stopped believing what you learn in school applies to real life when I had to predict the trajectory of a rocket using math. I'm a senior in high school, not a rocket scientist. However, when it comes to technology classes, it's different. You literally learn how it works and then learn by experience. So when I got my job at BCHS Live! I had to learn by watching my co-workers and asking them questions, growing my skill and knowledge.

No matter where you go or what you do in life, traits like accountability, initiative, and skill and knowledge are used everywhere, which is why they're so important. The Profile of a Trojan has helped teach me these traits and so many more. It's helped me in the real world,

getting a job and communicating with peers and adults, which is why I think everyone should strive to be the Profile of a Trojan.