

Lukas Werner  
La Salle Catholic College Preparatory  
11999 SE Fuller Road  
Milwaukie Oregon, 97222

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Hello Incoming Falcon,

My time at La Salle has been nothing short of incredible. Sure I had some challenges but I gained so much out of it. Much of what I experienced in this short time was just by stumbling into them by accident.

Having done some sports in middle school I figured that I should have a shot at trying some track & field. Boy was I in for a surprise. I never expected the daily practices, the long meets, and the stiff competition. Yet I will never forget those 4x100, 4x400, and 400-meter races. Especially after my best 400-meter race; where I felt like I was going to pass out.

Finding people with who I enjoyed hanging out was something that I had not really predicted how simple it would be. One of my best friends I met in the line to get my photo taken on my first freshman day. Many of my other friends I found out of the blue in classes and in shared spaces such as the gym, art room, science rooms, and the maker space.

Projects have been a MASSIVE part of my high school experience, from the synthesizer and Rube Goldberg machine I built for physics class or the Iron Man helmet I 3D printed or the various different computer-related projects I did in my free time. These projects have become some of my most prized memories and have now become pillars in my life. Early on I was able to make a name for myself by taking supplemental classes that allowed me to learn whatever I needed for my projects.

These projects propelled my learning and allowed me to get multiple internships. Each of those has allowed me to get a glimpse into how the corporate world compares to the academic world. But it has allowed me to develop a portfolio of work that I can now present to employers and colleges which make me that much more valuable to hire.

Naturally my years at La Salle have been tainted by the time spent with the coronavirus pandemic. Heading into the early pandemic there was definitely a massive fear on what we would be living through. Spending those unstructured times finding time to work on an assignment, take a break, and work on preventing mental exhaustion. The pandemic made it abundantly clear that I needed others to help me propel my effort to continue. Entering into junior year online I was more able to handle this new reality of digital learning and adapted to this. Returning back to school made it difficult for me to get the learning material I needed to

succeed. I was again only able to persevere through this difficult time by relying on my friends, teachers, and family.

While I have definitely highlighted many of the great memories and experiences I have had. I would also like to give a word of encouragement for those hard moments. Because those hard moments can be deep and it can feel like there is no escaping it. Honestly, I've encountered these every year. But the only thing I have noticed getting through those is having a strong body of friends and teachers to rely on. If you ask for help almost 100% of the time they will help out. Getting through those will feel much more rewarding in the end and feel like you have slain the dragon.

With much luck,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzie/Wendy". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Suzie" and the second name "Wendy" written in a similar style, separated by a forward slash.

Class of 2022