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SEF Essay

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My views on education are different than a lot of people. A big misconception of the education system is that the curriculum you are being taught is the most important thing you learn in class. I completely disagree with that. I believe the most important things you learn as a student are far beyond learning math, english, and science. The real-world experiences dealing with people, thinking critically, collaborating, and communicating with people from diverse backgrounds, views, ethnicity, religion, and even politics is far more impactful on students.

The lessons that have stuck with me personally, have never been about subject matter. They are lessons that are inadvertently taught. About how you should treat your peers, or how to get along and work with people you don't like or have a good relationship with. These lessons are what I see as the most important things school has taught me. Learning that everyone is going through their own difficulties whether they show it or not. For example, this semester I am a teacher assistant for the Life Skills class. There is this kid in the class that is nonverbal and has major health problems that leave him in constant pain. Working with him on a day-to-day basis, seeing how happy he is all the time, has taught me to control what I can control and to find joy even in the struggle. It’s taught me to look for creative solutions to problems instead of only seeing obstacles.

Education builds character. Not everything comes easy. It can teach you how to work hard and face adversity regardless of your background. For many students, it’s the first time they have had to do hard things. Education also helps you become a contributing person in society through a collective understanding in reading, writing, and knowledge of history. These skills are especially important so young adults can be an active member of society, able to integrate all these skills to become responsible and respectable adults.

My desire to continue my education is fueled by the desire to not only be a contributing member of society but to also eventually be a major contributor to the community I settle down in. College is a tool that I can use to better myself not only in knowledge but in my communication skills and my collaboration with people unlike myself. College will also help me focus on certain skills that I want to get better at to eventually make it into my job one day. In college I plan to get my electricians certification in my first two years and then finish my next two years with a major in business.

My time in the Sultan School District has taught me so much. All the different curriculums, content, lessons and homework. But the things that will stick with me are all the things that weren't part of the lesson plans. Over the years the lasting relationships that I have made with teachers and peers alike have affected me in such a wonderful way. The things I learned about myself and how to collaborate and work with others will help me for the rest of my life. I can't wait to make new relationships and continue to learn new life lessons as I go off to college.