

As Henry's parent and homeschool instructor, it has been my privilege to watch Henry grow into an engaged, independent, and mature adult. Henry's education has been founded on a classical liberal arts model which places great books, universal questions, and an expanded, inclusive Western Canon at its core.

We chose homeschooling because we believe that this approach encourages deep learning, promotes critical analysis, and fosters a lifelong passion for learning. While our family values education and intellectualism, we also value grit, tenacity, and a strong work ethic equally. Homeschooling has enabled Henry to practice these values and develop these skills in a supportive environment. In practice, the fundamentals of our educational philosophy meant that Henry has been expected to think, feel, speak, fail, and succeed while learning to take risks, persevere, and develop resilience.

We place a high value on education and felt that, through homeschooling, we could offer Henry more educational opportunities and foster more enthusiasm for learning, all while nurturing his creativity and curiosity. We believe in sharply honing one's ability to engage in academic work and scientific inquiry with rigor, critical analysis, curiosity and an open mind. We are passionate about social justice work, and homeschooling has enabled Henry to engage with his community in significant ways as an emerging leader. Homeschooling has allowed Henry the freedom to consider, identify and then act on his values in practical ways.

Our homeschool tackled traditional academic subjects with rigor and discipline, while also expanding our intellectual reach into more focused liberal arts studies. We pursued astronomy, religious studies, gender studies, and philosophy with a genuine zeal, along with the traditional English, math, and sciences. Henry is an excellent student and surpasses our expectations in his pursuit of knowledge. Henry has a passion for learning that makes each subject and each class rewarding. Henry takes academic assignments and deadlines seriously, and has devoted himself to learning to express his intellectual ideas and analysis effectively. He's an excellent thinker and an accomplished writer. Henry has pursued science and liberal arts equally, and is interested in a wide variety of disciplines. Good grades and test scores are important to Henry, and he works hard to achieve both, but he is also intrinsically motivated by the prospect of acquiring new knowledge for its own sake. Homeschooling has allowed Henry the time to master whatever subject matter is at hand more deeply and helped develop his ability to connect disparate information in innovative ways.

Henry sought out and created a myriad of unconventional educational opportunities, and applied Anders Ericsson's model of deliberate practice to his work. At seven, he became excited about soccer and he threw himself heart and soul into becoming the best soccer player he could. He worked daily on improving his athletic skills and actively sought out the coaches and trainers

that would best help him achieve his goals. He spent a decade improving his game and went, by sheer force of will, from being an uncoordinated kid to one of the best goalkeepers in the state. He played for the best club team in Wisconsin and traveled four or five days each week to train in Milwaukee, traveling the Midwest extensively to compete.

Henry's passion for soccer was eventually surpassed by his enthusiasm for comedy and improv, and he has spent the past three years taking as many classes as possible both in Madison and Chicago. He studied at Atlas Improv Company, iO Chicago, The Annoyance Theater, The Improv Den, and The Second City and has taken a bus from Madison to Chicago every weekend to pursue his goal of training with the best. The only exception to this has been the two summers he spent living in Chicago, where he learned to navigate independently in the city and immersed himself in Chicago's improv scene.

As a homeschooler, Henry has been able to focus extra time and energy on the subjects and activities for which he has the most passion. For example, Henry was inspired by immigrant rights and devoted months to organizing his congregation to become a sanctuary for immigrants at risk of deportation. He led efforts to recruit partners to table and hold Q&A sessions that led to a unanimous vote to open the meeting house as a sanctuary. This experience led Henry to seek out internships in Chicago that would enable him to continue to deepen his interfaith community organizing experiences. Last summer, Henry landed a prestigious and highly selective internship with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) as well as a grassroots internship with First Defense Legal Aid (FDLA) in Chicago, all while living on his own and continuing to pursue comedy and improv. These opportunities enriched Henry's education in significant ways; Henry collaborated with a diverse group of people and dedicated himself to learning how to be an active ally in the fight against injustice. As an intern for both CAIR-Chicago and FDLA, Henry developed important relationships with other social justice activists that he will continue to foster throughout the years.

Most importantly, Henry has demonstrated initiative and conviction in numerous ways. As an active member of his congregation, one of his congregation's first youth board members, and a Youth Chaplain, Henry participated in a summer seminary program at Harvard Divinity School.

Henry is an ambitious and accomplished student with an excellent grasp of the course material he's studied thus far. Henry pursues his academics with rigor, curiosity, and self-direction while also engaging his community in meaningful ways. Henry will continue to be a leader both inside and outside of the classroom, and will contribute to his college in profound ways.