Jack of All Trades Speech

How many of you have been asked, *“What do you want to be when you grow up?”* And how many of you had *no idea* what to say?

Yeah. Same.

We live in a world that’s obsessed with picking *one* thing. One sport. One major. One job. One path. Being a generalist—someone who dabbles in lots of different things—is not a weakness. It’s actually a superpower.

Here’s why:

When I was grinding through early-morning soccer lifts, rushing to class without a pencil, juggling club practice and robotics meetings, it felt chaotic. But looking back? That chaos helped me build more skills than I ever realized. Teamwork, time management, learning how to switch gears fast—it wasn’t just a busy schedule, it was training to be adaptable. And adaptability is everything.

Studies back this up too. Research from the *National Library of Medicine* shows that kids who try out different sports grow up with better coordination, fewer injuries, and even stay in sports longer. Another article by Median said child prodigies—people who specialized super early—actually *struggle more* later in life because they’re not used to failure or switching paths.

And it’s not just about sports or school. Psychologists talk about something called “open vs. closed environments.” In open environments—like the real world—you don’t get step-by-step instructions. You have to figure things out, solve problems, and deal with stuff you’ve never seen before. Generalists thrive in that. Specialists… sometimes get stuck.

Even Forbes had an article showing how a ton of successful people didn’t “find their thing” until *way* later. Steve Jobs dabbled in calligraphy. Maya Angelou was a dancer, fry cook, and journalist before she became an author. Serena Williams played multiple sports before focusing on tennis.

Here’s the truth: you don’t have to have it all figured out right now. In fact, you *shouldn’t*. Try new clubs. Take lots of electives. Fail. Learn what *doesn’t* work for you just as much as what does.

Being a generalist doesn’t mean being average at everything. It means building a foundation so wide, you can grow in any direction. So if you’re into robotics *and* art, science *and* poetry, soccer *and* strategy games—good. Keep going. That mix might be exactly what sets you apart one day.

Because in a world that keeps telling you to pick one lane, being good at a lot of things might just be the smartest move you ever make.

Thanks.