



Silver Falls School District News

CLASS NOTES

June 2014

District Office • 802 Schlador St., Silverton, Or. 97381 • 503-873-5303

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Educators are the key to students' success

We have asked a lot of questions this year, more than I can recall in recent history.

Based upon the volume of responses, these efforts have been well-received.

In fact, it quickly affirmed our belief if you reach out and ask people, they respond. And while the answers may not always be what we want to hear, it is what we need to hear.

I share this insight because a common theme in all of the public input included genuine appreciation for the educators in Silver Falls School District. This is not by accident. Staff members are selected based upon the highest standards.

Here are some examples of district-wide public input we have received –

"I think we have some of the most incredible teachers ever. I have continued to be amazed at their level of commitment, love and just plain superstardom."

"I truly appreciate the fact that my children are seen as whole people and have faith that everyone who works with them has their best intentions at heart."

"The special education assistants and teachers are top-notch and truly devoted and caring for their students. They are willing to go out of their way to help their students succeed."

"Our teachers give their students their knowledge, time, commitment to NOT ALLOWING FAILURE, understanding, compassion, and a wonderful moral compass."

"One very important thing that sets SFSD apart from the others is the staff! At all levels I have appreciated how they are always willing to help when needed. They always make time even if it's before or after school. They make each child feel like they are important no matter how many students there are."

The district recently hosted its annual employee retirement and recognition event. It was an evening full of great stories about their influence on the students of this school district.

Each will tell you they did not choose this occupation for the recognition.

They really are quite humble. They chose it because they wanted to make a difference in the lives of children.

They have – some for as long as 40 years. Jim Brueckner and Patty Potter each were recognized for this rare milestone, and are not retiring yet.

They are two of more than 400 committed educators in our district who make a difference in the lives of kids, every day. Each one of them is a reflection of the public comments we received.

Regardless of their positions, Silver Falls educators influence our students for a lifetime. Their style of instruction; a comment of sound advice, their presence and just an encouraging or accepting look will be thought of every time our students hear the question – What educator made a difference in your life when you were in school?

Their positive impact on our children is everywhere, and our communities recognize this fact. So do I.



Superintendent
Andy Bellando

Michael Stoddard – Making a positive impact

Although he played defensive and offensive tackle on the Foxes varsity football team, Michael Stoddard said he played more on the defensive line than the offensive line.

The highlight of his high school career happened when the Foxes played Woodburn away. He received the football on the one-yard line and "got to run it in" to score a touchdown.

"Football overall has been a defining character for me during high school," Michael said. "It has made me tougher and more strong willed."

The son of Chris and Misty Stoddard, Michael plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall to study math. He has a 3.4 grade point average.

Describing himself as a calm person, Michael said he also tries to get his work done as soon as possible.

While he is grateful for all his teachers, he said his Spanish teacher Sarah Roth had the most impact on his life.

SCOTTS MILLS

"She makes Spanish fun to learn and she has broken me out of my shell and gave me more confidence to talk in Spanish outside of the classroom," he said, adding he has taken four years of Spanish.

"Spanish is my favorite class and it is the most challenging, but I have learned a lot," he said.

Sarah Roth said Michael strives for excellence in an unassuming way.

"He is so attentive yet quiet that when he performs in class he almost surprises you with his level of knowledge and skill," Roth said. "I have also observed how kind and compassionate he is through his actions and writings in class."

His advice to underclassmen is to be involved, whether it is a sport, a club or a community activity.

"Find something you can do that you can make friends," Michael said. "Of course, ultimately have fun."



High school flies by. Make the most of it."

In five years, he hopes he will have an amazing job that he loves to do everyday. "Possibly, I will be married and living within or around the Scotts Mills area."

His definition of success is "at the end of your life you are able to look back and say that I made an impact on somebody's life."

Wyatt Arrington – Striving to give his best

Wyatt Arrington never enjoyed English class until his freshman year when he was placed in Brad Emmert's Accelerated English class.

To his surprise, Emmert made English class something he enjoyed.

"What I learned most was not to over think things and always pay attention to the little details," he said.

The son of Amy and Mike Arrington, Wyatt plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall to major in law enforcement. He has a 3.62 grade point average.

His high school activities include being on the varsity football and track teams.

He credits Emmert for being the teacher who made a difference in his life.

"He was always there for me when I needed someone to talk with and he taught me life lessons through his teaching and his coaching," Wyatt said.

Describing himself as a "laid-back,

MARK TWAIN

easy going kid that's fun to be around," Wyatt said his favorite quote is "If you ain't first, you're last." It was said by Will Ferrell's character Ricky Bobby in the movie, *Talladega Nights*.

His favorite memories in high school were playing football and running track.

Playing varsity football with his friends and making a run in the state playoff helped define who he is, he said, by teaching him to never give-up until the last second and to enjoy the moment.

He deals with stress by competing in sports. He also has a passion for being outdoors. "I love to hunt and fish especially because I get to spend that time with my dad," he said.

His advice to the underclassmen is to work hard and not to let opportunities slip away.



"It's easy to get caught up in the little things that don't matter like the drama or the people you don't get along with," Wyatt said.

"Sometimes, it's important to take a step back and ask yourself, "Is this who I am really meant to be? Strive to be the best you can be."

Logan Kuenzi – Achieving happiness is a decision, not a dollar sign

Being a member of Silverton High School's FFA has been the highlight of Logan Kuenzi's high school career.

"I met my girlfriend through our chapter and have made countless friends. I feel FFA has prepared me for the real world more than all the academic classes combined," Logan said. "It is the greatest youth-led organization in the world."

The son of Harvey and Jennifer Kuenzi, Logan plans to attend Linn-Benton Community College to study diesel mechanics. He has a 3.9 grade point average.

His school activities centered on FFA. He was chapter vice president his sophomore and junior years and chapter president his senior year.

Logan said he thinks there is too much emphasis placed on grades. "Grades are a complete joke. You can study and pass a test but have no real comprehension of the matter. I feel that grades teach students to learn only what they have to get by," he said.

VICTOR POINT

There should be more focus in high school on teaching life skills, especially career and technical skills. That, he said, seems to be the more brilliant idea and not stressing the grades.

"I know plenty of shops that are screaming for workers that have work ethic and skills to complete tasks," he said.

He advises next year's seniors to "get on the stick" when it comes for preparing for what they plan to do after high school.

"The longer you wait, the more opportunities you will miss. Do not go straight to a university, but rather get your prerequisites done at a community college and transfer. It will save you big money," he said.

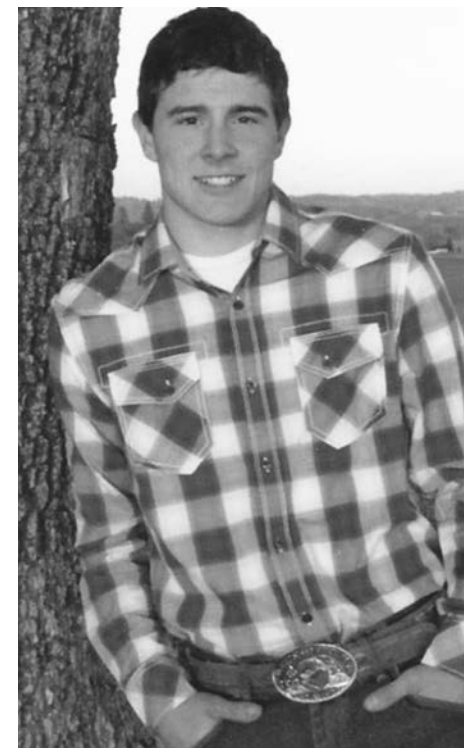
He also advises students to pick a field that they will be happy in and one that is realistic.

"Getting a degree in an area that has no job opportunities is as worthless as hair on a slab of bacon. A complete waste," he said. "Set an ultimate goal for your life and do the legwork to achieve it. Take advantage of college credit classes through high school, in the end they will save you time and money."

His advice to underclassmen is to take initiative. "Don't expect handouts or you will get nowhere in life," he said. "Utilize teachers and counselors as valuable resources to be on track for college or finding a job."

In order to be successful, Logan said, you must be happy. "I do not think that money has much of anything to do with whether or not you are successful," he said.

"I want to farm not because I think farming will make me a millionaire but rather because I know that I will be happy on the farm. The happier you are with your job, the better you will be at it."



Mathew Craig – Working hard shaped a better player and person



The question is often asked of graduating high school seniors: "Where would you like to be five years from now?"

For Mathew Craig, five years is a long way out.

"I think back to five years before now and realize just how much I have changed as a person," he said.

"But if I had to guess, I would be a college graduate with a job. Not sure what the job will be though. I have no idea if I will be single or married, but I really do hope to come back to Silverton and be on the high school football coaching staff. That is a definite goal of mine."

The son of Chris Craig and Amy Bishop, Mathew plans to attend Linfield College in the fall where he will be a member of the Wildcat Football team.

He has a 3.3 grade point average. His school activities have included football and track teams, Link Crew and Interact Club.

SILVER CREST

Mathew will have the opportunity to play one last time with two of his senior classmates – Matthew Willis and Cort Martin for his football coach John Mannion in the 67th annual Les Schwab North versus South All-Star game Saturday, June 21, 1:30 p.m. at Hillsboro Stadium. The game features the best of Oregon's 5A and 6A football players.

Playing on the team was definitely a highlight of his high school career, Mathew said.

"All the hard work that I put in to become a better player has shaped me as a person," he said.

"One of my favorite memories of high school is winning our last home football game 35-0 in the playoffs against Mountain View High School. It really just completed my high school career and I was definitely

content with that being my last home game."

Mathew said his three favorite high school teachers are Mr. Piro, Mr. Blackburn and Mr. Brueckner. "I think the reason that I really felt a connection to these three is because they interacted with me as a person and friend rather than a subordinate. I can hold conversations with them as person to person and I really enjoy that."

His favorite quote summarizes what he is going through as his high school career comes to an end.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

"I will no doubt miss high school but I know I can look back and not regret anything that I did," he said.

"I can look back and laugh at the good times I had."

Davis Henckel – Discovering it's better to try and fail, than to fail to try

Davis Henckel had been told he could sing but it wasn't until he was looking for a class to take fifth period his last semester in high school that he considered concert choir.

A few of his friends encouraged him to talk with the choir teacher, who auditioned him and welcomed him to the concert choir.

Since joining in February, he has had a tenor solo performance. "It was pretty much nerve-wrecking to sing a solo but it has given me confidence and helped me come out of my shell a little more," he said.

He also performed a song at the school's annual talent show and a solo in the choir's cabaret talent show. He wishes he had adopted the "just try" attitude earlier about concert choir and other school activities.

"I figured if the choir teacher said no then I would have to find another class," he said. "I wasn't worried about failing. I wish I would

EVERGREEN

have joined choir a long time ago but I was too shy to do it."

The son of Curt and Charisa Henckel, Davis plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall. He is considering studying music.

He encourages the underclassmen to not be afraid to step out of their comfort zone and try an activity. "If I could do high school all over again, I would have done choir all four years and I would have stuck with basketball," he said.

His sophomore year he tried out for the basketball team, admitting he went to practice out-of-shape. "I knew I wasn't one of the better players and I had made it to the last round before the final cut," he said. "Instead of waiting to see what would happen, I quit.

It was really hard because I love basketball and have been playing since the first grade. Now, I wish I would have stuck with it."

Describing himself as determined, he said he's pretty laid back and doesn't have super strong opinions about things. He deals with stress by playing video games, going on a run or playing the guitar.

His definition of success is having a career that he really enjoys. His favorite quote is by Michael Jordan: "If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you never will change the outcome."

"What this quote means to me is to not let people's opinions of me matter," he said. "I have struggled with what people thought of me and when I missed a shot in basketball, I worried what people would think. I would have made more shots if I didn't let people's opinions get in the way."



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Sheyenne Brusven – Understanding how one moment can make a difference

There are moments in life that help define who you are. For Sheyenne Brusven, one such moment came when she was a freshman and the varsity girls soccer team was tied with Crescent Valley.

“I got put in after just a few minutes into the game due to an injury and, as a freshman, had been pretty nervous to take on our rivals so suddenly,” she remembers. “I stopped a penalty kick by literally landing on top of the ball right on the line. The whole JV team had been cheering for us along with tons of parents and other people in the stands.”

She remembers walking back to the bus and having both Silverton and Crescent Valley fans congratulate her.

“As corny as it may sound, I looked up at the stars and thanked God for allowing me to be in the zone that night. I felt so proud of myself for being able to perform well for my team and earn the respect of so many people,” she said. “This moment helped me

SILVERTON CHRISTIAN

be more confident in myself and helped me find my place in high school/life in general.”

The daughter of Randy and Linda Brusven, Sheyenne plans to attend Corban University and play on the women’s soccer team. She has a 4.0 grade point average. Her activities include varsity soccer for four years, National Honor Society and Red Cross Club.

Sheyenne is grateful for teacher Kirsten Barnes for being an inspiration.

“She volunteers so much of her time through the Red Cross and somehow finds time to do a million other things,” Sheyenne said. “She sacrificed a lot to get her education so that she can reach the goals she wants to in life. The work she put into her doctorate is insane. I hope to be able to be

that determined someday. Not to mention she is super chill and funny. Best teacher I have ever had!”

Her favorite memories for high school are the times she spent with her soccer team – “some fantastic and crazy girls. Amazing games and funny team dinners and sleep overs are memories I will never forget.

“There are so many inside jokes each year and each season is unique with new girls. Not to mention my coaches Fred George and Gary Cameron are basically like father figures to all the girls,” she said. “They were a huge part in making such a great environment to make great memories in.”

Admitting she doesn’t deal with stress well, her favorite quote is “I’ll cross that bridge when I get to it.”

The quote helps her handle her life when she has “a billion and one things going on at once. It forces me to prioritize.”



Eric and Irvin Garcia-Perez – Grateful and gregarious, eager to give back

Irvin Garcia-Perez’s favorite high school memory is one he shared with his twin brother Eric.

On twin day their sophomore year, they traded class.

“I don’t quite remember which classes we exchanged, but I do know it was super funny,” Irvin said. “While the students in the class giggled, the teachers had no clue.”

Spend a little time with Irvin and Eric and you’ll find they have a great sense of humor along with a strong work ethic.

Irvin and Eric Garcia-Perez are the sons of Angel and Candida Garcia.

Irvin has a 3.4 grade point average and plans to attend Chemeketa Community College for two years before transferring to University of Portland to major in biology and minor in communications.

His school activities include being a member of the varsity boys soccer, cross country and track and field teams, Las Aguilas and Link Crew.

Eric has a 3.7 grade point average and plans to attend the Oregon Institute of Technology and earn a degree in vascular technology.

Eric’s school activities include being a member of the varsity soccer and tennis teams, Key Club, Las Aguilas and National Honor Society.

Eric Garcia-Perez

Eric’s favorite quote is from Mahatma Gandhi, “Be the change you want in the world.”

“This quote motivates me to pursue my career in medicine and to ultimately help change the lives of others in a positive way,” he said.

The highlight of his high school career was participating in the Mr. SHS pageant.

“I was able to have the time of my life alongside my friends and raise money for a

Silver Falls School District

BUTTE CREEK

beautiful cause – Medical Teams International,” Eric said. “Not only did I get to know the guys better but I was able to know myself as well. I now know that I enjoy making a fool of myself and can dance a mean Gas Pedal.”

Eric said he deals with stress as most teenagers do – he sleeps.

“My reasoning for this is that sleeping for less than seven hours each night reduces my life expectancy so I take no chances and sleep an extra four hours,” he quipped.

His advice for current juniors for their senior year is to look ahead and plan for college.

“I advise them to first know what they want to do, their vocation. Secondly, take senior year seriously since their attitude in their final year in high school will transition to their first year in college,” he said. “Also, apply for FAFSA in January since that’s when they’ll receive the most money.”

His definition of success does not involve how much money he earns. Instead, he defines success on how fulfilled he is with his life.

“If I have a job that I enjoy doing every single day then the paycheck does not matter; all that matters is that I’m living life to its fullest,” he said.

Irvin Garcia-Perez

Describing himself as a “shy, little guy” who didn’t know many other students apart from those he grew up with at Butte Creek, Irvin decided to participate in the talent show his freshman year.

“So being in front of the whole school was a very nerve-racking experience. Nonetheless, I got up there and showed the school my juggling talent and ever since I have been referred to as “the soccer kid,” he said.



Eric Garcia-Perez

Irvin said Tom Steers is the teacher who has made the biggest difference in his life. Steers is a math teacher.

“Mr. Steers is a very kind, humble and understanding teacher who wants nothing but the best for his students,” Irvin said.

“While Mr. Steers may snag some of my potato chips from time-to-time, he has helped me throughout the years become a better student and overall a better person,” Irvin said. “Because of him, I am who I am today.”

He also wanted to thank his freshman Accelerated English teacher Brad Emmert, adding it was the hardest class he has taken.

“Writing essays while incorporating many literary elements are without a doubt the most challenging aspects of English I struggled with and continue to struggle with,” Irvin said.

“While writing essays was challenging, I learned to use my resources and to con-



Irvin Garcia-Perez

stantly revise my work which has helped me with essays ever since. Thank you again, Mr. Emmert!”

One of his favorite quotes is, “Kind hearts are the gardens. Kind thoughts the roots. Kind words the flowers. Kind deeds the fruits. Take care of your garden.”

“I believe that kindness is the best way to spread optimism and that everyone has the ability to do good,” he said. “By having a gentle heart and through acts of kindness, I have the ability to have an impact on somebody’s life.”

Irvin’s definition of success is accomplishing a self-created goal that ultimately makes a person happy.

In five years, he sees himself having graduated from college. “I see myself also contributing to my community in helping with the local soccer team,” he said. “I’m not entirely sure what my future looks like, but I sure do hope I grow a little!”

Mathis Kuenzi – Learning the benefits that come out of adversity

Mathis Kuenzi has learned failure can be a blessing in disguise. His sophomore year, he said, he was disappointed to be placed on the junior varsity instead of the varsity football team.

“This doesn’t sound like a failure but for me my goal was to play varsity for three years so when I had high expectations for myself and didn’t achieve them, I saw it as a failure,” he said. “It was actually a positive experience for me because it allowed me to get a lot of playing time and become a better competitor and athlete.”

The son of Troy and Sherri Kuenzi, Mathis plans to attend Chemeketa Community College for two years, then transfer to Oregon State University to major in agriculture business.

He has a 3.8 grade point average. His school activities include football, track and field, Interact Club and Link Crew.

The highlights of his high school career were being on the football and track teams.

“My junior and senior year, our football

PRATUM

team placed third,” he said. “I was fortunate to be a part of that program and I want to say thank you to the community for being such a great support. As for track, I have enjoyed running the hurdles and going to state to compete in them.”

His favorite high school memory was defeating West Albany High School’s football team twice his junior year.

“Because West Albany has always been a powerhouse in football, it was exciting to take them down and prove to ourselves and others that hard work and persistence pays off.”

Several teachers here have made an impact on his life, he said.

“Mr. Mannion taught me that respect is a very important part of life and that one shouldn’t cut corners now because they will cut corners later in life too. Mr. Brueckner

always stood out to me because of his inspiring phrases that seemed very repetitive! Mr. Shryock taught me that integrity and honesty are very important. I also appreciated his classy humor he exuded during class,” Mathis said.

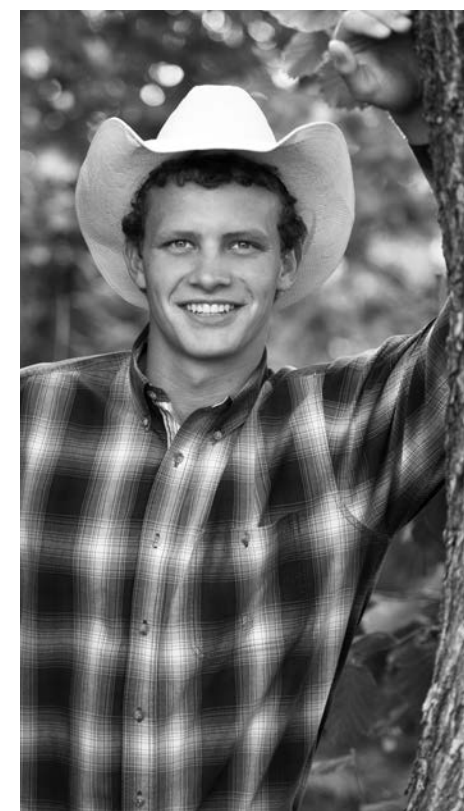
Mathis’ definition of success is being the best person that he can be. He would like to be known as a man who respects others and has high integrity.

“I would be happy with getting through college successfully, acquiring a solid, dependable job that can support a family and being a positive impact on society. If this can be accomplished then I would deem this person as successful,” he said.

His favorite quote is “Only dead fish go with the flow.”

“This shows quite plainly that if you just get caught up in the daily run of things, you won’t experience the real joys of life,” Mathis said.

“Go out and be something, Make a positive impact on the people around you.”



Taylor Dettwyler – Loving life

Taylor Dettwyler’s favorite quote is “Where there is love, there is life,” by Mahatma Gandhi.

“This quote is a symbolism of my life because without the love of the people around me, I wouldn’t be happy. I am the happiest when the ones I love are happy also,” she said.

Unconditional happiness is her definition of success. “I feel no matter how much money I obtain or how successful I am in the work place, nothing will bring me more happiness than having a family and a career that I enjoy going to everyday,” she said.

The daughter of Gary and Tami Dettwyler, Taylor has a 3.96 grade point average. In the fall, she plans to attend Chemeketa Community College on the scholars program for two years and then transfer to major in nursing. Her five-year goal is to be a delivery nurse and work for Silverton Health.

Her activities include being a member of the basketball and track and field teams, Link Crew, Interact Club, Red Cross Club and National Honor Society.

Her advice to juniors for next year is not to procrastinate when applying for colleges.

“Deadlines approach really fast and if you wait too long you might miss scholarship opportunities and might have to pay a fee, so start right away to see what colleges fit your life best,” Taylor said.

She also encourage underclassmen to not shy away from taking classes that they are interested in. Knowing she wanted to become a nurse, Taylor knew she needed to take chemistry. She was anxious about it because she knew the class would be a challenge.

Although it wasn’t easy, she said she learned a great deal. “I had a great teacher, Mr. Cunningham, who made me laugh every day and helped me learn a lot.”



CENTRAL HOWELL

Her favorite memory of high school is the football games.

“It was such a community ordeal that you couldn’t miss it. It was amazing to see everyone come together and support our team. That is one of the things I will miss most of high school,” she said.

Her advice to the underclassmen is to cherish every moment they have in high school and to live in the moment.

“Focus on your school work but also don’t take the little fun things for granted. Go to sporting events, join a club and find your niche and stick with it,” she said. “You’ll be surprised with the friendships and memories that come along with coming out of your comfort zone.”

Ian Sucich – Success by determination

As the only senior on the boys varsity basketball team, Ian Sucich quietly stepped up and took on the responsibility of being the team leader. He made clutch shots and was a key to the Foxes achieving more than people expected. He averaged 18.5 points per game during the regular season and proved to be one of the deadliest shooters in the state. Sucich hit 79 of 165 3-pointers, a sterling 48 percent, and was 51 for 59 at the line, 86 percent.

A determined athlete, Ian went into his senior season knowing not much was expected of the team.

“I was the only senior and after Zach Gengler and Toby Roth left the year before, people never thought I or the team would do that great and as it turned out we got many compliments of how we played over the course of the year and we went to the playoffs,” he said.

The son of Jason Sucich and Nicholle Riesch, Ian plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall. A 3.4 grade point average student, Ian played basketball all four years.

His advice to juniors applying for college is to apply and select a college as soon as possible. “If you don’t do it on time, you will regret it,” he said.

“Senior year goes by incredibly fast and you begin to not do anything and that is a bad habit for most seniors every year,” he said. “Don’t get yourself caught up in that and get your SATs done and don’t wait, also apply for as many scholarships as possible.”

He also said he thinks there is too much importance place on grades and standardized tests. He said there are students who don’t do well on tests but are intelligent.

“For instance, if you take the SAT and you don’t get a good score, then your options are limited to what colleges you can go to,” he said.

If he was the high school principal, he would help students achieve success by making the dates for assignments be strict.



BETHANY CHARTER

“Such as if someone didn’t do the assignment or finish the assignment on time, they would get a lunch detention or work detail of some sort,” he said.

The teacher who made a difference in his life was Mr. Mannion. “He has helped me succeed and has great teaching techniques that I have adapted to get good grades in my other classes.”

His way to deal with stress is to “think about the good things and then just get whatever it is done with and you will feel way better.”

He defines success as getting good grades for his own work and “actually learning and creating new techniques to learn by.”

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