



SOUTH TAHOE HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Vikings

We have had the pleasure to have this AVID student for the past three years and over that time, he has shown exceptional growth. He has always been bright but it was not until last year that his priorities shifted and he took on a new mindset. To be honest the first year of AVID with student was challenging. He was never in class, never engaged, and showed little effort. It was not until later that I found out that student was in foster care and depressed. Both his parents were drug addicts, his father was abusive and then absent, and was exposed to meth while in utero.

In his junior year is when things started to change. He told me it was the first time in his life where he felt like he had emotional support. This student was adopted during this time and he slowly started caring more about school. He found the value of education and for the first time was experiencing success. He was self-motivated and became more engaged in classes. He was enjoying learning and seeing a purpose to school. This student has now become one of Mrs. Zalles' favorite. He has excelled in Math and has developed a passion for Digital Media Arts. He has taken on the role as the main host for Viking Television, creating and directing pieces that are broadcast to the entire school. It has been wonderful to see his transformation. He is tenacious, creative, and thoughtful. While he regrets his choices he made early in school like not getting good grades, he has learned a valuable lesson in life. He can accomplish whatever it is he sets his mind to.

Student plans on attending Lake Tahoe Community College for two years and then he would like to transfer to either a CSU or UC school to study Digital Media Arts. He has a passion and real talent for graphic design. He would like to pursue this career and possibly go into education in the future. We are so proud of this student and the person he has evolved into being. The resiliency he has along with his growth mindset are admirable.