

Why I am Proud to be a Valley Forge Graduate



When I hear the words "Valley Forge High School" I envision the words pride, success, and family. Throughout my four years at Valley Forge I have developed many relationships among the teachers, coaches, and fellow students. These relationships have grown so much that by my senior year, I began to feel as though we are a family. If I ever had a problem or needed to discuss my academic career, I felt like I could talk to anyone about it. They have helped me grow academically and as a person. They have taught me many life skills, just as my parents did. These skills will assist me through many facets of life. It is going to be hard for me to say goodbye to many of the staff and students as I move on to a new chapter of my life.

I participated in basketball my freshman through junior year. Throughout those years, we experienced many successful times but also challenging times as we pulled together through thick and thin. There were many games when we felt that we were not going to be competitive, but our coaches gave us the motivation to do our best regardless of the outcome. We were a family and fought through everything together. The coaches not only motivated me to do my best on the court, but to do my best in school. I looked up to them and they inspired me to be great. They are one of the reasons I am at where I am today. We had pride in everything we did, and that pride will remain with me for the rest of my life.

Although these four years have passed by rather quickly, I am beginning; however, to realize the significance my experiences at Valley Forge will have on me for the rest of my life. Many of my dreams, which hopefully will turn into reality, will be rooted in my experiences at Valley Forge High School. The late Dan Rather said it nicely, "The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called "truth." I chuckle at times when I look back at a few of my teachers and think that Mr. Rather must have personally known them. Although at the time I could only grimace at their tugging and pushing, I now realize that the only thing that they wanted from me was to bring out my best efforts so that I could one day look in the mirror and hold my head high.

My two younger brothers, one who is currently a sophomore and the other who will be attending Valley Forge High School next year as a freshman, asked me what I liked best about Valley Forge. After thinking about it for a while, one word kept coming to mind and that was "individuality." Although there are many things High School teenagers have in common, you never really lose your sense of identity and individualism. As a matter of fact, many of the teachers stress the importance of creativity and exploration. Utilize your past experience, current knowledge, and individualism to mold your thoughts and ideas. This was the theme, in one form or another, for many of my classes. An unknown author put it simply when he said, "A teacher's purpose is not to create students in his own image, but to develop students who can create their own image."

Pride, success, and family are what come to mind when I hear the words "Valley Forge High School." Although Valley Forge's academic curriculum is top notch, it was the experiences and life long lessons that I gained which were my real achievements. I will always remember Valley Forge High School for its superior staff and their dedication. Most of all, it taught me to be an individual who can stand up with pride and say that I am a Patriot.



As my high school career comes to an end I can proudly say that I will be graduating from a school that has taught me so much about the real world. Being a Valley Forge graduate will mean that I came from a school that wasn't rich or in a bubble of a perfect world. It will mean that I came from a school that dealt with some hard times and a school that has taught me how to deal with hard times. It means that I came from a strong school that will do what it needs to do for its students, a school that has given me the opportunity for a great education and a great chance at a successful future. Being a graduate from Valley Forge will mean that I am ready to take on the world outside of high school. It will mean that I will be prepared the best that I can be and that I will be able to take on any challenge that is thrown my way. Being from Forge means that I will be able to handle and deal with people well and that I will be able to help those around me. Valley Forge has made me a well-rounded person and a person that can deal with anything. I will be able to be a strong leader and do what is right for me and those around me. I will be able to make the best out of the worst situations. It means that I will be able to take on some hard times with a smile on my face because I've been taught that things are not always going to be easy and that life is what you make of it. I will be able to make life better for those around me because if you have a smile when things are bad then you will be able to help brighten someone else's day. Being from Valley Forge means that I will be ready and willing to make the right choices about my future and I will be able to be successful, smart and brave. It means that I will be able to face the world. It means that I will be able to do absolutely anything that I put my mind to. Being a Valley Forge graduate means that I will have success in my life and I will be able to do what I want with it. Lastly I will always be able to say with pride that I graduated from Valley Forge High School and that I wouldn't have wanted to go to high school anywhere else.