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End of Year Celebration

7 PM - Wednesday
May 17, 2023

University of the District of Columbia

Theater of the Arts

4200 Connecticut Ave.
NW, Washington, DC



2023 Student Anthology

Greetings,



I am pleased to present to you the 2023 College Bound Student Anthology.

At College Bound, during our weekly academic mentoring sessions, we dedicate time for students to write while they listen to a designated "Artist of the Week." We want our students, of course, to practice writing, but also to stay engaged with the world around them. We encourage our mentors to journal as well, in order to model what great writing looks like for their mentees. The exchange of journal

writings between the pairs also deepens the mentoring relationship as they get to know each other in a more meaningful and impactful way. The topics for the weekly journal writings range from "How do you deal with stress?" to "What do you think can be done about the spike in local crime?" Throughout the year, we see our students become more engaged with the writing activity and also more expressive, exponentially so in some instances.

During our spring college tour to North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, we had the opportunity to stumble across a class in session at the art gallery on the campus of Oglethorpe University. We assumed that it was an art class; however, it was a sociology class, and the professor was tying the current exhibit by artist, activist and philanthropist Ruth Westreich to the human impact on the world around us. When the class was over, I asked the professor to stay back and speak with our College Bound students. She graciously obliged and shared some tips for being successful in college. I am always impressed with our students' curiosity, and it was on full display in their exchange with her. When she finished, I asked each student to choose a painting that resonated with them and to write an essay about the thoughts their selected pieces evoked. Some of those responses are included in this anthology, and I think you will find their writing enlightening, refreshing, thought-provoking and compelling.

We are often told that our students are reckless, self-centered, or misguided, but through their writings, you will find that they are very much aware of the challenges facing them and our world. I think they are also very cognizant of the fact that they will be the ones who will find some of the solutions, and in addition to accepting that mantle, they are also recognizing the inherent opportunities that come with that work.

Again, I'm honored to present to you our 2023 student anthology. I hope that as you read, you'll experience a sense of rekindled optimism that you likely had when you were their age, that it reminds you that the best is yet to come, and most importantly, that their futures are worthy of our investment.

Thank you for continuing to support College Bound and the invaluable work that we are doing in service to our public school students in the Washington DC metropolitan area.

My best, *Kenneth*



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College Bound
is so proud of
YOU!



Continue...



Bailey Allen



Joana Antwi



Kian Asongwed



Kaidyn Aull



Makayla Bailey



Zariah Bailey



David Barrow



Nigel Bronson



Kennedy Brooks



Kendall Childs



CiAhna Chloe



Treasure Clarke

Continue...



Christian Davis



Aniyah DePeazer



Nina Enwesi



Charles Eze



Skye Gill



Nya Grant



Dylan Green



Marcus Hall



Mekhi Hamilton



Nikyah James



Weslee James



Nina-Skye Johnson

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Logan Lawrence



Jackson Lewis



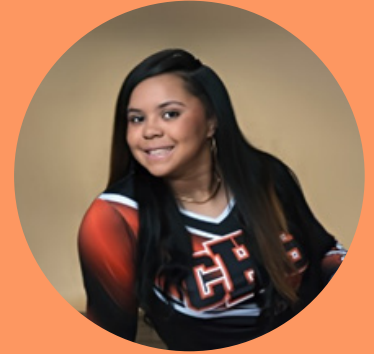
Ayanna Lovelace



Chimamanda Smith



Siyan Tekle



Kalynn Tobin



Zakaiya Walker



Robert Washington



Clarke Weathersby

Congratulations
Class of 2023!!





Continue...

*Sherwood
Recreation
Center*



8th Grade

Alyssa Tucker

The qualities most important to me are respect and loyalty. I say this because everyone can respect you, but not everyone is loyal. Respect is important because being valued and being seen as an individual by others matters. I don't want people acting kindly toward me if they don't respect me. But, in order for others to respect you, you first have to respect yourself. Loyalty is vital to me because we all need people in our lives to stick with us forever, and not just for a little bit before moving on to something else. I also value loyalty. I don't want to be seen as a second choice in anything for anyone.

Joshua Lewis

Mae Jemison, the first black woman to travel in space, once said: "Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination." This sentiment is important because if you limit yourself, you will never be able to become what you want to become. This is important to me because some people may already have limited what they think I can be or do. If I limit myself because of them, I am just hurting myself. Many women are underestimated just because they are women. Women like Marie Curie, Ada Lovelace, Margaret Thatcher, and Mary Jackson showed those who underestimated them that they were equal to men and maybe even more capable.



Dr. Mae Jemison

John Barnes

A memorable moment in applying to high schools was when high school coaches came to my AAU tournament in New Jersey. Another one was when we were scrambling to know what high school I was going to attend. I also remember when people accepted me on my first day. My last favorite moment was at McKinley Tech and being in a photo shoot.

Aaron Tucker

Continuing means to keep going no matter what and to keep pursuing the things that mean the most, the things you hold dear. Continuing means never giving up.



Melia Phillips

My most memorable moments preparing for high school were creating my application and stressing about interviews. Creating my application, especially writing my essay for Banneker, was very stressful. It made me think about what I want to get out of high school and what I expect from my learning. It also made me think about myself and my qualities. I took a deeper look into myself. Waiting for days and days to hear back from the schools that I hoped to attend was also nerve wracking. I remember all of my friends interviewing at a school that I also wanted to attend, but I didn't get an interview. I was so upset. I learned later that I missed out because a recommendation from my English teacher was missing. I thought I'd made sure that my recommendation was filled out. I even checked with the school to see if there was still a chance for an interview. I especially remember discussing with my friends how much I was going to miss them when we went off to our separate schools. We spoke about going off to our dream schools, how we would fulfill our passions, and how we might never see each other again.

Marcus Dunbar

A memorable moment for me preparing for high school was staying up late countless nights doing applications. The hardest school application was Gonzaga's because, in addition to an essay, I had to answer three questions and it was difficult coming up with different answers to those questions. Even though it wasn't as easy, the process was also fun because I was able to go to some of their games. I also attended a shadow day. But I'm not really interested in Gonzaga anymore. I don't think it would be a good fit for me. I want to go somewhere that will feel comfortable.

8th Grade

Jacque Patterson

A parent should help a student who falls behind in school by, first of all, being understanding. Sometimes parents are too harsh in how they treat their children when they fall behind. This can add more stress to an already difficult situation. I would advise a peer who is falling behind to stay calm and take everything one step at a time. Take breaks if you need to and don't be afraid to ask for help from parents, fellow classmates and peers, and teachers.

Esavier Dejesus

One way parents can help students is by getting more involved. Go with them to their teacher after school and find them the help they need. Advice I'd give to a peer would be to say go and talk to a teacher to find the help they need for their goals in life. And if they feel like catching up is impossible, then they need to stay after school.

9th Grade



Paul (PJ) DeVerger

When I was preparing for high school, I made sure I had everything I needed for the school year like pencils, notebooks, and folders. I also talked to my parents about high school. Over the summer, I did some reading and math work. This prepared me for high school by introducing me to the material I'd be working on there.

**DON'T
Give
-UP-**

Mariama Conteh

Parents should support a student who has fallen behind in school by asking questions. When questions are asked, maybe the student will feel better about themselves by being expressive instead of just keeping it to themselves and putting pressure on themselves. The advice I would give to a peer would be to share ideas. Maybe a peer can explain to the student in other words so they can understand better. Other advice I would give to a student is to hang out and study with other students. Then the student can get caught up and continue staying on top of their work.

Damon Tucker Jr.

“Continue” means being constant in something. As long as I do something over and over again, I'm continuing. If I continue to give up constantly that's what continue means. Continuing can be beneficial, but it can also not be. I don't want to continue giving up constantly. That is also what continue can mean.

10th Grade

Khalya Johnson

Martin Luther King Jr. was a historic figure who bent the rules of society to make sure Black people and other minorities can live similarly to whites. I also learned about his speeches and how powerful they were. They had an impact on others' lives. His words and his actions like the peaceful marches he organized had people wanting to take charge to get equality. He passed away before he could change all he wanted to, but he made the world an easier place for others to live in. I can honor his legacy by never stopping to prove people wrong by squashing all stereotypes about people like me. I must also spread knowledge of him and talk about how he played a big part in making it fairer for everyone who lives here. To conclude, Martin Luther King changed a lot of people's views and helped people get opportunities to live better lives.

Niani Bright

Discrimination refers to the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people. I would like to eradicate discrimination because this affects so many people of color in this country and in the world who have not had the opportunities that whites have had since this country was founded.

Discrimination is happening everywhere around the world.

People judge each other because of their race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or even the disabilities that a person may have. We live in a world where anything can happen through collaboration and unity. In order to abolish

discrimination, the first thing we must do is work and join together to change people's perspectives. Discrimination affects everyone and can take a toll on a person's life. If we change the minds of adults and young adolescents into seeing everybody for what they really are, we can change the world. I would like to

focus on educating others about stereotyping and placing people in social categories. I would like to form discussion groups that encourage people to think more about the world around them and the people they connect with every day, no matter their race or their environment. I would also like to try to provide activities and projects that involve multiracial engagement. While growing

up, I have been discriminated against for my dark skin and received many colorist comments. However, over time, I have made sure that I am confident and feel good about myself. Going forward, I will try to teach all children to feel good and self-assertive about their ethnicity, faith, and culture. I will encourage everyone to respect each other's differences and be aware that it is inhumane to treat somebody as less worthy based on unchangeable attributes of a person including sex, race, age, and disability.



10th Grade

Mason Ewers

I didn't really have a chance to prepare for high school considering that we were in the pandemic. What I do remember is thinking of the possibilities that came with going to high school. I was excited to meet new people and learn about new opportunities. But there was also this sense of nervousness, knowing that high school basketball is very different to middle school basketball. There were thoughts too of not fitting in, of not understanding the work. Bad thoughts roamed through my mind about high school. KCP wasn't my first choice, it was actually my last, but that's the price I had to pay for not doing what I should've done in middle school. It was very upsetting at first. Most of my friends were going to schools I dreamed of going to, like Gonzaga, St Johns, Mcnamara, and Bullis. I was the only one attending a public school. Once I entered high school, I reconnected with a lot of old friends who have become family. Although I still have bad opinions about my school, I'd be lying if I didn't say that since day one, the people at KCP have made me feel that, even in a bad place, there is some good.

11th Grade



Darwin Zapata

I feel good and grateful for where I am right now because I live in a new country and I have new opportunities for my life. My plans for my future include, first of all, to finish school. I'll try to do well to have a good GPA, so I can qualify for some good universities.

Aaron Weeks

Breaking past boundaries and limits that other people put on you is an important sentiment. A lot of prominent figures in the fight for women's rights wouldn't have done what they did if they applied themselves to "others' limited imaginations," as Mae Jemison phrased it. For example, if prominent female authors didn't write because others told them "women shouldn't write," we wouldn't have authors like Jane Austen, author of *Pride and Prejudice*, Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, or Virginia Woolf, with *To the Lighthouse*. This phrase can really be applied to anyone though. Martin Luther King, Jr. wouldn't have been who he was had he limited himself to others' beliefs. If he brought himself to believe that Black people were fine the way things were, then we wouldn't have had one of the most influential speakers of all time.

12th Grade

Makayla Bailey-Curtis

Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Memphis father, became the latest Black man to join a horrific line of abuse at the hands of police. The chief of police should fire the police officers who put their hands on Tyre, because officers are here to help the community, not beat or kill people. People in the community need to protest more and make the mayor help us, instead of not doing anything about police officers beating up or killing Black people. The mayor needs to hold officers accountable and have them put in jail for more than five years. I also feel that this community needs more discipline and it needs to STOP. Police officers should take care of and help the community, instead of killing us and making us feel worthless. Police officers should have more training. The stigma against Black people needs to end.



Jackson Lewis

The issue of police brutality against Black men in America is a complex and deeply entrenched problem that requires a multifaceted solution. One of the key solutions is improving police accountability and transparency. This can be achieved through measures such as implementing body cameras, creating independent oversight boards, and conducting regular reviews of police practices. Another solution is increasing cultural sensitivity and diversity training for police officers, so that they can better understand and serve the communities they are tasked with protecting. Additionally, improving community-police relations is crucial for addressing this issue. This can be done through initiatives such as community policing, which seeks to build trust and understanding between police officers and the communities they serve. Systemic changes in the criminal justice system, such as addressing racial bias and reducing mass incarceration, are also important steps toward solving this problem. Finally, addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality through increased investment in education and economic opportunities in communities of color can help to reduce tensions between the police and Black men. It's important to note that solving this issue will require sustained effort from multiple stakeholders, including law enforcement, elected officials, and community members.

Kaidyn Aull

A story in the news that caught my attention is the Shanquella case. She and some “friends” went to Mexico for a birthday trip. Everyone made it safely back to the United States except for her. Hearing this story made me feel sad, but it also really made me think about a lot of things. Especially who you call your friends and how important it is who you surround yourself with. People always have different intentions, whether they are good or bad. Reading many articles about this situation frightened me. They show that literally anything can happen in the snap of a finger. I feel for Shanquella’s family. They didn’t deserve this. Nor did she. I hope that her family is fighting for justice for her. Her story needs to be heard.



12th Grade

LOYALTY

Logan Lawrence

I personally believe the most important value in life is being honest. Honesty is beneficial to others and also to yourself. Living an honest life allows you to wake up each day guilt free. My older relatives always say, "The truth shall set you free." Regardless of how big or small an action is, if you do it with integrity and honesty, blessings will come your way. As a child, I used to tell myself that it is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission. This allowed me to always own up to my wrong doings.



Nina-Skye Johnson

If parents want to support a student who has fallen behind in school, they shouldn't yell and get frustrated at their child for failing. They should talk to the child's teachers to help construct a plan to help the child. Getting angry at the child without knowing why they are failing and yelling at them might stress them out more, causing them to slump even further. To those who are struggling with schoolwork, the first step is the hardest. Once you have recognized that you are struggling, ask for help from the teacher. Work with the teacher to create a plan to get your grade up.

Skye Gill

Loyalty is a very important value to me. It provides good boundaries and support in most of my relationships. Loyalty is also an act of commitment by me. It helps me persevere with anything I apply myself to. I'm a firm believer in karma, so when I give out positive and loyal vibes, they hopefully return to me. Loyalty is also my form of being true to myself and to others around me. My character is represented in my actions and how I carry myself.



Dylan Green

Parents who have a child who has fallen behind in school should monitor that child closely to figure out why. They should help by removing distractions that may be getting in the child's way. They should also explain the point of keeping up grades, saying something like, "You don't want to throw away your future by not doing twenty minutes of work." I would also tell the child that I had been there, that I've also wanted to give up, but I figured out how to bring the grade back up to something acceptable.





Continue...

*Department
of
Education*



8th Grade

Vontayvia Fuller

Mass shootings in America could be reduced if we didn't allow guns to be used in certain areas. I would change the age to 25 years for when you can legally buy a gun. We need a better background check policy. People who want to purchase guns should have to go through gun safety training in every state. I also think assault rifles should be banned for personal use and should only be used in the military.



Jaden Anderson

I believe that we need to make guns illegal unless you are in special forces. There you would be licensed and be watched. Also, we should have police stationed at every gun store because guns can be stolen if no one is watching the store. I believe that even if you restrict guns, gun theft will increase. There is already a 2.4 percent gun theft rate. If we restrict guns, the percentage may rise by ten percent. I'm a 14-year-old Black male. Where I live, there is a lot of gun violence. I have been around it my whole life. I believe that you shouldn't have to live around it and get used to someone shooting a gun near you or in your direction.

Shaunah Boone

The sentiment, “Never limit yourself because of others’ limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination” is important because you should never hold people back just because you yourself are closed minded. Nor should you limit yourself because of close-minded people’s judgment of you.

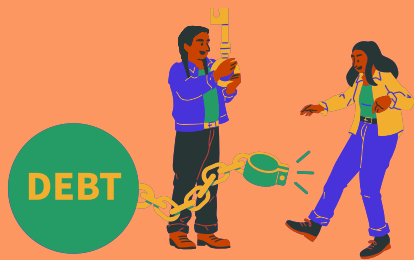
The statement from Mae C. Jemison inspires me, because Jemison was a Black engineer, a physician, and a NASA astronaut who became the first Black woman in space.



Miyanna Fennell

I have been taught that Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for equal rights for Black Americans. I live his legacy by celebrating and appreciating what he did for us Black Americans.

11th Grade



Logan Lockley

If I had to give a personal State of the Union address, I would like everyone to know that I'm a committed scholar and that I am determined to do the best I can to make sure I get all of my work done. I would say how excited and grateful I was to have the experience of giving this address. My plans for the near future include making sure I get into college debt free and making the best out of that experience. I am grateful for my mentor who is helping me expand my scholarship opportunities.

Liza Gassaway

Parents should start by trying to build relationships with their children and having conversations with them, rather than starting arguments because they are slacking in their classes or academics. The advice I would give to a peer who is struggling with schoolwork is to try to do their best, even when people are looking for their downfall. They have to prove them wrong, and show them who they are. Also, they shouldn't feel pressured into anything, so they should take their time. But while taking their time, they do also need to be aware of the deadlines for their schoolwork so they can pace themselves while they catch up.

Peace McFarland

For my personal State of the Union address, I would have to say that I am optimistic about where I am right now. I have a fresh start and new classes, so I am excited to be on track and hopefully with no setbacks. My plans for the future include working on my GPA and my junior packet, and focusing on my in-school internship. I must just find a balance. I need to be my own resource to be successful. I need to advocate for myself as well as push myself to do what I need to. I must put in the effort instead of the bare minimum.



Darnell Darlington

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a prominent civil rights activist and a church minister. We can honor Dr. King's legacy by socializing with people, advocating for our rights, and treating others with respect. Violence doesn't always have to be the answer to a situation.

11th Grade

Jalynn Stubbs

At UNC-Chapel Hill, I learned about prestige and how good it would look on your resume. I didn't really know much about UNC-Chapel Hill, although I knew it's a PWI. I like the opportunities and organizations they have to offer. There are sports there as well as opportunities to study abroad. I know that I want to play sports in college so I'd be glad they have those opportunities. I could see myself at UNC-Chapel Hill, because I love the environment and I love how connected people of color seem there. I believe I would have a fun time at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Nehemiah Johnson

I consider honesty, respect, selflessness, and discipline the most important values. My life revolves around these values. I look for values such as respect on a daily basis. Respect is important because people are always bickering and fighting about it. If you let somebody disrespect you, you honestly have no respect for yourself. Respect leads to honesty, which leads to trust. Discipline is also necessary when motivation is lacking. When you have been doing something long enough, it becomes part of your routine. Discipline leads to success.



Willow Singleton

I admit that I am not a news reader or a news watcher. I find the news puts out doomsday-like stories and perpetuates hysteria, so that's why I avoid it sometimes. However, I do watch the news to learn about our country's political climate, social justice issues, and violence and crime. It is important to know what types of laws are being passed and how they affect your life. I usually get my news from Microsoft Edge, when I first open my computer. I take in stories that range from tales about gun violence to those titled, "Man finds aliens on beach: What this means about the second coming of Jesus." There is always a wide variety of stories to choose from. The situation with Roe v. Wade stays on my mind. Restrictions on women's bodies are frightening to me, because so many things can go wrong in someone's pregnancy, especially for Black women. I feel even more angry for women who have been assaulted. Imagine forcing someone to have the baby of the person who assaulted them? These situations remind me of all the crazy restrictions that have been put on women in the past.

12th Grade



Robert Washington

For news about my community and environment, I most likely use Instagram.

Instagram connects to most things happening around the world, including within the DMV.

Different pages will tell about shootings, events, rumors, and other news in different areas. A page, like “murder mayhem,” gives information on different shootings around the DMV. I recently read about a boy named Karon who was shot by Quincy Street. This news really impacted me because I knew him and was close to him. He was only 13 years old and was just doing his own thing. He made sure he was there for all of his dear ones.

Christian Davis

In my College Bound experience, I am most proud of how my grades improved. Using medi-tech Tuesdays and writing workshops to help me become better academically and also allowed me to take on a bigger role in basketball which helped me become one of the best student athletes at my school through academics and athletics. In addition I was awarded a 500 dollar scholarship from my school for being a great student athlete.

Kendall Childs

Honesty is one of the most important values in life. Being honest with yourself is essential to being successful. By knowing your strengths and weaknesses, you can push or limit yourself to do better. Honesty is also important in relationships. Telling your friends when they’re in the wrong and being real with them is crucial to long lasting friendships.



Zakaiya Walker

A solution to all the gun violence against Black men is very hard to come up with. I believe that the corruption of people starts from within and how they were taught as children. Some people develop this dislike and hatred of Black people because it was taught to them at a young age. I would also think that people who want to be armed and police officers should go through more training and through psychological training.



12th Grade

Zariah Bailey

For a child who has fallen behind in school, their parents should still be supportive because most children do not have the ability to maintain a focused mindset, and mistakes happen. Parents need to know that nobody is perfect and nothing can be perfect. When parents look at their child, they should see a person, not a robot that should achieve a 4.0 without having downfalls. Parents tend to comprehend differently why their child is falling. Parents need to do better. They need to be there mentally for their child and not just point out how they should do better. Parents need to sit down and talk warmly with their child. It is important to have tried and to have put their all into it. Sometimes they'll cry their heart out and feel they can't do better. But a student needs to know they are amazing and are capable of getting back up to the top. I say study and have a great sleep schedule. Everything and anything is possible!

Mekhi Hamilton

My most memorable moments have been visiting college campuses and seeing what college and student life have to offer. Going to Southern University was my most memorable college visit. I enjoyed seeing and experiencing the city of New Orleans and then going to Baton Rouge to see Southern University's campus. I really enjoyed the nice weather, food, and some of the students who were on campus. I even attended a basketball game where Southern University's pep band performed. I didn't want to come back home. But it's reassuring to know that this is the school I'll be attending this fall.



Clarke Weathersby

During Covid, a lot of people had lost connection with their mentors, but Linnita made sure that we didn't lose ours. We still made sure we had our partner "outings" by going on virtual dates. One time, Linnita sent food to my house and we sat and played games over Google Meet. We went Axe throwing on a random Saturday in November. She has even built connections with my friends (which I love). She and I talk throughout the week. Not just about college and school, but about new restaurants (which we both love), relationships, new things in our lives, and more. She always makes sure she puts me on to anything and everything she can. I got the opportunity to be a part of a College Board focus group through her that earned me an Amazon gift card..



Continue...

Shaw Library



8th Grade

Saadiq Mccauley

The question of police abuse toward Black men in particular has been asked multiple times throughout the years. However, none of the responses let us notice a difference today when it comes to police brutality. Some of the solutions that were put in place, such as increased training for police officers, were well thought out, but, in the long run, they didn't hold any ground to make changes in society. There have still been acts of brutality between police officers and citizens, even with the changes that were put in place. The one thing that repeats is that people who have power over others take it upon themselves to over-do what they see as justified action. Both Tyre Nicoles and Emmitt Till were beaten to death by people in positions of authority. I believe that it is for emotional and mental reasons that many police officers do the things that they do when it comes to the brutal way they treat people around them, especially during arrests. They simply cannot be changed. Despite moderation being put in place, brutality continues happening.

Rickie Jones

I want to be able to socialize better when I'm around people I don't know. Usually, when I am in places I've never been before, I'm not able to talk to many people. This has happened at summer camp or at school. I'm only able to talk when people talk to me first. I want to improve this, because it gets me into a lot of awkward moments and it makes me feel embarrassed.



Daniel Fowler

Loyalty and honesty are the most important values for me. You shouldn't be around people who lie to you and who you can't trust. These kinds of people change who you are and you just don't want to waste your time. Loyalty is important because, if someone just drops you or stops talking to you because of someone else, then they shouldn't be your friend. Just get them out of your life. Honesty and loyalty are in the same realm. If you can't trust someone, how are you going to know they're really loyal to you? I practice these every day by having friends who I'm honest with. I'm never going to lie to them. I tell them the good and the terrible no matter what. I'm also loyal if we are really close, because I'm loyal to everyone I love. I give people the same energy they give me. That's what I've always lived by. If I'm giving you trust and honesty, then I should get that in return.

Kody Britton

People want to leave a legacy because they want to feel like their life mattered. The legacy I want to leave behind would be the accomplishment of being rich, successful, and having led a peaceful life.

9th Grade

Rena Enwesi

“Continue” means that my race or journey is not yet over. “Continue” has many different meanings and synonyms. It can be seen as resuming, carrying on, and, my personal favorite, persevering. As a student, I have learned this school year that, although times may be tough, I just have to continue and persevere. Entering high school was very difficult and surprising as I am taking honors classes and dual enrollment. I’ve been able to encourage both my friends and myself through our school year. Focusing on my path and never giving up is what continuing means to me.

Jevon Arrington

Leaving a legacy is a show of character. It doesn’t always translate into being the greatest at something or creating something new or unheard of. Legacy typically comes from what impact or influence you have on others.

An accomplishment I’d like to be known for is my ability to thrive under pressure. Everyone has faced a time in their life when time just wasn’t enough. I’ve found myself in situations where I had to make work the time that I did have.

Bryan Diaz

Black Women’s History Month reminds us that our own beliefs and imagination influence the way we view ourselves and others, including how we limit each other. If we limit ourselves based on what others think is possible, then we miss out on opportunities for personal and professional growth. Society has physically and mentally limited women due to their gender. For centuries, women were excluded from getting an education and from being in professions, causing their potential to be overlooked.



Christopher Purvis

Many people have left legacies. For example, rappers like Tupac, The Notorious B.I.G, and Eazy E. Leaving a legacy allows others to learn what a person did in their life. It also means a person did something great in their life. I want to leave behind cars and music. I want to leave behind a big car collection for my family to keep and save for years to come. Such a legacy would be heavily connected to my passions. I’d like to create many things for my family to remember me by.

10th Grade

Madison McCauley

It's important to leave a legacy to assure yourself that your life was worth it. "Who lives, who dies, who tells your story" is real. If you leave behind a legacy of strength, prosperity, and hope, that's what people will remember you for and you will have a lasting impact. You will show your purpose for being here, for using resources, and for existing. Being known after your years suggests your existence meant something. But you don't need to be super famous or win the Nobel Peace Award. For those who die and leave nothing behind but a memory, it is not necessarily a bad thing. Those whose existence serves only to hurt, disappoint, and hinder those around them are the issue. Those who deserve nothing are getting everything, while suffering millions crawl at the crumbs left behind. The cruelest thing about our society is that without legacy, you have nothing. If you are defective, don't achieve, or don't become what society expects, you mean nothing. Regardless of your efforts, nothing is ever enough. Nothing will ever fill the void that opens in the crevices of a heart the second that the first breath is taken. It is up to the beholder to fill that void with happiness, love, and support for themselves and the people around them. It is up to them to not allow thorns to outgrow the roses wrapped around our human bodies. Legacy is what you leave behind. Legacy is the people around you. Legacy is more than anything. It is everything.

Amare Anderson

"Continue" to me means to "persist in an activity or process." It means keeping on pushing and keeping going to reach a goal. It also means that you don't stop trying to reach that goal and you push through, even when there are obstacles. If obstacles slow you down, you have to keep going toward your goal and never give up. Procrastination means not continuing. I want to continue going forward toward my goals.

**KEEP
MOVING
FORWARD**



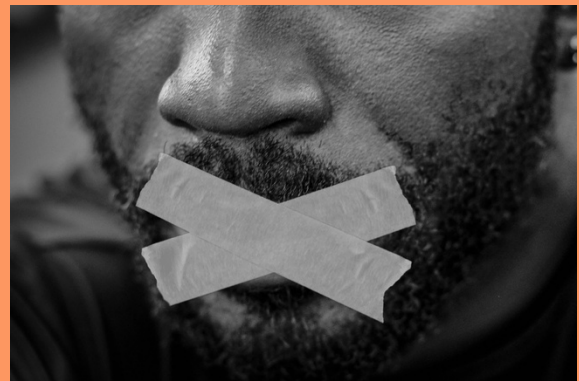
10th Grade

Kennedi Featherston

Values I consider most important in life are the value of a dollar, honesty, and loyalty. I say this because, without knowing the value of a dollar, you will be lost. Honesty and loyalty are also important because these are the two main good characteristics a person should have. You wouldn't want to be seen as a person who is disloyal or dishonest. My actions align with honesty and loyalty because I am an honest person and I am very loyal. I do understand the value of a dollar and how it works. I do not surround myself with disloyal or dishonest people.

Lena Webb

I truly don't believe that there's a realistic way to end police brutality. Systemic racism is deeply rooted in today's society, and telling someone to just give up their racist beliefs is simply going to be ineffective. In a better world, people in places of power would be well vetted and unbiased, but this isn't a perfect world. I do believe though that a harm-free system with penalties could be put in place in order to minimize violence in police interactions.



Lee Thomas

A valuable life lesson I've learned is to always try to be better than I was yesterday. This is valuable because it helps me to keep improving. Being stagnant is an outcome I want to avoid at all costs. Instead, I want to develop. I've experienced feeling mindless going through life and being down in spirit. This despondent feeling disappeared when I wanted to be better. So I'm hungry, wanting to do better since realizing this.



11th Grade

Ayriika James

The Little Voices

To that small voice in the back of my mind
I release you
I release me from the shackles of fear
From the crushing weight of anxiety
I remove me from the gasping toxicity
From the boiling hatred that surrounds me
I push me away from the perfect society
From the unloyal friends
I bring myself to hear my purpose
To hear the warmth of love
I come to see joy of others
To see the beauty of grace
I come to see the comeback
To see the little negative voices disappear
I come to see the self love in others
To see that blossom of life
I come to see my world become positive
To see my world make change
I come to see the evolution of my mind
To see the change I've made



London Littlejohn

I'm really proud of being a site ambassador at College Bound. I never could have guessed how much becoming a site ambassador would help me break out of my shell. I never saw myself standing up in front of a group of people and being in the spotlight and having a leadership role. I'm proud and grateful to be able to have the opportunity to do so.

Sheena Nnam

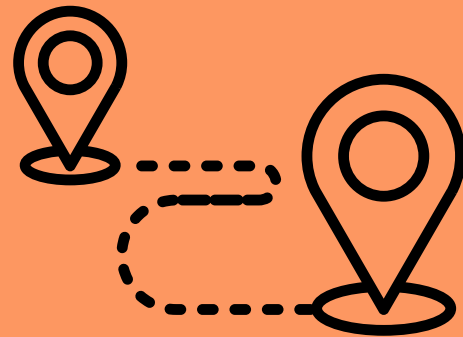
Despite my ignorance about local politics, having a Maryland governor that I can relate to is an enormous step in the right direction. Having a governor of color allows for more perspectives to be viewed. Minorities will be heard, and people who look like me will be appropriately fought for. Wes Moore needs to prioritize dismantling systemic issues that affect people of color. Once everyone has equal opportunities and chances, it'll be easier for Maryland to be governed as a whole rather than in portions. Besides that, Moore should address common issues like gerrymandering and redlining. These practices are unethical and should be abolished during his term.

11th Grade

Sarah Isichei

If I had to give a State of the Union address, I would talk about my progress in life and where I've come from. When I started high school, I wasn't sure who I was and wasn't confident in myself as I am today. Life is pretty good to me, and I'm grateful for that.

But, right now, I would also say I'm kinda all over the place. Junior year has been pretty good, but it has also been stressful, like right now. With clubs, sports, SAT Prep, and after school activities, I've got a lot to think about and it can be hard sometimes. But I have to remember where I want to go. SAT Prep has been hard, but I want to get 1350 the first time I take the test and then not have to worry about it. This is a high score, but I'm bright and I'm determined to do it. I see myself going to college. The most appealing place for me now is UNC Chapel Hill. I have a lot of resources such as College Bound, school, family, and friends to help me along the way.



Tyreke Harris

I learned from visiting three colleges that, to be the best version of yourself, you have to put in the work. During the SCAD tour, I found it really interesting to see the way the college campus was designed. I also loved that students can do multiple minors. At Georgia Tech, I liked learning about the many activities you can do there as a minority. I also liked the activeness of campus. I liked the open space of the campus at Georgia State University. Something I took away from the Atlanta University Center meeting was to watch your surroundings everywhere you go and never give up what's good, regardless of what people say.

Roberto Rivera

The values I consider most important in life are all in the Scout Law. The Scout Law states that a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. These 12 points of the Scout Law create an ideal person, one who creates good in the world through cheerful service to others. The person who follows Scout Law also becomes more faithful and likable due to their commitment to be reverent and also to be courteous. I do my best to do a good turn daily, which allows me to be courteous and kind in a friendly spirit toward others. I try to let my actions align with these values. I try to do the right thing when needed, to show bravery, and to be loyal and a trustworthy person. Overall, I am trying my best to follow these values. This creates more good in the world that is so harsh at the moment.

11th Grade

Miracle Spencer

Parents should support a student who has fallen behind in class by first asking the student why they are behind, then having a conversation on how they can get caught up. I would tell a peer who is falling behind to just relax and do it in chunks to get caught up and also stay after school to ask teachers for help.



Jaiden Fogle

Values in life vary from person to person based on individual beliefs, cultural background, and personal experiences. Integrity refers to being honest, having strong moral principles, and acting in line with them. It involves being truthful, trustworthy, and having consistency between one's words and actions. Integrity builds trust, fosters healthy relationships, and contributes to personal and societal well-being. Respect involves treating oneself and others with consideration, dignity, and appreciation. It encompasses valuing diverse perspectives, beliefs, and cultures. By practicing respect, we create an environment of inclusivity, empathy, and understanding, which promotes harmonious relationships and cooperation. Responsibility refers to taking ownership of one's actions, choices, and obligations. It involves being accountable for the consequences of one's behavior and actively working towards fulfilling commitments. Embracing responsibility fosters personal growth, builds trust, and contributes to a sense of purpose and accomplishment. Courage is the willingness to face and overcome fear, take risks, and pursue what is right or meaningful, even in the face of adversity. It involves stepping out of one's comfort zone, embracing change, and standing up for one's beliefs. Courage enables personal growth, resilience, and the pursuit of one's aspirations.

12th Grade



Bailey Allen

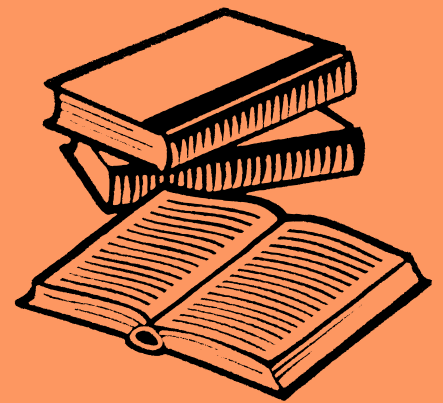
I honestly can't think of any solutions as of now to police brutality toward Black men. I feel like it's happened so much that we are now used to this happening. Maybe better training of police? So they know that it is not okay to act on Fight or Flight? I am at a loss for words for what happened. I don't think America will fully recover from things like this. It continues to happen.

Aniyah DePeazer

So far, the most memorable moments for me while applying to colleges have been getting the acceptances. I have been struggling lately, so these acceptances outweighed my self-doubts a little bit. They reminded me that sometimes there is a struggle and that sometimes things will go bad in life, but it will only get worse if you give up. Knowing that you are smart enough to touch or get closer to something you dream of, getting scholarships, and seeing people be truly proud of you for what you've done and how far you've made it is something wonderful.

CiAhna Chloe

Education of girls and women is important. It should be someone's personal choice whether they want to pursue an education or not. It should not be something that men decide. For anyone to better themselves, they need education. To deprive a gender of education shows where people's priorities lie. Sometimes it is because they feel threatened by the success of educated women, but for others it is simply that they want to police women, to keep them down, so that they can have an advantage over them.



Kalynn Tobin

I believe Mayor Bowser has overseen many amazing projects that have strengthened our communities. But we simply need someone new to come in with new ideas and new strengths. The mayor should prioritize gun safety, human rights, antisemitic slander, and more. If the mayor doesn't tackle these issues, it's because she doesn't know how. It's almost as if she's a leader who can't fight for us.

12th Grade

Nina Enwesi

A valuable life lesson I learned recently is to reach out when you need help. During the college application process, I found it difficult to balance everything and to feel okay. I made some great friends in the process, people who I can rely on and I can call when I need anything. They remind me to talk to them when I need them. Before, I wasn't as willing to rely on people. Through them, I've learned to trust people better and to call a friend when I need them.



Ayanna Lovelace

I believe that parents should support their students if they fall behind and help guide them, while continuing to hold them accountable but also allowing them to get through such times by themselves. High school is so close to adulthood and we won't have parents with us in college or at work, so we have to gain coping skills ourselves. For someone who is struggling and feels like catching up is impossible, they must know that other people have been there. Just ask for help and also know that it's not the end of the world. Most times when we fall behind, it's because we've forgotten to prioritize.

Treasure Clarke

I am more thankful for family and friends. They are the people who know me the best and help me get through life. My mom has been with me the longest, the person that has done it by herself, and she has the courage to keep me happy with a roof over my head and clothes on my back. Something I take for granted is life and love. I know God didn't have to wake me up this morning.





Continue...

*Beacon
House*



8th Grade

Logan Booth

“Continue” to me means working hard at the same rate you were doing at first, and maybe even better. It means not always rushing things but taking your time by paying attention to what you're doing. “Continue” means showing commitment to what you're doing by keeping going and never giving up. In conclusion, it means working hard and taking your time while never giving up.



Ishmael Childs

Honesty, speaking truthfully, is more than not lying, deceiving, stealing, or cheating. It entails showing respect toward others and having integrity and self-awareness. Honesty promotes openness, empowers us, and enables us to develop consistency in how we present facts. Honesty sharpens facts. Honesty sharpens our perception and allows us to observe everything around us with clarity. It means admitting when you were wrong, choosing not to cheat, and showing value.

Aaliyah Purnell-Snowden

I think parents should first try to figure out why their child isn't doing their work. Then they should try to find a way to help their child get their work done without threatening them. The advice I would give to a peer is to go to the class that you're missing work for and ask the teacher to help you. If you don't want to do that, then make a list of what you need to get done and then work your way through it on your own, as you're comfortable with it.

Lailah Purnell-Snowden

Continuing means taking steps forward and toward what you want and exposing yourself to new ideas. Recently I've started letting people help me. I was struggling in math. Instead of continuing to struggle, I decided to get the help I need so I can have continued success.

Dominick Jackson Jr.

"Continue" can mean a lot of things in life. Overall, it means beating the odds on something when other people see doubt. For me, "continue" is an encouraging word that means never giving up or never stopping to try. It could also mean to progress in something instead of staying in the same position. The word is a foreshadow of something in the future, it encourages you to keep going and to see between the lines. When you continue to progress, you'll be happy with yourself.

Tate-Oriel Thomas

I consider altruism the most important value in life. Altruism's definition is to promote someone else's welfare, even at a risk or cost to yourself. I have always been helping others and putting others before myself. It's not always the best thing to do, but it's something that suits me. I always want others to feel loved, safe, and happy. My actions aren't always fully aligned with these values as I'm still working on my character and the type of person I want to be. Ultimately, I believe everyone should have some empathy towards others and some type of altruism.

Devin Worsley Jr.

My whole eighth grade year included a few memorable moments. This was the year I started College Bound and I got a boost in all my school work. Also, I had to write an essay to get into my high school. This made me feel really good about getting there, because I knew I worked for my spot. Already having eight classes made me adjust a little faster to high school.

Continue

9th Grade

Brin Ridley

4 Your Eyez Only is Jermaine Lamarr Cole's fourth studio album. It is 44:32 minutes of lyrical mastery that talks about the issues of love, mental health, mass incarceration, violence, and the beauty and pain of growing up in a city. When I first heard 4 Your Eyez Only, the story Cole tells of growing up in a city surrounded by violence resonated. 4 Your Eyez came onto my Apple Music playlist in 2022 when Washington DC had 200+ homicides. I was constantly watching news reports then about another woman, man, or child being shot or violently attacked. These reports made me extremely fearful and disheartened. I didn't think anyone else felt these fears until I listened to 4 Your Eyez Only. The album let me know that someone else understood the fear and pain I felt. Cole also explores fears of losing someone to gun violence or someone losing me to gun violence. He also examines seeing someone you love venture down the wrong path. The song 'Immortal' on the album tells the story of a 17 year old teen boy starting to sell crack to escape poverty. The boy in the song grapples with the fact that he's worsening others' lives to better his own. But he has to do it to survive. He assimilates into his surroundings. This song resonated with me because of the simple fact that the decisions the boy had to make are everyday decisions.

10th Grade

Trinity Barnhill

Last summer I went to see Morgan State University and I fell in love with it. That school really mesmerized me and I've been set on it since then. We started with the background, then we talked about majors and minors rather than college life and athletics. I play tennis. When I saw their team and their record, that made me excited about my passion. Then I saw their special education majors and a whole building full of classes. This tour was memorable because it helped me with decision making for my future.



Kaylee McManus

Parents should support students who have fallen behind in school by talking to them to figure out why they've fallen behind and by trying to find solutions to help them get their work done. Advice I'd give to a peer who's struggling with school work would be to tell them to keep trying and to choose an amount to do each day.

11th Grade

DeAnna Mozee

If I were to give a personal address about myself, it would probably be about my current feelings about school. It's been really tough and tiring at times and it sometimes doesn't feel worth it. But when I see results, I get a little push that keeps me going. I hope to keep up what I'm doing now and improve in my classes. To do that, I need to take better care of myself, but also be open in asking my teachers for support when I need help. I need to try and get better at organizing and staying on top of things. I hope to get better at these things in the near future and also to start planning my road-to-college map so I can be ahead in that. I'm nervous about the future, but I'm also hopeful I'll do well and succeed.

Aria Briggs

Throughout my school career, I have enjoyed many extracurricular activities. They helped me prepare for high school. Some focused on developing leadership skills which helped create meaningful connections and made me feel comfortable about going into high school. Other activities were academically enriching, usually STEM-based. These activities gave me a head start in high school. I often find myself doing schoolwork that relates to the activities I participated in, proving how important and helpful they were for me.

Robert Price

Parents should help their children by getting them a tutor so they don't fall behind again in their work. I'd advise a peer struggling with school to make notes in class to be ready for tests and to try to turn in work on time. I'd also tell them to do their work now so this work doesn't come back to bite them in the future.



Kanihya Glover

Observing police tape, hearing sirens, and witnessing gunfire coming from both directions, my heart breaks when I switch stations and learn that another young person has been killed. It saddens me to pick up my phone and see messages like "Rest in Peace" posted for people who I used to play with on the seesaw, stroll with through the halls, or sit next to at family events. Observing another person's family going through the grief process is heartbreaking. Being forced to enter another church and sit through another service for someone who was only seventeen or eighteen years old hurts my heart. Gun violence cuts short too many lives with so much to learn and live for. The loss of life due to gun violence has changed into the new norm. How long before enough is enough? When will we see the weapons put down? When will our neighborhood unite to put an end to this? When will society understand that no parent should ever lose their child?

12th Grade

Kennedy Brooks

I remember the nights where I stayed up and reflected on how far I've come. I remember the night I was finalizing my brag sheet and I thought back on all my accomplishments from 9th to 12th grade. This allowed me to be proud of myself while also thinking about the work I had to get done to get me to the next step in my high school career. The college process has been a little crazy, but I don't think it can break me to a point where I want to quit. I can't wait to see what will happen next.

Nikyah James

The best way for a parent to help is to find out why their student is struggling and to help find good solutions for it. I don't think punishing and yelling at them is really effective. I would try to help them myself while also letting them know that it's not impossible and that you are there to help them. I know what it feels like to fall behind, so I know that relating to them can help bring up their spirits. In these situations, communication is key. If the parents don't communicate with the student properly, the student isn't going to care or listen to what they're saying.

Kian Asongwed

My most memorable moment preparing for college was when I got my decision letter from my top choice. After four years of high school, a piece of paper held my dream. I sat there, thinking that I would either be the happiest person on earth or I'd regret decisions I made through the past four years of high school. Since I received my decision letter later than my peers, I began thinking that I didn't get accepted and began regretting inadequate decisions I'd made throughout the last four years. When I opened that piece of paper and read the words "congratulations," I was overcome with a variety of emotions, mainly joy that my last four years had not gone to waste. At that moment, I knew that, not only did I make myself proud, but I made everyone proud who had sacrificed their time, money, and energy to get me to where I am today.

Joana Antwi

If I had to give a personal State of the Union address, I would address the emotions that have been going through my head from recent events. I would share my condolences to those now dead who were innocent. I would also share my thoughts of anger and concern for many present tragedies. My plans for the near future would be to ban the use of guns unless it's for the military and army. Even though there would be a gun control law, some people would still be irresponsible with possessing guns, leading to the death of many innocent people. I would try my best to make America peaceful, no matter what the situation. I would also listen to what the community wants. Everyone sees things their own way, but this has been bringing harm to others. I'll try to do what the majority in each state needs in order for there to be peace. I'll use any resources that I need to complete these goals, even if it means extreme measures.



Continue...

MLK
Library



8th Grade

Bailey Briscoe

Legacies are important for foundation. Ideas stem from other ideas, and a legacy starts with a mindset. So when you leave a legacy, you are leaving a foundation for another's inspiration. Personally, I want my legacy to be something meaningful for my younger siblings. I want to be successful in many things, so they are inspired for any goal they might have in the future.

Kimberly Greenhill

The College Tour is a memory that stood out to me. There were some moments where I wanted to go home (COUGH, COUGH: the bus). But I had fun looking at different colleges. I made a new friend and they were fun to be around and my other friend made it fun also. I enjoyed the mall and I got to see my auntie!



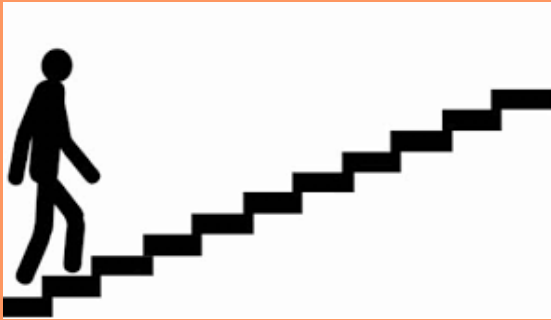
Naila Williams

There is really one memorable moment for me in preparing for high school. When I first explored and applied to schools, I wasn't looking at schools specifically but rather looking into programs. I registered for the IB program and waited for any sort of response. I didn't get one, but my best friend did and she got in. I was kind of upset because this would mean I'd be going to my boundary school and not to school with my best friend. However, when I checked the mail the next day, I did have a confirmation. Now we're going to be going to high school together, with a few more of our friends too! I found that pretty exciting.

9th Grade

Lailan Fells-Watson

As a District of Columbia resident, I believe some of Mayor Muriel Bowser's top priorities should be making sure everyone in the city feels equal and providing more opportunities for others who don't have as many benefits (homeless and fair prices). For example, home prices have been rising over the past years. If prices were lowered, others wouldn't have to struggle as much. Based on some things I've heard, the mayor should genuinely start actually helping the city with major issues.



Harmony Brown-Johnson

"Continue" to me means not giving up. The temptation to give up is so strong when you don't know something. Perseverance, however, will eventually lead to success. Sometimes it can be really challenging to continue, but to live is to keep going.

Winston James

I didn't come to site much this year and I regret that a lot. I was too scared to come so I tried to forget about it. Then there was a day when I had to go because my mom said I would get kicked out. I've never been kicked out of anything.

That same night was my first time going to a site meeting. I got yelled at for never going.

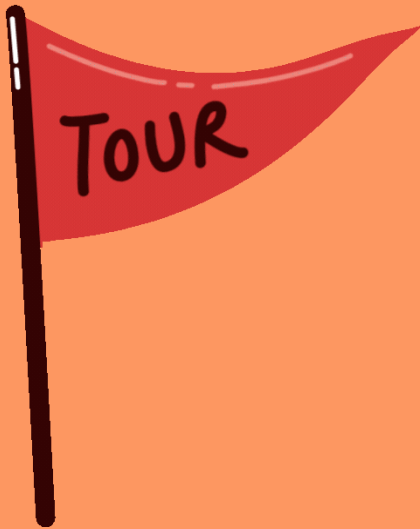
Did I enjoy it? No. Did I go back the next week? Yes. If I hadn't been yelled at I probably wouldn't have gone back that next week. Being yelled at makes me feel like I need to do better. Probably because that's what yelling is supposed to do.

That next Thursday, I walked in and I was still scared... until we got to the part where Ms. Jackie started asking questions. When everyone started answering questions, I could relate with all of the answers in some way. Usually when people my age would try and answer questions, they would give these boring answers. Those answers were the only reason I continued to go back. They made me feel like I could have a full conversation with people like me. I don't think I've ever felt that before.

10th Grade

Aniyah Harris

Continue means what comes next. It empowers us to stay resilient, to learn from our failures. To 'continue' is an ongoing quest for personal growth and development. It symbolizes an unwavering commitment to improvement, both in our personal and professional lives. By choosing to continue, we acknowledge that every step forward, no matter how small, contributes to our journey of self-discovery and evolution. It encourages us to constantly learn, adapt, and refine our skills, allowing us to reach our full potential, not only to live or exist, but to survive and pursue.



Brianna Dutch

A memory that stands out to me is the spring college tour. This memory stands out to me because it was really fun. Another reason why this memory stands out to me is because it was a good experience to have and gave me an idea of what to look forward to when it's time for me to go to college.

Nilah Johnson

A solution to the problem of police brutality toward Black men is to hire more mature police officers. More police training could possibly solve this problem. It doesn't matter if the police officers are white or Black, it is still wrong to kill a person of color simply for nothing or for such a small reason.

Not only should you hold the police officers accountable, but also the whole police department. They are somewhat responsible because the department is in charge of the officers that are out doing whatever they want because they are the "law." The fact of much brutality being Black-on-Black crime also disturbs me. As a community and as a nation, we should work toward making sure that police brutality ends or at least decreases.

10th Grade

Samara Tymus

“Continue” means to keep going, to not stop, and to not give up what you’re doing. I give up often, especially on the littlest, most simple things. A certain someone (my mother) has told me to never quit. I’m always told to keep trying my hardest to get important things done, especially things that can impact my future. Giving up is an option, but the best option is to continue and to try. If we don’t try, we’ll be nowhere in life. I didn’t do too well in Grade 9 because I never tried and I never continued doing work when I clearly understood it. Because I never attempted to do my work properly, I ended up with bad grades and spent all of that July in summer school...and I almost got held back. There were times where I just wanted to quit and was, honestly, three seconds away from dropping out of high school for good. But I was encouraged to continue trying to do my best and to learn more at the same time. From this, I learned that giving up can lead to consequences, but continuing and trying to do one’s best and keeping going by working one’s hardest can make a huge impact in life.



11th Grade

Salome Akinsanya

If you limit yourself, it seems that you don’t have the confidence to come out of the box. When you limit yourself and your imagination, it’s not healthy.



Zamiya McDaniels

Parents can be there mentally for children who are struggling. They should try to relate to them, and try to understand where they are coming from. They should think about why the children would be struggling in the first place, have conversations with them, and help come up with solutions. As a student myself, I can get into the mindset of not being able to catch up. But to prevent myself from succumbing to that mindset, I just take one class at a time. I first start with the work that isn’t due yet, because I wouldn’t want that work to be late as well. And then I do the work that is late.

11th Grade

Jamia Hard

I think solutions to police brutality include providing police officers with longer training and taking more time to genuinely learn how to protect. Also having classes and discussions to prevent misunderstanding of gender, race, and policing in general. The main goal of police now is to “Serve and Protect.” I believe this should be changed to “Reassure and Protect.”

Adorre Fells-Watson

Looking back on this school year with College Bound, something that stands out is researching colleges with my mentor. Another thing that stands out is going on the Spring 2023 College Tour to North Carolina and Atlanta. I learned about new colleges that I didn't know much about and also got new information.

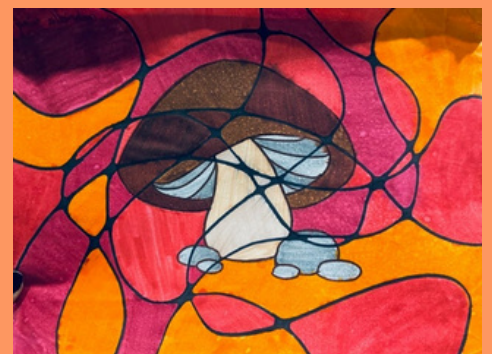
Ares Brown

Recently, there was a girl who lost her life due to gun violence at a hotel party. She was 18. She was in high school, my high school. She had the same complexion as me. Her brother was my age. I knew her face, I knew her a little bit personally, and I knew the group she hung around. I went to middle school with her. She was in a grade above me, while her younger brother was in my grade. Everyone knew each other in middle school, but I wasn't as close to him as others were. It seemed like he was always having fun in middle school. Whatever he did, he seemed to enjoy himself. Unless he fought somebody. And then his only sister was taken out of this life. Losing a life close to you is much scarier than losing your own life. I have one sibling, and I don't know where I would be if gun violence took him off of this planet. I can't imagine what her brother is going through. His sister brought smiles to people's faces and elicited emotion in people's souls. She lost her own soul with the pull of a trigger. The soul that was taken still sits with me. Thinking about who's next replays in my mind.

Kennedy Harrison

A life lesson I've learned is to live in the moment. Life is too short. Recently I was getting mad at a lot of tiny things. Somebody told me that I shouldn't allow people to control my emotions and let them ruin my day or anything else. If I live in the moment and enjoy life anyway and make memories, I will appreciate it later in life.

Artwork by **Gabriella Singh**



11th Grade

Derek Emons

“Continue” means change and growth in the face of adversity. People think that “continue” means going forward and resuming a previous activity and goal. It can mean that as well, but you can’t do these things without first learning the lessons from what you were doing, adapting to this new information, and then continuing onwards. “Continue” is a great motivating word as it can have many meanings, and it is truly in the eye of the beholder. Continuing in school, and continuing in life, for me, is to draw on my past experiences and to use these experiences in everyday situations. Then, I can use these new experiences and repeat the cycle.

Kyler Grant

The three most important values in my life are respect, loyalty, and honesty. I value respect the most because I respect everyone until I feel as though I’m disrespected. I’m a very kind person and easy-going, but as soon as I feel like you don’t respect me, then I will distance myself or lash out. I also value loyalty because I’m a very friendly person. The people that I keep close are the ones that I’m the most loyal to. If I am being loyal, then I expect to receive the same level of loyalty.



Christopher Hickman

While preparing for high school I remember stressing that this was going to be a huge change. I thought I’d have to do a lot more stuff than I actually had to. I remember telling my mom that I needed something, and I said that because I was going to high school. But it hasn't been that huge of a change. I also remember thinking that I was a lot cooler, because I was finally able to go outside for lunch which is very nice because of the places around my school. For the most part, nothing changed except my workload and becoming more grown up and mature. Transitioning to high school for me was just another eye opener to getting older. There really wasn’t a way to prepare for it, except to get more sleep, something I still don’t get enough of sometimes.

12th Grade

Weslee James

Does Complacency=Stability?

The comfort zone

A place which people find themselves

when they are okay with remaining the same, doing the same, seeing the same...you get the point

I find myself wondering through this zone fairly often.

Always ok with the things are.

Ok with remaining the same.

Ok with my flaws.

Ok with the problems of the world.

Ok with letting people down.

Ok with accepting.

Well...

I'm tired of being comfortable.

This level of stasis is intoxicating.

Addicting even.

I've become so infatuated with accepting the world for what it is and accepting myself for who I am, that I've forgotten the joy of aspiration...

to change;

to grow,

to seek a world which I no longer must accept its flaws.

If comfort leads to complacency then it's no longer something I wish to have.

To exit this state of plateau which we call "the comfort zone" we must be greedy for something better and fail to comply with acceptance.

All said...

I reject the state of this world and I refuse to accept the beauty in my own flaws.

This world must change and I will change it... because I know there is something better than what we have now, than who I am now.

Nya Grant

This year has been filled with ups and downs. The year has taught me a lot about my own perseverance. One of the most memorable moments was writing my college essays. This was memorable because I had to really take the time to discover who I am and what the best way was to present myself to universities and colleges. I also had Covid when writing the majority of my essays. Obviously, this wasn't planned, but I am forever proud of myself for getting into all the schools that I wrote essays for during Covid. Overall, the whole preparation for the college journey has been memorable.

12th Grade

David Barrow

I'd say I am in a good place at the moment. My plan for the near future is to continue doing well in school and to graduate. I want to attend college in the fall and start off the semester strong. The resources I need are just myself and my school work.



Nigel Bronson

I'm not going to lie. I haven't really been keeping up with the news or with stories that stir emotions. But I have kept up with news about DC via social media. It seems like almost every day a child is being shot and wounded, or shot and killed. I believe we should do something about it as a community. It's sad to see boys and girls, especially girls my age and younger, having their lives taken away from them. A parent should never have to bury their own child, especially not under these circumstances.

Chimamanda Smith

My advice for upcoming seniors is to trust yourself and to follow what you want to do. Many people will be there to help guide you and share their experiences in hopes of providing some sort of inspiration, but the college process isn't something that is linear. Everyone's journey is different and what you want to do is something that should always be prioritized. Even if something may seem like a reach or unlikely to happen, it never hurts to try and see the outcome, especially when applying to colleges. Believe in yourself!





Continue...

Union Wesley
AME Zion
Center



8th Grade

Myles Jackson



A memorable moment for me in preparing for high school was putting on my ballet clothes for my audition at Duke Ellington. I also remember waking up, knowing I was going into a big school with different people and different skills. Other memorable moments are learning from other people to get better at dance, and just being able to be there. These memorable moments are noteworthy because they felt special at the time and they're just cool to me now.

Lilia Choice

It's important not to let others' opinions stop you from doing what you want to do. Don't let others stop you from new things just because you've never seen or done anything like it before. People have tried to stop women from doing things that weren't necessarily made for them, but women didn't let this limit their dreams.



Robert Smith



One thing I would like to do would be to continue playing football. I would like to continue playing football because I want to be able to go as far as I can. I would like to be able to make it all the way to the Hall of Fame and win multiple Super Bowls. I would also like to become a coach after I retire. I believe I would be a good offensive coordinator because I'm really creative and can read defense really well. Another reason I would like to continue playing football is because I could make a lot of money from playing and later on coaching or maybe even owning a team.

9th Grade

Glen Yonkers

Parents can support a student who has fallen behind in school by emailing their teacher to see if there are extra opportunities. Some examples are lunch tutoring, after school tutoring, or before school tutoring. Parents can also help by having daily check-ins and an agenda to help the student keep up with their work. With regard to myself, I would ask the student if they needed help understanding the subject. I could set up a time where we could Facetime and I could help them finish their homework.

Devin Worsley

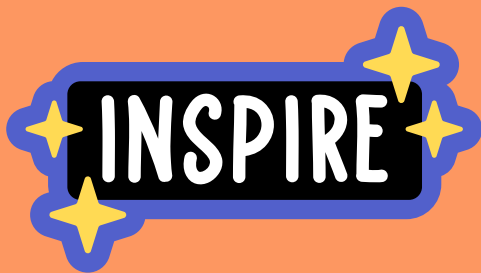
If I had to give a personal State of the Union address, I would say I feel pretty good right now. The basketball season is over and now I have time to rest. My plans for the future are to play basketball and to get a good paying job that I enjoy. Some resources I need to be successful are a good supportive community, friends, and family. To get a good job, I need to get good grades and complete high school and college.

Paulette Vinson

I have many memorable moments from the process of applying to high school. For me, it was kind of stressful picking schools, because I was and still am indecisive. This made it hard for me to choose. I also wanted to be with my friends. I didn't want to be in a completely new environment without anyone I knew. Another reason it was tough for me was because I didn't research any schools prior. I had to pick a school halfway through the school year. However, after a school tour and suggestions and insights from some of my friends, I settled on McKinley Tech High School.

Thomas Hall

“Continue” to me means pushing on with whatever you're doing. If someone says continue, it's usually to motivate/inspire you to do more in your task. When people tell me to continue, it's a way to say, “do better.”



Zoey Ali

The most memorable moments I've had with high school were with the process of getting into the school. I remember the interview with a Latin teacher and the principal. I also remember describing myself for my teachers' recommendations and writing an essay on Benjamin Bannaker and all of his achievements.

9th Grade

Sydney Chloe

The quotes for Women's History Month are important because little girls out there look up to these women. These women are role models because of what they did. They can help us through the things they accomplished. They teach us to never give up on your dreams and to never let anyone get in your way. Before they reached their dreams, these women probably had people who tried to bring them down. They pushed through and achieved their goals.

Cole Tyler

“Continue” means persisting in an activity or process. To me, continue is the little voice in the back of my head that tells me to push on even when I think I'm at my limit. When I was running in a track meet, I wanted to stop, but I pushed through the pain and finished the race.

Lauren Mckie

The values I consider most important are loyalty and honesty. To make sure I uphold these values I make sure that my actions are a reflection of my values. I do this by telling the truth and showcasing my loyalty in all my relationships.

Zahria Moore

I would choose to go to the Himalayas because that would be a really different place to travel to. The Himalayas are the highest mountain range in the world, and they're geographically alive and are still growing. A cool variety of animals live there, such as Asiatic black bears, clouded leopards, langurs, and Himalayan goat antelopes. As surprising as it seems, the temperatures in the mountains are consistent. During the day, it's sunny and warm, and it's cold at night. Visiting the Himalayas could be really fun.

Ethan Pair

“Continue” means keep going even if you want to stop. It means persevering through your doubts and never giving up, even when you're tired. “Continue” is meant to motivate you and push you to follow through to the finish. At practice one time, I was running and I was so tired that I felt like I couldn't make it. But I pushed myself to continue to the end, even though my legs hurt and I was out of breath. Pushing yourself to your breaking point is how you get stronger.

10th Grade

Lea Graves

The sentiment expressed in “Never limit yourself because of others’ limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination” is important for many reasons. In this day and age, many people are easily influenced by other people’s opinions. You never know how your words can affect others, even if it is unintentional. A lot of people pray for others' downfall because of jealousy. What they say may not be for your benefit. For decades, women have been oppressed and limited by men who believe that women aren't capable of doing anything. Now there's less tolerance for this inequity. However, sexism is still alive. Many people are ignorant and want to continue following traditional thinking. So never limit yourself because of others’ thoughts because they may not always be for your benefit.



Antoinette Jean-Baptiste

I feel like I am in a great position in my life right now. I have everything I need and the people I need to be successful. My plans for the future are to become a professional dancer and teacher. Dance is really important for me because I am able to express myself in a positive way and give people something from my heart. The resources I need for that is, honestly, being able to network. You can learn great art everywhere.

Raigan Watson

A lot of people will do something because they believe they will be able to do it or because other people don’t think they can, so they give up before even trying. This especially affects women. A lot of ignorant people think girls shouldn’t be able to do the same things as boys. Some girls internalize this and they’ll start to believe that they can’t do certain things. Even though they are just as capable as boys.



Mell Maloney-Lopez

“Continue” to me means proceeding with caution or not caring, depending on the situation. Continue has many different meanings and what exactly it means depends on the context. “Continue” can mean proceeding with a conversation, while it can also be a warning from your mother. It all just depends on how you view things.

10th Grade

Cydney Roberts

I receive most of my information and news from Instagram. The last thing I read about was titled “White House Threatens To Ban Tiktok App Due To Security Concerns.” When reading this, I instantly thought about the people who make their living off of the platform. They would be deeply affected by such a step.

Ethan Swan

A valuable lesson I’ve learned is that if you're too focused on one thing, you might miss other more important things in life. Such as taking too much of your time to study and missing time to hang out with people you care about.



Brook Oliver

Some news I have been hearing about is the Balenciaga campaign situation. Many people are very upset with them, and they're even getting canceled. I personally don't like them after this campaign or the underwhelming apology they gave. I had been leaning away from them because I was not a big fan of their products, but this really did it for me. It was a very weird thing to do, and I think they deserve even worse consequences than they are getting.

Camille Pair

All students need a support system to be successful. The best way to support your student is to be there and to be easy to talk to. If you are constantly pointing out your student's flaws or failures, they will never feel supported enough to talk to you in the first place. When your student comes to you with an issue, the best thing to do is to help them find someone well-versed in the subject who can help them catch up. Most students find it difficult to get help from their parents, they find help from outside sources easier. Advice for a peer who is struggling is to ask for help before you drown in being overwhelmed by work. I know from experience how hard it is to ask for help, but saying something, even to a fellow student, is going to pay out. Asking for help is nothing to be ashamed of. Most teachers enjoy it when students ask for help understanding their subject. Asking for help is your best way to keep yourself from falling more behind.

12th Grade

Marcus Hall

Mae Jemison's sentiment emphasizes the need to embrace diversity and inclusion. It encourages individuals to think outside of the box and to recognize the potential of each person, regardless of gender, race, or any other factor. This sentiment is especially relevant during Women's History Month, which celebrates the unique accomplishments and contributions of women throughout history. It encourages us to look beyond traditional notions of gender roles and to recognize the potential of all people, regardless of gender. This sentiment also serves as a reminder that we should strive to create a more inclusive society, one in which everyone is given the same opportunities to reach their full potential.





Continue...

*Walker
Memorial
Baptist
Church*



9th Grade

Jazarah Wise

A valuable life lesson I've learned recently is do things beforehand so you can do what you'd like after. Recently, it's been easier for me to work because I know I'm not going to do the work the day it's due. I do it before it's due. Doing this has helped me finish more work and also makes it easier for me to do what I want after. This has helped me especially get more free time in class. This is good because I like breaks between classes. I'll definitely do the work earlier more often, even though I still procrastinate at some point. I mostly try to do my best.

Christopher Burch

A valuable life lesson I learned recently was if you believe in yourself, you can do anything. There will be obstacles in your life that might stop you from doing your best, but if you keep going, you can accomplish anything. It happened to me during track. I didn't think I'd make it to the finish line, but I had to keep pushing till I made it to the finish. Unexpectedly, I ran a really good time all because of keeping the mindset of "I'm gonna get there, don't stop till you win." If you keep that mindset, you can do anything.

Believe
in Yourself

10th Grade

Ethan Kilgore

A valuable life lesson I've learned recently is to stop procrastinating. It can be hard, but it is an important life lesson that has helped me become more productive and successful. Procrastination is a habit that I struggle with, and it has created a lot of unnecessary stress and anxiety in my life. The first step to overcoming procrastination is to be aware when it is happening. I did this by tracking my behavior and noting what task I was avoiding and why. Once I had a better understanding of why I was procrastinating, I could begin to create strategies to help break the cycle.

Justin Clark

If I could attempt anything and not fail, I would start my own video game company. I've always wanted to start my own gaming business. If I could do it knowing I would succeed, I would take that opportunity. That's not to say I won't try even if success is not guaranteed.



10th Grade

Natalie Martinez

Loyalty is very important to me. It is important to stick to your word and for others to keep their word because this defines who you are as a person. In this world, there are many people who are fake and who switch up on you very fast. So it's very valuable to have people in your life who will stick with you through whatever.



Pierce Lilly

If I was to give a personal State of the Union address about myself, I would have a lot of good things to say at the moment. My high school career is going well. I'm maintaining a 4.0 GPA while handling a bunch of extracurricular activities. I also feel happy, fulfilled, and excited about my future. As for what I plan to do next, I plan to continue with the new activities and other things happening right now and to stay consistent. In order to keep this success, I need the support of the important people in my life, as well as access to the resources in my school and gym.

Taylor Freeman

Legacy is important because it tells people what type of person you were and what you did to impact the lives of others. It also gives credit to all the work and passion you put into something. I want to leave a legacy of being a good person. It doesn't necessarily have to be a big legacy but I hope people will be able to recognize all the things I did for other people. This can be from anything like making donations to being a good friend or anything like that.

Rainelle McNeil

I'm an athletic person who loves to play sports. I love being active, especially with my friends and family. In my spare time, I like to draw random things and paint. When I draw, it is usually doodles of random things that just pop up in my head. This can sometimes take my mind off of things that are going on.

11th Grade

Kristen Murphy

It is important to leave a legacy or impact behind. It can change the future, the generation after, information, help to make a better world, and motivate young people who want to take the same path. I want to leave behind a legacy of being a famous dancer. I want other dancers to look at me for my greatness and how different I am. I want them to look at me how I now look at my favorite dancer who tours with artists and travels the world.

Amani Hylton

If I could have any talent without having to practice, it would be painting, drawing, or dancing. I would choose painting because I already like drawing. If it could come more naturally, I would do it more. I choose dancing because I feel like knowing how to dance is a good hobby to have and you get a lot of exercise.



Donye' Rhea

The values I consider most important in life are forgiveness, honesty, confidence, and being open. Forgiveness is a key life value because people tend to make mistakes. I'm able to forgive but not forget if you've done me wrong. Honesty is something that I will always need in friends, relationships, and just in general. Being able to open up is being comfortable with a person you care for and love about your feelings, not pushing them away when you actually need them.



Elaya Newman

“Continue,” in my opinion, means to persevere. To me, continuing means moving forward without any stops. I think of a journey. When going on a journey, you go on a voyage of healing, changing, and more. Despite any hardships coming your way, you continue the voyage. “Continue” can also mean a process. While in that process, you must be persistent and/or consistent in order to stay in that process or on that voyage.

11th Grade

Naomi McRoy-Cole

I'm thankful for my mom. Even though I don't always agree with her rules and we can get on each other's nerves, I know that, under all the strictness, she knows just what's best for me and is pushing me to do the best I can, even though I don't often acknowledge that. I'm also thankful for my dad and my little brother. Even though my dad's parenting methods are sometimes confusing, I know that it's to prepare me for real life. My dad is also a great supporter when it comes to me wanting to get active and do sports like running track. I'm also thankful for my little brother. He's five and he always makes me laugh with his gazillion questions. He reminds me to work on my Spanish when he randomly asks me how to say something in Spanish. He helps me remember I need to try and be the best I can be so I can be a good role model for him.

Marcus McCritty

Wes Moore being elected as governor is a big step in changing Maryland's future for the better. This is huge especially as he is the first Black American to be elected to the governorship in Maryland. His priorities for Maryland should be focusing on affordable housing, racial equality, and better tax rates.



O'Semi Thomas

“Continue” means to keep doing something that was previously started. It implies that the activity or process was interrupted at some point and is now being resumed. For example, if you stop reading a book and then pick it up later, you can say that you are continuing to read it. Similarly, if you pause a video and then hit play again, you are continuing to watch it. “Continue” can also be used in a more general sense to mean something that is ongoing or persistent, such as when we say that a problem continues to exist or a trend continues to grow. “Continue” can also mean going through the challenges of life no matter what is thrown at you.

12th Grade



Siyan Tekle-Habtegabir

In my experience, “continue” symbolizes a supportive hand pushing me forward, or in most cases, upwards. To continue represents one’s perseverance and desire to keep striving despite obstacles in the way. During times in my life where I’ve felt like the challenges in front of me were too cumbersome to overcome, I simply continue. This can mean surpassing expectations, achieving a goal, or simply treading water until you can get back on your feet.

Charles Eze

To me, “continue” means going forward. It is simply a fact of life that we are going to face a lot of obstacles. However, what we do when we face these obstacles is what is most important. It is important to use these obstacles and “setbacks” as a catalyst for growth. Personally, some of my best work and most productive periods have come after some of my biggest failures.





*Spring College
Tour*

RUTH WESTREICH
REFLECTIONS





I have
a
DREAM







Spelman



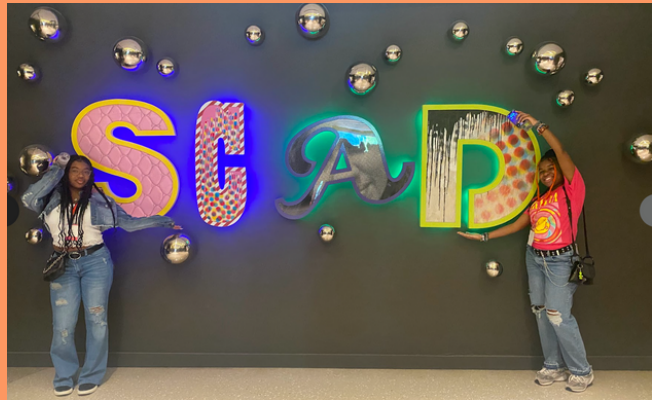
College[®]







FASHION





Atlas and the Anthropocene



IN MAY 2019, a prominent group of scientists voted to designate a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene, that reflects the commencement of substantial human impact on the Earth's systems.

It is hotly debated among scientists and anthropologists exactly when the Anthropocene may have begun. Perhaps its seeds were sown with the rise of agriculture and later, industrialization. What is clear is that our trajectory human dominance reached new heights with the Great Acceleration in the 1940s as the nuclear age began. Since then, nuclear testing and the use of nuclear weapons, combined with other human activities from water and fertilizer usage to environmental pollutants have dramatically accelerated the Anthropocene Epoch.

Madison McCauley

The painting I connected with was one depicting Atlas, the Greek god tasked with holding the Earth and heaven apart, while carrying all on his shoulders. Despite the constant pressure in the myth, he persists. The painting further depicts him holding an Earth that is smoldering, an Earth basked in the chaos of a fiery-red hell—all of our own making. Yet, despite this, Atlas persists. He persists, but not without struggle. We see beads of sweat falling among those strong hands tasked with holding the weight of the world. The children of the world Atlas holds have not treated it with love and care. They have allowed hate and violence to overpower their hearts, destroying the very gift they were given. Yet still, Atlas remains. I think the story that this painting tells is connected to my life in many ways. Sometimes I feel like Atlas. Of course the weight of the world is not on my shoulders, but it can feel that way sometimes. While no one person has to hold up a planet of eight billion people, in a way, we all do. Sometimes I can get lost in my own thoughts, fears, anxieties, and sadness, things that block the path to my own success. And I'm only one of the eight billion. I have a responsibility to care for others and a responsibility to show respect to my planet in ways that I can. So as Atlas continues holding up our planet, there's a little more love and a little less destruction.

Kennedy Harrison

This image shows how climate change is affecting us and the world. The picture shows how the world is burning. The person(s) carrying the world on his back is burning while everything around it is also burning. This image shows how it affects the world and affects everything in it. The world is not okay. The only way we can begin to fix it is by doing so together. One person can't do it on their own. We all have to work together to save the earth, not just one person or a few.

Peace McFarland

When I saw this piece, I was intrigued by the figure of the god. I thought of a discussion in my seminar class about how Lucifer or the devil is good or evil. The painting most likely has the person being a god but, viewing the red and the fire, I thought of something different. I think back to the conversation about the devil being good or evil and the reference to order. The piece to me means that we are close to the end. There is no saving us because people are entitled and just oblivious.

The Great Reckoning as People Rise Up



IS IT POSSIBLE that the way forward in solving some of the world's most pressing issues will be through grassroots organizations standing together and rising up in solidarity? Albert Einstein, the Nobel physicist wrote, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

Grassroots organizations harness the power of the people, and use collective action around a common cause.

Aaron Weeks

Essentially the artist is stating that people must come together and create large scale movements for change. This imagery leaves me with multiple different emotions and meanings. The painting consists of a crowd of people cheering, or seemingly cheering, and an elevated island that seems to be locked up and separated from the rest of the general population. "Corruption," bags of money, and modern day power plants are on this island. These images give the idea of modern capitalism and its ties to climate change. It also ties capitalism to deeply rooted corruption. This makes me think that the people cheering at the separation of modern corruption and the rest of humanity are the people who made this separation possible.

Lailan Fells-Watson

This interesting art piece shows how the world is perceived. This image is based on both positive and negative ecosystems evolving nowadays. These environments have been taught to me and seen directly in person. This image shows how multiple environments differ and how they drastically impact us today.

Jaden Anderson

This image represents the cause of climate change. It isn't factories or power plants, it's the consumer. We are the key to everything. If you think about it, the reason we have all of these factories and power plants is to please us. As the producers, it's their job to make us happy. Making us happy comes with the price of polluting the planet with greenhouse gasses. We are literally paying them to pollute the planet.

Adorre Fells-Watson

This painting shows people worshipping things that are valuable to them. Things such as money are sitting on top of a high up ledge, with fire around the bottom, making it hard to reach these things. Money is highly valued and people will do anything for it. But the money is burning, showing that things, including money, aren't as important as people make them out to be. There is also a big lock on these things, making it hard for people to 'unlock' and obtain them. A literal definition of this picture is a story about climate change and young people of today shaping the world of tomorrow. Political activism among these young people is needed to create a more equitable, sustainable, and healthy environment and future for us all.

The Return



OFTEN, THE TERMS Mother Nature and Mother Earth are used interchangeably.

The obvious parallels between woman and nature are every-where. Both are traditionally associated with purity, simplicity, beauty and grace. A female's seasons and cycles can be linked to the earth's own recurring seasons and lunar cycles. Both nature and women have the power to grow life. And, when you have the ability to bring forth life, the commitment to preserving what you have created is very strong. As a mother cares for her children, and puts their well-being above her own life and liberty, so does Mother Earth.

Pierce Lilly

“The Return” depicts the Earth surrounded by layers of different animals getting increasingly further from the planet. The artist's statement mentioned that people need to become more active in advocating for the environment and that the government and large organizations have failed to bring about change. To me, it represents nature's increasing distance from the planet due to climate change. I think the artist is trying to tell the audience that our bond with the Earth is at stake, and we must work to protect the environment.

Eathan Pair

This painting reflects what we need to do to help the world we live in and make it better. My understanding is that we all live under one sun and everything we do or don't do will reflect what happens in the world. So we must do what we can to make this world a better place for our children and their children. Not only must we make this world a better place for our children, but also for the environment. The trees, birds and other wildlife, and everything around us help us to live. It's a necessity that we have these things in our lives and world

The End of Denial



WE NO LONGER have the luxury of globally debating who or what is causing our climate crisis. At this point, it really doesn't matter because the cost of doing nothing is catastrophic for Mother Earth.

Just one of the unintended consequences of our climate crisis is the giant Sequoia trees of the Sierra Nevada mountains. They are the largest living organisms on the planet and can grow over 300 feet tall. When they do die after 3,000 years or so, the oldest trees, known as monarchs, usually succumb to their own size and collapse. Their giant trunks will fall on the forest floor for another millennia.

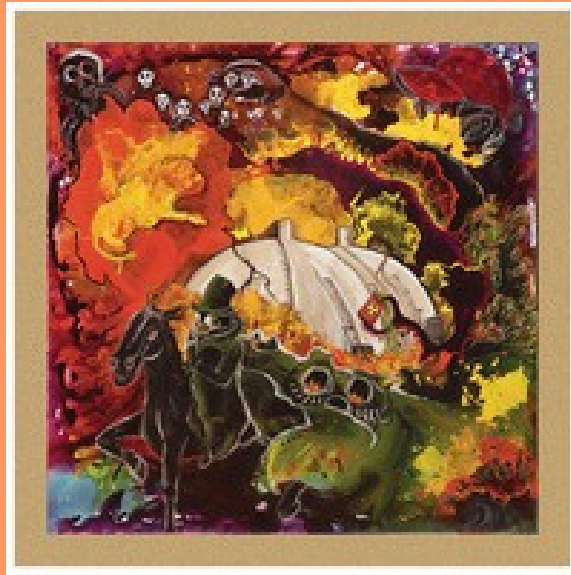
Amare Anderson

This painting expresses how people all across the world are now aware of global warming but they see it as inevitable, unfixable, and almost like a natural disaster. It's our new normal. Now that we see global warming as normal, we need to rewrite our minds to see global warming as something that we can fix and before it becomes something that really is unfixable. The painting shows an eye in the middle of all the chaos. This represents how we see global warming yet we do not feel we need to help with the issue. Humans like to deny the fact that global warming is our fault and we think we don't need to contribute to help fix it. We need to come together and work together to fix the issue of global warming so that our children and grandchildren will be able to live peacefully on a healthy Earth without the fear of Earth becoming inhabitable.

Lee Thomas

I see a relationship between water and fire which, I believe, represents peace and disaster, for example yin and yang. Two opposite natures who don't mix but have to deal with each other's presence. In addition, they need each other to exist since one can never exist without the other because that is balance. The art piece resonates with me as a model for representing balance and interacting with different dispositions. This helps me realize that I can live with people different to me. There's always something to learn from someone vastly different than you. As a result, I can see how balance between different aspects is indeed possible and how harmonizing together with people different from yourself is needed for growth, balance, and learning.

No One Wins In The Nuclear Waste War



SAN ONOFRE, Generating System is located south of San Clemente, California on the Pacific coast near the water's edge. Work began on the San Onofre in 1964, and was commissioned in 1968. New steam generators were installed in 1983 and 1984. By the end of their third decade of service, their pipes were getting plugged up, and the units needed replacing. San Onofre had a radiation leak in 2012. It has not been usable since then. Billions of dollars were at stake when the plant failed.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) estimated a meltdown could have resulted in as many as 130,000 immediate deaths, 300,000 cancers and 600,000 genetic defects.

Aria Briggs

This piece of art is very powerful. I am interested in environmental science and environmental engineering. I have always been very passionate about climate change and global warming and the role humans play in it. Recently, I attended an EXELON STEM summer program at the University of Maryland for young women and they took us to Calvert Cliffs, a nuclear power plant. We learned about uranium, nuclear waste, and it is being stored. The nuclear waste stays active for a long time, as shown in the art. For this reason, scientists are looking into ways to recycle the waste, so it won't be as damaging to the environment. This art communicates very sternly the risks that come from nuclear energy and, in turn, other ways humans are interfering with the Earth. This painting resonated with me because I am so passionate about environmental sciences and, more specifically, because this piece of art connected to a recent experience of mine.

The True Cost of Privilege



OUR CURRENT FORM of unconscious capitalism with profits above all else, even the health of Mother Earth, be sustainable? Our current broken global economic system is prospering while climate change, resource depletion, ocean acidification and over population are suffering. Most scientists agree we have entered a new Epoch, the Anthropocene, acknowledging that man's constant intervention into Earth's natural order is wreaking havoc on our planet. Our brand of capitalism is an energy-intensive way of life that is affecting every living thing on Earth.

Aris Brown

This painting resonated with me because it speaks the truth. This perceived reality that we face and live in everyday lies to us. Everything that seems good always has negatives. Our society is destroying itself. The people that live well are fewer than those people living in a world of damage and misfortune. The ones that live with no worries don't even offer help. Life seems simple, but it is way too complex.

Round and Round and Round the Collusion Goes



THE AGENCIES such as the EPA, CDC and FDA that were created to protect us are now in profit partnerships with Big Industry, Big Agriculture, Big Pharma, and Big Oil and Gas, and Big Philanthropy. They hire hundreds of powerful lobbyists to push their corporate agendas. The term “revolving door” refers to the movement of high-level employees from public sector jobs to private sector jobs, and vice versa. The idea is that there is a revolving door between the two sectors as many legislators and regulators become lobbyists and consultants for the industries they once regulated, and some private industry heads or lobbyists receive government appointments that relate to their former private posts.

Tyreke Harris

This art piece correlates to my everyday life which revolves around money and drugs in the environment. Being from SE DC, I relate to this art piece because it shows how drugs are taking over the social environment. Being able to separate myself from this life is a good thing. I have seen the trials and tribulations of growing up in the hood, I’ve seen my family take and possess drugs. This art piece shows overcoming and getting out of a dangerous neighborhood that contains drugs. It shows how easy it can be to persuade children to follow in the “hoodlums” footsteps.

Liza Gassaway

The main point that the artist is trying to make is simply that money links to the environment. The money the government, state, or community takes in allows it to run. People aren’t going to work for free, they want to be paid for their services.

Another symbol in the painting is a factory, where goods are assembled and distributed to other businesses.

Jamia Hardy

This painting shows how money is the root of evil. This painting to me is significant because I like money. Sometimes I feel as though my love for money could sometimes go over my morals..

This painting reminds me that money can be used as good and significant but one should not praise money. The picture shows the Capital, education, a factory, a bank, and a barn. This shows the circle of money being used. The background of fire reminds me of hell, showing again how money is the root of evil.

You Decide Your Own Future



Mother Earth is suffering. As one giant ecosystem, when she suffers, everything in her and on her suffers as well. Her oceans, rivers and underground water are polluted with chemical waste, petroleum, plastics and forever chemicals. Our soils and lands are depleted of dense nutrients and healthy microbiomes we need to which to flourish. Our air is compromised with chemtrails (geoengineering) raining down on us to manipulate our weather. Human and animal health is in sharp decline. How do we regenerate our planet and its inhabitants?

YOU DECIDE YOUR OWN FUTURE

Ayriika James

This art piece shows me how governments, chemicals, plastic, and so much more affect our Mother Earth's health. Listening to Mr. Ward speak about how we humans play a big part in destroying Earth perfectly defines this piece. The colors resonate with me a lot. They change the connotations of the symbols and the emotions that come with them. This art piece shows how humans have a big impact on Earth, good and bad.

Nilah Johnson

The artwork shows Mother Nature and how different issues contribute to Earth's downfall. It shows how aspects of our everyday lives cause climate change without us even noticing it and make it harder for organisms to live. Wildfires and pollution contribute to major climate change. The water is polluted with waste, plastic, and other chemicals, while the land lacks the nutrients it needs to thrive.

Out of Chaos Gaia Comes



I USE THE METAPHOR ‘Gaia’ for Mother Earth because I believe that metaphors are needed for widespread comprehension of the true nature of the Earth and an understanding of the lethal dangers that lie ahead for our planet Earth.

Antoinette Jean-Baptiste

I picked this art for the meaning behind it. I definitely believe human beings make how Earth will be. If we give out trash, hatred, trouble, and of course chaos, that is what we are going to get. It's beyond littering, it's beyond not recycling, it's beyond air pollution, it's beyond all of the things that kill our beautiful plants. Most importantly, it's about what we can do to prevent these things from happening. It's about being cautious and caring for the things that make us. We are trees, we are water, we are fruits and vegetables. Those are the things that make us. Those are the things that keep us alive. If we don't look after them, we will get tremendously hurt.

Devin Worsley

The art that caught my eye shows a woman trying to hold her head but it was growing into a tree with many branches. This art is trying to show how this person has many ideas, but she can't control how much her mind can handle. Some people have many different ideas but fail to express them properly which leads to them keeping them bottled up.

Our Mother Earth Thriving - Before



THIS IS MY VIEW of Mother Earth thriving in our not too distant past. Lands, oceans, rivers, coral reefs and Mother Earth's delicate ecosystems thrive where no one species predominates. Less than 500 years later, it looks very different. Climate change is real. We must take it very seriously, and work together for paradigm shifts and lasting change.

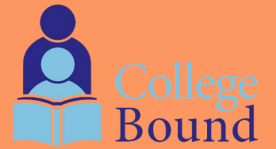
Camille Pair

I see the land that is separate but together. I see how we are all connected and how we need each other to thrive.

This piece really shows the connection between us as humans and the environment we live in and are a part of.

This piece also shows me how small we are. Humans are not visible in this art piece but their effect is. I feel that the buildings and the zooming out show that.

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