

I am Aaron Porter and I am the valedictorian of Bellaire High School. Throughout my years in school, I have excelled in academics and sports while having an amazing four years. My academic success is due to the influence of my mother. She is probably the strongest person one could meet because she has raised four children by herself. In my family, I am the second oldest child but the oldest boy, and we are all within four years of age. We, as a family, have developed close bonds which helped each one of us to mature in our own way. However, my mother is to thank for our good qualities. She has persevered through the difficulties that arise from a single parent home while raising us with great morals. She taught us to be hard workers and to push ourselves to succeed in everything we do. Therefore, we took her advice because she proved by being successful in raising us, that one can do anything he or she puts his or her mind to. My mother, Suzanne Porter, always pushed us to get good grades. For example, when we were young she made us complete our homework when we got home from school and made us go to bed at 8:30. However, these strict rules have paid off as I have used the ritual she taught me to earn great grades.

Although I have been a great student, I have also succeeded in many sports. In high school, I have participated in four sports which have kept me busy most of the time. My first two years in high school I participated in cross country. I was one of the top three runners both years and was very good, but I was forced to quit because of problems with the coaches. Therefore, I picked up the fall sport of football and it was a good choice. My junior year I played a lot of special teams, but I never started until my senior year. When my senior year began the coaches thought I was too small to be a linebacker. However, my intelligence during the game paid off as I led the defense in tackles for the year with 128 and the next closest teammate had 72 tackles. I loved that I proved to some people that I was not too small; however, I feel like my size kept

me out of the OVAC All Star game since I was not selected. Another sport is track, and I did it I did during the spring time. I participated every year but my senior year because I opted to get a job working at Burger King. During track, I competed in the pole vaulting event. I was average and earned many medals, but I was never great at it.

At last, my favorite sport is wrestling. I returned to the sport of wrestling as a freshman, and I was only average. In turn, I worked hard to improve and proved that I got better as I was selected as the most improved wrestler my sophomore year. Then my junior year came, and it was my breakout season. I made it to the OVAC Championship finals but I fell short of a title as I got 2nd place at 140 pounds. I didn't stop here though as I continued my success and qualified for the state tournament. These were two great accomplishments in this sport, and I am very proud of both of them. Finally, I came to my senior year, but my placing wasn't as high as the year before. I earned a 5th place finish at the OVAC Tournament and I was only a state alternate. Although I did not do as good as my junior year, I did manage to break many wrestling records. I believe that I currently hold ten school records including being tied for the most career wins (128) which is truly an honor.

Many people would imagine me as a great student, but I am not the traditional valedictorian. I get good grades, but I act crazy at times. I love to have my fun and act like an idiot, even at school. I could not say how many times I have heard, "That is our class valedictorian. Can you believe that?". These fun times involved me to make decisions, and I usually made the choice to be a goof and take a risk. I will give a few examples. My sophomore year I was trying to knock a can of starter fluid out of a fire, but it exploded when I got close to the fire. Therefore, it burnt me pretty bad, and I had to treat burns for a few weeks while dealing with the constant smell of my burnt hair. Another instance just happened recently when we were

eating our meal after prom. I got this crazy idea to strip down to my underwear and run across River City to a table where more of my friends were sitting. I made the choice to just do it, so I can honestly say that I have run around a public restaurant in my underwear. These are just two examples of the type of person I am, I like to do things on the spur of the moment and be crazy. However, these are some of my lasting memories from high school. I always strived to be different. I didn't want to be known as a nerd, so I was the complete opposite. At last, I would say that I have no regrets but only great memories.

All in all, I would say that I am a well rounded person. I have built a garage with only the help of my brothers and I can do any type of mechanic work that needs done. Although, my major flaw is that I like to question adults when their reasoning is wrong; in turn, I speak my mind. This has gotten me into my share of trouble, but I do not regret it because I feel like I have stood up for what I believe. In conclusion, I know how to have a great time, but I also know when it is time to get serious and complete the tasks that are needed as shown by my success in school. I have enjoyed many successes in high school, but I thank my family for their influence on my life especially my mother. I would also like to thank all of my friends for the many great memories.

My future plans are to pursue mechanical engineering at The Ohio State University where I will work through the Honors program. I would like to graduate with a Master's degree in a little more than four years and pursue a job working with an automotive company.