

Kaiser PTSA Scholarship Entry Essay

Looking back on these past four years, so much can be said about what Kaiser means to me. But also what it has done for me, what it has taught me, and what I will take away from it. Kaiser has been my home away from home. It's the place where five days out of the week, from 8:00am to 2:30pm you could find me. So I am beyond grateful that the place I was going to everyday was such a supportive and welcoming environment. This is what Henry J. Kaiser high school means to me.

To me, Kaiser means growth. Not just my growth in height (albeit not very much), but my educational and social growth. Kaiser has provided me an abundance of opportunities from various sports such as paddling, cross country, and air riflery, as well as the chance to participate in clubs such as Key club, and Model United Nations club to which I gained the title of secretary. And it's been because of these opportunities that I've grown into the person I am today.

To me, Kaiser means family and community. High school is the transition period between childhood and young adulthood. It's the time to make mistakes, and face new decisions. This is a profuse amount of stress to deal with, but having guidance and support as I did with Kaiser helped to reduce this stress and taught me how to address these issues. The Kaiser teachers, coaches, and school staff have been beyond just great role models, they've been my aunties and uncles who have looked out for and helped me when I needed them. I will be forever grateful for all the wisdom they have passed onto me, and I only hope to make my Kaiser 'Ohana proud.

Finally, to me Kaiser means youth. Of course between all the exams and studying, I've had the chance to partake in more amusing and pleasurable activities during my time at Kaiser. Moments of sheer and unfiltered joy spent with friends dancing under dim light, to shared excitement in the football stands when our Cougars scored a win. Whether it be homecoming

games, banquets, or holiday assemblies Kaiser has given me an inventory of special memories. And although the last year greatly limited what I could expect to experience in my senior year, it's made me truly appreciate the time I did have, and makes the memories I hold all the more precious.

In truth if I could, I wouldn't leave Kaiser. It seems ironic to not want to leave a place that has done so well in preparing me for just that. But even with this bittersweet feeling I am glad that I'll take with me the many lessons and memories of Kaiser high school. To my Cougar 'Ohana I'd like to give my greatest thanks for everything you've done for me. And for those incoming cougars I can only hope that they will carry on the positive atmosphere Kaiser high school exudes. Mahalo!