

### **Block CP Alumni Testimonial by Nate Wendling**

I remember telling my friends very confidently that I wanted to pursue journalism and sports media in college and this was directly influenced by my time at Block CP. When Block CP was first coming together, I thought that it could be something fun that could help me get some experiences under my belt before college. Not only did I gain experience and have a ton of fun, but most importantly, I found my passion. I loved every second of it, whether it was writing stories, doing podcasts, or helping with school events. I don't think that I would be as set on my career path right now if I was never a part of Block CP.

When my journalism professor asked the class if any of us had any experience in media or with journalism, I remember confidently raising my hand and going over the plethora of things that I learned and experienced in Block CP. I was able to excel right away and hit the ground running in my journalism classes because of these experiences. I was able to streamline my work at Block CP into college by publishing 10 articles for *The Inquirer*, Diablo Valley College's school newspaper as well as taking a news writing class at NBC and being recommended for, and applying, to multiple future internships in the media field.

I started off writing my first ever article on the College Park Stunt team in 2022 for Block CP, and now in 2025 I have published articles that range from impactful news stories such as covering the Mayor of Vallejo and a California climate change initiative to sports based stories surrounding the DVC water polo teams, an Olympic gold medalist and many more.

I can't begin to express how impactful Block CP has been on me and my life. It allowed me to find my passion and pursue it with experiences that I will remember forever. I am thankful to Shareef Dajani (Block CP Founder) and all of the other parents, staff and friends who helped make Block CP a reality.

**Nate Wendling**