

MICHAEL “AFTON” BURNETT

Decatur High School | Class of 2027 | Prospective Agricultural Business / Business Student

ACADEMIC SNAPSHOT

GPA: 3.67 Weighted | 3.40 Unweighted

Advanced Coursework:

- AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, AP Computer Science
- Honors coursework and substantial dual-enrollment coursework through Auburn University/Auburn First and UNA.

Afton is interested in Agricultural Business/Business with potential secondary study in Finance or Forestry. His goal is ultimately to build or manage a business that provides a tangible service and creates opportunities for other people.

WHAT MAKES AFTON DIFFERENT

- **He works in the real world.** Afton has already worked in roofing and mitigation, beverage distribution, rental equipment, mechanics, customer service and sales support while completing high school.
- **He is mechanically curious.** He has taught himself to troubleshoot equipment and engines largely through experience. He rebuilt a submerged boat motor, worked through electrical/ECU problems and routinely helps other people diagnose equipment and vehicle problems.
- **He is comfortable with adults and responsibility.** His jobs have required him to communicate with customers, coworkers and adults in professional settings. He identifies communication, time management and mechanical ability as major strengths.
- **He has learned through mistakes as well as success.**
One of the strongest themes in Afton's discovery assessment is maturity. When asked what his TED Talk would be about, he answered: making mistakes and then trying to grow.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- Elected Student Council Representative, Grades 9–12
- Approximately 100 community-service hours
- 75+ hours with Decatur Meals on Wheels
- Mentor to younger students and siblings
- JV Baseball, Grades 9–10
- Approximately 30 competitive fishing tournaments through Alabama Bass Academy/Bass Tactix

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Robin Rents — Equipment Mechanic / Customer & Sales Support**
Worked with skid steers, tillers, blowers and excavators; assisted customers and supported outbound sales.
- **Coca-Cola Decatur Bottling Company — Route/Operations Support**
Approximately one year of employment, including route work, product handling and mechanical exposure.
- **Roofing & Mitigation Work**
Long-term hands-on experience performing demanding construction/restoration work.

PERSONAL QUALITIES A RECOMMENDER MAY HAVE SEEN

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Dependability | • Respect for experienced people |
| • Mechanical aptitude | • Communication |
| • Initiative | • Work ethic |
| • Practical intelligence | • Maturity |
| • Curiosity | • Willingness to learn |

STORIES WORTH DISCUSSING IN A LETTER

A recommender who knows Afton personally could potentially speak to his ability to:

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| • Balance school and significant employment | • His interaction with adults and customers |
| • His mechanical problem-solving | • His growth in maturity |
| • His independence | • His service through Meals on Wheels |
| • His willingness to seek knowledge from experienced people | • Or the responsibility involved in rebuilding and maintaining equipment. |