

# **Lucky To Go To School Here**

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A good education is one of the most important things you can get. What you learn in the classroom as a kid helps shape you, developing you socially and intellectually. For those many formative years, I was lucky enough to go through the Huntington School District and am a proud alumna of the Class of 2007.

The Huntington School District offered me a school experience that I will not forget. One filled with great memories and teachers with whom I still keep in touch. There was my second grade teacher Ms. Dinehart, who got us to write poetry; my third grade teacher Ms. Quiles, who got me interested in reading by offering us a year-end barbeque at her house as a reward; my fourth grade teacher Mrs. Walsh who piqued my interest in writing as we kept a year-long writer's notebook. Without these instrumental teachers in my life, I don't know if I would have the same passion I do today for reading, writing and communicating. And that was only the beginning.

As I grew and went through middle school and high school, the experiences were just as great and become even richer with extracurriculars becoming part of the mix. In eighth grade, I joined the marching band, getting to play my trombone and express my musicality with 150 other students. It was an experience that continued through my four years of high school, allowing me to bond with lots of different people through the long, hot days of summer band camp, community parades and giving me the feeling of joy and exultation after winning a championship at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. I worked with great musicians, my band directors Mr. Giachetti, Mr. Weiss and Mr. Stellato and grew from a third trombone to section leader my senior year.

One of my most influential experiences at Huntington High School was writing for the school newspaper, *The Dispatch*. I immediately met people who had similar interests and got the chance to write about sports and my fellow classmates. It progressed into eventually being the co-editor-in-chief my senior year, designing and running the paper. Many hours were poured into putting together those pages but it was always worth it seeing the final product, handing it out on distribution mornings and watching fellow students read and discuss the articles. My work with my classmates and my advisor, Mr. Graber cemented that I wanted to follow a career path in journalism, for which I just got a bachelor's degree from Ohio University.

I also got very involved with my class and in the community. My freshman English teacher and class advisor Mrs. Krylicinski got me involved with my class, working with classmates to build the homecoming float, give gifts to kids and plan the prom. My involvement with the school's Key Club allowed me to get out and make a difference in the community. We did a program working with the local Boys' and Girls' Club each week and an annual shopping tour around Christmastime with underprivileged kids, which I still go back and do to this day, four years after graduating. These experiences are

so meaningful because they allowed me to grow as a person and work with others to make a difference.

These opportunities are just a few that I had the time to be involved in. The Huntington School District offers a wide variety of others. A World of Difference, Challenge Day and Natural Helpers are all programs that promote acceptance of all types of people. We live in a diverse world today, with many people of different cultures and creeds. The diversity I encountered everyday going to school in Huntington is something I am so thankful for.

There were many great times spent watching championship winning teams in lacrosse and a number of other excellent varsity sports. Huntington High School also offers some of the best art classes I could imagine. There's painting and drawing, ceramics, fashion, photography and video. No matter what your interests outside of the core curriculum, you'll find something for you. Athletics, the arts, and education are all top-notch institutions in Huntington.

Every so often my friends and I get together when home from college and sometimes we talk about how lucky we were - lucky not only to have gotten a great education and learn from great teachers but also to go to school with the people we did and have fond school-related memories. There's no other place I could ever imagine myself going to than Huntington, a multi-faceted place for which I was so lucky to go to school.