

# Five Star Message

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Brookfield Academy established a foundation of character built on accountability and trust. These habits continue to guide how I work, lead, and support those around me.

At BA, character was not taught explicitly; it was lived daily. Anyone who knows me knows how central sports are to my life, and athletics were one of the first places where character truly took shape for me. From trusting teammates and coaches to showing up consistently for practice, I learned that accountability is not optional. As an eighth grader winning a game at the Padre Serra basketball tournament, and later navigating a difficult path to the program's first high school state soccer championship, I learned that effort, resilience, and trust matter more than comfort. BA gave me the opportunity to play multiple sports—tennis, field hockey, basketball, and soccer—often in different roles. That experience showed me that character is defined not by being the star but by contributing wherever you are needed.

I also learned the importance of being comfortable with discomfort. From a young age at BA, presenting poems and performing in plays meant standing in front of parents and grandparents and allowing myself to be seen as I was. Those moments taught me that courage is not about being polished, but about being authentic even when it is uncomfortable. Confidence came not from perfection, but from showing up as myself, prepared and willing to try. Over time, that repeated choice to lean into discomfort became self-belief grounded in effort.

Those lessons carried directly into my college life at Case Western Reserve University. On the soccer field, leading my team to our first conference championship and an NCAA final required earning trust over time, starting as a freshman and continuing through the hardest moments. Holding myself and others accountable became second nature. Academically, I was prepared to step into rigorous coursework without feeling overwhelmed. Balancing demanding academics with athletics and life felt familiar because BA had already taught me how to commit fully without cutting corners.

After college, character continues to shape my path. Approaching three years as a software engineer at Microsoft, I have earned the trust and respect of my peers, which has allowed me to work on high-impact projects and grow quickly. I have carried that sense of responsibility beyond the workplace through the way I approach life outside of work. Creating and running a soccer team has required initiative, organization, and follow-through. Mountaineering has required discipline, trust, and leadership, with months of focused training and teamwork culminating in a successful summit of Mount Rainier. A newfound love of biking has reinforced consistency and self-reliance, whether commuting to work or exploring the islands around Seattle. Character, for me, now shows up as the quiet commitment to preparation, accountability, and seeing things through, even when there is no formal role or expectation.

Looking back, BA did not just prepare me for college or a career. It taught me how to build trust, lead with accountability, and grow through reflection. Character compounds over time and Brookfield Academy gave me the foundation that continues to shape who I am today.