

## JUNIOR SURPRIS

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

IN CREOLE: Hello! My name is Junior. I am in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Ben Franklin Middle School.

IN ENGLISH: Hello! My name is Junior. I am in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Ben Franklin Middle School.

I was born in Omaha, NE. My parents immigrated to the US from Haiti before I was born. We moved to Fargo when I was two years old. I have two little brothers. I like to read, sing, be in theater and play sports in my spare time. Rick Riordan is my favorite author.

I am proud to tell you tonight that I have been fluent in Creole and English my whole life. I feel I have been very blessed to have parents who raised me to understand and speak both languages. Not very many of my peers have had that opportunity. As a family, we have much less than most other families. I don't think that is really a disadvantage. We have what we need. I've learned from my parents to live a simple, honest life that is focused on relationships with family and friends. In the end, I think that is all that will matter. Thank you Mom and Dad for teaching me this.

I pretty much coasted through elementary school. I was surrounded by the care of a special lady who is here tonight, her name is Mary Cahill. She was a life saver for me! She always told me, "Don't live your life on the sidelines." Thank you Mrs. Cahill!

I entered Ben Franklin Middle School with a little energy and excitement to meet new people. However, I kind of poked around from class to class and struggled to be organized and motivated! I was a quiet kid who tried hard to NOT be noticed. My teachers worked really hard to get me moving! I was disrespectful to some of the academic coaches in Legacy after school but, I really did appreciate all the resources I had from Legacy. I would like you all of you here tonight to try to understand that sometimes teenagers like me struggle with situations that make school success difficult. At the end of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, some big changes started to happen for me! My mindset did a somersault!

During the summer of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Legacy offered me a chance to go to the International Music Camp. I quickly signed up.

I think Mrs Dehne was surprised because I like to put others before me.

IMC changed my life! I met kids and teachers from all over the world. I learned that I have some special talents and a real chance to make the world a better place. My grades, attitude and effort this year have been much improved! I go to the Legacy homework room 3 nights a week after sports or play practice. Ryan and the academic coaches surround me with encouragement and teach me important study skills. I take responsibility for my words and actions. I go in on my own to complete my work instead of making teachers or Legacy chase me down. I take school and my life very seriously. I now have a 3.7 GPA and I KNOW my future is going to be fantastic!

As I become an educated young adult, I hope I can pass on to other children the mindset and skills I have learned from my parents, teachers and Legacy: work hard, take school seriously and serve others before yourself.

You, each one of you, have given me a chance to have a positive future through the resources I earn through Legacy. I promise to share these gifts with other little kids when I am an educated, successful man!

IN CREOLE: Thank you so very much! I am very grateful for you!

IN ENGLISH: Thank you so very much! I am very grateful for you!