



Hello my name is Aliyah Bonner, and I'm 18 years old. I am a senior at Lawton Chiles High School. I was born in Tallahassee, Florida but moved away to Bradenton FL when I was about a year old. Bradenton is where I remember most of my childhood. As a kid I was very shy, yet I still liked to express myself outwardly. My favorite things to wear was my red cowboy hat, and pink cowboy boots. I always had a knack for art, and being creative. I was very inspired by my older sister who also did art. My sister, and I are 7 years apart. She currently lives in Texas with her boyfriend. My mother is Felicia Bonner, she works for a nonprofit in Tallahassee, Florida and my father is Gary Bonner, he is a nurse practitioner. My parents divorced around the time I was in second grade.

I am currently on track to become a veterinarian, but when I was really little I wanted to be a ballerina. I've always had some kind of interest in the medical field, and healthcare in general. I enjoy making others happy, and helping when I can. I also love being happy myself. However, I did not always feel that way. From 8th grade to my freshman year in high school, I struggled with loving myself. I had a lot of generalized anxiety. On top of that, I lost an important relationship with my best friend. It was a tough time not just for me, but on the people who loved, and cared about me. It took me a while to realize I was the only one who could help me see the light. The push, I was tired of being sad. I was tired of beating myself up about every little thing I did.

In my sophomore year, I made the effort to change for the better. I dressed up more when I attended school, and held my head up when in the company of others. I became involved in extra-curricular activities, taking theatre, and yearbook. I immersed myself in my studies, and started getting better grades. I really blossomed in my sophomore year. When Covid-19 came around, I opened my Etsy jewelry shop in March of 2020. It has officially been one year since I've started! And now, I'm getting ready to leave the nest! My mother has been a huge help with college stuff. It seems like I have it all together, but I still have days where I feel sad or angry with myself. Unfortunately, I still let myself feel those emotions, but it doesn't last long. I just brush myself off, and keep striving for my greatness! I am on a mission, I am hopeful to spread some positivity, and love to others. Maybe I will inspire someone else to do something great!

"Be Passionate, Be Powerful, Be Persistent, Be Professional, But Most of All,.....BE!"

K. Mann

Aliyah Bonner, Class of 2021
Lawton Chiles High School