God comes first, Family second, School third,

Everything else follows…

Growing up, I was given many opportunities in life. I believe I became the person I am today because of these opportunities. Between God, my family, school, and my jobs, I have matured and learned many valuable lessons over the years. I have always kept my priorities in order, and this has helped me excel throughout my life. Hopefully the lessons I have learned will help me find and succeed in the career of my choice.

God

I was born into a very **traditional** Catholic family. I was baptized at a very young age, and given Godparents to help assist in my journey as I grew up. Church was a huge part of our family. We attended church every Sunday together. Through God and my family, I was encouraged to make my first reconciliation, communion, and confirmation. Throughout each of these important journeys I was able to depend less on my family and Godparents and more on myself, to choose the right path.

Prayer has always been a huge part of my life. Prayers were said at the beginning and middle of the day, before meals, and at bedtime. Prayer was used to help us communicate with God. Prayer allowed me to realize that I can talk to God at anytime of the day. Prayer was also a way I could **assist** others in need.

In addition, throughout my life my faith has been tested numerous times. Between people unexpectedly dying to not knowing what my purpose was in life, God has never left my side even if I wanted to leave his. He has never given up on me and has shown me unconditional love. Being a religious person, I have learned to always **forgive**! I have realized that everyone deserved to feel loved. I feel that being brought up Catholic has given me a better **understanding** of myself as a person and what I want to **accomplish** during my lifetime.

Family

I was born the 2nd of three children, and was also the only girl. Growing up, we had a very good life. We were always involved in different activities and clubs. (Sports, swimming lessons, skiing, etc.) Even though my parents gave us almost everything, they were also strict and had many rules. We always had curfews, up until I moved away for college, and weekly chores. This was always our reality check. They didn’t mind helping us, as long as we would help them and follow their house rules.

My parents are the best parents I could have ever asked for. Throughout the years they have been strict, understanding, and loving. Because of this, they have taught me numerous valuable lessons. They have been the best role models to look up to. Between their 25 years of marriage and their parenting skills, I can only hope to accomplish one day what they have.

They have taught me to be a **responsible**, **reliable**, and **respectful** person. They have always made me take responsibility for my own mistakes and have helped me figure out the correct way to fix them. Between dating the wrong guys to loosing very important paperwork, they have always supported my decisions and were there to help me when they crashed and burned. They always made sure I never went back on any promises, even if I didn’t want to go through with them. They’ve shown me how to respect others by their examples and rules. They have shown me how to be **patient**, **kind**, and **understanding**. Throughout all the good and bad times in their lives, they have never treated others differently.

They have watched me **mature** over the years, by learning from my past mistakes and by letting me make my own choices in life. They helped me get **involved** with my community, by pushing me to do better for myself and more for others. They have taught me to be **honest**, not only with others but with myself, and most of all have taught me to be **grateful**. They have shown me that lying never helps any situation. They have shown me how much effort they have put into giving us everything we have ever needed/wanted. My parents demonstrated that life requires hard-work to enjoy the things you want.

K-12TH Grade

Growing up me and my brothers were extremely lucky to have parents who could afford to send us to Catholic schooling. I attended both a Catholic grade and high school. Catholic schooling taught me many life lessons and helped strengthen my faith. Furthermore, it gave me great **discipline** and **structure**.

Attending a Catholic grade school strengthened my faith by learning about our faith in religion class and by attending mass not only on Sundays with my family, but also on Fridays. We always had donations and drives (clothing drive, food drive, etc.) for the less fortunate. By attending a Catholic grade school, I feel like I really made a **difference** in the less fortunate’s lives and was taught to **give** to others and be extremely **thankful** for everything I had. My grade school also allowed me to **mentor** the younger kids in mass (prayer buddies) and volunteer in our community.

In addition, attending a Catholic high school strengthened my faith by requiring volunteer hours and retreats every year. One of my favorite things in high school was the yearly retreats. They really helped us build **team-work**, **trust**, and **self-confidence**.

High school also **challenged** me academically and socially. I was constantly being **pushed** by my teachers and counselor. I was enrolled in both A.P. and honors classes in high school. I **excelled** in my academics every year.

In high school, I joined the swim team. This was both very physically and academically challenging. We had practice every night from 5-730pm. Swimming for two and a half hours may not seem physically exhausting, but let me tell you it is! I decided to swim the 500m race in our meets. This was 20 laps non-stop. This race was a huge challenge for me. From the first race of the season to the last, I had dropped over 1 full minute from my time. This was the first sport I enjoyed and excelled at. Academically, it was very hard to keep up with all of my honors classes. I had to push myself to do homework late at night, even if I was completely exhausted. Throughout swim-season, I still managed to get very high grades.

Socially, high school brought about a major change for most students. Along with the change from junior high to high school, came drinking and partying. I lucked out, because my group of friends had better priorities in life. We would go out and enjoy ourselves, but we never chose to drink both for ourselves and the fear of punishment if we were caught. We helped each other stay away from the temptations of teenage life.

Volunteer

When I was a sophomore in high school, I began **volunteering** at a hospital. I had always wanted to work in the medical field, so this was my opportunity to see what it was going to be like. I worked in various departments including: physical therapy, OB, transport, and the E.R. I was assigned various tasks in each department. This experience gave me a real **understanding** of how each department works, along with many valuable lessons. It also helped me decide on my career path.

While working in a hospital, I learned you have to be **caring**, **friendly** and show **compassion**. Each person deserves the best care you can offer. Being a **volunteer** showed how **hard-working**, **responsible**, and **reliable** I was. It taught me to be both **practical** and **realistic**. I took many great lessons with me from volunteering.

Job

I started working for Giant Eagle in 2006, when I was 16 years old. I started off as a cashier, and slowly worked my way up the ranks. I went from a cashier to a coordinator in three years. A coordinator is in charge of all the cashiers throughout the day. They assign breaks, and are customer service representatives. Through this job, I have showed **loyalty**, **dedication**, and **leadership**. I was one of a few employees chosen to get cross-trained in 7 different departments. I was always **punctual** and **trustworthy**. I was very **hard-working**, working anywhere between 20-30 hours while attending high school.

In 2010, I was asked to transfer into the pharmacy department. They needed a **lead-technician** and thought I was the best candidate for the job. They were trying to fix the pharmacy from a having a very bad reputation with the customers. Becoming the lead-technician came with a lot of **responsibilities**. Along with my technician responsibilities, I scheduled all pharmacy employees, ordered all drugs and supplies, helped train all new pharmacy employees, and assisted the manager with the controlled drugs. I conducted inventories and reported back to the regional manager.

During my time in the pharmacy, we went through three different Pharmacists. I helped keep everyone together and kept everyone **motivated**. I **taught** new pharmacists how to work our computer systems and also met with the store manager weekly for updates. During this time, I worked anywhere from 37-52 hours a week, along with being a full time college student. I think this job showed how **determined** I was to fix this pharmacy and how I was able to **persevere** through all the very tough times.

College

When I was first accepted into college, I decided to attend Ohio University. I wanted to have freedom and experience the things I never did in high school. I got there and was thrown into a world of craziness. My priorities went straight out the window within the first two weeks there. I didn’t attend church, I didn’t talk to my family, and I skipped most of my classes. A couple more weeks into my freshman year, I realized that I wasn’t happy and was actually miserable. I was sick a lot and needed to get away from their environment. This wasn’t the person I knew I could be. I quickly accepted God back into my life and fixed my priorities. I did learn that you can’t pretend to be someone you’re not.

After transferring out of O.U., I found a new school to attend. It was called Capital University. This school was much smaller and reminded me of my high school. The classes were small, the teachers got to know the students, and the overall environment was more suitable. I felt much more comfortable here, and knew that I could continue to grow and become the person I wanted to be.

Overall, I believe that my priorities were always a very important part to my success. God has always been there for me and has helped me get through the tough times I have encountered. My family has always been there to motivate me and show me their love and support. My schooling has given me discipline and structure. My Volunteer work has shown how reliable of a person I am, and has given me experience into the career field I am interested in. My job has shown how much of a leader I have been and how dedicated I am to anything I work on. And lastly college has allowed me to make mistakes and learn from them and move forward with no regrets. Hopefully all these experiences can show what kind of person I have matured into over the past several years.