



Cleveland High School

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How Are You Focusing on Fun in 2023?

After three disappointing years of teenage experiences being cut short, altered, or completely skipped altogether, we can once again begin to look forward to all of the fun opportunities in store for us. The past few years held so many challenges that we never thought we'd have to face. However only when COVID canceled my sports practices, family reunions, piano lessons, and even school, was I able to truly appreciate the happiness and fun that each of these activities brought me and the important connections that I had built through each one. After realizing how much fulfillment we lacked without the social, active, and fun events in our lives, I have come out of that challenging time, with a new attitude and way to go about life. Now I have learned to live in the moment and treat each minute like it could be the last one before the entire world shuts down again. And what better way to do that than by simply focusing on fun?

To me, fun is defined in two ways: your attitude and the people that you're having fun with. Anything can be turned fun when you open yourself up to embrace each occasion with a positive attitude and by surrounding yourself with people that you enjoy spending time with. Even when faced with challenging, boring, or nerve-wracking responsibilities, I always try to alter my mindset and remind myself to find the pieces of fun hidden within the task.

This is the attitude that I have as we enter 2023. In years past, I've made resolutions to get good grades, or focus on getting stronger in sports. While academic and physical aspirations are still important to me, what good are those without the fun? This year I want to push myself to read more books for fun, instead of just for English class, or I want to kick a soccer ball around with my friends, instead of just training hard to win the tournament. I've chosen to take this new year, to set myself some new goals to balance out my responsibilities with fun. And with each new experience, not only have I found new activities I enjoy, but I've also made so many new friends, and teammates who only add to the fun. Standing up here right now, running for rose princess is a completely new experience that I've never tried before, which makes it scary in a lot of ways, but despite the nerves that I have standing up here, I am beyond excited at this incredibly fun possibility to meet so many new people and try amazing new things.

I will continue to keep this same outlook on all the new adventures facing me in the year ahead. This year I will graduate and say good bye to this important stage of life as I head to college and put myself out there into a whole new world where I will only learn to grow and find new passions. But instead of entering it in fear of the uncertainty, I am looking forward to facing the challenges and more importantly all the fun that comes my way.