



Benson Polytechnic High School

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How Are You Focusing on Fun in 2023?

This past year I have learned the concept of daring greatly, this idea is to be courageous while disregarding any outside ears and judgment. Because like Theodore Roosevelt said “it's not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena.” This year, in 2023, I am the woman in the arena. I am focusing on having fun by daring greatly, by doing the things that I normally wouldn't, by prioritizing the activities that I want to do, and by dedicating self-care and enjoyable time to myself, because that's what fun is all about. This year I won't allow others' opinions to limit me. I am being brave and putting myself first, which takes courage and vulnerability, which not everyone can do. A huge part of this journey is running for the Rose Festival Princess itself. Something not many would expect from me, but has been my dream since I was a young girl.

Growing up I adored the rose festival events, my favorite being the Grand Floral parade with all the beautiful floats and flowers and oh those princesses. I remember begging to go to them. I would stand in anticipation waiting for them on the sidewalk of Martin Luther King Drive. I would get so excited seeing them pass by, waving and smiling. One year I had the opportunity to spend time with some of the princesses. I remember specifically the long white table where we all sat, girls like me each matched with our own princess. We ate treats, drank tea and painted each other's nails. It was just so much fun and it had a huge impact on me. I looked up to those princesses and wanted to be just like them, literally. From that moment, when I met them I knew for sure that I wanted to run for Rose Festival Court.

However, when you grow older you change. Sometimes you allow the public eye to carry weight on your ambitions. That fearlessness you once had starts to fade and you put yourself in a box. You become lazy with your dreams, but I couldn't do that. I couldn't let little LuLu down and not apply to this opportunity. I had to bring the fun that I once experienced back in 2023. I want to do what those princesses did for me for the new little LuLus in our city. I am thrilled for the possibility of representing Benson Polytechnic High School in this way. Right now I am being both courageous and vulnerable, I am doing that thing that I want to do without worrying about anyone else, I am excited. I feel good and most importantly I am having fun. Win, lose or draw I am proud because at least I tried, and I tried while daring greatly.