

**“Your Future, Your Decision”**  
**Rebecca M. Johnson Middle School**  
**ESSAY WINNER – Nov. 2014**

**Saranaya**

I am standing here about to walk across the stage and receive my high school diploma. It is a beautiful June day in 2022 and my whole family is watching. I am feeling excited and proud of all my accomplishments and how I got to this moment.

Back when I was in elementary school, I would always try my best to do what I could to succeed. As I grew on entered middle school I knew it was more of a challenge to complete my school work. Then I realized, it was a lot different and my work was more individualized. In sixth grade I was the new kid in school. This meant that I had to find new friends and had to become more responsible too. I always tried my best to fit into the crowd. But I wanted to be true to myself. At home I had more chores and more privileges. This made me feel more mature.

As I entered high school, I felt like a different person, my body was changing as well as how I thought about things and people. At this time I was thinking about my future and what I wanted to do in life. I realized what was important in life.

I had an interest in enlisting in the Navy. My dream was to be a Lieutenant in the Navy and command a squad. My choices in classes were made based on my career goal. I enjoyed science, math, technology and engineering classes.

I surrounded myself with positive people and learned how to interact with different personalities. I gain a better understanding of others emotions and feelings. I joined clubs that dealt with community service and giving back. I was a member of the volleyball team and became captain in my senior year. This gave me some leadership experience.

Besides school and my clubs, I had a job at McDonalds on the weekends. This helped me meet new people and how to serve the public. It also gave me more responsibilities and taught me the value of a paycheck. I learned how to drive a car and helped my family by running errands when they needed me to.

Looking back at my days in school, I have to say how I have seen how I have grown as a person, physically, mentally and emotionally. I had some bumps in the road along the way, but it made me who I am today. I am excited to start the next chapter of my life. I have been accepted to go to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. There I will achieve my dream and keep dreaming new ones