N. Menon

Ms. Reichmuth

Core 7

1 June 2022

Doing The Best You Can

“Some days, doing the best we can may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn’t perfect and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else.” This quote, stated by Mr. Rogers, is one of the most impactful and meaningful quotes that Ms. Reichmuth taught us.When I first entered her class I was nervous and confused as to what to expect. Leaving her class, I wish we had more time and I feel grateful for what I have learned. All of the expectations that she had have changed my work ethic and my expectations for my work quality. Coming into Ms. Reichmuth’s class, I was unsure of what was to come and now, I have learned so much as the high expectations have shaped my education.

While you may have an idea of how her class will be like either from siblings or friends, we had no idea, as she was a new teacher having just come to Redwood. At first, when I entered her classroom I was intimated. After hearing about everything, my head was filled with negative thoughts about how this class would be so hard. However, one quote that Ms. Reichmuth taught us to internalize when we thought life was hard, helped many of us. “Keep on, keepin on!” she would say whenever we worried. Another thing that was very hard for most of us was learning to write in MLA format. After losing numerous points for not putting our name in MLA format on papers, we learned high school expectations the hard way. Finally, after many weeks in her class I realized that it wasn’t her class that was the problem, it was my work ethic. Many of us had to learn to stop procrastinating and make good use of the time she gave us to work on our assignments. While taking this class initially made me feel like I would never succeed, now looking back I realize just how much this class has taught me.

Now leaving her class, I am filled with a sense of how meaningful it was and how much she taught us. To begin with, every day when we first came into her class, we discussed the kind deeds we have done and what we are grateful for. This taught us to appreciate the good in the world and be grateful for everything we have. Ms. R has taught us so much over the course of this year and I know that we will never forget her lessons. Moreover, she taught us to keep our presentations professional. We learned to utilize hand gestures, eye contact, and posture. My presentation skills have improved tremendously. One final thing that Ms. Reichmuth had us complete were PBL's. PBL’s or Project Based Learning units were projects that taught us what was happening in the real world. For example, we learned about countries facing social justice and wrote letters to their ambassadors. Now leaving her class I have learned so much and you should be aware of her expectations.

Ms. Reichmuth has many expectations and they have changed me as a person. To begin with, she taught us to keep our speech professional. When I first asked Ms. Reichmuth a question with an “um and a so,” she stopped me and made me repeat it without any “Um/Well/So.” Over time we learned to keep our speech professional and eliminate any stutter in our speech. This is just one of the many things Ms. Reichmuth taught us. Not only that, but we were taught to be respectful and polite to all of our classmates and teachers. Like the quote from the book she read us, You Are Special, we learned, “What they think doesn’t matter. All that matters is what I think. And I think that you are pretty special.” This was the message that she told us to remember. She also told us to be accountable for our actions and mistakes. While the expectations in this class may cause you to believe that it is too hard, this class has changed me as a person and as a student. All of this has prepared me for higher grades.

In conclusion, when I first came into Ms. R’s class I was unsure, but I have learned so much and the expectations in this class have shaped my education. When I first entered her class I didn’t know what I would be learning. Leaving her class, I feel grateful for what I have learned. All of the expectations that she has changed my work ethic. Even now, I can remember on the first day of school, one of the first things she did was read Oh The Places You’ll Go!, and she told us how she believed we would all go to amazing places. This quote stood out to me as something that she has told us so many times, “On and on you will hike and I know you’ll hike far and face up to your problems whatever they are…and will you succeed? Yes you will indeed! Kid, you’ll move mountains!”

Works Cited

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