

Kaiser/Woodland Elementary School P.F.O 2023 Scholarship Application

As far as I can remember, I've loved learning about history. It's been my best subject for years and still continues to be. I like the idea of being able to learn something from those who came before us, rather good or bad. It connects us with the past; it shows the continuity of life. I have a hard time remembering much of my years at Kaiser, considering it was a short time compared to my other schools I've been in, but I have a distinct memory of sitting on the floor of Ms. H's classroom and drawing a map. It was a project we were doing for our history lesson, when we were learning about colonial America. Our instructions were to create a town in colonial America, draw a map of it, name it, create a government, and build a set of laws for it that the citizens of the town would abide by. I think in my entire academic career so far, this has been my favorite project that I've ever done.

The town was called Renisburg and it was in northern New York and was cut in half by the imaginary Washington River. On the northside sat the Governor's House on top of a hill next to the Town Hall and North Well which was just west of the road to Canada. On the other side of the road were shops and houses for the townsfolk and a section of the land dedicated just to the animals of the town where they could frolic and live. On the southside of the river sat more houses and shops and wells as well as Liberty Forest and Bravemen hills and the large town farm.

I've kept the map since then and it sits in a box underneath my bed next to the other relics of my childhood. It's the only part I was able to save and since have lost the set of laws that I created for Renisburg. Though I don't remember the laws I wrote or what type of government they had, I remember the freedom that came with the project. I was able to create, essentially, my dream reality. What set of rules would I, and others, want to live by. I've always been a practical person so I probably wrote something along the lines of "everyone will be kind and fair to each other, and if someone has a problem with another person, they will take it to the town hall where it will be settled amongst their peers." I also probably added something like "everyone will be allowed to eat candy." I loved having the ability to create my dream society, where everyone was treated as equals and everyone took pride in being a part of the community. It helped me realize what I value in the real world and taught me how I could incorporate those ideas into my own life. Renisburg reinstated my love for history, but it also inspired an interest in government and politics in the real world. I had never really given our government any thought before then, but it introduced me to the ideals that uphold our society and the social contract between the nation and its citizens.

Since Renisburg, I've become more interested in politics and involved in activities that teach me about government. I joined ASB in middle school after doing student government both at Kaiser and my previous elementary school and while I believe it to be more similar to a business, collaborating with others and voting on certain issues in class is, to me, representative of what a democracy is; more specifically, our democracy. I entered a speech competition in 8th grade in which I wrote a speech on a social issue I was passionate about, won, and was able to present my speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and in Ford's Theater with other students from across the country, who, like me, are interested in helping shape our nation into our dream society. I've been mentored by those who are driven by similar ideas and are currently in public service striving to create a more perfect community. Because of that one project from Ms. H's class, I've been inspired to create a version of Renisburg from the society that we have now and plan on studying how to do just that in college. And, if I ever get to a place where I have the power to instate laws such as those in Renisburg, "everyone will be allowed to eat candy" will definitely be the first one.