



Catonsville Middle School

LEADERSHIP

by Asad Khan

Coming out of the seventh grade and going into the eighth grade, I knew this was going to be my best year at Catonsville Middle School. Since my time here was almost up, I had to start looking for a high school. Since my older brother goes to the McDonogh School, I thought this was a good place to start my search. Before I knew about this assignment or even started 8th grade, I set a goal for myself. That goal has now been transformed into my leadership goal for this year. A *good* leader is one who can direct others, but a *great* leader is a person who has his/her head on straight and knows where he/she is going in life. My personal leadership goal for my last year is to fix some flaws within myself and in the process, gain admission to the McDonogh School.

The following may come as a surprise to some of you but I, Asad Khan, am in fact a procrastinator. The motto of my life used to be, "Don't do today what you can put off for tomorrow." This bothered me for years, and I knew it was a major flaw in my master plan to get into McDonogh, so I sat down and gave myself an intervention on the evils of procrastinating. To stop procrastinating I imagined up worst-case scenarios that would eventually scare me into getting my work done. After that I learned more about the school and what I would have to accomplish to attend there. I enhanced my knowledge of the test that I will be taking this weekend and even found a book created for the test. To further prepare myself for this system I have drastically cut down on my joking-to-working ratio and have begun to study more.

There is only one obstacle to hurdle in my path to McDonogh, and it is getting into McDonogh. Hundreds upon hundreds of students apply to McDonogh each year, but only a select few make the cut. As if gaining admission wasn't hard enough, I also have to earn a scholarship to go there since the fees are so hefty and copious. As I said before, hundreds of students apply, but only a few make it and even fewer gain scholarships. Grades are one of the largest factors to make it to McDonogh because to even make it there you have to obtain top grades in every class. On top of this, you need to be a well-rounded individual. When I say well-rounded, I don't mean chubby but willing to try new things and not staying in a comfortable little rut for too long. One needs to be bold and not worry about looking stupid in front of others because I have looked stupid repeatedly among my peers, adults, and senior citizens, but I have always bounced right back in front of others like magic.

Even though I haven't reached my goal yet, I am confident that I will make it there. As far as I know, I am getting good grades, which can only increase my chances of gaining a scholarship to go there. Just a week back I shadowed a student there who was impressed with my general knowledge as well my laid back personality. The very same day I had my interview with the person in



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charge of admissions. In the interview we pretty much just talked generally and eventually came around to the elections. I told her of my support for Obama and why I wanted him to win the election.

When asked about her standing on the election, she waffled around a bit since she's not supposed to tell others about her political views but finally told me that she was also an Obama supporter. Before I left to continue shadowing, she told me that she was impressed with my elocutionary skills and extremely impressed because I didn't writhe in front of her like others she had interviewed. I could tell she liked my sense of humor and admired my mentality.

Gaining admission into McDonogh for me is, as my father put it, a do-or-die situation. As of now I have applied to no other school but McDonogh, and if I don't make it I will attend Catonsville High School for my high school days. It's not that I think Catonsville High School is a bad place or that I am too good for it, but I just feel that McDonogh can offer me something that I can't get anywhere else. When my father first came to me with this proposal of going to McDonogh, I just figured I would do this to make him happy, but the deeper I dove into McDonogh, the more I realized that I actually wanted to go there for myself as well. That is why at this final year in Catonsville Middle School, I will do everything in my power to make it into the McDonogh School.