

2006 Most Inspiring Essay

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Community of Peace Academy

Nicole

Age 14

Community of Peace Academy- Nicole, Age 14

My name is Nicole. I go to a charter/public school called CPA (Community of Peace Academy). My school has changed my life by saving my life.

In fifth grade, my parents divorced, my beloved dog was killed, and I was forced to deal with an alcoholic father. I was so stressed out about friends, grades, and the situation at home that I was contemplating suicide.

My teacher at the time, Ms. DeMunck, was the only thing that saved me. One afternoon, she noticed a book I was reading. All I can remember is it was about suicide and death. Ms. DeMunck took me into the hallway and talked to me. I can still remember what she said.

Ms. DeMunck made me realize that I actually had many friends, all who cared and were worried for me. She told me that I was a beautiful, smart girl who has so much to look forward to. After that day, I put away the pills I had been planning on taking.

My school has changed me. Since the, my parents have tried to get me to change schools. I refuse. CPA is less like a school, and more like a family. A second home. The teachers actually care about us. We are not a student number; we are people.

CPA changed my life by saving my life. If it was not for Ms. DeMunck and a few other teachers like her, I know I would be dead. Every day I am thankful that I choose to go to my school. I would not change it for anything.