

Brooke Parsons

I had no idea what was coming. My freshman year of high school was not a socially difficult task for me, but education was a different story.

This all being in the past now seems miniscule, like I was overexaggerating. But when asked by underclassmen how my freshman year experience was, I can't lie when I say it was borderline tragic.

At the time, I didn't expect that my two freshman honors classes would be the most stress I ever had during my highschool career. I always told myself I wanted to be one of those people that took AP and honors, and it never has come naturally for me, so I've always had to work really, really hard at those higher up classes.

If I wouldn't have had that challenge, then I wouldn't be the student with my time management and study skills that I am today. It really helped me learn to be persistent and persevering.

When I think about how I got through it, I had to give serious credit to my mom, who has always been there for me. She reassured me on those hard nights of endless homework that "Everything was going to be okay." Even if she really knew that it wasn't going to end great, she never made me feel like less of myself because of that.

It never occurred to me until recently that people might wonder why I continue to take AP courses after they know



about my experience freshman year. That year affected how I chose my schedule years following because it taught me how to study and how to handle that kind of classes, instead of just backing down from them.

I continue to take my knowledge of what I learned when I was just 14 and apply it to my future ahead of me, and when I go to college I plan to dig deep, really focus on what interests me, take my high school do's and don'ts, and plan out my life that way.

