

Lisbeth Millard Scholarship Essay

It was a Tuesday morning at 9:45. "You all have 10 minutes to pick out two books you want for the week. Ready... Go!" My elementary school librarian's voice echoed as I beelined for the back wall of the library to get my books. I remember I specifically wanted "Who Was Johnny Appleseed" by Joan Holub and "Who Was Neil Armstrong" written by Roberta Edwards. After I found both, I raced back over to the front counter where I checked out both books and received a special sticker from my librarian. It was then, holding the pink and purple glittery sticker, that I decided the library was my favorite place to be. The rest of that school day I was giddy and eager to dive into the books I had earlier tucked into my bag. It was safe to say that 9:45 on Tuesday mornings were the school days that I cherished most.

From a young age I have adored the library, whether it was the public library just 10 minutes down the road from my home or the one inside my school. I feel that the library is not just a home to its books but to its occupants as well. When I have an overwhelming amount of schoolwork and need a calm and quiet place to focus and get it done, the first place that comes to mind is the library.

Particularly throughout my high school years at Lakeshore, I have spent an abundance of my time in the library. I do not go just to read, although I do enjoy doing so, but rather to pursue my academics and my role in the community. The library has been the foundation of many of my achievements, such as exceeding 120 hours of community service, tutoring my peers in math,

and starting my passion project called Handwriting Heros where I have fellow students send encouraging letters to Lakeshore graduates who have enlisted in the military. Having such a wonderful librarian at my high school has really guided me in what I have accomplished. She has given me numerous service hour opportunities to assist her in Lakeshore's library. With this, I have learned skills such as barcoding and shelving books, organizing and inventorying student Chromebooks, and tracking and recording my fellow peers' service hours. I feel confident as I am now equipped with the knowledge to access and cite databases for college and graduate research. Another skill the library has granted me is the ability to effortlessly find books using the Dewey Decimal System.

As I take my next steps into college to pursue a major in biology, I am grateful for my experience in our school library and am positive that the library will remain my sanctuary for many years to come. The library has always held a special place in my heart, and I can say with certainty that it is my "home away from home."