

# Jaylen Bonner

## 10th grade

My cousin Brian is my hero, he is the only person I admire. In my eyes, there's a lot of grown boys, but there aren't enough grown men. My cousin is an example of what a grown man should be. He taught me a lot of things, he taught me the correct way to do math when I didn't understand it. He taught me to never be a coward, and he taught me never back down from another man no matter how big or small they are.

My cousin taught me things that my father didn't. He taught me how to play basketball. I feel that he started me out on the right path. He put me on the path to be a man. He told me no matter what you do in life make sure you are passionate about it, whether it's cooking or cleaning. My cousin was the one who bailed me out of whatever, whenever. He didn't care if I was right or wrong he had my back. My cousin was the one who no matter what time of night, if I called, he'd be there.

If my mom called and said I didn't take out the garbage he'd get on me as if he was my dad. He was the one who sat down and talked to me about anything or anyone but he'd always say if you can say something behind someone's back, be willing to say it to their face.

He also taught me how to stand up for myself and other people if they needed it. He would call me and talk to me before my games. He is just a positive person. He told me that any male or female can go to jail, but it takes a strong individual not to. My cousin and I have a bond that is so strong. He looks at me as a son, more than a cousin. He is a father figure to me, but a friend at the same time. I actually think if he had a kid of his own I would get a little jealous. When my dad didn't have the money for things for me, my cousin paid for it without complaining or saying anything about it.