

**Student:** Ali Addams

**Grade:** 10

**Teacher:** Mrs. Cassandra Hughes

**School:** Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy

Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy (MGLVA) is a K12 powered school, and has administration and teachers that shape students and their education. These enormously patient instructors enrich us and keep both our hearts and minds open with things like history, science and foreign language. We as students are able to focus on what matters most, learning for the future. There just aren't words to describe the feeling that comes over you when you are engaged in a partnership for education like this one. Our classes are taught in a manner that is relaxed, educationally progressive even. How can we even thank MGLVA for enriching us and safeguarding our futures?

Students attending MGLVA are offered not only standard courses, but also honors classes. We are given opportunities to become involved in clubs or groups, and attend field trips and class outings where we can meet and interact with each other and our instructors. We are offered a variety of different electives and can tailor our own education in the direction we intend to follow, one that coincides with our chosen profession, future college courses or employment, depending on our desire. The teachers are interesting, engaging and even fun, they give us everything they have - personality, sense of humor, and the life experience that only they themselves can give. My future success is forefront in my instructor's thoughts, and it shows.

There is very little distraction here at MGLVA, perhaps because we are aware that we will get out of this education what we put in. We are asked to participate, via chat and sometimes microphone, and we are occasionally offered extra credit to do so, because the teachers here know it is just like standing in front of the class reading your work aloud, only there are no snickers or giggles. The anxiety is dampened by our instructor and the way they teach, we are

safe here, free to express our opinions and grow from opinions of others that we may not have even considered. These amazing educators are keeping in contact with the students, sending emails, reminders and ways to become involved. We are given a voice in things like vote for your favorite teacher, or give a pat on the back to staff.

The teachers at MGLVA are so invested in our success, they offer their own personal educations to us as stepping stones for us to reach whatever we desire. These professionals let us know that what we think is important, the people that teach us and guide us, are important. We are all cogs in a very important gear, and in a way I feel that we are making history, if we become successful then online school could be offered to more students, making this a new, safer way to learn.

We are students at Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy, making up the community of our school alongside our teachers and administration. We as a whole are responsible for how our school is perceived. They have already taught me so much, I'd like to take the opportunity, right now, to give my most grateful thanks to my MGLVA administration and teachers, past, present and future. You are shaping us to enter the world, and helping me to shape my world with your wisdom, guidance and kindness. With sincere gratitude, I promise to make you proud.