

The Stinger

About: Blaine Gifford

Question: *What advice would you give to students on how to succeed and thrive in middle school and specifically SJMS?*

Answer: "Use the many resources available to help you and remember to stay informed about your academic performance. Ask teachers, "how am I doing?" Remember to check your grades online(Aeries) and make use of study center. Being a part of the school community will 'ground' you and give you purpose. Get involved in a group or share in school activities."

This was Blaine and his brother when he was graduating middle school.



Question: *How have you been a changemaker, life long learner, and/or a community builder?*

Answer: "I keep active in my community by volunteering to support deaf and hard of hearing families. This brings people closer and provides equal access for persons using sign language to communicate. My passion to help drives me to further my understanding of language, culture, and diversity to meet to needs of those I serve and work with."

Question: *What subject in school was most difficult for you, and how did you overcome the difficulty?*

Answer: "Technical drawing, this is more what is now C.A.D-drawing plans and engineering drawings. It was challenging and it took lots of mathematics skills. Sometimes it felt impossible to me. It helped me to overcome that challenge to use my passion for the subject and learning to fuel my drive to push on during hard times. Also reflecting on what I accomplished helped me to keep focus on what was possible in the future if I kept progressing."

This is Blaine now...Do you see a difference?



Game: *Two Truths and a Lie~Guess which fact about Blaine is a lie. Scroll to the bottom to see if your guess was correct.*

-I spent about six years overseas doing volunteer work helping the hard of hearing people to learn sign language. Most of these never had any formal education.

-I have made some cool videos of me and my snowboard team at the Tahoe Ski Resorts. It's a great passion of mine.

-I love riding BMX flatland bikes. I can do some awesome stunts like riding backwards on one wheel.

Lie:the 2nd

