

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

From kindergarten through 12th grade, Andrea Brunal, a recent Cinco Ranch grad, says she never missed a day of school

Written by Katrina Katsarelis and Kennan Buchner



Andrea Brunal, 18, recently graduated from Cinco Ranch High School where she was the head drum major

“It was always a goal. At first it was mostly my parents making sure I went to school, but as the years passed, I was the one that started believing in the importance of perfect attendance.”

-Andrea Brunal

Brunal says her favorite subjects are math and science, specifically biology. “I am fascinated by how organisms function on a biological level, and I love running experiments to learn science in a hands-on way.”

Close Calls

Through the last 13 years of school, Brunal admits she had a few close calls where she almost didn’t make it to school. One of those occasions was the night she broke her arm at a basketball game and was in the emergency room until after midnight. “It’s pretty funny because it’s one of the only times my parents suggested I stay at home since we had a doctor’s note with permission to do so, but I refused,” she explains. Brunal knew she had a test the next day and was not going to miss it. “I may have been in pain, as any small movement hurt quite a bit, but at least I took that test!”

Advice for Others

When asked what advice she would give to other students, Brunal has some words of wisdom. “Persevere through school because missing a day, especially in high school, results in a lot of make-up work that can be difficult to catch up on. Also, when you miss class for excused school activities, try doing some work in advance. It really pays off in the end.”

Attendance Pays Off

Brunal believes that attendance is important because it leads to better grades and higher overall academic success. The studies back her up. Virtually all research done on student attendance connects good attendance with higher achievement and poor attendance with lower achievement and increased drop-out rates. Brunal bottom lines it. “Missing a day or more of class is hard because often times you miss out on an entire lecture, and when you get back you have no idea what is happening in the class. Then you have to catch up on that topic while trying to learn a new one.”

New Beginnings

Andrea Brunal was accepted into the Honors Program at Texas A&M University. She will be pursuing a degree in biomedical engineering. **KM**

From an early age, Andrea Brunal was taught the importance of regular school attendance. At first, it was her parents who pushed the notion of having good attendance, but soon it was a goal she had for herself. “As the years passed, I started believing in the importance of perfect attendance. It began a trend for me that became a mindset,” says Brunal. “Going to school every day, even on the days I didn’t want to go, taught me discipline and dedication.” And it looks like Brunal is right. She was head drum major at Cinco Ranch High School, a distinguished graduate, a National Hispanic Scholar finalist, and a member of the National Honor Society and the National Science Honors Society.