

Aaron Pastor Memorial

Mitchell Bartsch

Throughout my four years at Blue Valley High I have learned a lot and feel ready to take on the rest of my life now. During my freshman year I did not realize that my GPA would end up mattering as much as it does resulting in me getting poor grades during that year. Over the next three years I tried to get the best grade I could, freshman year was my only year playing football due to the fact that Coach Driskell had come up to me and convinced me to play. He had inspired me a lot even though football was not my favorite sport. Later that year Coach Mann convinced me to wrestle instead of swim which I was planning to do, after my freshman year of wrestling I had some success on JV but Sophomore year ended up being a year of learning lessons. My sophomore year I lost over half of my matches since it was my first year on varsity but when regionals came around I ended up fighting my way to third, but did not have very good success at state. During my junior year I performed under my ability at regionals placing fifth and at state I was one match away from placing. When senior year hit I knew that this was going to be my year I ended up going 36-7 for the season, winning the Johnson county classic tournament, EKL, and regionals also placing at top four at every tournament we went to I was also undefeated in duals. While at state I ended up placing fourth then the following week I was invited to wrestle in the all metro classic where seniors from Kansas and Missouri have a dual on the border. I believe in myself to always try my hardest, after wrestling everything in life is much easier I am so happy to have made such great friends on my team along with a great relationship with all my coaches.

I also played rugby all four years after doing well on my club team I got the opportunity to play on a select team where we would travel to a couple different states to compete. My

sophomore year playing on the select side team I was seen by Flo rugby and was ranked as the top 50 flankers in the country, being one out of the six sophomores on the list. After that I was asked to go Ireland and British Columbia to play on the national team, but could not due to financial reasons. During my years playing rugby we would go around to people's houses and do yard work for them to give back to the blue valley community. I also have done a lot of work for my neighborhood to help our community in River ridge such as cutting down trees, managing the pool which consisted of opening and closing the pool everyday and checking the chemicals in the water, raking leaves and doing yard work for the elderly families in our neighborhood. My senior year has been a little different in terms of my schedule since i had already done most of my requirements to graduate my last semester at Blue Valley I have been going to my first two hours, pre calc and trigonometry and my second class is ELA 12. After those two hours I drive to JCCC where I am taking three classes there in order to get a head start on college Currently I will have fifteen credit hours done by the end of highschool. I plan on going to JCCC for the next two years in order to save money since I am paying for all my college. I plan completing all my requirements to transfer to KU or K-state to get a degree in finance. While in college I plan on being a real estate agent to try to make more money than I currently do working at buffalo wild wings. After college I will use my degree to become a financial advisor, preferably a private financial advisor so that I could make my own schedule in order to spend more time with my family which I am planning on having a couple years after graduation from college. I hope that one day I will be able to give my family a life they will deserve.



April 16, 2019


To whom it may concern:

It has been my pleasure to have known Mitchell Bartsch for the past two years. I have been fortunate enough to have Mitchell in two different math courses and I have truly enjoyed getting to know him.

Mitchell has been involved in quite a few activities while a student at Blue Valley High School. In addition to participating on the varsity wrestling team as a multiple year state qualifier, he also participates in club rugby. He works 20-30 hours a week at Buffalo Wild Wings, and has found time to fit in three Johnson County Community College classes this year. He has volunteered with his local homeowners association and takes care of the pool and some of the landscaping.

I enjoy several things about Mitchell. The first is that, even though math is not his favorite subject, he comes in each day with a smile on his face and a willingness to learn. He is always in a good mood in class even though it is first hour. I also appreciate Mitchell's great sense of humor, including his ability to laugh at himself. He is always an appropriate participant in class discussions, and we all appreciate his ability to add a little levity to math class.

Mitchell has been an asset to my classes for the past two years. Please give him your strongest consideration for The Aaron Pastor Scholarship award.

Sincerely,


Jill Robbins
Mathematics Teacher
Blue Valley High School

What I wish to Accomplish After Graduation from Creighton University

Ethan Meuret

From as early as fifth grade, I had known that I would someday find myself working in the medical field. The final destination of becoming a doctor was certain, but the path that I would follow has changed a number of times. If one were to ask me seven years ago where I wanted to go to college, my instant response would certainly have been “Kansas University” as a result of my mom’s praise for the Jayhawks. At the time, KU seemed like the perfect option. From its exceptional medical school to its numerous division one athletic programs, I was certain that I too would someday be a Jayhawk.

It wasn’t until the seventh-grade that I began exploring other universities. This was also the year that I had decided to deem soccer as my favorite sport out of the three that I participated in (Soccer Baseball and Wrestling). By then I had been playing the sport for right around six years. It has always been a mystery to me as to how I adopted my passion for soccer because it was so unpopular with both my mom and dad. Adoring soccer threw quite a wrench in my college decision process because KU lacks a men’s soccer program. It wasn’t that I was expecting to land a division one offer, but more that I didn’t want to attend a university that lacked the unique culture that came with the soccer community.

Coincidentally, just a year later during my eighth-grade year, one of my cousins earned an offer for the division one men’s soccer program at Creighton University. In the fall of 2014, we made our way up to Omaha, Nebraska, to catch a Creighton Soccer game and watch my cousin compete. We revisited Morrison Stadium every year in the fall to watch cousin Noah play and each time we went I fell a little more in love with the campus. During the final year of

Noah's eligibility, we decided to drive up to Omaha a day early in order to fit in a college tour. After the tour was complete, I decided that Creighton was where I would spend my next four years outside of high school. By then it was just a matter of applying and getting accepted.

Acceptance came in December of my senior year along with a \$20,000 yearly scholarship which was just another sign that there's no other university for me. As for after college, I find the same uncertainty I had in seventh grade as to where I should go for medical school. Whether I stick with Creighton's medical program or transfer elsewhere in the US, my plans to become a surgeon will never change. As for now, I see myself most likely becoming an orthopedic surgeon, following in my uncle's footsteps, but there's a good chance that I'll discover a more suitable specialization.

My senior year has been a year full of goodbyes. I've had to say goodbye to high school soccer, club soccer, wrestling, and soon high school all together. One farewell that caught me off guard was wrestling. For me, wrestling was never my "fun" sport but more so my "work" sport. I found myself at numerous times wishing it would come to an end, but the moment the whistle blew at my last match at state this year the realization that it was all over hit me harder than I thought. Wrestling had become a part of my personality and without it, I feel like a completely different person. It developed my personality in ways that I'm just now realizing. There's truly no other sport like wrestling. I owe many of my successes in life to wrestling for it has shaped me into the person I am. While the sport is no longer in my life, I know that the grit that came with it will follow me through college and into my life career.

Ethan Meuret

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(913) 982-6824

Criteria for Aaron Pastor Memorial Scholarship

- 4X Varsity wrestler (Maintained winning record all 4 years)
 - Freshman year 106 finished top 8 at state
 - Sophomore year 113 finished top 12 at state
 - Junior year 126 finished top 12 at state
 - Senior year 132 finished top 8 at state
- Accumulative High School GPA of 3.69
- Back in March, my dad and I went downtown to serve at a “soup kitchen” at a church.
The church serves every monday and they are associated with Micah Ministries.
 - Relay for life (Junior year)
 - Toys for tots (Senior year)
 - Worked at thrift store with sr class (Senior year)
 - Miracle Minute (Senior Year)
 - NHS Peer Tutoring (Senior Year)
- Worked @ Freezing Moo (June 2017-February 2019)
- I am a member of Country Club Christian Church. I’ve been a member for a little over 18 years now.
- I was accepted into Creighton University and I plan on majoring in Biology to take with me to medical school.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ethan Meuret, a senior attending Blue Valley High School, located in Overland Park, KS. I first met Ethan as a student in my Advanced Placement Biology class his junior year. He immediately impressed me with his personality, politeness, and curiosity. These qualities have in no way diminished throughout this year as Ethan is enrolled in my Tiger Pride Leadership class.

For many students, AP Biology can be a difficult course. Not so for Ethan. He devoted his time and energy to working and learning the material at the demanding pace. Ethan's success in science is due to his natural curiosity with regards to the way the world works and his ability to take general science principles and apply them to specific situations. He has always done his classroom projects and assignments. As an educator, I see and work with young people everyday; motivation is often difficult for some young adults to maintain through a long day of attending classes or over an entire school year. Ethan, however, does it. I believe that Ethan will be successful in any endeavor he chooses to undertake because of his motivation and competitive nature. In AP Biology, he was responsible to learn two self-study units a semester, which involves no instruction from the teacher and he did well on both exams. He not only loved learning the material but he mastered it. In Tiger Pride, I have noticed Ethan pushing himself out of his comfort zone daily by trying new things, taking leadership roles and working on public speaking! He has come a long way in a short three months and look forward to more growth throughout the year.

Ethan is a honor roll student at BVHS who maintains a high grade-point average, approaching every class and every task. Where many students have academic strengths in one area, Ethan also excels in many outside areas. He has been a member of the Varsity Soccer and Wrestling teams and served as captain in both sports. Ethan is a determined young man that leads by example.

The rigors of class and sports programs are often overwhelming for many students. Ethan Meuret approaches everything with motivation for success. He is a very bright, unique, and caring individual who would not only benefit by being accepted in your institution but could contribute as well.

In my opinion, Ethan is a well-rounded, intelligent, caring and curious young man. It has been my pleasure to work with him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Pickert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Azadeh Taghizadeh Pickert
Science & Leadership Instructor
Blue Valley High School