



SENIOR

SPOTLIGHT

Truman High School



with

Jayden Gaines

1.

What is your favorite thing about being a Truman Tiger? My favorite thing about being a Truman Tiger is how diverse it is in this school. I also love how quickly relationships are built between teachers and students. Though I had only three years present in Truman due to COVID, the relationships I have built with teachers are amazing. I feel like I can depend on any teacher in this school for advice or help in any situation in my life, and this is why Truman feels like a home to me.

2.

In Truman Drama's spring musical "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" you are playing Mike Teavee. What do you enjoy about playing this character?

Being a new character every year in a play is a really cool experience because you have to study every character's personality traits and fit it into your own. Mike Teavee is a very rude, arrogant, tempered, irritable character; he can also be a little nice at times. Playing this role is a complete flip to my own personality so it is very fun stepping on stage knowing I have to fulfill another character's trait of being mean and rowdy.

3.

What was it like playing Apollo Creed in "Rocky" your sophomore year? How did you prepare for this role? Playing Apollo Creed my sophomore year had to be the best memory of my time in high school. Being given the opportunity by Mrs. Tracey Gatte to play such a big role in my first show, I felt I had to be prepared to a great extent. I needed to have my body in the best shape possible, which consisted of countless nights in the gym and a big change in my diet. Another way I had to prepare was taking boxing classes with a former professional fighter, Tim Witherspoon, so I could look as fluent as possible on stage when the fight scene came. Adding to that, learning my lines and the choreography for the whole musical was a lot to handle. All in all, I felt I could not have prepared any better for that role and it was truly the best experience.



4.

What are some of your favorite memories on Truman's baseball and football teams? One of my favorite memories from baseball is from my junior season. My team collectively clinched a playoff spot for the first time in 11 years. Not only did we have a remarkable season with tons of success, we went on to win our opening round in the playoffs, which meant so much to me. Although we came up short losing in a heartbreaker, the bond me and my teammates built throughout that season had to be my favorite memory.

In football, my favorite memory is lead blocking for my friend, Aqual Chapman, as he returned a kick for 99 yards.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during the upcoming baseball season?

My main focus for this upcoming baseball season is keeping a batting average above .300. Clinching a playoff spot and seeing how far we can make it this year would be amazing. I know we are fully capable of making another run. I also hope to accomplish a 1st team position in left field.

6. Are there any other clubs or activities you participate in inside or outside of school?

Outside of school, I have played travel baseball up until my junior year. Other than that, I have recently joined the Bible Club at my church, which has been very eye opening for me, building my relationship with the man above.

7. What is your favorite class at Truman, past or present, and why?

My favorite class at Truman has to be Theatre, which I took all four years with Mrs. Gatte. I truly feel like I can be myself in that class and express things to my classmates that everyone relates to. She makes the classroom feel like home. My favorite thing to do in class is present dances after reading plays from a script.

8. Who is a teacher, coach or staff member that inspires you, and why?

One teacher that has inspired me during my high school years is Mr. Monaghan. He has been my teacher to lean on ever since I met him my freshman year. He always gives me the best advice to take with me into my future and I really appreciate him for that. A big reason we have built such a strong relationship is because he was my head coach for Truman baseball my first two years. He is a very smart coach and knows his game, and I give him a lot of credit for helping develop the player I am.

9. What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to study kinesiology and pursue my dream of playing college baseball for four years. I would like to see how far I can push myself at the collegiate level.

10. Anything else you'd like to share with the BTSD community?

I would like to thank every staff member in the BTSD community for helping build my character. I have grown so much more confident and everyone has had a great impact on my life in their own way. I would like to tell all teachers in BTSD to keep inspiring kids to be the best they can be every day. It will not go unnoticed. I would also like to tell all underclassmen to put their education first, as being a senior I realize it takes you a long way in life.



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