

DAWSON ALUMNI

WHEN STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM DAWSON, THEY SCATTER ACROSS THE NATION TO ATTEND A VARIETY OF SCHOOLS. WHETHER AT A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL OR A BOARDING SCHOOL, WE FIND OUR ALUMNI ARE SUCCESSFUL WHEREVER THEY GO.

Back in 2003, when Dawson was still a brand new school, Michael Konkol walked through the doors to begin sixth grade. After spending three years at Dawson, Michael remembers his Middle School years with fondness. “It’s hard to pick out only one specific memory. I mostly remember my time at Dawson as being fun and very positive,” he notes.

While at Dawson, Michael played chess, and he also learned to play the trumpet in Dawson’s band program. “I did all the same things typical kids do. I played video games, watched TV, hung out with friends,” Michael remembered.

After graduation, Michael decided to take a huge step -- one that would shape his educational future in many ways. He decided to move all the way across the country to New Hampshire to attend boarding school at Phillips Exeter Academy. “Dawson prepared me as best as any school could for such a dramatic change, but I definitely felt prepared academically,” said Michael.

While Michael admitted his mom missed him a lot, he said the decision to attend Phillips Exeter was an easy one.

“I knew going to boarding school would help me mature, and there was no doubt I would receive the very best education possible by going to Exeter,” Michael said. “It was an interesting idea for me to be on my own and learn independence,” he added.

While most students experience independence for the first time in college, Michael is used to taking care of himself and has already learned the necessary life-skills it takes to be successful in college.

Michael is finishing up his freshman year at Purdue University in Indiana. “The transition to Purdue was really easy for me since I already experienced four years of boarding school,” he said.

Michael is studying pharmacy at Purdue, and he hopes to receive his PharmD degree. “I am really just focused on academics right now and getting my degree, so I am not really sure which section of pharmacy I want to go into. I’m just taking it one step at a time,” he noted.

As for Michael’s advice to Dawson students, he said, “Be open to meeting new people as you move into high school. Along with academics, the social aspects of high school are also important, and being open to other people will help you in so many ways.”

