

STAR/CSF-Ft. Worth Times

Helping students achieve a
choice in education!



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Vision Statement

The Board of Trustees of the STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc./CSF FW is dedicated to increasing educational options for children in Tarrant County whose parents do not have the financial means to provide an education best suited to their children's unique needs.

We believe the well-being of the entire community is enhanced when children are given a quality education that allows them to achieve to their utmost ability.

Therefore, we intend wherever possible, to encourage partnerships with schools, parents, community organizations and concerned citizens in supporting its children to achieve the American Dream.



If you are interested in sponsoring a student or would like more information about the S.T.A.R. Program for you or someone you know, please contact us at:

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Brenton Flowers Shines as Senior at Texas Wesleyan University

"Brenton isn't focused on just getting a college degree. He's focused on getting an education. He truly understands the value of learning beyond the classroom. When he's not busy working at his campus job, where he has become a trusted member of our advancement office, he's active in half a dozen programs and organizations. We pride ourselves on engaging educators, but active, involved students are just as crucial. Brenton is leveraging his time at Texas Wesleyan for all its worth to prepare for graduate school, a successful career, and a meaningful and rewarding life. It's clear that his values and aspirations have taken a leading role in his life, and we couldn't be more proud that he is one of our students."

*-President Fred Slabach
Texas Wesleyan University*



Brenton with
brother Brandon
and mother Jamie

My journey with the S.T.A.R. Program began when my twin brother Brandon entered the program. He was more serious with his schoolwork and an honor roll student. My competitive side with my brother came out, and I didn't like the fact that I was getting C's. S.T.A.R. encouraged me to work harder in school, and eventually I was chosen to be a S.T.A.R. student. I stopped "goofing off" right away, applied myself and earned A's and B's on my next report card. Being in the S.T.A.R. Program early in my education and knowing I had a sponsor forced me to really pay attention to my assignments and learn to work hard.

One lesson I learned was that if there was something I struggled in, I could work out the weakness and make it a strength. I was on the honor roll from 3rd through 8th grade, but my first semester of math in high school was a disaster. Ms. Myers encouraged me to persevere and not give up, and to overcome my weaknesses. I did, and within a semester, I progressed from failing grades to A's and B's.

My education has had a huge impact on my perspective and future plans. Education provides the stepping stones to success. Through education, I have the opportunity to work hard and be a valuable addition to a company or an organization. My education helped me realize that I have no boundaries because I know if I work hard, I can be successful at anything. I hope I can help other young people see the importance of education.

After I earn a degree in from Texas Wesleyan University in Criminal Justice, I would like to either continue with law school and become a lawyer or earn a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice and teach Criminology. I want to use the knowledge and skills I have developed to benefit my community and to help as many people as I can, especially those who cannot help themselves. As a lawyer, I would fight for justice for families, especially families who cannot afford it. If I become a Criminology Professor, I could return to Texas Wesleyan and teach in a crucial field that needs more professors. I also want to help other young people see that without a good education, you really can't go very far, but by working hard and investing your time, you progress through stepping stones to future success.



I think school choice is important because when children are young, they need to be in a safe, supportive environment with good influences. They also will be pushed to do their best. They need individual attention as well as develop opportunities to be themselves and also have their character shaped and strengthened. Going to private school gave me that individual attention that is necessary for such development. I believe children in these environments will be empowered to excel and do their best.

I am thankful to people like my sponsor who helped me realize my potential and grow into the person I am today. Through the testimony of my young life, I can see the lasting impact of programs such as the S.T.A.R. Program are truly limitless. I am confident that when more people contribute to programs like S.T.A.R., then more people will see the witness and the empowerment of a new generation of leaders.

- Brenton Flowers

Brenton's Accomplishments Include:

- Dean's list for two years, 4.0 average
- Vice President of Student Government Association
- President of Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society
- Texas Wesleyan Presidential Ambassador
- Mortar Board - the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for achievements in scholarship, leadership & service.
- Phi Gamma Mu-International Honor Society in Social Sciences
- Golden Shears Award - second highest award at Texas Wesleyan, recognizing students for their academic and extra-curricular leadership and positive impact on the campus





8th Grade Graduate Showcase



A sponsor is part of a team where success depends on all of us pulling together in the same direction at the same time, in the same way. With *S.T.A.R.*, everyone knows, understands and agrees with the expectations. Together we go towards a common goal for the future. And even though the requirements are strict, they are reasonable and within reach.

All the studying and hard work paid off because those challenges have minimized risk factors that could have endangered my development or led me to academic failure. Instead, they turned me toward participation in many community or service opportunities. The extracurricular activities, positive peer group association, and the involvement with supportive and caring adults has given me a valuable education - an education that turns into excellence and achievement in the future.

Malik, St. Rita Catholic School

Being in the *S.T.A.R. Sponsorship Program* means I have a second family. The program has helped me meet more people who share the same goal—to get a higher education. The program has



united my family, my teachers and my sponsor. My family has always encouraged me to do my best. My teachers carefully watched and nurtured my progress in school, and my sponsor has helped me to become responsible for my own success. I have learned to be grateful for the time and effort that my second family has provided me. The relationships I have formed with these special individuals has only furthered my will to learn and to grow both mentally and spiritually throughout the years.

Alexis, St. George Catholic School



I know I have been blessed to have an amazing sponsor who has enabled me to attend a private, Christian school. Initially I did not understand the meaning of this opportunity, but now that I have grown older, I realize that I have been given the opportunity of a lifetime! I know that I must try my hardest and always apply myself. I know that I will benefit twenty times plus by working hard rather than just sitting around being lazy. I have also determined that I want to make my mother proud of me. I know she loves me so why not let my light shine as bright as the sun. I have been influenced to go from making low C's to making high A's and B's, and for this, I'm proud of myself. With the *S.T.A.R. Program* I have the potential to do anything, and I thank

God for giving me such a blessing.

Keelen, Calvary Christian Academy



Being a *S.T.A.R.* student means having the ability to work hard, a strong commitment to school and determination to accomplish life goals. The *S.T.A.R. Sponsorship Program* has helped me in more ways than one. Without it, I would not take school as seriously as I do because I would not have had the extra support from my sponsor. Having my sponsor is not the only thing that has helped keep me motivated. The *S.T.A.R. Program* itself has been a big part of my life. It is a family; everyone does his/her part by working hard and supporting each other because he or she wants to see each other succeed. Through the holistic and family-oriented atmosphere provided by the program, motivation to work hard is never "out of stock" for me. Because of all the studying and hard work that I have done throughout my years in private school, I am now able to study with ease. I know what helps me learn when studying, and I know the best techniques to help me succeed in school.

Raul, Our Lady of Victory Catholic School

The *S.T.A.R. Program* has helped me in many ways. It has been a great influence on how I should always work hard, behave well, and have faith in myself. I am able to have a good life because of the things I have learned from *S.T.A.R. Sponsorship*, school, family, and people like my sponsor. I am thankful for the time, effort, and many gifts my sponsor has given me.

Ken, St. George Catholic School



Being a *S.T.A.R.* student is a privilege and a blessing to my family and to me. Going to Calvary Christian Academy is a valuable opportunity and an honor. Not only am I getting an excellent education, I am being taught the word of God and how to apply it to my life. The *S.T.A.R. Sponsorship Program* has helped me in many ways: learning to work harder, striving to get better grades and always knowing that there is someone there to help me when I needed it. All of the studying and hard work is worth the effort because it helps me to achieve excellence and to understand what I am learning. Knowing that I am held accountable each quarter for my academic results, effort, attendance and conduct means that I have had to give my very best to achieve the work assigned to me.

Courtney, Calvary Christian Academy

It was an honor to be a *S.T.A.R.* student because I was recognized for making good grades. It helped me stay motivated and to arrive at school on time. Also, it made me accountable for my academic success. Knowing that someone was checking my grades every six weeks made me strive for excellence. I won the American Way Award this year. This award recognizes students who demonstrate excellent behavior toward God and Country. Being a *S.T.A.R.* student made me more responsible in everything I did at school. It encouraged me to be a leader and always make good choices.

Alaina, Our Lady of Victory Catholic School



S.T.A.R. is a very powerful program that has helped me excel in school. The program reaches out to financially underprivileged students who have the potential for high achievement and singles them out to become part of the incredible, talented group of students that proudly represent *S.T.A.R.* The *S.T.A.R. Program* not only holds you accountable to the highest expectations, it is a positive influence that helps you reach them. It is truly an honor to be part of the *S.T.A.R.* family.

All of the studying and hard work is worth the effort because it makes me realize that I can accomplish anything in life with a solid foundation in education. *S.T.A.R.* also shows me that I have to set high standards for myself all the time at everything I do in life. I know I have to respect everyone and set a good example for my peers and all who surround me. *S.T.A.R.* helped me stay connected with school, have a positive attitude, have constructive interactions, pay attention to my work and be optimistic about the future.

Erikha, St. Rita Catholic School



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