

ALUMNI PROFILE

Gabby Reece

CMASAS Class of 2019



What have you been doing since graduation?

After graduation, I decided to go to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and major in Forensic Biology. I am finishing my senior year and will graduate with a bachelor's degree in May of 2023. During my four years at Embry-Riddle, I completed an internship, worked on undergraduate research projects, presented at academic conferences, and worked as a teaching assistant to some of my professors. After graduation, I am planning to work as a DNA analyst at the state crime lab in Phoenix, Arizona.

How did CMASAS prepare you for your future?

CMASAS gave me the opportunity to find myself as a person. I had complete control to navigate my education and take classes that most interested me. It was the Forensic Science class I took during my sophomore year that made me realize how much I loved forensics, and it pushed me to pursue it in college. Before coming to college, I was worried that I would not be prepared for all the hard classes and rigid schedules, but that was not the case. At CMASAS, I learned effective study habits, how to plan out my schedules, and take initiative to complete all my work. I have been applying those same habits in college, and it has helped me greatly. I will be graduating in the top 10% of my graduating class with Summa Cum Laude honors.

What were the best aspects of your time at CMASAS?

I enjoyed the flexibility of creating my own schedule to fit my needs and picking classes that suited my interests/goals. I was in the driver seat of my education, and it taught me how to be an independent, well-rounded person. I was in control of my own success. Another valuable part of having a flexible schedule was being able to pursue interests outside of just academics. I had more opportunities to spend time with my family and friends, join clubs around my neighborhood, and participate in activities such as sports, painting classes, and baking.

Please share some of your experiences regarding making lasting friendships, connecting with your PEC, reaching a milestone you never thought you would reach, etc.

While at CMASAS, I joined a few different friend groups from being a part of clubs or just connecting with kids around my neighborhood. I am still friends with many of them and spend time with them when I am home from college.

There were some experiences I worried I would never really have while doing school online, but I was able to have the best of both worlds. I got to join clubs at CMASAS such as the art club. I was a member and officer of their National Honor Society Chapter. My teachers and mentors also helped me find volunteer opportunities and land my first job. I even got to attend an in-person graduation that I thought I would miss being homeschooled. These were amazing experiences and CMASAS made it all possible.

I loved my PEC, Mrs. Kim Fowler, and we still talk sometimes. She was a wonderful mentor and I always felt like she cared about my success. She helped me through all my classes, made me realize that Calculus was not for me, pushed me to pursue my interests in art and baking, and even provided a reference for my internship in college. She is an excellent educator and PEC, but there were also many times when she was just a good friend.

If you were to share why a prospective parent should consider CMASAS, what would you say?

CMASAS helped me get to where I am today. I not only came out of high school a better student, but a better person. I had the opportunity to find my authentic self and gained valuable habits that I see other college students struggle to find. I was in public school for many years before joining CMASAS, and I found that students see the value of education more when they can set the terms. CMASAS provides the platform that students need to explore their interests, meet their personal goals, and create their own success.



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