

YCSD Alumni Spotlight

Jalen Sawyers
Bruton High School
Class of 2017



PROFILE

Jalen's Experiences at Bruton High School

Jalen's high school experience included employment skills training in Project Explore, Project Experience, and Project SEARCH. While participating in these programs, Jalen was afforded the opportunity to gain valuable employment skills at community businesses including Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, Goodwill Industries, and Sentara Williamsburg Regional Hospital. Jalen was also involved in extracurricular activities including football. He enjoyed being a member of Bruton High School's football team and stated he learned a lot about teamwork and commitment as a player.

Post-secondary Education and Training

Jalen had a desire to attend a post-secondary training program on a college campus. With assistance from his family, he applied to [Mason LIFE](#) program at George Mason University. Jalen interviewed and was accepted into the four year program. He moved into the dormitory at George Mason and is enrolled in classes to receive a certificate. Upon returning to George Mason University in August 2021, Jalen plans to have an apartment with roommates.

Employment

Jalen is currently employed and will continue to work part-time while completing his studies in the [Mason LIFE](#) program. He would like to remain in Fairfax after completing the program and is thankful for the support he has received from the program's peer mentors.

Leisure/Recreational

Jalen has been active with Special Olympics program where he has participated in basketball, soccer, and track. He is proud of his past accomplishments and is looking forward to achieving his employment and independent living goals. Additional information about Jalen's journey was published in *Bully Magazine* as well as an article entitled, "The Miracle in Me."