The Story of Brandon Gates at Living Classrooms UA House at Fayette

INTRODUCTION

The story of Brandon Gates stands as a great example of how Living Classrooms Foundation sparks a flame of potential in young lives. Brandon’s time at UA House has been marked by personal and academic strides, reflecting the core mission of nurturing innate talents and opening doors to new horizons.

THE BEGINNING

Brandon stepped into UA House in the vibrant wake of the Ravens’ 2014 Super Bowl win. A 6th grader with different trials of youth, his introduction to the center was a timely intervention, steering him away from early turbulence towards a path of growth and self-discovery.

A TURNING POINT

A transformative dialogue with Mr. Ebert (Former Living Classrooms Crossroads Charter School Principal) marked the beginning of Brandon’s metamorphosis. This heart-to-heart with his mentor illuminated Brandon’s capabilities, setting the stage for his journey of self-improvement.

GROWTH THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

At UA House, Brandon embraced a mosaic of programs that nurtured his academic talents, love for sports, and social skills. Academically, he rose to the occasion, earning accolades in student-led conferences. He honed the essence of teamwork and leadership on the playing field and with a guitar in hand. In the corridors and classrooms, he built bridges with peers and mentors, laying the groundwork for lifelong skills in communication and perseverance.

“EACH STEP AT UA HOUSE WAS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR ME. FROM THE POOL TO THE CLASSROOM TO THE TEACHERS, I’VE LEARNED THAT PERSEVERANCE IS NOT JUST ABOUT ENDURING BUT THRIVING AGAINST THE ODDS. THE KEY IS TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD, NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE STEP.”

Brandon Gates
EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS AND ASPIRATIONS

Determined and resilient, Brandon delved into physical therapy and nursing through Dunbar’s P-Tech program before advancing to study sports management at Bowie State. This trajectory speaks to his drive and ambition.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

With an eye on the future, Brandon envisions a space where young athletes can flourish. He imagines a facility pulsating with the energy of football, swimming, and basketball—fuelled by his own experiences of transformation from a struggling swimmer to a lifeguard and leader.

REFLECTIONS ON IMPACT

Reflecting on his journey, Brandon credits the foundational pillars of Living Classrooms and UA House for laying the stones on which he stands today. His story vividly illustrates when students are given more, mentors, and a path of opportunities, they thrive.

CONCLUSION

From a tumultuous start to charting a course for a meaningful future, Brandon’s story embodies the essence of Living Classrooms mission: enabling students to navigate life with support, focus and to chase their dreams with they need to succeed.