

Virtual Interview by Noel Maldonado Radnor ABC Scholar, RHS Class of 2024

Noel: How did you connect with everyone in the House?

I connected with everybody because I was living with them for an extremely long time. These are your housemates for an entire school year. You grow to connect with everybody. You aren't on the best of terms with every single person but that is anywhere you go... a workplace, an event, you will find people that you click with. Overall, you still have that kind of bond underlying... we all still live together and look out for each other.

A: Is ABC helping you now with college and internships?

ABC has helped me in a couple ways... first of all, you know the 7-9pm study hall? I'm telling you right now, that may seem bogus. I didn't like it – I was not a fan of study hall. I would much rather play video games. However, it instills a habit in you and it has definitely helped me in college. I can now just sit and go through 2-3 hours of straight work and knocking it all out rather than procrastinating.

ABC also helped me with living away from home. I wasn't that far from home however, I was still on my own. It prepared me for when I went to college. Everyone else was scrambling around like chickens with their head cut off. And I had been through this process already.

The last and most important way – Radnor ABC gave me a different experience going to school with people that didn't look like me, didn't have the same culture or background as me. I had to adapt and it gave me a window or perspective into that reality. Now at an HBCU, I have both perspectives. Radnor has only about 20-30 black kids in the whole school. Now I am in the majority at Hampton. It's helpful because in working world, it is predominantly white and Asian especially in computer science and I've able to adapt into that setting because Radnor ABC helped me there.

N: Anything you wish you had done while at Radnor before you left?

A: No because I think I did it all. The one thing I will say is get involved. I don't mean force yourself into a club, rather find your place and thrive in it. In my Freshman / Sophomore years, I wasn't in many clubs and sports wasn't my thing. In Junior year, I started making music -- that was my spot. I thrived and found my area. Whatever you're interested in, just go for it. Don't be scared to join a club or start a club. Being a Radnor ABC student, you are known by the teachers. You can connect with your teachers and you can get anything done. Connect with your teachers, faculty, administration, guidance office. Stay connected, network, talk to people and you can get things done.

N: Any other advice on how to thrive not just in ABC and Radnor too?

A: The most important things are: 1) Getting involved; 2) Networking; 3) Talking to people; 4) Finding your group – you don't have to be with most popular people, you don't have to be a loner. You can do whatever you want with like-minded people.

N: Once we go (to class) fully in person, will it be a better transition? Will we have different connections with teachers once fully in-person?

A: I think so... You can connect with people better in person. I don't know how it is at Radnor however, at my school it is much easier to get in contact with the teachers outside of this virtual setting. I could find them during office hours. Is it difficult for you?

N: We can message through Schoology and usually they respond when they can.

N: What clubs are most beneficial?

A: Any club that you are interested in is a club that would definitely benefit you. Computer engineering or Black Student Union may be good clubs to join. That was a club that helped me and was a club that we (Radnor ABC scholars) started.



Noel

Anthony