

Sous Chef

When describing myself, I often compare my life to a busy kitchen in which I am the only chef. I have 15 things boiling all at once that demand my immediate attention and cannot be placed on the back burner (which is already full), there is a line of angry customers demanding more and more complex dishes, there is tinfoil in the microwave, everything is on fire, and I don't know how to cook. In today's society, it seems that colleges and recruiters prefer the "well-rounded" individual as opposed to the scholar or varsity athlete they would have sought in the past. This is something that has shaped a lot of my life decisions as a student approaching higher education and has left me feeling almost cut and dry and underappreciated. I am the prime example of what one would call a Jack of all trades, constantly expanding my palate, in fact, you named it I've probably participated in it or chaired it. I have a resume that stretches to the floor and makes many of my fellow classmates jealous, however, I don't see myself in the same light. The problem isn't that I don't love everything that I do, it's that I do everything and I only have so much time and energy to go around. This leaves me feeling like my wins are undeserving because I didn't put in as much effort as I know I could have into them.

Similarly to Mr. Acacio, I too participated in everything Wyoming Area could offer. I am an active member of the Science Olympiad team, Drama club, Key club, Junior Leadership Northeast class of 2022, Cross Country team, Board game club, and National Honors Society (and that's just inside of school!). Outside of school, I am an active Girl Scout, Irish step dancer, big sister, and I have a part-time job at Blue Ribbon Dairy. These clubs have brought me so much joy over the years and I've met so many amazing people through these resources that I will never forget. I will never regret taking on as much as I did, I just know that if I hadn't I'd be much

more successful at one thing rather than mediocre at many. Mr. Acacio and I are congenious in that we both have constantly strived to challenge ourselves. I take several AP and honors classes each year and I would hop on any volunteer opportunity that presented itself to me knowing how much joy these things brought to my life. However, I abused the power of extracurricular enjoyment by taking on too many commitments at once and not being able to balance them all.

Being in as many clubs and extracurriculars as I am, I know that no matter what I do I'm always missing a meeting and I'm left feeling that working on one thing is only making someone else more disappointed in me. It turned out that having a multitude of hobbies that were supposed to make me happy only added a surplus of stress and sucked all of the joy out of the things I enjoyed most in life. I suppose that's why colleges look so highly upon kids that are able to balance multiple activities because they know the strain it puts on mental health and they want the strongest kids to be accepted and become the most successful. While taking on many different clubs and sports looks great for colleges, it prevents you from enjoying the high school years that are right in front of you. This is a concept I've been struggling with a lot. While I've been doing the absolute most, I feel like I'm not getting the absolute most out of life. Different club meetings and events pile up and cause me to miss out on time with my friends and family. Even time that isn't spent at school or at work is spent recharging from the difficulties of school and work so much so, that I feel like I've lost part of myself in the balance. Becoming an overachiever has taught me that sometimes it's better to partake in a few select activities that bring you joy than overload your life with many different activities. I've found that sometimes the more "fun activities" that you are in, the less fun it gets. So, take it from a Jack of all trades, sometimes it's better to be a one-trick pony than a no-trick pony.