After COVID-19 struck the world, the future of my education was at risk in my eyes. I knew that online school would be difficult for me as a kinesthetic learner, and I was very right. All of the pointless video calls, and the Google Form tests, had me trapped in my home, questioning if I was emotionally tough enough to handle the lack of motivation I was experiencing.

My mom's solution to this constant problem I was having was to apply to private school. I was accepted at St. Pius X Catholic High School as one of six transfers of my graduating class. I was afraid of actually going back to school after being isolated for over a year. My first couple of months at SPX were miserable. I had no friends. I attended a majority white, Catholic school where I felt like I had no connections with the people around me. I played volleyball every day with over two hours of homework without having a friend on the other line to help out. It felt like my life went from 0 to 100 overnight and it was exhausting. I was angry about having to endure online school for so long that when I started at SPX the workload seemed impossible.

Even after sophomore year, I still had issues. Making friends was tough because all of the kids had previously formed cliques. I went to a volleyball camp with the junior varsity team and was continuously left out. I didn't make the varsity volleyball team before junior year, which broke my heart.

Eventually, I joined the theatre program and made some amazing friends and received great mentorship. I had found a new passion, something that filled the volleyball gap and was excelling in it. I got a couple lead roles and found myself singing on stage in front of hundreds of people. I found ways to put myself out more and gave a speech in front of the entire student body, faculty, and staff, about 1,200 people, at the school's annual black history assembly.

Reflecting back on my three years at SPX and now a freshman in college, I understand my purpose for being there. It definitely wasn't easy, but I have received an amazing education and for that, I could not be more thankful. I learned a lot about myself and my capabilities and I believe that my time at SPX has allowed me to flourish even more at Samford and onto Georgia State.