Gabby Schibi

Ms. Miller

Advanced dance

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Baby Steps

Nelson Mandela once said, “The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” Picking yourself back up from the ground when times are hard, is of utmost importance. You have to choose to lead a better life. Lifes’ choices lead you down paths that you never thought you would travel, and opportunities will come and go, leaving you feeling discouraged and unmotivated. The first steps toward success are rising back up and pushing yourself a little more.

Dance has changed the way I live my life. I have been dancing since I was five years old, and immediately fell in love with it. Ever since I have surrounded myself with it and it takes up most of my free time. When I entered high school, there were so many opportunities to audition for teams that I had dreamt of being a part of. I told myself that I would not stop practicing until I was chosen to be on one of them. I knew it was going to be very difficult, but what I did not know was that over two years later, I still would not have met my goal.

It was extremely difficult being rejected three times from the teams I longed to be on for my whole high school career. At one point, I felt like quitting dance all together because I thought it would be easier. Turns out, that once I came back to my senses, I was fueled with energy and began training harder than ever. I was enrolled in several studio classes to further my technique. Because I was practicing 3-4 hours most days of the week, I began to become stronger not only physically, but mentally as well. To my surprise, a studio company director pulled me aside and asked me if I was interested in becoming a part of their company dance team. I was ecstatic, and soon after was registered as a company dance student.

Even if I could, I would not take away the pain and anger I felt when I did not see my number posted on the audition results. To be completely honest, it made the good moments feel that much better. I learned that hard work will always pay off, even if it does not happen the way you think it should. Dancing has shaped me into a well-rounded person who appreciates the small victories that life has to offer, and has taught me that life is not always fair. The most important point that I would take from this experience is to never quit. At the end of the day, I have grown so much as a dancer, and dance itself has helped me push through some of my rough patches. I would not trade my relationship with it for the world.