

It has been an honour to be a part of this amazing program. I have learned so much, grown into the person I want to be and have made the friendships I've always dreamed of having. I wouldn't trade the experiences I have had for the world.

At this time last year, I was crying in the middle of a restaurant because I didn't know if I wanted apply to Beyond Borders and if I did, I was terrified of getting turned down. Fortunately, I applied and it turns out that Beyond Borders was the best decision I have ever made. It has done an amazing job of preparing me for my future and has had a major impact on my academic and personal confidence. It has given me the opportunity to gain amazing relationships with the students and teachers, giving me friendships that I've always wanted. At the start of the semester, my goal was to become someone that a younger version of myself would look up to. When I made this my goal, I believed that I had more or less already achieved it, but as the semester progressed, I began to grow into someone stronger and much more confident. As I read back on my early journal entries, I feel like I'm reading the writing of a different person and it is clear to me that back then, I had not yet reached my goal. Although I may have been someone that a year ago, I would've looked up to, I was not yet at the point that I thought I was. I do believe I am now someone that myself at the start of the semester would've look up to, but I also now know that I will always be growing and Beyond Borders has given me the opportunity to grow into the right person and someone I want to be. That's why applying to this program was the best decision I could have made. Since this program has had such a huge impact on me, I strongly believe that it should continue to be offered to students so that they can also have the chance to experience all of the life changing moments that we did. Although it's impossible, I wish that this program could be offered to every grade 12 student around the world. Beyond Borders has the capability to change people into their better selves. Unfortunately, it can't be available to everyone, so it is important that it continues, so the small fraction of people who actually get to take part in the program, has the chance to develop into amazing people and make their dreams and goals a bit more realistic. You join Beyond Borders at such a crucial point in your life, the first semester of your final year. In this semester, you have to apply to university and basically decide what you want your future to be. With the type of work we're given, the freedom and trust that we are granted with, and the support we receive, it makes this very stressful point in your life, a bit more comfortable. Beyond Borders also gives you the chance to develop amazing friendships that make your grade 12 year everything you wanted it to be and more. I can not imagine taking on my final year without this program. I am forever grateful and I hope that this program will continue to grow and improve to better people even more than it already has.

I wish you the best of luck with the future BB crews, (sorry, but it doesn't get better than us). I am excited for what's in store for them and I'm excited for what's in store me. Thank you for preparing me for my future and making me believe that I am truly capable of achieving my dreams.

Thank you for everything,
Mya Leacock