



SUCCESS STORIES

from Michigan City Area Schools

SUCCESS begins with Luke Mehmeti

... HONOR STUDENT
... KOSOVO REFUGEE
... MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

Luan “Luke” Mehmeti began elementary school a world away from Michigan City, in Skenderaj, Kosovo. Six months later, in the midst of ethnic violence, his family fled to a refugee camp in Macedonia. “I witnessed a lot of atrocities as a kid,” Luke says. “But everything I experienced has made me value what I have. It’s given me all the more reason to succeed.” And succeed he has: Luke is a straight-A student whose favorite classes are calculus and physics, and his ACT score of 34 helped him land a scholarship to study Pre-Med at Northwestern University this fall.

SCHOOL DAYS: A Michigan City High School senior, Luke attended Springfield, Joy, and Edgewood Elementary Schools, and Barker and Krueger Middle Schools. “My family moved around a lot when we first came to the U.S.,” he explains. At MCHS, Luke is a member of numerous clubs and academic teams. He is also an accomplished singer, and has been involved in community theater since middle school. “Theater forced me out of my comfort zone,” he says. “It has helped my communication and social skills so much.”



ALBANIAN, ANYONE? Luke spoke only Albanian when he arrived in Michigan City; he credits his elementary teachers and ESL assistants for helping him bridge the language barrier. “I learned a lot of English by reading Curious George!” he says. Luke has high praise for many of his teachers, and for his high school. “In my classes I see so many prospering, motivated students. It’s a diverse culture at our high school, and it’s preparing us for the real world.”

SECRET TO SUCCESS: “Be dedicated, value education, and keep everything in perspective.”



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408 S. Carroll Avenue • Michigan City, IN 46360
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