

ALUMNI CORNER

Interview with Rain Hayles

One of our alumni, Rain Hayles, stopped by to reconnect with staff at MSGH. What a treat for all of us! Rain is currently living his passion, filming basketball games and travelling the country in the process. Below is a short interview we had with Rain during his visit.

RAIN, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

I currently attend Husson University in Bangor, Maine. It is pretty cold there. In fact, the family joke is that when I visit home in the winter, it feels like springtime for me!

Following my time at MSGH, I went on to The Masters School in West Simsbury, CT. I then went on to two years at Middlesex Community college before transferring to Husson University. It was during my second year that my love for film began to really take off and my business started to take shape.

I posted a clip in the summer that went viral and people began contacting me for business. From there, I began working for a basketball team called CBC [CT based nonprofit organization committed to supporting young men and women basketball players, connecting them to American academic institutions]. I worked with them for roughly a couple of years and traveled all over the country. This year, I am sponsored by Nike and able to go to all their basketball events. One cool perk is I don't have to pay for shoes!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMPANY, SPLASH PRODUCTIONS.

Two years ago I started Splash Productions, a platform designed to showcase exceptional up and coming basketball talent. At first it started as a small YouTube page as a way to highlight basketball talent in the area because there really wasn't much of a platform for CT youth and I was hoping to connect them with college recruiters. I had a small Cannon camera and just started tinkering around. I began filming. It was hard at first, I didn't have a huge clientele. I worked mostly with one client. One of those clips went viral and before I knew it people were connecting with me. It has grown immensely since the start, and I now have 12,000 followers on social media. I still touch every part of the business: it's still just me updating the page. I love being courtside, filming the action.

TIME AT MSGH, PRIMARY TO UPPER ELEMENTARY.

I started at MSGH when I was 2.5 years old in Mrs. (Kathy) Aldridge's class. I then had Ms. (Melinda) Macca and Ms. Marsha for Lower Elementary. Ms. Marsha stayed on as my Upper Elementary Teacher.

The cool thing about MSGH was that everyone came from different backgrounds. I really noticed that after I left and went on to a prep school (The Masters School) where everyone there had pretty much the same backstory. At MSGH you see "all walks of life." It also applies to the different levels, preschoolers all the way to 6th graders (at that time). When I was a 6th grader, all the "little kids" wanted to talk to me and looked up to me, it encouraged me to talk circumspectly. Everyone did that for everyone.

You can find more about Rain's business through his social media presence on Instagram: [@splashproductions2](https://www.instagram.com/splashproductions2).

Thank you, Rain, for taking the time to visit and reconnect. We'll never forget the time you spent with us at MSGH, and will always be a place you can come visit, reconnect and catch up with staff and former classmates.

