

## **From 2 years behind to \$100,000 ahead with a Scholarship to Elizabethtown College.**

Jamie Wood's education in a traditional school up until junior high was challenging to say the least. A medical condition resulting in random seizures also resulted in her missing school for a week or more at a time. Despite Jamie and her parents working hard to keep her on track, a modified curriculum and learning support services were introduced. As Jamie approached 7<sup>th</sup> grade, academically she was two years behind her classmates in reading and math and the family was feeling frustrated. As her parents shared, "as we progressed through the special education system, we realized there was no plan to reintegrate Jamie into the general education curriculum. She never would have been college-bound on this path." But then the family saw an ad for Agora Cyber Charter School, and their world changed.

In 2012, Jamie became a 7<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Agora, with the intention of returning to her brick-and-mortar school to complete grades 9-12. However, that plan changed rather quickly. As she became familiar with how cyber learning worked and began to experience the benefits Agora offered for her specific situation, almost instantly Jamie and her family knew that she was not only back on track in terms of education—but that she was also on a path to the future she envisioned for herself. Or, as her mother puts it, "It was the dedication, support and caring of the Agora family of professionals, along with Jamie's hard work, that made Jamie's dreams come true!"

It took Jamie less than two months at Agora to move from special-ed classes into the mainstream curriculum. The flexibility Agora offered Jamie in terms of completing her assignments was a huge factor in her ability to find a way to make her medication—which often made her drowsy during the day—doctor's appointments and education all work together. This, in addition to the availability of teachers to provide extra help and tutoring, made it possible for Jamie not only to stay up to speed with her peers, but to excel as a student... to the point that she enrolled in AP classes and was asked to be a chemistry tutor.

"Those first couple years especially, my math and science teachers made a huge impact. It was lot of hard work, and they understood that. So, in addition to coaching me they made it fun. Somehow that took a lot of pressure off and allowed me to learn even more and do even better in my schoolwork."

Jamie also found great value in the elimination of the distractions and required time for non-academic activities that come with brick-and-mortar schools and credits the incredibly responsible tech support for helping her stay on track.

"When you fall behind where you should be in school, it's amazing how things like students talking, study halls, recess and even lunch breaks can make it all the more challenging to get caught up," said Jamie. "Agora gave me more time and the right environment to focus on learning and doing my school work."

Despite the inherent "distractions" of physically being in school, Jamie, as well as Agora, recognize the important role that peer, and student-teacher interactions play in nurturing a well-rounded student who can contribute not only to her own goals but to her community. For all six years she was enrolled at Agora, Jamie took advantage of the many opportunities the cyber school offers for students to get together during fieldtrips and other activities. Jamie especially liked fall harvest and ice skating outings, and—just like her brick-and-mortar school counterparts—she very much looks forward to celebrating with her classmates at prom!

As summer 2018 approaches, the future looks incredibly bright for Jamie and for the world of forensics! With her Agora Charter Cyber School education as a foundation, and with her incredible self-confidence and drive 'sealing the deal', Jamie was accepted to college. She will be attending Elizabethtown College—which has given her a \$100,000 scholarship plus an undergraduate fellowship in leadership and ethics—where she will study forensic chemistry.

“Jamie has really blossomed with Agora. Her seizures are even under control, and she hasn’t had one since Mother’s Day of 2012. She’s a determined young lady. Agora saw that, nurtured it and now here she is. The world is wide open to her!”