

## Pediatrics in Brevard Scholarship Essay

My family lived in Texas most of my childhood so I became a patient of Pediatrics in Brevard just a few years ago. I was having a lot of stomach aches so my mom scheduled an appointment with Dr. Martling. She was the first doctor who ever had a real conversation with me to try to figure out what was going on. She decided that I was likely having some anxiety issues and suggested counseling along with a few other ways to help me feel better.

Counseling was really helpful and gave me an opportunity to talk through some of the hard things I was going through. The whole world was dealing with COVID and my cousin who was the same age as me had recently died. She was diagnosed with a rhabdoid tumor around her kidney the day after her 14th birthday and died 7 months later. I was having some drama with my friends who weren't being so friendly anymore and my grandmother had just been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I didn't have much hope left and it was good to share all my frustrations with someone on the outside who mostly just listened and didn't take sides.

Dr. Martling also guided me in making better nutritional choices, encouraged me to exercise more, and gave me a prescription to help control my acne. I ended up joining the color guard and winter guard teams at Melbourne High and danced my way to fitness. Last year my winter guard team won gold at the FFCC State Championships in Daytona Beach and this year I was named co-captain of both the color guard and winter guard teams.

My high school years shaped into a much better experience than my middle school years and I'm thankful to Dr. Martling for pointing me in the right direction. I think my mom found her at just the right time in my life.

Last year I started volunteering in the Pathology Lab at Holmes Regional Medical Center. I spend a few hours each week organizing and filing specimen samples. I'm planning to pursue a career as a Pathology Assistant. I have applied and been accepted to FSU, UCF, UNF, and NSU. I have chosen to attend the University of North Florida for their Biomedical Sciences department and I hope for an opportunity to work part-time, intern, or at least volunteer at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville while I take classes.