

Emma Lewis

1/14/2026

12th Grade (Senior)

Mrs. Firmage

### **Reflection and Rewind: What Beehive Means to Me**

I first came to Beehive in 9th Grade just as the new building was completed. It was my first time returning to in-person school after years of online school during the pandemic, which was a daunting transition. Navigating high school with autism meant facing constant hurdles, from complex social interactions to intense sensory input. In those early days, I often felt like an isolated, silent observer, unable to express my thoughts or communicate with others. I felt disconnected from the bustling world around me and unsure of my worth or abilities.

Beehive has played a pivotal role in my personal and educational growth, offering a supportive environment where my neurodiversity was treated as a creative asset rather than a hindrance. I met the kindest, most considerate teachers who are the reason I succeeded. Mrs. Pino believed in me when I didn't believe in myself, encouraging me to incorporate my art into my assignments. Mrs. Walloch gave me the courage to share my art with the world. I connected with Mrs. Welsh over animals and wildlife, and Dr. P through scientific illustration and science jokes. Mrs. Firmage empowered my voice by showing me the value of all communication methods, whether through art, writing, or speech. Mr. Harlow's check-ins and humor made me feel comfortable and seen. Because of these outstanding educators, I have grown from a silent observer into a student who contributes with my own unique abilities.

**Art Piece, titled "Strength in the Hive"**

I created a painting to accompany my essay, depicting a colony of bees working together to build a honeycomb. To me, this piece embodies my journey at Beehive; each bee contributes to the strength of the hive, just as my teachers and peers have been a vital part of my foundation. The individual support and collective effort create a structure of strength and a sense of belonging.

## **Bee kind rewind: My Beehive experience**

**By: Lucy C**

**01/15/26**

**Before I arrived at Beehive, my education experience and surroundings were very different. I used to be a very shy and distrusting person, who would've probably rather swim with sharks than speak up for what I believed in, or to be myself.**

**I arrived in this state and joined Beehive Academy in 2023, and I feel like saying that the overall experience was life changing would be quite an understatement. When I first began attending this school, I still was a very shy and bland person.**

**Before coming to this school, I was used to being isolated and bullied by my "peers" who alienated me because of who I was, my likes, dislikes, and even berated the place where I came from. Initially I was terrified of what was going to happen to my life, moving to a whole different country after I had already accepted a life of misery and submission to my discriminating classmates and environment, everything was changing around me; the language, the way people interacted with each other, and specially the culture was a polar opposite from where I come from.**

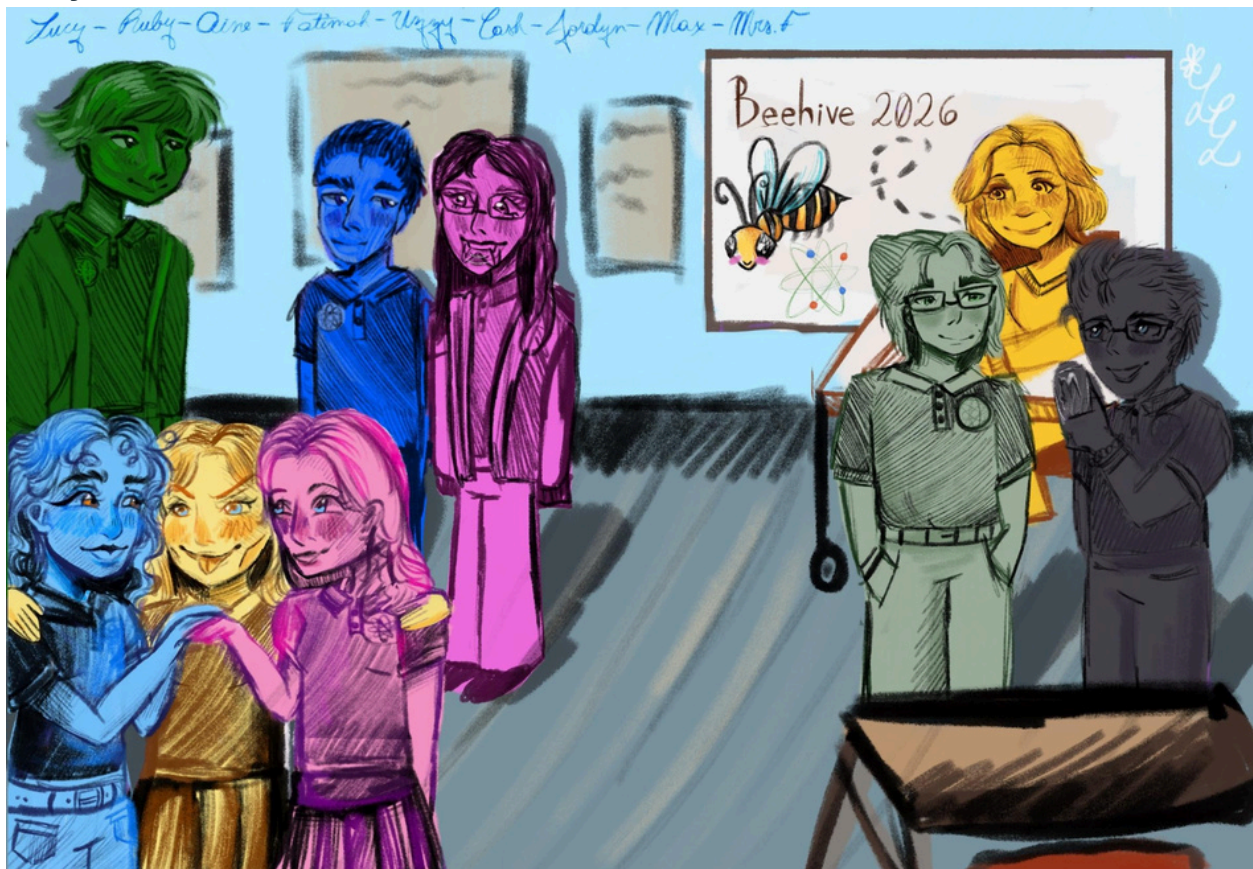
**However, in my first week alone I had already met people who were friendly enough to include me, and listen to my experience and get to know me as a person. Throughout the two years that I've spent here, in terms of the school as a whole, it has become my second family. I have met a lot of people, kind staff, and friends. Even though I never connected with all of them, everyone treated me respectfully, and the diversity of the school made me feel like it was okay to be myself. I believe that I have grown a lot from this experience, and so have my peers. I can now confidently stand in front of a crowd and present, or even perform by being my authentic self. I have improved my art skills, my history knowledge, my communication skills, and I have been part of so many exciting projects. From participating in a class debate, to performing the lead role in one of our school plays. I am now comfortable in my own skin, I've become more resilient (and very stubborn) and an advocate for my voice and what I believe in. I believe that this is all thanks to the company of my friends, and the caring staff, who truly devote themselves to teach us and prepare us for the future each and every day.**

When it comes to the future, what used to be a topic that brought knots to my stomach, now makes me eagerly await the challenges that are to come. Sure, I don't know what will happen, but I know I feel prepared and excited for what's to come. My dream is to pursue a career in STEM (or fine arts), and to come back to Beehive and be able to share my success with all of those who believed in me, and guided me towards my best version of myself so far.

From this time of my life to my death, I will cherish the memories and growth I've attained so far, as well as the heartbreak, success, burnout, and connections that have taught me more than I had learnt in the previous 13 years of my life. I will carry the impact that Beehive has caused upon me by continuing to speak up, be weird, and embrace the nerdiness I once used to hide, because that's what Beehive taught me, that being myself is okay, and that is what will bring me the most happiness and success.

“A class to remember”

-Lucy



## **My Experience at Beehive**

Written By: Jaxson Horning

Since its establishment, Beehive has been dedicated to helping students learn and succeed. From its founding moments to present day, Beehive has had a truly lifting community, one that ensures every student reaches their full potential. Beehive creates a learning environment where students can thrive from the first time they walk through the doors, through their current studies, and into the foreseeable future.

When I first started at Beehive, the experience was both exciting and intimidating. Walking in on that first day, I felt overwhelmed by the unfamiliar hallways and the sea of new faces, aside from a few relatives. I was worried I wouldn't fit in. However, the lifting community at Beehive quickly changed my perspective. I stopped trying to be perfect and allowed myself to be more relaxed. Soon, my small circle of friends began to grow, and I found my teachers to be incredibly supportive.

Building on the foundation of those early days, I've realized my time here is more than just getting through a school day. I am often reminded of the words of Albert Einstein who once said "Education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think". This quote perfectly captures my current reality at Beehive. Today, I am no longer the hesitant student navigating a maze of hallways. Instead, I am a confident 5th grader. I find myself thriving in all my classes, where I have been able to learn new knowledge. The lifting community continues to be my backbone, especially when I am feeling down.

Looking toward the foreseeable future, I feel a genuine sense of excitement and energy for the next chapter of my life. The foundation I've built here feels like a launchpad, making me incredibly eager to graduate high school, and try out culinary school. I am thrilled to see what the future has in store for me, and hope I can help other people like Beehive has helped me.

Ultimately, Beehive has been more than just a school, it has been the place where I found my voice and confidence. As I move forward, I carry with me not only the lessons I've learned, but also the lifting spirit of Beehive. I hope the kindness and support I received continues being shared at Beehive, for many years to come.

Name: Ruby Gunderson

Teacher: Mr. Morrison

Subject: writing

Date: 1/15/2026

### My Beehive Experience

When I first started in third grade, my teacher was Mr J. He was my science teacher. My math teacher was Miss Riley, and my language arts teacher was Mr Camarillo. When I first arrived, I was really shy. I warmed up quickly. My first friend in third grade was a girl named Keely. Soon enough Keely and I were best friends, then Ariaah came in. We became best friends too. Ariaah had a friend in second grade whose name was shruthi. Later in third grade, Keeley wasn't really my friend but me and Shruthi became friends. This leads me to the present day.

Before 4th grade I was itching to get into the same class as Shruthi in science class. Well I did not get in science class, but I did get into the same class as Shruthi. I made some friends: Andy, Alithini, Norah, Daniel, and Shruthi of course. Yesterday, I had Hope Squad, but Shruthi was not there on that day. She felt sick that day, but in Hope Squad we were making videos showing how to behave in the halls and making sure that the games are fair at recess. When we did it we'd show how to do it the right way and the wrong way. Then we got donuts. My teachers are: Ms Duffin, Ms Rouviere, and Mr Morrison. Mr Morrison is my homeroom teacher. He teaches math. What I learned this year is how to do times in math. I learned in science class with Ms Rouviere. I learned about stars. In Ms Duffin's we are learning about how to write essays. This leads me to the future.

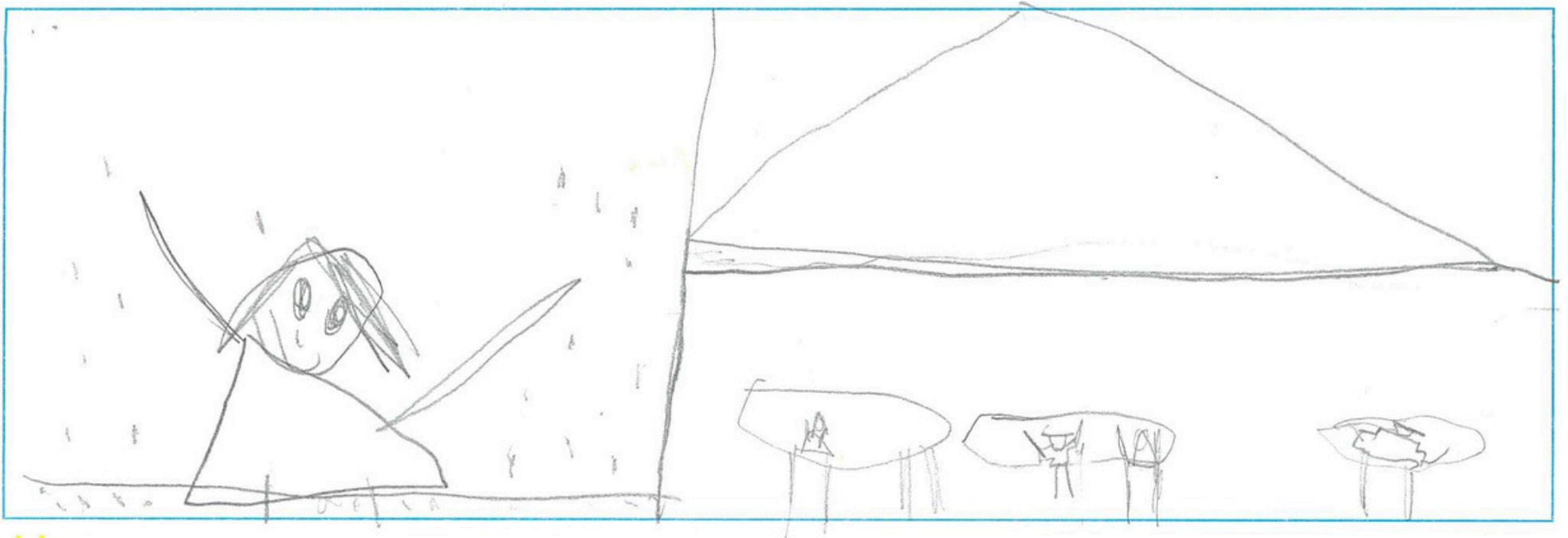
When I grow up I want to be an animal trainer, so I have to go to an animal handling class in high school. The reason that I want to do this is because I love animals. My favorite animal is a bearded dragon. I want to be a good person, so I will help animals.

How to go to school



When I first came to Beehive I Missed  
My family. Then I got it I made friends  
I didn't Miss my family and i had a teacher I love  
Now at Beehive, I'm not scared and now  
I love school. It is fun and I like math.

Next, I am excited to go on field trips.  
and get to 2th grade.



When I first came to



beehive I was nervous.



But now school is fun.



When I met Mis. B



I felt happy and excited



but now I'm more than

That