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Independent Study and Mentorship 3B

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A Rollercoaster Week

10/02/17 to 10/10/17

This was a very busy week in ISM. Between cold calling and business symposium, there wasn't a dull moment.

This week, I began the process of cold calling. On Monday, I called a total of ten professionals. This task was a lot harder than I had initially expected, and it was very frustrating to be rejected so many times. Many of the facilities did not answer the phone, so I had to leave a message. Other places took my name and number. However, there were a lot of places that completely rejected me. This was very surprising to me at first, and it was unexpected. Initially, I took the rejections personally, but I learned to brush them off and keep trying. Additionally, I learned that cold calling is difficult because the professionals do not consider high school students to be a priority. Through this process, I found it was very easy to get discouraged, but I learned that cold calling requires patience and persistence.

Even though cold calling was difficult, I was able to schedule an interview with a psychologist named Dr. Shaalon Joules. The interview is on Tuesday, October 10. I am really looking forward to this interview and I am so excited for this opportunity to speak with a professional about a possible career path.

On Wednesday, October 4, ISM students attended the business symposium at Independence High School. At the business symposium, students were able to network with professionals, interact with ISM alumni, and conduct mock interviews. This was a very neat experience for me. During my interviews, I was able to talk with Brian Shilson, the deputy chief of police, as well as Angela Fisher, the director of project management at Medical City Plano. In my opinion, these interviews went pretty well, and I was grateful for the opportunity to practice my handshake and small talk. During these interviews, I also had the opportunity to network. The professionals that I spoke with gave me their contact information and said that they would give me some contact information for psychiatrists that may be willing to interview with me.

Overall, this was a very big week for me. I finally feel like I am ready to conduct interviews and interact with professionals in the real world. As I continue to make cold calls, my goal is to be able to schedule more interviews and learn more about my field of study. I am very excited for this next week, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.