

# THE NEXT STEP

Alisa Kuwabara has something to say about leaving high school

**Name:** Alisa Kuwabara

**Age:** 17

**School:** Christian Brothers High School

**Family:** mother, Susan, real estate agent; father, Gary, state employee; brother, Michael, student at UC Davis

By Danielle Anselmo  
BEE STAFF WRITER

**R**ecent Christian Brothers graduate Alisa Kuwabara never lacked things to do in high school. Playing varsity volleyball, basketball and softball, serving as senior class vice president and homecoming princess, and maintaining a GPA of 4.17 kept her schedule full throughout the school year. Now that she's off to the real world, she has had a chance to take a step back and reflect on her high school career.

on, the better I did in school.

**Q:** *In retrospect, would you do anything differently?*

**A:** I probably would have started doing more things younger, taken harder classes and gotten more involved in my freshman year. I also wish I would have focused on just one sport, rather than just being OK at all of them. If I had picked just one, I could have had a chance at a scholarship. I don't really have any regrets, though. I'm glad I did everything I did.



**Q:** *What was the best thing about high school?*

**A:** All the sports teams – just because you build that team bond and you get to know what it's like to work with a large group of people. A lot of times, personalities will conflict, but you learn how to work through it and really be a part of a team.

**Q:** *The worst?*

**A:** Our senior year, when my whole class had to deal with the deaths of two of our students. It was hard at first, but it ended up making our class closer together. When you go through such tragedies, it helps build that feeling of family and strength.

**Q:** *What have you gained from all your extracurricular activities?*

**A:** It helps me to be able to multitask. Now I know that I can excel in the things that I try. It seemed that the more I took

**Q:** *What are your plans for the future?*

**A:** I'll be going to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. I wanted to go away from home, just to establish my own identity. I want to figure out what I want to do with my life without the influence of my family.

**Q:** *Are you planning on continuing with any of the things you did in high school?*

**A:** That's one of the reasons I chose a smaller school – in hopes of being more involved in a lot of clubs and things like that. I don't plan on doing sports. College sports require a lot of dedication and fo-

cus. I want to be free to explore different things.

**Q:** *As a recent graduate, what advice would you give to those starting, or in the middle of, their high school careers?*

**A:** I'd say that hard work gets you everywhere. I didn't always excel at testing and wasn't always the smartest person in the class, but as long as I worked hard I could accomplish everything I wanted.

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**Christian Brothers High graduate Alisa Kuwabara, who is off to college in Los Angeles, has some advice for high school students: "Hard work gets you everywhere."**

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