

The Andover Update

Fall 2018



BORN TO RIDE

Professional Jet-Skier finds home at Andover eCademy

A.J. Luinstra has a simple answer for why he travels the country to ride a Jet Ski.

“The thrill,” he says. “The speed.”

A.J., 18, has competed professionally since 2011 with the International Jet Sports Boating Association and ProWatercross. The competition schedule has him on the road for several months of the year, securing sponsors, competing for prize money and sometimes racing on national TV.



That’s why, during the second semester of his freshman year at Andover High School, A.J. decided to transition to Andover eCademy, a hybrid school that mixes online instruction with in-person support.

“It was a great fit from the beginning,” says A.J., now a senior.

The flexible, online curriculum means A.J. can complete his assignments on his schedule, sometimes working well into the night to get work done. That also means, when he’s not traveling, he can help at his parents’ business, 3...2...1... Kawasaki in El Dorado.

“It’s been a good fit for his personality,” says his mom, Bette. “He’s a go-getter. Because he’s very disciplined, it’s worked really well.”

When A.J. is in town, he spends two or three days a week at the eCademy’s eCafe, a coffee-shop-like space at the school where students can interact and receive personalized support from teachers.

He’s been part of an effort this year to create a mentoring program among students to help new students transition to eCademy. He’s also a member of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Team, is an Eagle Scout and is close to receiving his private pilot’s license.


After graduation, A.J. plans to attend Kansas State University at Salina and pursue a career either as a commercial pilot or test pilot.

His mom says the family is glad they chose eCademy three years ago.

“You can see a sense of pride in the teachers and staff — they really care,” she says. “This is a challenge, and A.J. stepped up to the challenge.”



A.J. Luinstra competes aboard his Jet Ski. (Credit: Zach Petersen Photography)



Andover Early Learning

**Parent
Information
Night**

- Learn about our programs for children ages 3, 4 and 5
- Meet teachers
- Learn how to secure your child's spot using our new application process

Wednesday, Dec. 12
6 p.m.
Prairie Creek
Elementary,
654 YMCA Dr.

• Applications accepted starting Jan. 21, 2019, for fall 2019.

Learn more at andoveracademy.org.