



Meet Brayan

Age: 17 years old

Brayan is studying at Fundación Kinal in Guatemala City. He is in 10th grade in high school specializing in electronics.

His father Ariel works as a construction worker. His mother Maria is a stay-at-home mom. He has three sisters: Julissa—15 years old, Mayarly—13 years old, and Dania—5 years old.

The family has lived in the community for Brayan's whole life.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Brayan thought studying online was great because he didn't have to travel every day to go to school (a long commute for him). But as time went by, he realized that being in front of the computer is more challenging than one would think. Not being able to interact with his classmates and not having a teacher in-person were very hard. He has many questions that don't get answered because the virtual class time is so limited and there are so many students with questions. This dynamic often creates more work for the students because they have to do research on their own and find answers themselves, which leaves them with uncertainty and doubts.

The school counselor gives them tips to not get so distracted when they do schoolwork. He told them, for instance, to take 10 or 15 minute breaks during their study time to be able to concentrate better and rest. This also gives them space to rethink their work.

Brayan is very thankful for the scholarship. Most of the scholarship funds are used for internet time. This can add up and be very expensive.

Brayan doesn't have much free time at the moment. During the week, he dedicates his time to schoolwork and on the weekends, he has a lot of commitments at church. He is currently involved with four church committees, all of them related to liturgy. He is also the Secretary of one church group. He was invited to participate on a soccer team. He said it might be good for him to participate but he wants to evaluate his time commitments first.

The pandemic has been very difficult in the community, but he and his family have remained healthy. People are being careless now and not many people are taking precautions anymore. People are not even wearing masks at the moment. Vaccines are starting to be offered, but only for people who are 50 years old and older.

Fredy is very thankful for the scholarship. Because of the scholarship he has been able to be present in his classes online. The internet data is expensive and it is not easy to have access to a computer.

He hopes that all of the brothers and sisters of St Joan of Arc are staying healthy. "Please be careful and take precautions," he said. He is keeping you all in his prayers.

