



# Monarch School

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

*The feeling of Fall is definitely among us at Monarch School.  
And as Fall brings cooler weather, more and more students  
are cozying up on a couch in the Lodge reading a good book.*

Hi Patrick and Michelle,

Daniel's short book came out in print through Amazon! You may notice in Daniel's acknowledgments he expresses his thanks to a school in Montana for being part of his journey! I put a post on the Monarch parents' forum which updates parents about Daniel's post-Monarch life and his current college/publishing successes! Here is a copy of my post:

Hi Monarch Parent Community,

Though I read every post that ends up on this site, I haven't been posting my own notices or responses for quite some time...at this point none of the current families will recognize my name (or Daniel's)! Daniel's Monarch time spanned Feb. 2011-May 2012 (prior to which he had been at Pacific Quest).

Daniel graduated Monarch days before his 16th birthday...he was a young 14 upon his arrival, one of the youngest students. Upon graduating he still had 11th and 12th grades to complete. Much to Daniel's upset, we took the advice of our very wise peer leader and solely looked at boarding schools. Daniel graduated Besant Hill School, Ojai, CA last week. His transition from Monarch to Besant Hill was very smooth. It's an alternative-style school (founded by Aldous Huxley), for creative kids, set upon 500 acres of beautiful land...but the kids have "normal" stuff like I-phones and tons of cultural/recreational/social outings. Daniel thrived at this school. Though I have found a lot of recidivism among Monarch graduates...regression into old patterns, relationships, habits...I am here to tell you current parents that with careful research (and some initial fighting with your teen), there are GREAT places for our kids to continue using their Monarch emotional and personal growth skills. In our case we feared regression if Daniel moved home, so we decided upon another boarding setting, though one he helped picked and resonated with his natural personality and strengths.

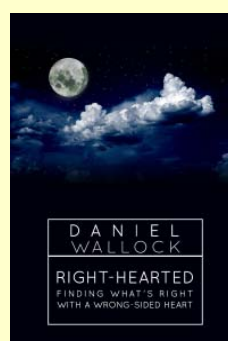
One of the most miraculous parts of Daniel's journey is his growth from an ADD, defiant, dyslexic student to a calm, self-motivated, literary young person. When Daniel left for PQ, he had never actually read a complete, age-appropriate book due to several learning disabilities and his defiance/stress. Daniel has now become a published author with creative nonfiction works and poetry in 7 national literary magazines and had his first short book published just 3 weeks ago. His past trauma, and emotional journey through wilderness and therapeutic boarding school, are what has propelled him into "telling his story" (as he puts it). Daniel was a kid who almost didn't live; he was born with 7 life-threatening heart conditions. Then he became a young teen who didn't want to live and contemplated suicide in junior high school. Now, Daniel wants to speak with struggling teens/parents and share his story; that life is precious, that people can change, and that we should all embrace positive relationships and experiences. I urge all of you to buy his small book on Amazon and hopefully he will inspire you as you travel through Monarch and beyond with your child. You can hear Monarch's philosophy echo through Daniel's voice.

In terms of what's next, Daniel was admitted to 7 private colleges with writing scholarships and merit awards (Sarah Lawrence, Lewis and Clark, Hampshire...) and has chosen another intimate setting: Marlboro College in Vermont. So, please stay hopeful, and know your teen's future can be shockingly bright!

Here is the link to Daniel's website: <http://www.danielwallock.com/>

Sincerely,

Dana Wallock

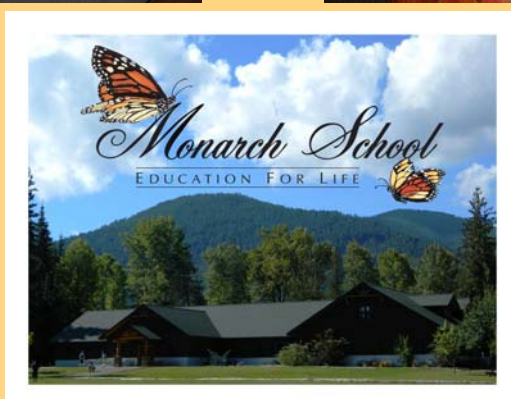
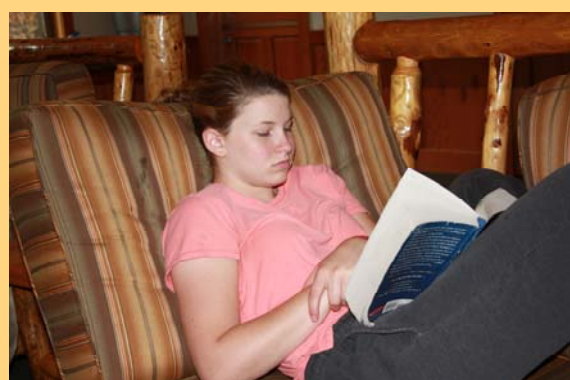
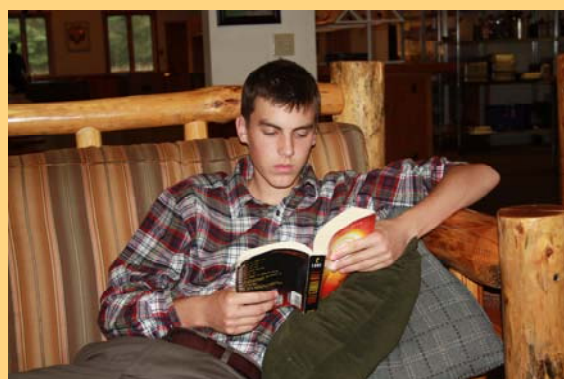


"When I first met Daniel in my classroom, he lacked the necessary confidence to even to speak in class. He was shy and hesitant, but he always maintained an air of openness and honesty. He came to me privately, expressing his frustration with his writing skills and confessing to feeling like he would never be able to effectively communicate his ideas. Clearly, even then, he knew he had something special and important that he needed to convey. I told him it would take hard work, and he took that as a challenge. He just went to work. And work he did. I have never seen anyone work so hard at learning, nor have I witnessed such tremendous and rapid change in a student's ability to communicate not just competently, but also eloquently, in writing. I've always been impressed by Daniel's thoughtful, honest nature and his willingness to share his challenges and triumphs with others, and I encourage everyone to read *Right-Hearted: Finding What's Right With A Wrong Sided Heart* and all the rest of Daniel's work. There are deep life lessons in this writing from a talented and remarkable young man."

~ Anna Boshka, English Teacher Monarch School

"There are so many ways our students are inspired at Monarch School, and the influence Anna Boshka, one of our English teachers, has had on so many of our students is evident in the continued love of writing of one of our graduates."

~ Michelle McKenna, Admissions Director



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