

Manlius Pebble Hill School

#becauseMPH Interview Questions

1) **Where are you working currently? What is your title?**

I currently work as a marketing & communications specialist for the Allyn Family Foundation and Salt City Market.

2) **Where did you go to college? What was your major?**

I went to New York University and majored in media, culture, and communication with a minor in American Sign Language.

3) **Were there any faculty members or classes that played a role in helping foster your interest in your current professional path?**

Working in communications requires a strong writing background, so I must thank Mr. Montas, Ms. Bentley-Hoke, and Mr. Preston for their English classes whipping my skills into shape! I also enjoyed my time on *The Rolling Stone* newspaper staff; to the then-advisor's chagrin, I much preferred writing "fluff" pieces on fashion to hard-hitting journalism. I was able to develop my love for short-form writing and translate it into highly effective social media marketing.

4) **Tell us about the work you do now and why it is so important to this community.**

I feel so lucky to be able to work for the Allyn Foundation and the Salt City Market because both organizations are doing good, tangible work in the Syracuse community. For years, the Allyn Foundation has supported the Central New York community and made a commitment to fostering equity amongst all CNYers. And with the creation of the Salt City Market, we now have an even greater impact on folks' day-to-day lives; from empowering first-time business owners to creating a space where ALL Syracusans—regardless of class, race, ability, etc.— feel welcome.

5) **Were there lessons learned at MPH that you have carried with you and continue to draw upon today?**

Going to MPH taught me how to multi-task and be an independent worker! There was so much freedom to choose classes and extracurriculars, so I had to learn how to juggle what I *wanted* to do with what *needed* to be done. Conversely, so many of my adult peers were used to rigid school structures, so when they got to college or work, they had no idea how to manage themselves. I am so grateful that as students, we were trusted and respected enough to make (most of) our own decisions. It gave me the tools to be able to truly take control of my academic, professional, and personal journeys.

6) **What was the most impactful part of your overall MPH experience?**

I was able to find my voice while at MPH; my teachers and friends were incredible in that they gave me the space to be myself, no matter how silly or awkward that self was. High school is a really weird time, and I love that I'm able to look back with fond memories and know that I was able to be my most authentic self at such a tumultuous time.

7) **What is a “pearl of wisdom” you would share with today’s students?**

“Listen to your teachers,” which I am fully aware sounds corny. But stay with me for a second—my teachers at MPH pushed me so much further beyond what I thought was able to accomplish. They were able to see my potential and cared enough about my success to push me to try harder, give more, and believe in myself. If I hadn't listened to my teachers when they told me I could do better, I'm not sure I would have had as many incredible opportunities as I've been able to have. Thanks, guys!