

Omar Rizwan



At Holy Family if someone says Omar, you say computers. Yes, everyone at Holy Family knows that Omar and computers go together! Omar Rizwan's fascination with computers began at a very young age, and within a few short years of his birth he began reading programming books and writing code. While attending Holy Family School, at the tender age of nine, Omar became Microsoft Certified, recognized as an expert with technical skills needed to support Microsoft products and administer networks. At age 16, Omar was writing code and practice exercises in Silicon Valley during his summer vacation for the recently established Khan Academy, whose founder Sal Khan was named among the 2012 TIME Magazine's *The 100 Most Influential People in the World*. Recently, Omar's name was added to the list of 2500 National Merit Scholar Winners for 2012. And now at the end of his senior year at Delbarton, Omar has had some very challenging decisions to make. First, he had to decide which University to attend after being accepted to the world's most prestigious schools - Harvard, MIT, and Stanford, and if that was not enough, Omar received a \$100,000 Thiel Fellowship.

The Thiel Fellowship is given to the best, the brightest, the most creative thinkers who can make a difference in the areas of science and technology, and Omar has met all of these credentials. Peter Thiel, an entrepreneur, a co-founder of PayPal, a 2004 investor in Facebook, and venture capitalist offers fellowships and extends an extraordinary opportunity to those under 20 years of age to put everything aside for two years and focus on a project of his/her choice that will make a difference in the world. The Thiel Fellowship is an incredible award that offers the Fellow time and freedom to develop his/her ideas, research, and put his/her plan into action. Fellows are networked with successful, visionary people who have made their own strides in the world in various areas of business, education, science, and technology. Fellows are mentored by the creative, the ingenious and fascinating individuals or teams of people who can guide, direct, and make learning and innovation possible in a "real world" manner.

And so Omar was faced with a big decision – go to college, or accept the Thiel \$100,000 20 Under 20 Fellowship? After weighing all the pros and cons, Omar decided on attending MIT in September, and then after finishing his first semester take a break from his studies and accept the Thiel two-year Fellowship. Holy Family congratulates you, Omar, and wishes you great success in all that you do. We look forward with eagerness to hearing what you will be working on as a Thiel Fellow!

www.thielfellowship.org

www.khanacademy.org