



Steven Carusone

Student, Class of 2002

**Interviewed by Tylor Frank
April 8, 2015**

Steven Carusone attended Staples High School and graduated in 2002. He was a senior at Staples during the attack. After high school he attended The University of Connecticut and studied business and technology before graduating in 2006. Today he is owner of Rizzo Masonry and Landscaping.

What class were you in when you heard the news?

I was in English class.

What was the school day like after people started hearing about the attack?

It was very chaotic, people running around, finding friends, sharing the news and trying to reach family.

How did 9/11 later effect that school year?

It was uneasy and not as carefree as it was prior. Also I was working at Swanky Frank's in Westport at the time and remember it affecting business tremendously.

Before 9/11 what have you learned about terrorism in school?

School never really mentioned much about terrorism. I knew very general about it but it wasn't a topic discussed much.

Once the information started to get passed around, the principal ordered the computers to be taken offline and the TV's to be shut down... Do you think that was a good idea?

Yes and no. It's important to be aware of what's going on in the world but I think the principal was doing it in order to protect the students.

Did you have a cell phone to communicate?

Yes, I did have a cell phone to reach out to my parents and siblings.

How do you think you, and kids in your grade were affected emotionally that day, and later on that year?

Kids that had relatives and/or knew someone that worked in the trade towers were very emotional and unable to really know if they were ok or not.