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Dayton Daily News

Home was where the school was for online graduate

By Valryn Warren
Staff Writer

VANDALLA — Regis Allison is graduating from high school with a 4.0 grade point average and perfect attendance — in cyberspace.

Regis will graduate in traditional cap and gown from Tri-Rivers Educational Computer Association (TRECA, www.trecaonline.org) in Marion on Sunday, but he earned his diploma online,



Regis Allison environment and definitely prepares you for college." His father, Randy Allison, now

switching from traditional schooling in the seventh grade.

"It's been a great experience for me," Allison said. "I've really become self-disciplined and self-motivated. It's an excellent

retired from the military, said Regis had the social and academic advantages of an international childhood until middle school, when the family moved to Ohio. Concerned by the challenges Ohio schools were facing, Allison and his wife, Claudia, switched Regis a month into his seventh grade year to online education.

"His grades improved with digital education," Allison said. "He was a good student before but he didn't get straight A's. I won't say it was all perfect — there were some glitches — but every year it got better and better." The cost of online education is covered by the school district in which the student lives. Students work at their own pace with instructors through e-mail and chat. Students take Ohio achievement tests at nearby local schools.

Regis logged in by 7:30 a.m. every day and typically worked until 3-4 p.m. And he did sacrifice, in his case giving up playing high school soccer. "I'm proud of him," his father said. "We left it up to him and he made a real adult decision." Regis' grades earned a scholarship to Wright State University, where he's looking forward to attending classes in a brick-and-mortar school and earning a degree in computer science. "It worked out perfect for me," he said.