

The Post-Star presents the 2022

TEEN•excel•lence

INNOVATION COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to The Post-Star 2022 Teen Excellence Honorees. We are so proud to honor and recognize these 28 local high school students. These teens all demonstrate exceptional leadership skills, academic success, and a commitment to their community.

While these honorees have unique goals and accomplishments, they all share the determination to make a difference in their community.

In this section we'll introduce the 2022 Teen Excellence Honorees and highlight their many achievements and the many ways they've found to contribute to our communities, schools, churches.

We all benefit from their efforts to make a difference.

Please join us in congratulating the 2022 Teen Excellence Honorees.

We want to also thank our 2022 Teen Excellence sponsors, Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company and Nemer Ford. With their generous support, we are able to celebrate and honor these students in our community.

Michelle Rice
President & Director of
Local Sales & Marketing

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Students demonstrating personal growth, leadership and innovation along with commitment to the community were selected by a committee comprised of Francis Coccozza, Brian Corcoran, and Robert Nemer.

Honoree Introductions written by freelancer, Andrea Harwood.

Congrats

**Teen Excellence Awards
honorees**

for demonstrating leadership,
innovation and commitment to
the community.

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Thank you to our sponsors:



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Table of Contents

Elizabeth Allan	4
Abigail Anthes	4
Cate Barclay	5
Lindsay Bauer	5
Natalie Bederian	6
Megan Bruno	6
Nicole Buckman	7
Brayden Bush	7
Claudia Calby	8
Peyton Catarelli	8
Lauren Chuhta	9
Rebecca Dawson	9
Catriona Dobert	10
Cassie Dunbar	10
Shea Fortier	11
Maggie Greene	11
Jude Jordi-Donnelly	12
Marilla Liddle	12
Madeline MacEachron	13
Aidan McPhail	13
Molly Morse-Belcher	14
Benjamin Robinson	14
Savannah Ross	15
Katrin Schreiner	15
Kolby Spector	16
Mackenzie Steves	16
Sadie Tavares	17
Elle Wilcox	17

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ELIZABETH “LIZ” ALLAN, 17, Hadley-Luzerne Jr.-Sr. High School

Liz is very involved in her church and with her jobs. At times she works two jobs at a time. She is also involved in sports and baking. She donates to worth causes, holding charitable bake sales. She is always doing community service. Liz makes every effort to bring joy to people.

Parents/Guardians Names: Marion and Roger Allan

Siblings: Michael and Jonathan Allan

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is Jimmy Reno. He's like an uncle to me. He has had some major curve balls thrown at him in life. Despite all of life's challenges being thrown at him, he got back up and continued on. Using his past to better strengthen his future. I strive for that kind of outlook on life.

Hobbies: I love to bake, run, draw/paint, go hiking, and Kayaking

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is definitely opening up my own business. Ever since I was a little girl I've dreamed of being an entrepreneur. During the pandemic I was able to start up my at home baking business, now almost 2 years later we're looking into expanding to a com-

mercial building!

School Activities: I have participated in Nordic, Cross County, Band, Jazz Band, Chorus, Select Choir, and NHS

Community Service: I love volunteering at my local church, they community is so lovely and welcoming. I help out in their kitchen/cafe area cooking and serving coffee to the congregation. I also help out in the nursery and watch the littles. When local blood drives are in the area I also donate if able too.

Person you look up to and why: I look up too my parents the most. I know its cliché, but they have truly taught me so much. From always being myself, to never giving up. They remind me every day that I can be anything I want as long as I put my mind to it...They have shown me true grit. I hope to be half the person they are some day

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Snyder is by far my favorite teacher. He retired a few years ago, but his legacy still lives on. He truly cared about his students. He listened and problem

solved all throughout the time I had him. He made such a positive impact on my life. We need more teachers like him.

Activities outside of school: I love participating in local 5k's, helping my grandparents, and going on adventures with my family.

Favorite pastime: My favorite past time is baking. I've loved to do it since was 3 years old. There's just something about it that makes the world disappear when I'm doing it. It's my happy place.

Favorite food: Onion rings! It's my favorite comfort food.

Favorite movie: My favorite movies are currently Spiderman: No Way Home, and Tick Tick Boom

Favorite music/artist: My favorite genre of music to listen to is Country! Some artists I listen to are Dolly Parton, Jimmy Reno, Alan Jackson, Randy Travis, George Strait, and Mark209

Favorite book: The Bible

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goal is one day have my own bakery in my local town/community. I'd also like to start a family someday!



ABIGAIL “ABBY” ANTHERS, 17, Saratoga Springs High School

sisters, Abby worked with an assemblywoman, political representatives and members of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. When not planning for the march, Abby and her sisters collaborate with local women's rights organizations, promote fundraising events and implement social media outreach programs.

Abby has a personal interest in climate change. Her awareness and exploration of the global issue has promoted her interest in sustainability and conservation efforts. Her experiences have evolved into a passion which she now plans to implement into her future studies and endeavors.

Parents/Guardians Names: Stephen Anthes, Jennifer Wilcox-Anthes

Siblings: Emma Anthes, Maggie Anthes

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: Amid snowless upstate winters, blazing Californian summers: The effects of global warming on our planet's equilibrium are irrefutable. Yet, in an era of unprecedented environmental peril, the prospect of understanding the human impact on Earth's stability fuels my devotion to planetary revitalization. I'm inspired by a desire to propel social and planetary interests, navigat-

ing the triumphs and obstacles of the human experience and leading the charge towards a more vibrant future.

Hobbies: Nordic skiing, triathlon, coding, clarinet

Biggest Accomplishment: In the summer following my junior year, I was hired as a structural engineer for an art-show water exhibit, transforming a basement utility room into a bold display of color and motion. By approaching this obstacle from a creative perspective, I gained an appreciation for innovative design, modifying my analytical methodology with an artist's visionary optimism.

Community Service: SNACpack, RISE against hunger, NYSMMA volunteering, Wilton wildlife field work events, local vaccine clinic check-in, tutoring

Person you look up to and why: I look up to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for her immense contribution to humanitarianism via women's rights policy and environmental regulation law alike. I yearn to encapsulate her driving defiance in the face of criticism, her resolute leadership in moral governance.

Name a teacher who has positively

impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: As my NHS advisor and teacher in both physics and computer science, Mr. Shanks has inspired me to explore the breadth and depths of my intellectual curiosities. Through a dynamic classroom setting, his enthusiasm has propelled my extracurricular interest in code and volunteering alike.

Activities outside of school: Skidmore Wind Band, Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park (intern), Saratoga Women's March, Board of Education student representative, barista

Favorite pastime: Linguistics

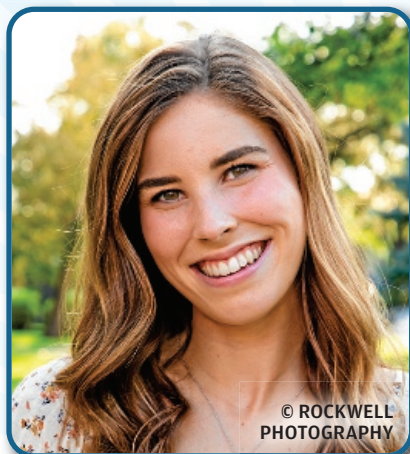
Favorite music/artist: Manizha

Favorite book: The Martian

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I'm eager to examine the confluence of social policy and environmental design, optimizing sustainable infrastructure for an equitable world. Exploring the effect of sustainable infrastructure on developing metropolitan communities, I hope to traverse the intersection of urban development and equitable global growth, protecting the precarious balance which nurtures terrestrial life.

Abby is involved in numerous extracurricular activities, many of which have granted her leadership opportunities. Most notably she is the co-founder of the Saratoga Women's March, president of Cave Geology and Spelunking Club, Sergeant in Arms for National Honors Society, a student representative on our board of education and a leader within her Varsity Nordic Ski Team.

Last year, Abby led the effort behind Saratoga Women's March, a rally event to promote gender equality and reproductive justice. In organizing this event, along with the help of her younger



CATE BARCLAY, 17, Glens Falls High School

students to participate in, Cate led the school in creating a Homecoming week with themed spirit days, Homecoming football games and PowderPuff Activities. She also led the senior girls in yardage runs and touchdowns.

The impressive and amazing thing about Cate is that she is non-assuming and does not give up. She makes things happen. When organizing Homecoming, she attended School Board meetings and rallied her peers to initiate action, all while being respectful and exhibiting incredible maturity.

Cate has evolved into an articulate, confident and caring young woman who has made a difference at Glens Falls High School. Her leadership skills have truly blossomed over the past two years as she founded the Social Justice Club, volunteered to tutor underclass students in Algebra 1, captained her soccer team and became President of the National Honor Society. She is a trusted friend and is continually trying to make the world a better place. We wish there were more Cate Barclays in the world!

Parents/Guardians Names: Dee Winter-Barclay, John Barclay

Siblings: David Barclay, Sarah Barclay Hoffman

Cate's positive outlook, mature reflections and willingness to help others is exemplary. She is a problem solver. She is a young woman who wants to make a difference in her immediate surroundings and in the world. Cate has led the student body through these difficult COVID times. She is always brainstorming creative ideas to keep the spirit of GFNation alive. She is willing to listen to the administration and their concerns, and she is always motivating her peers to embrace new ways of doing school activities.

This fall when GFHS was faced with difficult decisions on which activities would be safe for

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is rooted in the Glens Falls community. I have so much love for the school spirit at Glens Falls High School, and the welcoming members of the First Presbyterian Church. It has been one of my greatest joys to have formed connections with teachers, parents, friends, and neighbors. Because of all of the support I have received here at home, I am inspired to pay it forward in the years to come.

Biggest Accomplishment: One of my biggest accomplishments is being accepted into the New Visions Health program. I want to pursue a career in healthcare, and the rigorous program gives me the opportunity to attend numerous clinical rotations at Glens Falls Hospital and other community sites. The valuable experiences I have gained thus far have allowed me to envision my future in medicine and helping others.

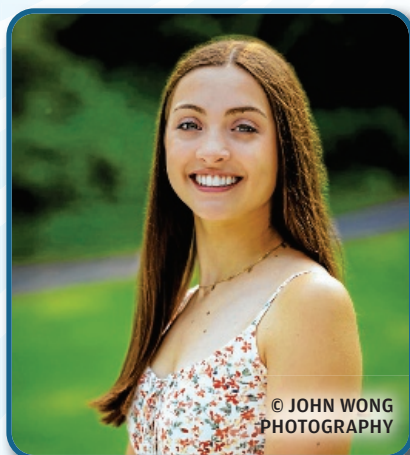
Community Service: I volunteer as a Sunday School Teacher's Assistant, where I interact with young children at First Presbyterian Church. I helped paint the 60-foot mural put on display as a welcome site for the Glens Falls region. I have also volunteered as

a math tutor, orientation leader, and other local community service projects with National Honor Society.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my Dad. Throughout his years of ministry, he has shown me the power of words in touching the lives of others. Throughout the rest of my life, I hope to carry my Dad's example of kindness and generosity in making a mark on the world.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Cormie, my fifth grade teacher, has been one of the most impactful figures in my life. Academically, she taught me how to love learning while fostering confidence that has helped me to be successful in school and set ambitious goals in the years that followed. There is truly no limit to all of her lessons that I apply outside of the classroom, such as embracing diversity and being kind to every stranger.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: After graduating high school, I plan to attend college and major in Public Health on a pre-medical track. Later on, I am hoping to attend medical school and become a doctor.



LINDSAY BAUER, 17, Queensbury High School

Lindsay has taken her musical talents and volunteered to help with the WHBI Practice Club. Her leadership extends onto the athletic field as well. She immersed in our high school musical ensembles and clubs as an accomplished musician and club officer.

Lindsay has devoted time over the past four years to donate and work multiple food drives. She is involved in the Orchestra Mentor Program tutoring younger students after school. Her consistency and reliability continue with volunteering to play in ensembles in the local nursing homes during each holiday season.

Lindsay's maturity and self-direction exceeds many of her peers. What is most impressive about her is her motivation to take the initiative to try new things, interact with a variety of individuals, and never give up no matter how difficult a task may be. Lindsay demonstrates exceptional work ethic, a charismatic personality and a desire to excel academically. She is good-natured, kind and energetic.

Parents/Guardians Names: William Bauer and Julie Bauer

Siblings: Lauren Bauer, Noah Bauer, and Ethan Bauer.

Lindsay is a very secure, stable young lady who is willing to take on new challenges. She is authentic and passionate in all of her endeavors. She is well-spoken, respectful to all, intelligent, compassionate, funny and charismatic. It is a pleasure to interact with a student who possesses such positive self-esteem, and who is humble and poised.

Lindsay upholds the highest regard for her friends, family and community. Her intrinsic motivation and positive attributes have naturally blossomed as she leads others by example.

Grade Level: 12th Grade

Personal Inspiration: Someone who has inspired me this past year is Amanda Gorman. After listening to her inauguration poem, it ignited some drive in my education. She is so intelligent and talented at such a young age and proved that if you put your mind to something, you can do it.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is being accepted to Cornell University. Of the numerous colleges I researched, Cornell was the one that made me feel the most at home. They have a rigorous program for my intended major, the college town was amazing, and it was located a perfect distance from home.

Community Service: I participate in school-run food drives and also have spent time after school working with 5th graders who just started playing in the Queensbury orchestra.

Person you look up to and why: A person I have always looked up to is my Grandma. She has taught me to always see the good in others. She believes very strongly that you never know what someone is going through

so she approaches everyone with kindness. I aspire to be able to appreciate those around me like she does.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My sophomore chemistry teacher, Mrs. Metzger, had a positive impact on my high school career. Her class was always a highlight of my day because of the environment she created inside her classroom. You could tell she genuinely enjoyed teaching, I always suspected it was because she could tell she was making a difference.

Favorite pastime: Skiing

Favorite food: Doughnuts from Birch Bark

Favorite movie: Guardians of the Galaxy

Favorite music/artist: Bruno Major

Favorite book: "A Separate Peace" by John Knowles

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Although I don't know exactly what I want to do for my career, being a scientific researcher has always been an interest of mine. Someday, I would love to be a college professor trying to inspire others while conducting research.



NATALIE BEDERIAN, 17, Warrensburg Jr.-Sr. High School

own educational growth as well as the growth of those around her.

Natalie has a charisma, positive energy and a magnetic personality. She has bloomed into a mature, responsible, conscientious young adult. Her work ethic, grit and determination to succeed have served her well throughout her high school career. She is a most conscientious, organized, responsible, motivated student, with a resilient 'no excuses' attitude.

Natalie is a remarkable young woman with tremendous potential. She has "fully engaged" her high school experience by involving herself in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Words that come to mind to describe Natalie are sincere, determined, outgoing and kind. She has an innate ability to make people feel comfortable in her presence, and always puts a smile on their faces.

Natalie is a well respected community member in her role as the lifeguard at the town beach and a fitness instructor at Cycling Studio on Park. She can take charge of a group of adults, challenging and encouraging them with a fun, gregarious personality. She is a natural born leader who walks the walk. Her positive attitude is contagious.

Parents/Guardians Names: John and Andrea Bederian

Grandparents: Chuck Bederian, Valerie Smarro, and Marge and Lyle Henry (Grandpa Lyle is an angel watching from above)

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: Commitment to achieve my personal goals- success does not come from what you do occasionally but what you do consistently. I am a hard worker and am reaching for the sky trying to conquer my goals. Consistency is key; you cannot become what you want by remaining what you are.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment thus far has been being accepted into the New Visions Health program because it has truly solidified my dreams of becoming a healthcare worker through didactic bookwork and onsite clinicals.

Community Service: Warrensburg EMS, Meals on Wheels, Apple Pie Bake, Operation Santa Claus, Blood drive, Regional Food Bank

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my dad, my dad has supported my mother and me for a very long time. Anything from traveling to every sports game to taking on a project of restoring an entire Jeep and

motorcycle (at the same time!). He would do absolutely anything and everything for me. After my mom was diagnosed with Lupus, it caused my dad to have to take on all the financial responsibility and he has done everything in his power to provide for me. My dad and I go on so many adventures and it could be the simplest thing like hiking in our backyard but we make the best out of it. He is the kindest, selfless, funny, most amazing guy you'd ever meet.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Jamie Sesselman (Mrs. Sesselman) has had the biggest in classroom effect on me as a student. She is truly a role model for what she wants every student to be, I admire that most about her. I wouldn't be the student I am today without her pushing me to my limits during 9th grade Biology.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I am committed to attend St. John Fisher College as a nursing major, I would love to receive my nursing degree, travel nurse, and eventually go back to college to become a midwife. I am a woman of strength and independence; I will achieve anything I put my mind to.



MEGAN BRUNO, 17, North Warren Central School

Outreach center as a student mentor, leader and tutor. She has been elected as a Student Council Representative by her peers all four years of high school. She was elected Vice-President of her class for her Junior and Senior Years.

Megan has been active in many school sports and activities. Her musical talent on the saxophone has enhanced countless school concerns and has earned her CASMA recognition. She has selected the most challenging academic schedule available to her. As SADD Chapter officer and Vice-President Elect, Megan has helped overcome many of the COVID-19 impacts to the chapter by participating in advertising and support of virtual events. Megan is an excellent advocate for herself and her fellow students.

Parents/Guardians Names: Anthony and Christine Bruno

Siblings: Laci Bruno

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: "The sky is the limit" is a phrase I oftentimes find myself being reminded of. Having this mindset has allowed me to take advantage of every opportunity that has come my way. With encouragement from my teachers, coaches and parents, Stepping

out of my comfort zone has been made much easier, especially for my rather quiet personality. Taking on leadership roles and getting involved in athletics and the community has allowed me to maintain a positive attitude throughout high school, as well as focusing my character, and learning how to develop strong friendships.

Biggest Accomplishment: Being nominated by my teachers to attend NY ALA Empire Girls State is one of the greatest honors that I have received.

Person you look up to and why: Ed Bartlett is a community member I have come to know through athletic events at North Warren. I look up to and respect Ed for his ability to demonstrate selflessness without expecting recognition or anything in return. He attends every basketball and softball game that he is able, and always goes above and beyond to make everyone feel as though they are capable of anything. He gives back not only to the local community, but also takes any chance he has to contribute to causes around the world. I hope to grow up being reminded of the little ways that one can make a difference in the way

that Ed does.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Therio was my high school guidance counselor until he retired at the end of my junior year. Mr. Therio has been a very influential and encouraging person in my life inside and outside of school. Having retired from the Air Force, he had been familiar with the U.S. service academies, guiding me through the process of my Coast Guard Academy application with a helping hand.

Favorite pastime: Working out/Exercise

Favorite food: Pasta

Favorite movie: The Parent Trap; 1998

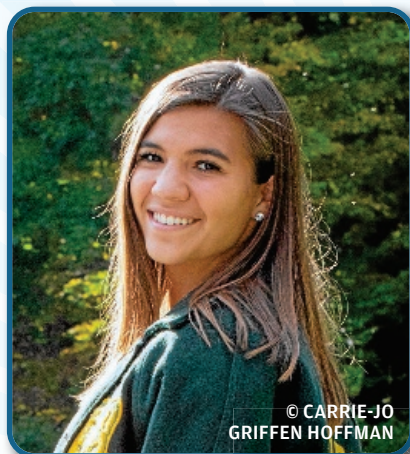
Favorite music/artist: Lauren Daigle

Favorite book: The Secret Language of Sisters - By: Luanne Rice

Goals, dreams & aspirations: After high school, I hope to attend United States Coast Guard Academy in New London Connecticut, where I would major in government, if accepted. I am also in the process of applying for a four year Army ROTC scholarship where I look to attend either Siena College or Clarkson University.

Megan has become a responsible young adult who is not only a leader in her school and community, but a proactive participant in her own education.

Megan is a dynamic leader in the classroom, on athletic teams and in extracurricular activities. Megan helped organize a toy drive for her community. She also spearheaded multiple fund drives. One was to help save wildlife from forest fires, and another was to provide clean drinking water for developing world communities. Megan has volunteered with the local YMCA



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NICOLE BUCKMAN, 17, North Warren Central School

them know they are important to her. She loves working with youth commission athletes, and coaches them on the love of the sport, proper skills, how to have a positive attitude and how to be kind to others.

Nicole has done an incredible job balancing academics, activities and athletics. Her qualities in academics, coaching and leadership will surely have a trickle down effect, and she is truly a role model for others.

Parents/Guardians Names: Paul and Paige Buckman

Siblings: Jack Buckman

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: Without a doubt aside from my parents, my personal inspirations are my peers who push and challenge me to always be my best. With encouragement as well as competition, they push me past my limits. They have inspired me to never give up no matter what and to work hard at everything I do to accomplish my goals and dreams. My peers have been a huge influence on shaping me into the person I am today.

Biggest Accomplishment: One of my biggest accomplishments is maintaining over a ninety-eight average while being a

three sport varsity athlete and participating in a variety of clubs and other activities. I have been given many opportunities allowing me to be involved in both my school and community while also accomplishing many academic achievements. Due to my drive, diligence, and determination, I have been able to participate in Empire Girls State, become a member of the National Honor Society, be president of my class, and become Valedictorian of my class.

Community Service: ATLAS Festival of Trees, North Warren Community Thanksgiving Dinner, North Warren Highway Cleanup Projects, North Warren Natural Helpers Team Workshops, North Warren Elementary Book Fair, Youth Commission Basketball Coach/Mentor, Youth Commission Softball Coach/Mentor, YMCA Leaders Club, Halloween Boo Bash, Youth Commission Soccer Coach/Mentor, Junior American Legion Auxiliary Member, Certified Teen Mental Health First Aid.

Person you look up to and why: One person that I look up to is Maria Swartz. A forever idol to me, Maria works hard in everything she does, acting as an amazing role model. She always sees the positive and refuses to take "no" for an answer. She is op-

timistic, strong, and confident, traits I strive to obtain. Maria has inspired me to work hard and be greater, pushing me in everything I do. She has shaped me into the person I am today while guiding me through my successes and failures, teaching me to never give in.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: I find it difficult to name one teacher that has left a positive impact on my life. Throughout my high school career, every one of my teachers has left their mark on me in one way or another. To name two, Debra Varsames who continues to support and encourage me every day while teaching me that I can do anything I set my mind to, and Todd Lawson who pushes me to be my best and challenges me to be greater.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goals in life are to be successful in and after college. I hope to live a happy, healthy, and successful life in which I pursue my passions while leaving a positive impact on society. I hope to continue to help others and make a difference in the world around me. I aspire to become better and grow every day, never giving up even when faced with obstacles and challenges.



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BRAYDEN BUSH, 17, Newcomb Central School

College in High School Bridge Program with North Country Community College and Paul Smith's College.

Brayden maintains a leadership role in the NCS Student Council, Youth & Government and National Honors Society. He plays soccer, basketball and baseball, and is a very strong and positive leader for all 3 sports. He was voted by his peers to be the team captain for the soccer team. He has taken on major roles in each of the school drama productions. He is certified by the Red Cross in CPR, first aid and lifeguarding. He works as a lifeguard and swim instructor in the summer.

Parents/Guardians Names: Amanda / Eugene Bush

Siblings: Logan Bush

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My family inspires me the most. My whole life I have been surrounded by driven individuals who work for what they have and are proud of it. I know I wouldn't be where I am or who I am today if it weren't for their influence.

Hobbies: Hunting, Fishing, Snowmobiling, Cars, Astrophysics

Biggest Accomplishment: One of my greater accomplishments in my life so far and one that feels the most fulfilling to me has to be when I bought my first car. For years now I've spent my summers working fifteen to eighteen hour days over multiple jobs, pushing over eighty hours a week. So when I saw my car for the first time I had a great sense of pride and thankfulness.

School Activities: I've served as Boys Varsity Soccer Team Captain, National Honors Society President and Student Council President. I've also been a part of the baseball and basketball teams.

Community Service: I am an active member of our town's volunteer fire department. Coming from a small community with very small youth population finding help for functions and events isn't always easy, so I try to stay active in helping out where I can.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to a lot of people for different reasons. I think I look up to my parents the most though. Their guidance has shaped my character more than anyone else.

Name a teacher who has positively

impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My high school science teacher Mr. Phelps. In the classroom he would go out of his way to make sure I'd understand whatever new concept we were learning. His son Zack and I have been friends since birth, so outside the classroom I tend to run into him more often than many other teachers. There's a lot I could say about his hospitality and leadership given the time and I thank him for all of it.

Activities outside of school: Volunteer Fireman, Lifeguard, Summer Camp Counselor

Favorite pastime: Hunting

Favorite food: Cheeseburger

Favorite music/artist: Def Leppard, Poison, Motley Crue

Goals, dreams & aspirations: After college I'd like to pursue studies in nuclear fusion technologies and aerospace. On an unrelated note, I like cars, and it's been a personal dream of mine to design, engineer and build a car from the ground up. It may sound unrealistic, but if we don't chase our dreams then what are we running towards?

Brayden has always been a hard-working student. In his sophomore year, he decided to pursue the New Visions Program at BOCES for Engineering. Our students have a long way to travel to be a part of these programs, and have to leave Newcomb very early in the morning to get to class. In his junior year, Brayden doubled up on many of his classes so he would have everything he needed to graduate in 2022 with his class and still be able to attend New Visions. He also took many classes for college credit through the



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CLAUDIA CALBY, 17, Queensbury High School

in world languages at an early age. She is also heavily involved in the Glens Falls Lions Club, volunteering for many different sponsored activities. Most recently, Claudia volunteered with the Special Olympics through her role as the Captain of the girls' cross country running team.

Claudia completely immersed herself in the Queensbury community, and has shown incredible growth in the last 4 years. She has demonstrated tremendous resiliency and grit throughout her young adult life, having experienced a personal loss at a very young age. She did not let that loss define her, and instead turned it into positive motivation for always striving for more.

Parents/Guardians Names: Alan and Lisa Cerny

Siblings: Patrick Cerny, Zachary Cerny
Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: One of my personal inspirations is my Dad, who fought hard against brain cancer during my childhood. He lost most of the function in his right arm and leg, which made it difficult for him to move or perform certain activities. This inspired me

to go into the field of health and by becoming a physical therapist I hope to help others be able to move more freely and with less pain.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment was becoming a captain of the girls cross country team this past fall. By being able to have this opportunity and take a leadership position, I have learned many ways to support my teammates and grow as a person as well.

Community Service: I enjoy volunteering with my parents, who are involved with the Glens Falls Lions Club. Also, through Key Club I have participated in many different volunteer activities. My favorite volunteer opportunity was having to dress up in a Rudolph mascot costume for the Festival of Lights in Lake George.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my cross country coach, Mr. Kevin Sullivan, as well as my Mom. For Coach Sully, he always encourages my progress as a runner and has so much enthusiasm for the sport. I hope to one day have a deep passion for something like he has for running. For my Mom, she is always supportive of me and

gives me great advice.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Pepper had been my ninth and tenth grade English teacher. She has positively impacted my life by pushing me to become a better writer in class, as well as helping me with my writing assignments outside of the classroom for other subjects and for colleges.

Activities outside of school: My activities outside of school include: volunteering, clubs, cross country running, track, and I was a part of a church group until I was confirmed in eleventh grade.

Favorite pastime: Hiking

Favorite food: Pasta and peanut butter

Favorite music/artist: Morgan Wallen

Favorite book: To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I am planning to major in exercise science on a pre-physical therapy track in college, as I hope to one day become a physical therapist. Also, I hope to own a house on a lake when I'm older.



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PEYTON CATARELLI, 17, Glens Falls High School

many facets of Peyton's life. He is a leader in the classroom, always prepared and willing to participate. He was captain of the soccer team his sophomore year, demonstrating outstanding leadership throughout the season.

Peyton is clearly a lifelong learner. He continues to grow in all areas of life. Being stuck with most of his high school career occurring during a pandemic, he used that time to teach himself guitar. He also volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, calling it one of the most fulfilling experiences of his life.

Parents/Guardians Names: Jason and Kelly Catarelli

Siblings: Sydney Catarelli

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration in life has been, and always will be my little sister. She looks up to me in every way, and because of this, I am sure to be a positive role model and the best version of myself for her every day.

Hobbies: Skiing, golfing, playing guitar and saxophone

Biggest Accomplishment: Gaining acceptance into and succeeding within the

New Visions Engineering Program has been one of my biggest accomplishments thus far. My prior academic achievements have allowed me to have this opportunity, and the experience I will have gained will prepare me thoroughly for higher education and future work in related fields like architecture and civil engineering.

School Activities: Varsity soccer and tennis, National Honor Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Community Service: Through National Honor Society, I volunteer at numerous community and school-related events. Additionally, I volunteer through the Lake George Youth Commission for the benefit of students and community members of Lake George.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my parents. My mom and dad have been terrific influences on me, and each and every one of my successes can be attributed to them. Thanks to them being fantastic role models and leading by example, their parenting has led me to where I am today, and I couldn't have done any of it without their endless support and encouragement.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My band director, Jeremy Bouteiller has been a great influence throughout my academic career. Not only by helping me to hone my musical skills, but also teaching me important virtues like patience and perseverance. These lessons have helped me to navigate life in aspects far beyond music and taught me how to solve any problem I encounter.

Activities outside of school: Volunteer opportunities through the Lake George Youth Commission as well as school-related events in the district, free community concerts.

Favorite pastime: Spending time with friends

Favorite food: Apple pie

Favorite movie: 1917

Favorite music/artist: Pink Floyd

Favorite book: No Country for Old Men

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I plan on majoring in architecture in college, and using my degree to join an architecture firm that practices environmental sustainability in their designs.

The theory about first-born children and their natural leadership holds true in the case of Peyton Catarelli. Peyton learned at a young age the impact his actions had on his sister, who is 6 years younger than him. He quickly realized that, "the smallest action of my own can have a huge impact on another person – be it a snarky comment, a sarcastic change in tone or even just looking at someone the wrong way. These small ripples can create monsoonal waves in the pool of emotion."

These leadership qualities translate to



LAUREN CHUHTA, 17, Greenwich Jr.-Sr. High School

Nairobi Kenya. Her research has been published online on the World Food Prize website.

Lauren says she found her voice while interning at the Water Insecurity Correction Coalition (WICC), where she was able to communicate her own ideas in this supportive environment. She sought an internship at the Morning Ag Clips newspaper and organizational liaison, where she was brought in to develop a Youth Outreach Program to bring more young people into the Vermont Woodlands Association. Lauren has seen her ideas put into action and heard her voice broadcast to others, and it has left her wanting for more.

Lauren has always been a high achiever and a go-getter. Her confidence and sense of self have grown immensely over the years. Lauren's innate drive to do her best and be involved in things she cares about has landed her in positions of leadership alongside adults and professionals alike.

Parents/Guardians Names: Suzanne Fariello, Steve Chuhta

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I hold immense gratitude for the life I live. Networks of loved ones, good health, nutritious food,

clean water, the support of my community - with all that I have been given by the world around me, how far can I go? Who can I become? How much can I contribute to the systems of love and health and kindness that I have benefited from? This is what inspires me, gratitude so strong it becomes ambition.

Biggest Accomplishment: After encountering a news article on the Uighur genocide taking place in China, I felt something tugging at me to do something about it. I gathered a team of peers and set about organizing an apparel fundraiser and a social media awareness campaign. I wrote articles for publication in local newspapers to promote the sale and raise awareness, and by the conclusion of our project our team had created nearly a dozen original apparel designs in a standing storefront and established an educational Instagram page to advocate across the globe.

Person you look up to and why: My mother is more to me than she realizes. She is everything I want to be, taking the time to explore her passions and develop her career while still being everything her loved ones need her to be and more. If I can maintain my

love for learning as she has, then no matter where my life takes me I know that it will be where I want to be.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Foote redefines what it is to be a teacher. She has promoted within me respect for others, confidence in myself, and a hunger to test my limits. She has established herself as a 24-hour resource and constantly presents me with new opportunities for personal and professional growth. Everything I want to be, I believe I can because Mrs. Foote has shown me who I am, who I can become, and all the wonder there is within that. There is love for everyone, and each day is beautiful; this is Mrs. Foote's philosophy, and it is the foundation of the life I intend to live.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Next year, I am attending the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell studying Global Development. I have ambitions of becoming a diplomat or entering scientific communications with a focus in agriculture. My goal is to serve as a global connector between people, agriculture, and our planet.



REBECCA "BECCA" DAWSON, 17, South Glens Falls High School

exceeds expectations throughout her involvement in school and community activities. She excels within the classroom.

Becca is in the top of her graduating class, taking one of the most rigorous academic programs offered at the high school. She will graduate in June with an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors with Mastery in Mathematics and Science. Her focus is on making sure she works to the best of her own ability. She has an incredible work ethic and exudes a strong sense of integrity in everything she does.

Parents/Guardians Names: Christine Dawson and Eric Dawson

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I would say that my biggest inspiration is my mom. She has pushed me to be the best person that I can be, but has also reminded me to stop and admire the beauty of life. No matter what is happening in her life, she stays kind and caring. She inspires me every day with the work that she does, and the selflessness that she possesses.

Biggest Accomplishment: I would say that one of my biggest accomplishments would be when I was chosen as an Alto II for

NYSSMA All-State in December. This was a wonderful experience where I was able to meet and spend time with some amazing composers and some incredibly talented vocalists and musicians.

Community Service: This past year, myself and two friends worked together to open a youth center in our town's Community Center. We wanted to create a space that would be safe for youth in our community to get resources and spend time with their friends. We worked to finance the center, decorate, and advertise our space, and now we get to see youth in our community come every Tuesday!

Person you look up to and why: One group of people that I look up to would be some of the front line workers that have worked tirelessly to take care of COVID patients. These people are truly selfless and have risked their lives over and over again to combat this deadly virus.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: I would have to say that a teacher that has truly impacted my life

would be my music teacher, Betsy Stambach-Fuller. She has been a constant help and safe space for me throughout high school. She genuinely cares about her students and cares about their wellbeing. She can always sense when something is wrong and does everything that she can to help her students.

Favorite pastime: I would have to say either sitting inside watching a good movie with my family, or going to thrift stores on weekends with friends.

Favorite food: I love tacos!

Favorite movie: Don't Look Up

Favorite music/artist: I love "Arcadian Wild" and "Sammie Rae and The Friends"

Favorite book: I have to say it would probably be "The Outsiders"

Goals, dreams & aspirations: To be honest, I am not entirely sure what career path I will end up choosing, but I truly love science and math and I would love to study geology and possibly astronomy. I also have a strong love of music and would love to keep that in my life as long as possible. Perhaps one day I will be an Earth Science teacher who helps an a capella group on the side.

Year after year, Becca becomes more involved in her school community. Being a co-creator of the Bulldog Zone illustrates her ability to put the needs of others above her own. Her leadership skills are seen firsthand every week when students come together in the Bulldog Zone to participate in youth activities that Becca helps facilitate.

Becca is one-of-a-kind. She is well-respected, enthusiastic, intelligent, outgoing, compassionate, and a role model to her peers. She is an innovator and a collaborator. Becca



CATRIONA "KIKI" DOBERT, 17, Glens Falls High School

community. She was one of the student chairpersons for our annual Red Cross Blood Drive this year, helping to organize, supervise and run the event. She helped students who were uneasy or unsure of the process.

Kiki has grown incredibly over the last 4 years of high school. She has an incredible academic focus, ranking 7th out of 154 students in her graduating class with a high school average of 98.02%. She has a combined SAT score of 1160, scoring between 90-99% on ever regents exam she has taken. Kiki always sets the highest example for the rest of the student body at Glens Falls High School. The school would be an even better place if more students like her walked throughout the halls.

Parents/Guardians Names: Justine Dobert and Marvin Dobert

Siblings: Marvin Dobert

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is my desire to travel the world and make a living for myself doing something I love. Having seen different cultures and places inspires me to see what else the world has to offer and see how other communities live.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment was moving schools from Bolton Central School to Glens Falls High School in 8th grade. Going from a small grade of about 14 kids to a grade of 154 kids was a challenge, to say the least. I was challenged much more in Glens Falls, academically and faced more social challenges. The transition was hard at first, but it is the best decision I have ever made. Finding a concrete group of friends and being able to push myself academically is my biggest accomplishment.

Community Service: I have done community service through Key Club, Global Leadership Adventures, National Honors Society, the American Red Cross, and the Girls Varsity Swim Team.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to one of the mentors I had on my marine service trip to Fiji, Kelsey Stone. She travels the world making a living by researching ways to protect whales, studying whale and marine life populations, and having a strong role in environmental activism. I remember getting lost in conversations with her, talking about the world and our environment, and thinking to myself how I want to take advan-

tage of any opportunity I get, just like Kelsey has. Seeing someone making a living for themselves by doing what they love has shown me that I am capable of doing the same.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: A teacher who has positively impacted my life inside and outside the classroom would be my business teacher Mr. Amberger. All of the lessons and problem solving skills I have learned in his classes have impacted how I live my life outside of the classroom and have prepared me for life after high school. While in class Mr. Amberger inspires me to think out of the box and create new business ideas. Using what I have learned in Mr. Amberger's classes, I have learned how to properly do my taxes, create a balanced budget for myself, and help in my decision making process for college.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My whole life I have aspired to leave a positive impact on this world. My goal is to become significantly active in bettering the lives of people locally and globally. I also aspire to do my part for the greater good of the environment.



CASSIE DUNBAR, 17, Johnsbury Central School District

tivities is impressive, and even more so considering Cassie works incredibly hard year-round in local businesses. She is involved in many sports, clubs and teams.

Cassie continues to grow both individually and as a productive member of our society. She is pursuing a career in health care, and will continue to travel and experience the world. She is committed to her professional, educational and personal growth. Cassie's leadership inspires those around her.

Parents/Guardians Names: Christina Dunbar, Seth Dunbar

Siblings: Ethan Dunbar

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is my mom. She has been through a lot the past few years and I want to show her that she has done a great job raising my brother and I. She works hard for what she has, and is the most resilient person I know. I just want to make her proud.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is being selected and attending the Envision Leadership program during the summer of 2016. I went way out of

my comfort zone, flying alone to Washington D.C. and attending the weeklong conference by myself. I made friends from all over the country that I keep in contact with till this day and learned skills that have benefitted me throughout my high school years.

Community Service: Shoveling Snow at the North Creek Train Station and Owens house. Helping girls Modified Basketball. Helping at different events at the Tannery Pond Center. Garbage pick-up within North Creek and Johnsbury in the spring and fall.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my Grandma, Denise Conti. I admire her love for our community and all she does within our community. From playing piano for church to volunteering her time to her North Country Singers group she seems to do it all effortlessly. She cherishes every moment spent with her family. Even at the age of 72 she rides her horse Oreo, cross country ski's and hikes. She has a heart of gold and I hope I become half the woman she is.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: A teacher who

has positively impacted my life inside and outside the classroom is my former Physical Education teacher Jill Toney. Although her classroom technically was a gym, inside the classroom she always had a positive attitude and helping spirit. Whether it was how to improve my skills in sports or pull ups in gym (which she gave up hope on) she always was there to help and put a smile on my face. Outside the classroom my dog Dax and I go on walks with her and her dog Jake. She has shown me the importance of keeping in touch with people you care about and making time for those people.

Favorite pastime: Watching Syracuse Men's Basketball, or Yankees baseball.

Favorite movie: Pride and Prejudice

Favorite music/artist: Lumineers and Mumford and Sons.

Favorite book: The "After" series by Anna Todd

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goal in life right now is to graduate college debt free. I dream to travel across the world with my dog Dax and find something that makes me genuinely happy.

Cassie is a leader in the classroom, on the soccer pitch, basketball court and softball field as well as in our music program and in our hallways. Cassie takes her commitments and responsibilities seriously. She leads the way for others. She has mentored and led young students through the Natural Helpers program. She has been the president of many clubs, as well as her class. Cassie's energy and commitment to lead and serve are a model for our students and those around her.

Cassie's involvement in extracurricular ac-



SHEA FORTIER, 17, Greenwich Jr-Sr. High School

honest, humble, extremely hard-working, and endlessly polite and pleasant. She just lives this way. She does what is right because doing what is right matters to her. Beyond simply being her wonderful self, Shea gives back to her love of dance by volunteering to teach the beginner Irish Step Dance classes.

This year, Shea gave a speech at the induction of this year's National Honors Society members on the value of quiet leaders. She is a poster child for a quiet leader herself.

Shea has a focus on personal growth and a thirst for knowledge. She has grown to value education for the sake of education. She seeks out knowledge. She wants to understand and know how. She wants to be informed.

Parents/Guardians Names: Nicole and Sean Fortier

Siblings: Jackson Fortier

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am inspired by my past experiences. It is very important for me to frame what has happened in the past, along with events or actions that I have no ability to change, in the correct light for me to move forward. In my life there have been crucial moments that have shaped who I am

today, and I learn from these experiences to propel myself forward, using the past to positively impact my future, rather than hold me back. My past experiences, framed in an appropriate context, are what inspire me.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment has been earning the position of my school's Girls Varsity Tennis Team Captain. I have been on this team since seventh grade, improving my skills, form, and technique each year. Most importantly, however, has been the growth of my leadership skills. Progressing from a just a shy beginner five years ago to Team Captain and Team First Seed, I have loved leading this team from practices to matches. Maturing on the court all six seasons, I am so proud that I have earned the position of Team Captain.

Community Service: Holiday Lighted Tractor Parade and Breakfast with Santa. During my freshman and sophomore years, I volunteered weekly with the nonprofit food pantry, Comfort Food Community, that packages and delivers food to local families in need.

Person you look up to and why: Someone who I have always looked up to is my

Irish Dance teacher, Darcy May. As I reflect on my eleven years spent Irish Dancing, I am so grateful to have the opportunities and experiences that have been made possible only through the dedication and commitment from Darcy. Pushing my peers and I to achieve the goals that she knows are possible, while simultaneously caring so deeply about each of us has set an example that I have always looked up to and admired.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: As my English teacher, Mr. Nevins has shown me the power of using and learning from my mistakes to constantly improve, if I am dedicated to doing so. As my Computer Science teacher, Mr. Nevins shows my classmates and I the importance of collaborative effort daily. As someone who is passionate about topics in varying fields of study and has had multiple careers, Mr. Nevins sets an example for me that I am able to explore my many passions throughout my life.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I dream of finding a job that motivates me each day and that I am passionate about.



MAGGIE GREENE, 17, Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School

interests involve the performing arts, and she regularly graces the stage of concert band and choral concerts as well as high school musicals.

Maggie possesses a natural resiliency that, unfortunately, has been severely tested over the years. These experiences have taken Maggie to deeply painful places, but she has surrounded herself with the support and resources.

Academically, Maggie has always demonstrated that she values her education. She has charted a path throughout high school that includes many of the most rigorous AP, dual-enrollment college courses. This hasn't always been easy for her, but it has allowed her to hone many disciplines that will serve her well in life – perseverance, seeking help, managing her time, and staying organized.

Maggie is a performer at heart. She loves the stage and she loves to entertain. She is a valuable and positive member of the student body, serving as a remarkable role model. She adds tremendously to the classroom space, stage and community.

Parents/Guardians Names: Jill Greene

Siblings: Joy Greene

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My father George Greene has been my inspiration for my whole life because he was the best father I could have ever had, and my best friend. His whole entire life he had been a hard worker from enlisting in the Marines right out of High School to running a successful business with his family for over 50 years. He was a beloved and respected Lake George local business owner but passed away four years ago. Even though I only knew him for fourteen years, he made me the best version of myself that I am today.

Biggest Accomplishment: I have performed in about 16 shows from St. Mary's St. Alphonsus productions, SMSA players, Lake George Youth theater, and Lake George Drama Club. For the majority of these shows I have been an ensemble or chorus, but through years of hard work and dedication I was able to get the lead for my senior show of "Mamma Mia". This moment proved to the little 11 year old me that started theater with no experience, that anything is possible with diligence and commitment.

Community Service: From a very young age, I have loved every animal big and small

but I spent most of my childhood with dogs. While my father ran Roaring Brook Ranch a dog group would come annually called Canine Camp Getaway of NY, and I would volunteer to help with the dogs.

Person you look up to and why: I have worked with Michael Luce for 5 years now, with Lake George Youth theater, SMSA Players, and LG Drama Club. Mr. Luce and I quickly became friends, because I would volunteer to help with stage set up during the school day or offer to help create the magic that is theater. Mr. Luce is a well-respected member of the community and has been my role model for many years now, and I am lucky to know him.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Roger Wells teaches Earth Science and Physics at LGHS and he is my favorite teacher. In the classroom, he makes jokes and is always upfront with his expectations. He is a kind soled person, who has taught me how to be a better student in school and a better person in life.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I dream to be a Veterinarian to help animals

Maggie possesses a personality that is energetic, engaging and seeking to positively impact those around her. She willingly assumes leadership positions in both formal and informal ways.

Beyond positional titles, Maggie is an initiator and an eager participant of her activities. She is willing to invest significant time in her chosen activities.

In general, Maggie adds an infectious, positive energy to her chosen activities. She is gregarious and eager to help. Many of her long-term



JUDE JORDI-DONNELLY, 17, Queensbury High School

community. He makes every effort to be a positive influencer every day. Academically, Jude's transcript tells a story of a young man who challenged himself all the way back in 8th grade when he could start taking high school level classes.

As the Boys' Soccer team captain, Jude was pushed in new ways this year in the area of leadership and accountability. Jude stepped up to take responsibility in holding himself accountable for the actions of his teammates. He leaned on the support of his coaches and other adults to navigate and lead his teammates. It impacted his growth as a leader in great ways.

Jude is the type of young man who says hello every time you see him in the hallway or when he enters the classroom. He always says, "Have a good day" or "Have a good weekend". Jude is a respectful young man to all he interacts with on a daily basis.

Parents/Guardians Names: Myles Donnelly, Kirsten Jordi

Siblings: Aidan Jordi-Donnelly, Finn Jordi-Donnelly

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I would like to pursue a career in film production and gradu-

ate with a minor in French language.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment was captaining the varsity soccer team during my senior season. I watched my older brother captain the team during his senior year, and so it was always a dream of mine to be captain one day.

Community Service: I help to deliver meals for the Meals On Wheels service during the summer and school breaks. I also helped coach the Queensbury Parks and Recreation soccer program with the Queensbury High School soccer team, and I enjoy spending time helping the Queensbury Community Scholarship Association with media management and fundraisers.

Person you look up to and why: The person I look up to the most is my older brother Aidan. The commitment and motivation that he puts into every aspect of his life has always been incredibly inspiring to me. He is someone that can pick himself up anytime he gets knocked down, and he always strives to be the best in anything he is involved in. He is a natural leader, very intelligent, is compassionate, and is a great brother. His mindset and perseverance are things I aspire

to replicate as I enter adulthood.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: A teacher that has positively impacted my life is Mrs. Vartuli. She has become more than a teacher to me, she is my mentor. She has taught me everything I know in the field of media production, and she is one of the biggest reasons I want to pursue a career in film production. She helped me to realize and nurture my dream, and she has been supporting me since my very first day of high school.

Favorite pastime: Sitting down to eat dinner with my family every night.

Favorite food: Sushi and pizza

Favorite movie: The Grand Budapest Hotel, directed by Wes Anderson

Favorite music/artist: Tyler, The Creator

Favorite book: Jurassic Park, by Michael Crichton

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I would like to work in the film industry as a director, writer, cinematographer, or all of the above. I would also love to live in a city, and not have to own a car.



MARILLA LIDDLE, 16, Indian Lake Central School District

Marilla is unique in the way her leadership development occurred. She has always been studious and reserved. She was never a follower, and did her own thing whether it was popular or not. She stayed to herself, did well academically and did not get caught up in school drama. In high school, Marilla has enjoyed success in her academics as well as on the ball field.

Marilla is kind and pleasant. She listens to everyone's ideas, but at the same time will not allow unproductive side conversations among the clubs and groups she leads.

Marilla's positive impact on the community goes beyond the school building. She is selfless when it comes to leaving her mark. She is just one of those kids that is involved at almost every opportunity. Her leadership goes above and beyond.

Parents/Guardians Names: Donald and Elisabeth Liddle

Siblings: Charlotte Liddle, Riley Liddle

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am personally inspired by many of my teachers. They show kindness towards their students and have

patients with them. This inspires me to be patient with people and help them if they need it. I also see how my teachers help the students and give them one on one time in order to further their learning. I help out in the elementary classrooms and they inspire me to be patient when helping elementary kids one on one.

Hobbies: I like to go on hikes with my family. We do a lot of local hikes. I also like to go hiking with my grandparents. I also enjoy riding my bicycle.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is taking college level classes in high school. This has pushed me to work harder and prepare for college. This has also helped me to strategize how to plan my free time.

School Activities: I am involved in soccer, basketball, and softball. I am also involved in big buddies, student council, band, and jazz band. I also help out in the elementary classrooms.

Community Service: I have done roadside clean up, elementary study club, open house volunteer, and Salvation Army bell

ringer. I have also helped with the announcements at school and put kindness notes around the school.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to a lot of my teachers at school. They teach me to be patient with people. I see how patient they can be with students who may be struggling with school work. They also teach me how to be kind to everyone. They teach me that you never know what someone is going through and that even a little act of kindness can make someone's day better.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Hoag is a teacher that has positively impacted me. She teaches me to be kind and patient when I work with the elementary students. She also has shown me how to be patient with other people outside of school.

Favorite pastime: My favorite past time is listening to music.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goals are to go to college and get a degree in childhood education. With that degree I hope to be an elementary teacher.

It has been rewarding to watch Marilla throughout her entire school career at Indian Lake Central School. She has grown from a very quiet child to the absolutely amazing, confident and poised young lady she is today.

Marilla is never attention seeking, nor does she do things to be noticed. Throughout elementary and middle school, it was safe to say she was very shy, opening up to few classmates but largely remaining very quiet and focused. As the middle school years went on, Marilla blossomed as a scholar, athlete and leader.



© MINDY LAVINE

MADELINE “MADDIE” MACEACHRON, 17, Queensbury High School

Community and family go hand in hand with Madeline. She is a standout for her level of commitment to the community, serving in so many different facets. She is a highly motivated and tireless worker that positively contributes to her classes as a quiet leader who always assists her peers. She is a young woman who values her education and is an academic risk taker.

Outside of school, Maddie has shown her commitment to her community through work in her church. She is a junior deacon and assists in getting donations, putting together and distributing meals for the needy and helping others any way they need. She is a young woman who is community focused and determined to help make a difference in this world. She takes every opportunity to education herself not only to better herself but also to help make a difference.

Parents/Guardians Names: Scott and Michele Maceachron

Siblings: Katie Maceachron and Alexis Bryant

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I grew up with the Harry Potter books and movies, and I've al-

ways found Emma Watson really inspiring. I love how she uses her platform and her intelligence to help others.

Hobbies: I enjoy reading, listening to music, volunteering, and hanging out with friends and family!

Biggest Accomplishment: I think my biggest accomplishment so far is being in the top ten because for years, I worked really hard to achieve grades I would be proud of even when the classes would get stressful.

School Activities: My school activities include the Quiz Bowl team, Chamber Orchestra ensemble, cross country, Teen Advocacy Group, National Honors Society, and Spanish National Honors Society.

Community Service: For our CAS Project, my friend Kate McDermott and I organized about twenty crates of food donations for the Backpack Program. Through my church, I do a lot of volunteer work such as helping pick up and deliver 60 turkeys to those in need for Thanksgiving, bagging food for the food drive during the Easter season, and organizing at home Communion for the elderly.

Person you look up to and why: I re-

ally look up to Ali Trowbridge, the pastor at the church I go to. She is such a genuine and kindhearted person and she inspires the same kindness in those around her. Every time I talk to her, it puts me in a better mood and reminds me of the kind of person I want to be. She is definitely a blessing to have in my life!

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Verheyen has taught me so much over the years in the school orchestra and Chamber orchestra, but also has taught me about life in general. He is so positive and passionate about what he does, and I am really looking forward to Chamber's upcoming trip to Disney with him!

Favorite pastime: Reading

Favorite food: Pasta

Favorite music/artist: Taylor Swift

Favorite book: The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I am planning on majoring in applied psychology at Boston College, where I hope to use my education in psychology to positively impact those in my community.



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AIDAN MCPHAIL, 17, Greenwich Jr.-Sr. High School

championship football team. The younger kids watch him and learn about dedication and hard work. When Aidan heard a senior “blame” an 8th grader for a tough loss during last year's baseball season, Aidan spoke to the older player about the concept of “team”, and had him apologize directly to the younger player. Aidan sticks up for the underdog.

Aidan does his best every day. He fosters the ideals that are most important. Others want to be like him. He is deeply caring, trustworthy, generous of spirit, honest and mature. He volunteers on Saturdays and overnight shifts for the local rescue squad – not too easy to do as a 17 year old.

Aidan has fun with his peers, but will often take time out to go help an elderly neighbor with shoveling, raking or mowing. He has made high honor roll each and every quarter since 7th grade, which is a remarkable achievement won with consistency and drive.

Parents/Guardians Names: Amy and Todd McPhail

Siblings: Older brother: Derek McPhail

Grade Level: Senior

Personal Inspiration: My personal in-

spiration is all the police officers out there working hard every day to keep the people of the towns/cities they work in safe and happy. They inspire me to treat everybody with kindness and also inspired me to want to become a police officer just like my father, grandfather, and uncles.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment in my life was hitting a walk-off home run in one of my varsity baseball games against Mechanicville High School. This was in the bottom of the eighth inning and the game was tied one to one.

Community Service: I volunteer at the Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad. I respond to calls when people are in need of help in their medical emergencies. I help transport the person to the hospital and help them get the care that they need.

Person you look up to and why: A person that I look up to is my father Todd McPhail. My dad is a New York State Trooper and is a part of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations Unit. My father has told me so many stories and things that he has done at work that inspire me to want to help people and care for people. That

is one of the biggest reasons on why I want to become a NY State Trooper and why I volunteer at the Easton-Greenwich Rescue Squad.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Economics teacher Dawn Slater. She has impacted me greatly because she has taught me so many good techniques about money and life skills about how to spend/invest that money and how this all works which makes me smarter and will make me into a more successful person someday.

Favorite pastime: My favorite pastime was being on a travel baseball team and being able to play in other states such as Delaware and having the great experiences and memories with my friends on my teams.

Favorite food: Italian food such as Chicken Parmesan or Chicken Alfredo

Favorite movie: Fast and Furious movies

Favorite music/artist: Luke Combs

Favorite book: Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goal/dream is to become a New York State Trooper and be a part of their K-9 Unit.

Aidan has always fit in and been a favorite among his peers. He is just a good human being, treating everyone with courtesy and respect. He has always cared about others, his family, his schoolwork and keeping fit by playing competitive sports. Discipline and responsibility have always been two of his most prominent qualities. He is looked up to by all because of his honesty, humility and work ethic.

Aidan takes no short cuts and never is anything but even-keeled and fair minded. He is captain of the school's undefeated sectional



MOLLY MORSE-BELCHER, 17, Greenwich Jr.-Sr. High School

summer camps, theater camps, and outdoor park camps as both a counselor and a student. You will find her on stage in theater productions and chorus concerts. Not only is she involved in many activities, you will often find her at the head of the decision making and/or facilitating of the initiative.

Molly has always been aware of the world around her and is seemingly aware of her ability to play a part in it all. At 8 years old, she asked that all her birthday party attendees donate to save illegally hunted sharks. In 1st grade she gave a speech to her class about shark fins and the mistreatment of sharks. This was not an assigned class project, just something she initiated herself. Molly is not content being blind or ignorant to the struggles of others or the injustices of our world.

Parents/Guardians Names: Kate Morse & William Belcher

Siblings: Finn Morse-Belcher

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is Jane Goodall, who created and pioneered the most inclusive definition of conservation. Since I was a kid reading books about her, I have always admired her intel-

ligence and the heart she puts into her work to this day.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is learning how to grow into the person I want to be during a pandemic. Being able to reignite my interests and work towards my goals in a situation that is completely foreign has been a great accomplishment for me.

School Activities: I am the president of Greenwich's chapter of National Honor Society and the president of Equality Club. I participate in many activities related to singing, such as varsity choir and the musical. I was the lead in Cinderella as a sophomore. I am also active in FBLA and I am the editor of the school newspaper, The Witches' Brew.

Community Service: I volunteered at the Comfort Food Community Backpack Program to pack backpacks of food for those in need for 2 years, and I volunteer as a camp counselor at Hudson Crossing's SOAR Camp every year. I also volunteer with my church (Bottskill Baptist Church).

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my mother because of her creativity and her ability to create positive change in

her community. She is always pursuing new ways to help others, and she has always taken charge of what she wanted in life.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My eighth grade English teacher, Mrs. Bristol, positively impacted my life in all areas by encouraging my love for English. She inspired me to take chances and write in a way unique to myself. She has continued to support me throughout my high school career by working with me on the school paper for many years.

Favorite pastime: My favorite pastime is traveling.

Favorite food: Pineapple

Favorite movie: Edward Scissorhands

Favorite music/artist: I enjoy folk music, such as music by Bob Dylan and Phil Ochs.

Favorite book: East of Eden by John Steinbeck

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I hope to study English and wildlife conservation in college. I want to make a positive impact on the world in whatever way I can, and continue to make new friends wherever I go.



BENJAMIN "BEN" ROBINSON, 17, Queensbury High School

trepidation. He is naturally smart, an articulate speaker and a voracious reader.

For example, Ben was invited to join the Queensbury Chapter of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) early this fall. The NCBI is an international leadership organization that provides training in diversity, equity and inclusion. Ben is a great young man who is a positive ambassador of young people in today's ever changing and challenging social climate.

If you examine Ben's extracurricular involvement, it is evident there is a variable tying his allegiances together in a unifying and meaningful way – social justice and social expression. He is a thinker who gets involved in activities that have the greatest chance in making an impact on "the greater good" of society. Ben is bright, enthusiastic, an "out of the box" thinker, open minded and passionate in all he does.

Parents/Guardians Names: Jennifer Robinson

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I tend to be goal-driven and future-oriented when it comes to

school work and outside activities.

Biggest Accomplishment: I received one of the presidential awards given at Queensbury High School. I also created a club at Queensbury focused on educating classmates about how our government works at the local, state, and federal levels.

School Activities: I am the founder of Mock Congress, the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper The Spartan Scoop, the editor-in-chief of the school literary magazine Seeing Blue, and a member of several other clubs. I also held an internship with a local attorney over the summer of 2021 and volunteered several times a week at Liberty House Foundation.

Community Service: Most of my community service has been through the Liberty House Foundation. As a volunteer, I would help out with any chores or chaperoning and helped out as needed.

Person you look up to and why: My idols include Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Viola Davis, Oscar Wilde, Joan Didion, and more. These people have all had huge impacts on the world, whether it was through art or another

means of activism, and I aspire to their level of passion and perseverance.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Austin Cowper was my 11th grade IB English year 1 teacher and has since been one of the most impactful and important figures in my life.

Activities outside of school: I like to play tennis and volunteer around the community.

Favorite pastime: Reading

Favorite food: Sushi

Favorite movie: Kill Your Darlings

Favorite music/artist: Lorde

Favorite book: On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I have always dreamed of a career in the visual arts, whether it will be entertainment law, graphic design, or gallery curation; I'm not sure exactly what I will do. However, I know I'll end up in an arts-based field. I also really want to impact whatever community I end up being a part of. I have always been an activist in one way or another, and that will always be a piece of who I am.

Ben thrives in a natural and stimulating learning environment, in which like minds explore, debate, and inquire. He is a student who doesn't just accept fact as truth – rather, he challenges outcomes until he is satisfied with the result.

Ben does not join something just to be a member. His brain is full of ideas and energy to such a degree that he soon finds himself in leadership roles. Ben is quite verbal, has a strong sense of opinion and has the ingenuity to take on something new without fear or



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SAVANNAH ROSS, 17, Whitehall Jr.-Sr. High School

with the community fish fry. She also helps with the local Elks Club, with the monthly community Sunday dinners. She is active with Adopt a Family and the Teddy Bear Project.

Savannah has been able to handle a large academic workload, a full slate of civic responsibilities and a gamete of school extracurricular activities with grace. This poise comes from years of tenacity and perseverance that have helped mold her. Her academic growth has been impressive. She has been a model student and community member. The school hallways are better for having her in them.

Parents/Guardians Names: Sue Hurlburt & Lyle Hurlburt/Scott Ross & Charlene DiResta

Siblings: Alexander Hurlburt

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: Being a positive role model in my community is what personally inspires me. I want to be someone who kids in the community can look up to or ask for advice, especially my younger brother. Recently, a younger Girl Scout was asking for advice about a project she was hoping to begin. It was very inspiring to me that someone felt that I was a role model to them.

Biggest Accomplishment: I recently earned my Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can receive. For this project, I wanted to provide children with knowledge about the environment and its importance. I worked with a local artist/woodworker to create displays about animals that can be seen in our local area. These displays were installed at the Whitehall Recreational Center for the community to see and enjoy. In total, the project took around a year to complete, so I was very excited when I officially achieved my Gold Award.

Community Service: I volunteer at various community benefit events such as basket raffles and dinners. I also volunteer at the Elks Lodge and American Legion events.

Person you look up to and why: The person I look up to is my mother, Sue Hurlburt. Even on days when she's tired, she still gives 100%, which inspires me to do the same. She always works hard to make sure my brother and I get everything we want/need. Although we both have crazy school and sport schedules, she always makes sure we get where we need to. She has always gone above to support me with every goal I have had, and many of

them I would not have been able to achieve without her.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: All of my teachers have had a positive impact throughout my years in school. The teachers who I feel have had the most impact in my life are Mrs. Borden (Kindergarten) and Mrs. Parrott (2nd grade). I feel that both of these teachers helped me develop an interest in learning. Although I am no longer their student, they continue to support me with my goals.

Favorite pastime: I enjoy shopping. In the summer I like to spend time at the beach.

Favorite food: Spaghetti

Favorite movie: Spider-Man: No Way Home

Favorite music/artist: Ed Sheeran

Favorite book: I have too many favorites to pick just one book. However, my favorite author is John Green.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: After high school my goal is to become a dental hygienist. I would first like to begin by getting a certification in dental assisting and work my way up to hygienist or further.



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KATRIN SCHREINER, 17, Hadley-Luzerne Jr.-Sr. High School

others to get a job done well the first time.

In all that Katrin does, she applies determination, excellence, and positive energy. She is very well rounded, with a long list of extracurricular activities.

Travelling to Saga City, Japan in 2019 for a 2-week student exchange program, Katrin gained tremendous perspective on Japanese culture, school and family life. She lived with a Japanese family and attended Japanese school. She even learned a little Japanese language.

Despite the challenges of online COVID learning, Katrin never gave up on the school's precalculus course. In particular, she often outlined the chapters in the book to help both herself and her fellow students, giving her classmates study material as they faced the challenges of college level exams. Katrin portrays maturity, a positive attitude, kindness and an impressive work effort.

Parents/Guardians Names: Deborah Nordyke and Curtis Schreiner

Siblings: Jon Schreiner and Erik Schreiner

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am inspired by my friends and how they always seem to make me smile!

Hobbies: I have lots of fun while doing art and animation, skiing, reading, running, and hiking.

Biggest Accomplishment: My greatest physical accomplishment would have to be completing the Northville Lake Placid Trail, and my greatest mental one would be how much I have improved in mathematics.

School Activities: I have participated in Math Honor Society, National Honor Society, Student Government, Cross Country Running, Cross Country Skiing, Tennis, and I am the secretary of my class.

Community Service: Red Cross, Roadside pickup, Billy Martin's circus, car washes, Adopt a soldier, Northville Elementary School Field Day, Babysitting, Parent-Teacher night, Math fun night.

Person you look up to and why: My broth-

ers! (I can't pick just one of them) They have always been super smart and hardworking!

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My former math teacher Mrs. Love. From NYC to Japan Mrs. Love has always been an inspiring and amazing person to be around. She is hardworking and she makes learning math fun!

Activities outside of school: Outside of school, I enjoy biathlon, hiking, running, biking, skiing, and taking care of my many pets.

Favorite pastime: I enjoy art of all kinds, but I like digital art the best.

Favorite food: Salmon (If I'm being honest I love all food)

Favorite movie: Howl's Moving Castle

Favorite music/artist: Lord Huron.

Favorite book: The Outsiders.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I hope to attend college to get an illustration or animation degree, and after that, I would like to help create an animated movie.

Katrin is a remarkable and noteworthy leader. She was handpicked to represent the high school at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Conference in 2020. This summer, not only did Katrin attend American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, but she also participated in HOBY's 2021 World Leadership Congress (WLC). She is student government secretary as well. There is no doubt that Katrin can be depended on to inspire



KOLBY SPECTOR, 17, Fort Ann Jr.-Sr. High School

items to our local church, done local roadside cleanup, participated in our Big Brothers Big Sisters program, helped clean up the local summer camp and volunteered his time at the all-county band auditions.

Kolby is always looking to improve. Good is never good enough for him. Over the last few years, he has challenged himself to 9 college credit classes as well as all of the high school's additional advanced courses. He is the recipient of the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Clarkson University High School Achievement Award, 2021 Rensselaer Medalist and the NYS Attorney General Triple C Award.

Parents/Guardians Names: Jason Spector and Stacy Frederick Spector

Siblings: Myles Spector

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: A personal inspiration of mine is living in the moment. The thought being fully present in life is a goal that I work towards every day. I value the ability to find joy and humor in day-to-day situations.

Hobbies: I enjoy fishing, mountain biking, working in the garage, and hiking.

Over the years, Kolby has been a leader for his graduating class and the community as a whole. He is heavily involved in school and extracurricular activities, as well as community service and sports. He is the Assistant Teacher of youth Jiu-Jitsu classes.

Kolby is an outstanding young man who volunteers his time whenever possible. He is known in the community as a strong, generous young man who is always willing to put others before himself. He has delivered food drive

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is the restoration of a 1960 Ford F100 pick-up truck for a wounded warrior. My brother, father, and I worked to revive the antique truck for a friend that was injured while fighting in Iraq. I am very proud of this accomplishment because of how grateful our friend was for this gesture.

School Activities: National Honors Society, Key Club, National Art Honors Society, and Student Council.

Community Service: Local roadside clean-up, yard maintenance and snow removal for local senior citizens, participation in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, and fall clean-up at a local summer camp.

Person you look up to and why: A person that I look up to is my mother. My mother is a lawyer, pro bodybuilder, and leadership consultant who truly excels in every aspect of life. I am very inspired by the success that my mom has experienced and grateful for everything that she does for me.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside

the classroom and how: A teacher who has positively impacted my life is Ms. Morrison. Ms. Morrison was my 10th and 11th grade English teacher. She made her class very enjoyable and regularly added humor to her lessons. She made me feel appreciated for my hard work in her class, and is one of the reasons that I would like to pursue a career in teaching.

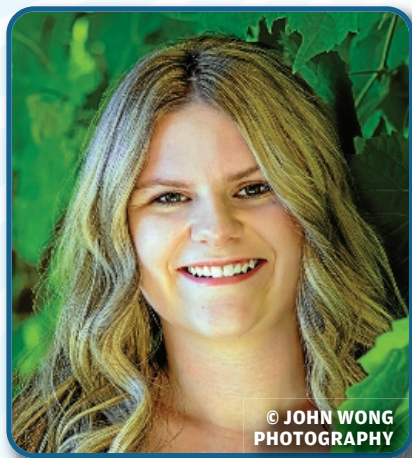
Activities outside of school: Building stone walls with my father, traveling, working as a dock hand at Fischer's Marina, and participating in A.C.E. Car Club.

Favorite pastime: My favorite past time is fishing. Even if I am not having any luck, I enjoy being outside.

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite movie: "The Hangover"

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I hope to successfully graduate from SUNY Adirondack and transfer to a four year college where I will major in teaching. I then look forward to traveling the country and finding a job where I can change young people's lives as a teacher.



MACKENZIE STEVES, 17, Queensbury High School

young person who knows what she wants and is committed to the vast undertakings necessary in the pursuit of her goals. These character traits bode well for her as an undergraduate in the fast-paced and academically competitive field of healthcare.

Mackenzie has been enthusiastically involved in extracurricular activities. She has been a two-sport varsity athlete and captain of the football and basketball cheer squads. In the community, she participates in Adopt a Family and Hometown Christmas events.

Mackenzie is a determined individual who has clearly demonstrated her intentions. Whichever direction she pursues, she will do well.

Parents/Guardians Names: Joshua and Heidi Steves

Siblings: Cheyanne Steves

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is my family because no matter what happens they always perceive. They always exhibit hard work and determination. They are what inspired me to be hardworking and to not let hard

times define you.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is being a captain of my varsity cheerleading team since sophomore year. I have learned so much from being put in a leadership position as well as being able to help my teammates and being there in many ways.

Community Service: I always participate in adopt a family during Christmas time to bring Christmas to families in need. I am a blood donor for the American Red Cross. I give back to the community by taking part in holiday celebrations by handing out food, presents, and bringing joy to families.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to the head coach of my cheerleading team. Coach Heather has not only taught me how to become a better athlete but how to become a better person. The amount of dedication and compassion she has for each of her athletes inspires me to do the same for others.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside

the classroom and how: My math teacher Ms. Straut has impacted my life in the most positive way. I would struggle sometimes in math and she would selflessly take the time out of her day to ensure you would succeed. She is the type of teacher that no matter what is going on she is always a listening ear and will talk to you whenever you need it during the day. She makes sure that she gives you the best advice possible as well as being excited for your accomplishments no matter how big. Her classroom is a safe atmosphere and is always positive and uplifting.

Favorite pastime: Watching Greys Anatomy

Favorite food: Tacos

Favorite movie: Titanic

Favorite music/artist: Adele

Favorite book: Five feet apart

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My biggest goal in life is to inspire others and push them to become the best person they can and my dream is to become a nurse that can help many people in need.

Mackenzie has welcomed experiences in her youth that most of us have reserved to explore during adulthood. She seized an opportunity with her dance studio in Saratoga Springs to volunteer instructing young dancers with special needs.

As a student, Mackenzie ranks nearly in the top one-quarter of a highly assertive academic cohort. She has obtained a cumulative grade point average of "A-" with a challenging college preparatory set of offerings that reflect increasing levels of rigor over time. She is a

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SADIE TAVARES, 18, Schuylerville High School

active member, she is generous with her time. She approaches all that she does with tremendous energy. She is a positive role model for her peers, earning their trust.

Sadie is an outstanding young lady who is very diligent, and goal driven with her work both inside and outside the classroom. She is dynamic, mature, and funny. Her laugh is contagious. When you meet her for the first time, even with a mask on, her smile is a ray of sunshine.

Sadie's positive impact on the community goes above and beyond. She is a very humble young lady. She volunteers with her church and is a peer tutor within the school community. She encourages and inspires students, while supporting their academic journey. Sadie is the type of student you never want to see graduate because her life adds so much to the school and local community in a variety of ways.

Parents/Guardians Names: Peter and Courtney Tavares

Siblings: Riley, Reese, Emily

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My family is a huge part of my life and they are my biggest

inspiration. My parents have never failed to give a helping hand to anyone in need. With a helping hand, they offer a warming smile and kindness. Perhaps what inspires me the most is the unconditional love my parents have for others. Seeing others receive the love and kindness my parents give warms my heart. They inspire me to be kind daily and have motivated me to pursue a career that will help alleviate pain and bring hope to the ones who need it most.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is my research work at the Neural Stem Cell Institute (NSCI). I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity to study with such an incredible group of scientists and researchers. Prior to starting my internship I thoroughly researched stem cell diseases, now I am deep in the tangles of research at NSCI. Currently, my lab group and I are working on stem cell research dealing with Huntington's disease to hopefully lead to a successful therapeutic antibody in the future.

Person you look up to and why: A person I look up to is my older brother Riley. He is

one of the kindest, funniest, and most driven people I have ever met. Riley has done many extraordinary things with his life, like training and running a marathon at the young age of 20. He is presently studying abroad in Sweden and experiencing the world. Riley makes me feel like nothing is impossible, and motivates me to step out of my comfort zone. Simply put, he is a genuine person you want to be around every day. I hope to emulate him in my future career and life.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Kline, my English teacher and SADD club advisor has impacted me tremendously.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I aspire to dedicate my life to studying genetic disease and learning how to manipulate the genome in the womb, or even post birth. I want to do something that will change the world; something that will improve others' lives. I dream that one day I am going to see space and study extraterrestrial organisms that thrive interstellar. I hope to see the world and immerse myself within different cultures.



ELLE WILCOX, 17, Saratoga Springs High School

ency. She tries to better everyone around her. She learns from those before her and is determined to better her community for those that follow. She contributed to the betterment of the school through various committees.

Elle has been a member of the school musical, Best Buddies, student council, field hockey manager, and a member of the Unified basketball and bowling teams. She is active in volunteering, works part-time and has started her own cake business.

Elle is an outstanding student and human being. She has grown as a person and as a scholar. She is passionate, energetic and helpful to her peers, school community and her teachers. Elle makes her school a better place.

Parents/Guardians Names: Lyndsey Wilcox, David Wilcox

Siblings: Parker Wilcox

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I try and let the "little things" in life inspire me. These "little things" sometimes seem to not have large purpose initially, but I frequently find them to end up being of great purpose. I believe everything happens for a reason, so I try and let "little

things" inspire me as they often become part of more important and impactful situations.

Biggest Accomplishment: I have always loved to bake and to be creative, so during the pandemic when opportunities were limited and time was of excess, I decided to turn my baking hobby into a business. Through this business I was able to be creative by designing, marketing and most importantly baking over 100 (and counting) custom cakes to be incorporated into the special celebrations of my customers' lives like weddings, birthdays, baby showers, and graduations.

Person you look up to and why: I really do just look up to my peers and how they have grown as people. I find it remarkable knowing some people and how they've really come to accept their selves and their beliefs over the recent years. It's impressive to see people with such passion for certain causes and movements.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Part of the reason I really do find my school as such a special place is in thanks to the people who give it purpose, the teachers, administration, and staff. I really hold

great appreciation for my school counselor Ms. Allen, her encouragement has had great significance in supporting me at Saratoga Springs High School. Over the last four years I have also been more than fortunate to work with my class advisors Ms. Price and Ms. Amey. Whether it be working with them (even over summers) to visit prom venues and coach the school's flag football team or sitting in their shared classroom during lunch periods to detail the events of that school day, Ms. Price and Ms. Amey have provided me support beyond measure. I really am so thankful to have learned from them and have found their presence to be such a special part of my high school experience. The bonds created with these teachers are just so valuable, I cannot emphasize this enough. I am even lucky to be baking the cake for the wedding of Ms. Price! Ms. Price and Ms. Amey (if you see this), thank you thank you thank you!!

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Well, a goal is of course to be happy with purpose in life. I do have happiness and purpose to my life, so I guess my goal is to continue having these things in my life and stay thankful for their presence.

Through Elle, one can see a generous and caring personality whose energy and passion for helping and leading is infectious. She lives by the mantra, "Find yourself in the service of others". She brings a level of excitement and enthusiasm for anything she is doing. While being a leader, Elle still has an enormous respect for her peers' opinions as well. She possesses a great ability to listen. Her organizational skills paired with her bright mind and personality make her the ideal student and leader.

Elle is a leader who strives to forego compla-

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