

The Post-Star presents the 2021

TEEN • excel • lence

INNOVATION COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



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Congratulations to The Post-Star 2021 Teen Excellence Honorees.

We are so proud to honor and recognize these 27 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 2021 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 2021 Teen Excellence Honorees.



Ben Rogers
President and Director of
Local Sales & Marketing

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

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JORDAN BARKER, 17, Warrensburg Jr.-Sr. High School

She is a two-time Section II Class C goalkeeper of the year and served as captain of the girls' soccer team. Jordan has worked hard academically and is ranked third in her class with an average of 95.09.

Jordan has volunteered for ATLAS, National Honor Society, as a member of the class of 2021 and for her soccer team. She has worked countless hours to make a difference in her community while holding jobs and Camp Echo Lake and at the Barnsider.

Jordan is a tremendous soccer goalie as witnessed by the numerous awards and accolades on her resume. She is also a member of the girls' basketball team that won the overall Adirondack League title — the first title for the girls' program since 1982. Her involvement doesn't stop with sports as she is also involved with the Honor Society, Girls State, Student Council and the Board of Education.

Parents/Guardians Names: Shawna Sanderson and Patrick Barker

Siblings: Patrick Barker

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration in my life is all of the medical workers who have made positive impacts on their patients'

lives. Ever since I was young, I have always wanted my future self to be able to help in any way possible, whether that was in the medical field, or the educational field. Seeing how different medical workers, personal to me, can help different people in ways that can change their lives, made me see how I wanted to do that, and how I wanted to be that person that people are able to come to without hesitation.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment has been receiving the Class C Goalie of the Year award in 2018 and 2019, along with receiving Adirondack League Goalie of the year in the same years.

School Activities: Playing soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and softball in the spring.

Community Service: National Honor Society, book fairs for my school, and blood drives. I have helped at food banks, and volunteered at the elementary school for one of their after school programs.

Person you look up to and why: The person I look up to is my mom. My mom never had a stable home growing up, and moved schools almost every year. She still had her goals of going to college and becoming a marine biologist.

However, she became pregnant with me at the age of 18, and realized how her future was going to be effected. She decided to not go to college, and put me first before anything else. Just this alone made me realize how strong, kindhearted, and independent of a person she is.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: One teacher who has positively impacted my life inside and outside of school is Coach Smith. Coach Smith is the one person that I can go to for any advice or problems that I have, whether it is personal or just a simple question. He has the ability to put a smile on my face, no matter what mood I am in. He has impacted me in a way where I can go to him for anything without any hesitation, and he would be there. Not only is he a great person, he is also one of the best coaches I have had. He pushed me along with everyone else to become a better athlete and also a better person overall.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goals in life are to go to college and become a pediatric nurse practitioner. One of my other goals in life is to have my own family in the future. Family is one of the most important things in my life, so being able to have my own would mean a lot.

Jordan Barker, a senior at Warrensburg Jr.-Sr. High School, is a natural leader in the classroom and on the athletic field.

"We have seen Jordan mature into a caring, well rounded, affable human being that cares deeply about her family, school and community," said her school counselor and principal. "She has participated in school and community events from the time she entered seventh grade, and her work continues in this vein as a senior, in spite of the pandemic."

Jordan is the student representative to the Board of Education and a three-sport athlete.



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M. PATRICK BRUEN, 18, Glens Falls High School

M. Patrick Bruen, a senior at Glens Falls High School, is consistently getting involved in both school and community service programs.

"If at any time someone in need is requiring help or assistance, Patrick is willing to offer his time," said his teacher and coach Stephen Zurlo.

Patrick is always working to achieve his goals and possesses a strong work ethic, sound moral judgement and a witty sense of humor.

Patrick has participated in the U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar, the National Youth Leadership Forum for National Security, the role of Secretary of Defense during National Security Crisis Simulation, and National Honor Society. He has been named the Senior Athlete of the Week and plays lacrosse and golf. He takes college-level and AP courses and is a part of the New Visions Engineering Program.

With such a full load both in academics and athletics, he is able to balance his time accordingly and maintain excellence in the classroom.

Patrick also volunteers his time to Cindy Comfort Camp at Double H Ranch, the Crandall

Park Beautification Committee, Cole's Woods, the Salvation Army, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. He is an altar boy at St. Mary's Church and a food pantry volunteer.

"Patrick has always been a leader among his friends," said neighbor Elizabeth Little Hogan. "He is a quick thinker and always has something to say."

Parents/Guardians Names: Kate and Kevin Bruen

Siblings: Kathleen and Bridget Bruen

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My family

Hobbies: Golf. Lacrosse. Spending time with my friends and cousins.

Biggest Accomplishment: Not failing my classes in New Visions Engineering

Community Service: The most meaningful experience I have had doing community service was at Double H Ranch during Cindy's Comfort Camp. It was rewarding to try and help others after the loss of a family member.

Person you look up to and why: My father because of his work ethic and ability to work well under pressure

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Coach Zurlo has helped me develop as a golfer, man and student. He is not only an incredible coach but he would never miss an opportunity to help in any situation.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Serve as an officer in the Navy or Marines



© JEFF KELLOGG

DEMETER BURNS, 17, Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School

Council president. She has participated in HOBY and Rotary's RYLA program. She also serves as a leader in the school's Rock Solid Program, a peer-to-peer leadership and mentoring program.

She also has a full slate of athletic, club, and Honor Society involvements.

Demeter has led initiatives to address the use of plastics in the school, and she serves in a lead role on a student panel that aims to educate students about mental health and destigmatize mental illness.

Through her own life challenges, Deme has developed a strong sense of empathy for others experiencing hardship of any sort. She has experienced some significant struggles and emerged with greater insight into herself that she has applied to her numerous efforts to positively impact the world around her.

"Deme is a leader and role model in so many ways," Preuss said. "She strives to improve the human experience of others and has a strong sense of self-efficacy. She tries to lead by example and is earnest in her desire to add value

to our world."

Parents/Guardians Names: John and Joanne Burns

Siblings: Sam and Owen Burns

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is

Biggest Accomplishment: Getting early acceptance into LECOM (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine) medical school as a high school senior.

Community Service: Rock Solid 2 hours per week, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) volunteered 72 hours of service, Sacred Heart Church Soup Kitchen, Community Clean-up, Fall Festival, Drumline for various events including South High Marathon which raised over \$800,000 for 40 beneficiaries bringing the 42 year total to more than 8.1 million for 530 beneficiaries, B.O.O.K.S- Books Offer Opportunity for Kids to Succeed, School courtyard cleanup, Fall festival volunteer, 5k volunteer, Crandall Library Teach Kids Speak Spanish, Spanish tutoring.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to both of my parents. They are supportive, crazy, and ambitious. Thank you for teaching me humility, how to use my imagination, to love learning, for showing me a world of opportunities, for teaching me that failure is success in progress, to laugh at mistakes and move on.

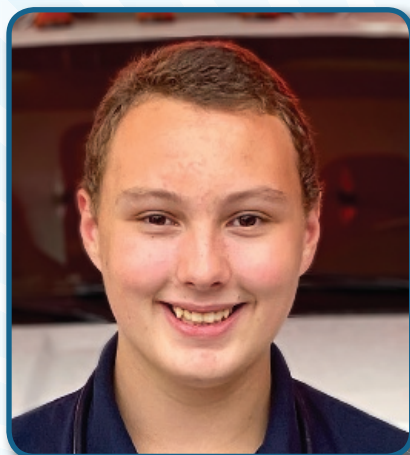
Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: I find it difficult to name one teacher because there have been so many that have shaped me as a person. To name a few, my mentor Dr. Mary Ann Foley, Mrs. Darby and Mr. Spath who inspired me to pursue science in higher education, Mrs. Wilson for giving me the courage to be a leader and advocate for others, Mrs. VanVlack, my guideroom teacher, for providing a listening ear when it was needed.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Becoming a Adirondack 46er. Becoming a doctor in medicine at LECOM medical school. Traveling abroad. Learning new languages

Demeter Burns, a senior at Lake George Junior/Senior High School, positively impacts her community through her attitude and actions.

"Deme is one of the most eager, sincere and well-equipped student leaders I've known in my 25 years working at Lake George High School," said her school counselor Stephen Preuss.

Demeter has served in numerous positions of leadership, including two years as Student



© VICKY CAMPBELL

Kyle Campbell, a senior at Granville Jr./Sr. High School, has a passion for helping people in his community any way he can.

Kyle started working as a first responder in 10th grade and developed a more mature and reflective perspective. He has learned to remain calm in stressful situations, deescalate, look at situations from another person's perspective and to genuinely care about another person's well being.

Since 2018, Kyle has logged more than 150

KYLE CAMPBELL, 17, Granville Jr.-Sr. High School

community service volunteer hours for the Salem Rescue Squad.

In 2019 Kyle completed the 60-hour course to be a first responder and is New York State certified. Since the completion of the course he has taken part in over 50 calls.

He has also completed between 65-70 hours of the 130.5 required hours to be an EMT. He plans on completing the remaining hours as soon as possible.

Kyle plans on a career as an EMT and is considering a career as a New York State Trooper.

Kyle gained a love of helping others by discussing with his mom her work as a critical care tech.

He has been seventh-grade class president, eighth-grade and ninth-grade vice president, and received the class of 2021 leadership award in 2015. He has been involved in FFA since 2015.

Kyle is currently enrolled at the WSWHE BOCES at the Southern Adirondack Center in the Criminal Justice class. He is the CJS class Student Council president, member of SkillsUSA since 2019 and the National Technical Honor Society.

Parents/Guardians Names: Dennis and Vicky Campbell

Siblings: Matthew Campbell, Kelsey Campbell

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is just knowing that I'm making a difference. I love to get out in the community and do whatever I can to change somebodies day.

Biggest Accomplishment: I would say that my biggest accomplishment would have to be passing my Certified First Responder course and moving onto the Emergency Medical Technician course which is still underway. These two things have allowed me to serve my community much more effectively while also opening up career opportunities further down the road.

Community Service: I have done about 165 hours and counting of community service with the Salem Rescue Squad as a Certified First Responder and EMT in training.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my mother because she has always done everything she could to help those around her and

she's made many sacrifices to serve her community which is something that I truly admire and aspire to do.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Paul Crandell (Criminal Justice Instructor at WSWHE BOCES). Since my time with Mr. Crandell began in the Criminal Justice program at the start of my junior year, he has always pushed me to develop not only as a student and as a leader but also as a person. He has put me in many positions that have required me to understand and work with people who are unlike me in some aspects and that experience has been invaluable.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My ultimate goal is to be a police officer, for as long as I can remember I have dreamed of being in law enforcement and the fact that I am actually on track to achieve that dream is really something that keeps me motivated, I would love to be able to make a career out of helping the community.



© ERIN REID COKER

Ella Crossman, a senior at Glens Falls High School, is an outstanding student leader. She is incredibly personable and wins you over with her smile and enthusiasm for life.

Ella's confidence level and leadership skills have grown immensely over the past four years as a member of the International Action Club. When Ella volunteers at an event she is always positive, focused and reliable. She also is able to motivate other students to volunteer.

Even in the face of adversity, Ella uses her creativity and drive to create a positive situation. This past spring when school buildings were

closed, Ella worked tirelessly to develop a reading mentors program.

Ella and her siblings own a small business called Rent 'Em Games. If you've ever played giant Jenga at a party, chances are it was rented through her company.

Ella has volunteered her time at the Adirondack Triathlon, Urban Assault, South High Marathon Dance, Jackson Heights Elementary School, Glens Falls Middle School and the Salvation Army.

She is also a member of the tennis, alpine skiing and lacrosse teams.

Ella is the co-social media advisor for the high school this year. She creates posts to positively reflect the school for the community of 1,200-plus Instagram followers.

Ella is a member of the Math Team, Glens Falls High School National Honor Society and the Career Technical Honor Society. She also serves as an ambassador for the Early College Career Academy.

Ella has always been curious, willing to develop her skills and persevere to be successful. She has the ability to take challenges and use them as learning experiences and achieves her goals.

Parents/Guardians Names: Kevin and Bridget Crossman

Siblings: Hazel Crossman, Finley Crossman

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is a quote from Serena Williams. "So if they want to call you crazy, fine. Show them what crazy can do." I feel that women are underestimated of the capabilities we have. Women like Serena Williams have broken down barriers for us showing the strength women carry. This word crazy is my power to succeed. It is turning crazy into my strength and determination to break down barriers.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is running/owning my own business. In 2016, my two younger siblings and I started Rent 'em Games. We rent out giant yard games for weddings, graduation parties and other events. I am so proud that our business continues to grow every year.

Community Service: In Spring 2020, I created a reading mentors program that high school students were paired with a student from an elementary school to read and help them through challenging times. I have volunteered for the Salvation Army, Triathlons and 5K's, Kids Night Out Events, Battle of The Bridges which benefits the South High Marathon Dance and more.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my Grandpa Fronhofer because he has taught me so much and is a successful business owner in my eyes. My grandpa has a very strong work ethic and never gave up on his business, even when things got hard. He has taught me that hard work pays off. If you want something go for it and keep trying and trying until you get it. My grandpa is such a strong man and I enjoy spending time with him and about learning what he does. I hope to grow into a strong and dedicated person like him.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. McKeighan has positively impacted my life both inside and outside of the classroom. She has the biggest heart; whether it's bringing in breakfast for club meetings or her being there to listen when you're having a bad day. She has taught me how important it is to give back to my community.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My current goals are to start/finish college and study Business Administration: Marketing and Management. Post college I hope to work for a corporation in a marketing department to help promote and grow the business.

ELLA CROSSMAN, 17, Glens Falls High School



ANNIKA CURRIE, 17, South Glens Falls High School

ways thinking about others and wondering what else she can do to help serve the school and community," said her school counselor Stacy Lloyd.

She is ranked third in her graduating class. She will graduate in June with an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors with Mastery in mathematics and science.

Annika is the Student Representative on the Board of Education, a member of the Student Concern Steering Committee, Yearbook Committee, French Honors Society, National Honor Society and Math League. She has served as class treasurer, plays in the Chamber orchestra, has attended All-County Orchestra and is a Girl Scout.

She has fundraised for the South High Marathon Dance and choreographed the French classes' marathon dance in 11th grade.

Annika is also a competitive dancer and attends four competitions a year and helps with younger students.

Her AP U.S. history teacher Laurie Darling Gutheil said: "She is incredibly mature and self-motivated to do outstanding work in every activity and organization she is a part of."

Annika Currie, a senior at South Glens Falls High School, is self-motivated, ambitious and forthright. She is mature, respectable, scholarly and compassionate — a natural born leader and a role model for her peers.

"Whether she is raising money for the annual South Glens Falls Marathon Dance, providing service activities through her Girl Scout troop, serving as a Book Buddy at the local library for a summer reading program, or serving as a teaching assistant at her dance studio, Annika is al-



© JEAN D'ANDREA GRIFFIN

Grace Firehock, a senior at Saratoga Springs High School, is bright, intelligent, kind and generous.

Called a "quiet leader" by her school counselor, Grace has a welcoming demeanor and good decision making skills.

As a family, Grace's household has volunteered time for select causes for many years. One such event is an annual running race that supports the SNACpack program.

Seeing an additional need, Grace launched TOGA TOILETRIES in 2019 providing personal

hygiene and other essential items to families in need.

Academically, Grace does better when a curriculum is challenging and requires focus and hard work. In situations where Grace hasn't been challenged, she experiences lost motivation and interest.

Consequently, her confidence as a student has grown tremendously as she finds that she is able to thrive in intellectually competitive environments.

She has an interest and curiosity in the field of science. She has a rock-solid love of learning and a desire to grow both as a student and as a human being.

"Grace is also known to her friends as reliable and trustworthy," said her school counselor Siobahn LaMar.

Grace is patient and kind.

She continues to practice piano and Irish Step dance, both of which she's been doing for 10 years. She hopes to see her varsity tennis team have a season this year, and she looks forward to continuing her membership in the other high school charitable clubs like Key Club and Family Career Community Leaders of America.

Parents/Guardians Names: Neall and Katherine Currie

Siblings: Brother, Bryan Currie

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am inspired by people who pursue all of their passions and don't allow themselves to be contained. People like Dr. Brian May, the astrophysicist who played Live Aid with the band he started, Queen.

Biggest Accomplishment: I'd say my biggest accomplishment is being a student representative to the Board of Education and a member of the Student Concern Steering Committee. Attending and being part of the Board meetings has been very interesting and informative, and the Student Concern Steering Committee has already made some real change within the school.

Community Service: I've been an assistant teacher at my dance studio, I've donated fabric to 518Masks. It's been harder to do community service this year due to the pandemic.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to Dr. Mae Jemison. She broke barriers as the first African American woman in space, but also achieved so much more than that. She was

a dancer through college, and later left NASA to continue pursuing other passions. I admire her determination and self-knowledge.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Frederick has been my orchestra teacher since 6th grade and has had such a positive impact on my life. He encourages me to try new things, whether that's learning a new instrument or writing my own music. I've been building my electric bass with his guidance and I am so grateful for his influence.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I plan to attend a 4-year college and later get my PhD. I want to research the origin, structure, and fate of the universe. I hope to live in New York City, and maybe be a famous rockstar somewhere along the way.

GRACE FIREHOCK, 17, Saratoga Springs High School

Parents/Guardians Names: Colleen and Shawn Firehock

Siblings: Caroline, Patrick, and Catie Firehock

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am truly inspired by wanting to help people. Karey Trimmings is a huge inspiration to me with all she has done for our community and with the SNACpack program.

Biggest Accomplishment: One of my biggest accomplishments was receiving the Hometown Hero Award from Dorothy Nolan Elementary School for creating and growing Toga Toiletries. This award meant a lot to me because it demonstrates that I still have the support of the teachers, staff and administrators seven years after I left elementary school.

Community Service: Toga Toiletries - A program I founded in 2019 to provide essential toiletries and personal hygiene items for students in need in our community. I also have volunteered for The Saratoga Palio, SNACpack, the Empty Stocking program and other community organizations.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my mom because she is what I aspire to be in

life. She is the most selfless and caring person I know and I hope to be more like later in my life. She always puts everyone before herself and has given so much back to our community through organizations including The Melanie Foundation and Child's Play.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Blakely, one of my math teachers, has very positively impacted my life by always being compassionate while pushing me to do my best. Mrs. Blakely is always available if anyone needs extra help understanding a concept or to talk about anything.

Activities outside of school: Skiing, water skiing, babysitting, spending time with friends and family.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I will continue to help others and make a difference in my community. After college I plan to pursue a career in the medical field.



© TERRI FADEN

Phoebe Fox, a senior at Glens Falls High School, is described as a joyous person. She finds joy in everything she does — volunteering, playing, even walking to class.

“A best friend or a stranger, Phoebe always greets you with a huge smile, and a happy hello. Her peers cannot help but gravitate to her,” said her teacher Andrea Winter-Barclay.

Phoebe is a leader on the Alpine ski team and a great role model for all the young racers who admire her athletic ability and positive attitude.

PHOEBE FOX, 17, Glens Falls High School

She shines on the lacrosse field, where she has served as captain for three years. She officially signed a national letter of intent to play lacrosse at Bryant University next year.

By the end of her junior year, Phoebe earned 12 varsity letters and four varsity captain’s badges.

Phoebe volunteers her time for Urban Assault and the Lake George Triathlon. During holidays, she rings the bell for the Salvation Army and helps distribute food donations.

When Phoebe’s soccer season was canceled this year due to the pandemic, she played tennis instead.

Phoebe was the chairperson for her neighborhood art show that raised over \$1,000 for Operation Santa Claus. During the pandemic, she volunteered for the Salvation Army giving out food to people in need. She volunteered countless hours to work with young lacrosse athletes for the Glens Falls Youth Lacrosse league.

Assistant Principal Elizabeth Collins said: “Glens Falls High School is a better place because of Phoebe Fox and her natural leadership and involvement in all aspects of our school community.”

Parents/Guardians Names: Jim and Shannon Fox

Siblings: Hogan Fox (brother)

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: A personal inspiration for me is to always be positive. I have found how much a positive mindset can help me accomplish my goals in school and in sports. In school having a positive mindset that I am prepared and have the capability of doing well has always pushed me to do my best. On the field having a positive mindset that I am going to be the best athlete that I can be helps me get over any doubt I had.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is my success in lacrosse. I made varsity lacrosse in 7th grade and was a captain in 8th grade. I used to not like playing and thought I would never be as good as my brother. I worked hard to get to where I am today and now am able to continue playing in college.

Community Service: I have volunteered for the Lake George Triathlon for many years, I have also volunteered at school basketball games and activities all through High School. My favorite volunteering is coaching the youth girl’s lacrosse

because it reminds me of when I learned how to play.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my dad because he has always been a great role model for me. He has taught me how to set goals for myself because I have watched him set goals for himself while training for Ironman Triathlons. My dad has also taught me how to have a good attitude even during setbacks in life.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Moynihan is a teacher who positively impacted my life inside and outside of the classroom. He was my fifth grade teacher and first experience of middle school. The middle school seemed scary at first but I still remember how the classroom made everyone feel included. That first year in middle school made me excited for the rest of my time at Glens Falls. Mr. Moynihan makes his classroom such a welcoming environment that even when he’s not my teacher I know I can still go back to his room.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goal is to be successful in college and playing college lacrosse. I hope to find new opportunities to help people and stay connected with my community.



© ADIRONDACK SCHOOL PORTRAITS

David Gabriel, a senior at Greenwich Central High School, has a strong intellect and gentle demeanor and is one of the top math and science students in his school.

As part of his University in the High School Science Research program, David traveled to Union College after school every Tuesday and Thursday last year to work with a professor regarding research on “Aerogels in Catalysis.” He then presented his research at the Capital Region Science Fair.

“David thinks big, but he also commits to

DAVID GABRIEL, 18, Greenwich Jr.-Sr. High School

impacting the world around him,” said his high school counselor Becky Catlin. “He also takes the time to spread his love and talent for science with other students through his involvement with our community youth center.”

Every week David plans, organizes and delivers science experiments, challenges and/or games with the youth at the Greenwich Youth Center.

At school, David has been a tutor for a special education student for three years.

“David may not realize it,” Catlin said, “but I am also relying on his compassion and open mindedness to help this student with social skills and loneliness.”

David is also involved in National Honor Society, Students Opposed to Pollution (STOP) Club and Robotics Club.

David is a friend to all in his school. He is respected by classmates and adults.

After high school, he plans to do a two-year mission assignment through his church before attending a four-year school to study engineering.

Parents/Guardians Names: Aaron and Tara Gabriel

Siblings: Sarah Gabriel - 22yrs Michael Gabriel - 20 yrs

Grade Level: 12th grade

Personal Inspiration: For personal inspiration I look to Percy Lavon Julian, an American research chemist who was a pioneer in the field of chemical synthesis and medical drugs from plants. Dr. Julian is my inspiration because of his selflessness to a society that displeased him, he stood up for what is right, his resourcefulness and persistence. A quote from scripture provides assurance when the cards are stacked against me, “... know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.” The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?”

Biggest Accomplishment: Some of my biggest accomplishments is being able to get in a New Visions Engineering program. I like being in the program because I can work on my technical skills, see the applications of the physics and math that I learn, and be able to visit local engineering firms. Another accomplishment is earning the SI Group Smart Chemistry award at the Greater Capital Region Science Fair last year despite the simplicity of my project. Another accomplishment is bringing a smile to the face of young kids with science experiments.

Community Service: Community service that I have done is tutoring and volunteer at the Greenwich Youth Center where I have done science experiment and fun activities to help bring the fun or science to youth and to help them have a good time with each other.

Person you look up to and why: The person that I look up to is my father. I look up to my father because he is a good man. My father works very hard and is very skillful, but he is not afraid to call someone if he cannot do something. He is also a very kind person and is sensitive to my problems and looks to help me out. This is what I wish to emulate in my own behavior to others.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Dixon has been a teacher who positively impacted my life because she constantly push me forward with my projects.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Goals - To make space planes and go space mining. Using mushrooms to make antibiotics, and microorganism and plants to go mining. Dreams and aspirations - To go to the next star system over and go exploring.



©JACKSON BAKER

JACK JENNINGS, 17, North Warren Central School

Representative for North Warren and as Junior Student of the Month last year.

Jack has always been an individual of purpose, determination and integrity. His steadfast approach, and natural leadership style seem to be an integral part of who he is.

Jack is a member of the National Honor Society and plays varsity basketball and soccer, serving as co-captain. He has also played on the tennis team and has served as class treasurer for four years.

Jack volunteers his time as a youth coach for baseball and basketball and serves as a referee. He has also participated in the Warren County Youth Court as a volunteer juror, and at multiple community dinners as well.

As a member of Boy Scouts, Jack has qualified for the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Project was the completion of a community fitness trail. The completed project serves many in our community, and will continue to do so for years to come.

Parents/Guardians Names: William Jennings and Cynthia Jennings

Siblings: John Remington, Jenna Remington, William Jennings II, Connor Jennings, Ashlee Jennings, Wyatt Jennings

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal in-

spiration is my own drive to succeed. I set high standards for myself, and then when it comes down to it, I try to exceed even those standards I set. To do good in school and in sports. To be a reliable employee and a contributing member of my community. My personal inspiration is my own drive to better my life and the world around me.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment so far in my life is achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. A journey that took me five years. This presented many challenges over its course, fifty mile bike trips and tent-camping in sub-zero weather to name a few. They all culminated into one final hurdle though, my Eagle Scout project, which took me over a year to complete. Started at the age of 13, I planned, budgeted, fundraised for, and supervised the building and installation of a fitness trail at my town center. These are all why achieving Eagle is my biggest accomplishment.

Community Service: Eagle Project, Youth Commission Assistant Soccer Coach, Youth Commission Basketball Referee/Coaching, Youth Commission Basketball Referee/Coaching, Warren County Youth Court, Hometown Thanksgiving Dinner (Distributed Food to families in need).

Person you look up to and why:

Caleb Morehouse. I remember my first day at my first job, I was very nervous. He took me in and taught me all the stuff I would need to know. In school, I wanted to be just like him; all his teachers and peers liked and respected him. I also played several sports with him. He was a natural leader, he rarely ever said anything, he just led by example. Exactly how I wanted to be. He has always been a great mentor for me, and I would like to be one just like him to the generation below me.

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

Christopher Nelson. I remember when Mr. Nelson first came to our school, a quarter way through my 8th grade year. Since then though, Mr. Nelson and I have become about as close as a teacher and student can get. In a matter of years, I went from hating that first class I took with him to searching for even more classes I could take with him. What I believe largely contributed to our closeness was that Mr. Nelson coached me for eight straight of my sports seasons. Even now, I am doing an internship as a teacher with him.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: To engineer a product that helps lots of people



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ELIZABETH JENSEN, 17, Corinth High School

Elizabeth go from a timid ninth-grade student, to a confident leader of her graduating class," said her high school counselor Sayde Whitman. "Elizabeth Jensen is one of few students that I can confidently recommend to any pathway that she choses in life."

Elizabeth is active in HOBY Conference SUNY Adirondack, HOBY Conference, Oneonta N.Y., HOBY International Chicago Illinois, and HOBY J-Staff (postponed until September 2020). She is a Scholar Athlete for NYS field hockey, is on the Guidance Advisory Council, and WAVE— Working Against Violence Everywhere.

Some of her volunteerism includes coaching and officiating intramurals along with being a certified level 3 female referee, middle school math tutor, Booster Club participant, Corinth Community Day volunteer planner, and Holy Mother and Child Parish winter and summer volunteer.

Her counselor said: "She has the ability, aptitude and global mindset to be successful in a world much larger than Corinth."

Parents/Guardians Names: Lynette and Eric Jensen Sr.

Siblings: Eric Jensen Jr. and Ian Jensen

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am inspired by my community. Growing up in a small community like Corinth has given me the opportunity to help so many. During the pandemic, I have seen community members step up and help fellow members who were greatly affected by Covid-19. My small town is an inspiration to me because we are a family and never leaving anyone behind.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is committing to play softball at SUNY Brockport, as well as being granted an early admissions spot in their nationally recognized nursing program.

Community Service: I volunteer for my schools' All-sports Booster Club, as well as tutor middle school students in math and volunteer in my church.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my mother as she has shown me what

hard work, dedication, and compassion can get you in life. My mother teaches high school Math at Corinth and has devoted so much of her life to helping students, especially during the pandemic. She always looks to find the best in someone and strives to help anyone who needs it, not only in school but in life as well.

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

Elizabeth O'Connell is a teacher who has positively impacted my life, both inside and outside of school. She devoted so much of her own time to help me excel in English. Mrs. O'Connell and I both had family members battling Parkinson's Disease while I was her student last year. She always made it a priority to check on my family and I and help in any way she could. I will always be grateful for the relationship we were able to build last year and for all of her support.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goal is to become a Physicians Assistant and work in a hospital to help children.

Elizabeth Jensen, a senior at Corinth High School, thrives in leading and helping others since she was a young student. She is described as a student who continuously demonstrates selflessness.

Elizabeth spends the majority of her free time volunteering, participating in sports or finding ways to be a leader in her community. "Over the past four years I have watched



Kaitlyn Kramar, a senior at North Warren Central School, can best be described as active, engaged, independent and leadership-oriented. Her leadership is felt in the varsity sports she plays and in each of her student and school activities.

Kaitlyn was nominated by her peers as a Natural Helper. She was nominated by faculty and staff as the Empire Girls State Representative for North Warren and as a Junior Student of the Month last year.

Her school counselor Michael Therio said: "She is incredibly conscientious and careful to ensure

KAITLYN KRAMAR, 17, North Warren Central School

that all she does is accomplished with care and excellence."

Though she is excellent in every endeavor, Kaitlyn never acts in a superior manner toward anyone else, but always treats everyone with the utmost respect.

Kaitlyn is active in National Honor Society, the AV Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Student Council, as well as varsity basketball, soccer and softball.

In her community, Katie can be found volunteering her time at community dinners, supporting Red Cross Blood Drives, and helping with the Backpack Program, which ensures that students have food to bring home on weekends. She also participates in highway cleanup activities.

In addition, Katie is a participant with the North Warren Natural Helpers Team, a group of students nominated by their peers for their advocacy skills. She also provided mentoring and Spanish language instruction for students last year.

Parents/Guardians Names: Eric and Tracy Kramar

Siblings: Alyssa Kramar and Zachary Kramar
Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is my parents. My parents always push me to do better and inspire me to work hard at everything I do. My parents always tell me that hard work pays off. Another inspiration in my life is sports. Sports inspire me to push myself as hard as I can and that as long as you work hard, there will be a reward.

Biggest Accomplishment: One of my biggest accomplishments is getting into the National Honor Society at my high school by achieving the Principals List for five consecutive quarters. Also to go along with being inducted into the National Honor Society, I also received The National Honor Society Leadership Award in my junior year. This is one of my biggest accomplishments because I worked hard for my grades and it has provided me relationships among peers and staff members.

Community Service: North Warren Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Upward Bound Program - SUNY Adirondack: 9 Red Cross Blood Drive: North Warren Natural Helpers Team: Silver Bay Retreat/Workshop North Warren Natural Helpers Team Highway Cleanup: North Warren Natural Helpers Team Highway Cleanup:

Backpack Program: Spanish I Mentor / Teaching.

Person you look up to and why: One person I look up to is my sister, Alyssa Kramar. Alyssa has always worked hard in everything she does. Alyssa has inspired me to work hard and push myself in and out of the classroom. In athletics, I look up to her because she was a starter in all of her varsity sports teams. I have had the personal experience of watching her grow at school and at home. I have wanted to become a better version of myself because of her actions.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Denice Whipple has positively impacted my life inside and outside of the classroom. Mrs. Whipple has always seen my true potential as a person and student and has helped me through many situations in my life. She has not only taught me Spanish, but she also taught me how to be a better individual.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Some of my goals in life are to be healthy, financially stable, and be happy. I dream to have a wonderful relationship with my family, have a family of my own, and love my job. I aspire to become better every day and never stop working hard.



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Ella Kules, a senior at Glens Falls High School, exhibits leadership in and out of the classroom.

She has been an active participant in varsity sports since middle school. She has been the captain of the volleyball team since sophomore year. The members of the team describe her as "competitive, passionate and driven."

Ella is involved in National Honor Society, International Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Student Council. Ella is also a three-season athlete, playing volleyball and track and field.

The disappointment that 2020 has had on se-

niors has also impacted Ella when it comes to the void of missing her senior year of volleyball. She once again demonstrated flexibility and resilience when she decided to try something completely out of her comfort zone and join the tennis team.

Ella has been dancing at the Bolton Dance Studio since she was 4 years old. She also has been part of the Storm Volleyball team, which often practices during the week as well as attending travel tournaments during the winter and spring months.

Ella has been awarded with the High Honor Roll in many advanced classes since her freshman year of high school.

She dreams of playing volleyball at the collegiate level and plans to become an art therapist.

Ella has been recognized by many teachers for her kindness and perseverance in the classroom. Despite significant challenges that came her way as a teenager she is always rising above with a positive attitude and outlook on the situation.

Parents/Guardians Names: Laura and Gene Kules

Siblings: Ava Kules

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: There is a phrase that reads, "to not dance when you had the

health and could hear the music could be the biggest regret of your life". This inspires me to not take for granted the little things that tend to go unappreciated. Now more than ever, due to the pandemic, I'm in need of the reminder that how rare an experience is does not determine its importance and that the little moments are more than enough if made the most of.

Biggest Accomplishment: Being involved in a large number of clubs, sport teams, and organizations while maintaining good grades is what I consider to be my biggest accomplishment. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to be so involved in my community and I take pride in the level of dedication I've shown.

Community Service: Over the course of my high school career I have contributed over 154 hours of community work. My favorite time spent volunteering was when I was able to assist in the special education classroom at one of the elementary schools in my district.

Person you look up to and why: Jacqueline Tyner, or Mrs. Tyner, as I knew her, was an elementary school psychologist. She invited me to be a "student example" for a set of autistic twins. I believe she knew I would get just as much out of it as they would. Mrs. Tyner had the biggest

heart and a smile that could light up any room. She dedicated her life to helping others. Even while battling leukemia she was still kind to everyone and faced the future without fear. She passed away in 2015 but I will forever strive to be as compassionate and courageous as she was.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Shannon Mckieghan was my Spanish teacher and is the advisor of my favorite club. In the classroom she goes above and beyond, adapting to the needs of her students to help them learn to the best of their ability. As advisor of International Action Club she buys breakfast for every morning meeting and organizes activities for club members like lunches and movies nights.

She let my friends and I eat lunch in her room every day during her free period and her door is always open. I'm so thankful to have known her as a teacher, advisor, and a friend.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My main goal is to spread happiness. I plan to accomplish this by completing a series of more specific goals like working with special needs children, introducing expressive arts therapy to them as a way of expression, and traveling as much as possible.

ELLA KULES, 17, Glens Falls High School



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Elizabeth Larli, a senior at Fort Ann High School, is a natural leader.

"Her voice is something people need to hear," her English teacher said in her nomination.

Elizabeth started Fort Ann as a junior after being homeschooled for many years. She was looking to expand her opportunities.

"Not only did she excel with schoolwork, but we saw Elizabeth blossom into an amazing young woman," said her Principal Justin Hoskins.

Elizabeth is known as a self-motivated and

ELIZABETH LARLI, 17, Fort Ann High School

driven individual. She is the first one to volunteer her time and the last student to leave events. She has led many community service events for Key Club and National Honor Society.

She is also involved in Academic Bowl and the Student Leadership Planning Committee. She is a volunteer teacher at Pine Knolls Alliance Church and a Teen Representative for the Pine Knolls Alliance Church Children's Ministry Leadership Board.

She donates much of her time to her church and local nursing homes.

One of her teachers said Lizzie is "unequaled in the effort she puts forth in her work."

With COVID restrictions, cutting electives, Elizabeth has taken on many online or distance learning courses.

"She is a one-in-a-million young lady," her principal said, "and a role model for every other student at FACSD."

Parents/Guardians Names: Lynn and Steve Larli

Siblings: Jack Larli

Grade Level: Twelfth Grade

Personal Inspiration: I find so much of my inspiration in the women who have come before

me. Shirley Chisholm, Coretta Scott King, and Susan B. Anthony fuel my desire to make change, and Michelle Obama, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg remind me how to lead with love and conviction. Women like Cher, Maya Angelou, and Eartha Kitt, constantly inspire me to embrace my own power and individuality. Of course, above all, my mother is my inspiration. Everything I do is to make her proud and so that I can become every bit the woman, leader, and educator she is.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment has been the way I've been able to adapt to going from being homeschooled to attending public school in my junior year. As simple as it sounds, I am proud of the success and the relationships I have been able to form at Fort Ann in the short time I have been there, despite the struggle it took to get to that place. I think that's a great example of how different, success and accomplishments look for different individuals.

Community Service: I have been lucky to participate in community service through both the school and my community. I have organized food drives and participated in the Festival of the Trees through Key Club. I have gotten to make raffle baskets for Finn's Fight with National Hon-

ors Society. Since I was nine, I've taught Sunday school through my church. I also served a term as the first Teen Representative on the Children's Ministry Leadership Committee, in 2017.

Person you look up to and why: Not only do I look up to my mother, but I also look up to my junior year English teacher Ms. Morrison, for being the example of a strong woman who commands a room with confidence, something I aspire to.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My junior year social studies teacher and club advisor, Mr. Mondella

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goal is to become an educator, and teach high school social studies! Down the road, I would love to become an administrator, and eventually work in government as an advocate for education, as it is my passion.

I want to create a school environment that is unique, educational, fun, and safe for my students. Personally, I can't wait to travel the world and explore the history I study! I want to live adventurously and explore opportunities as they come!



Emily Latham, a senior at Queensbury High School, has fought through an injury and personal health issues to succeed and excel.

Emily was an avid field hockey player, but a back injury ended her ability to play. Yet, she still continued as the team's manager.

"While of course she would much rather be on the field playing, she still shows up for her teammates in the way she is able to and is there to support them," said her school counselor Trisha Dunn.

Emily is involved in Yearbook Club, Spanish Club, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She has taught Spanish to

EMILY LATHAM, 17, Queensbury High School

younger students in the district.

Emily has also assisted with the Kindness Closet, baked cookies for Pink the Rink and put together Christmas decorations for a local nursing home. She also volunteers her summers at Double H Ranch.

She also works part time at the Dockside Restaurant.

"When it comes to perseverance and determination," Dunn said, "Emily Latham has illustrated that she has the initiative to accomplish any task that she puts her mind to."

Emily has shown leadership through the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

As a component of the program there is a requirement called CAS — Creativity, Action, Service. Emily has taken initiative through this to lead her peers in setting up a variety of community service activities to help support the school community, including a toy drive.

Emily is the kind of kid who is friends with everyone.

Parents/Guardians Names: Michael and Christine Latham

Siblings: Blake Latham

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspira-

tion are the goals that I set for myself, both short term and long term. I know what I am capable of and only want to strive for greatness. I have big goals that I have set for my future and in order to accomplish them, I always have to stay motivated. Every day I choose to work hard in school because I know that I am working for my future.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment would have to be the toy drive that I organized this past December. With the help of the Queensbury community, especially the members of Spanish Honor Society, I was able to give back to those that are less fortunate during this difficult time. I was so touched by the generous donations I got and was able to help more kids than I ever thought possible. I was able to not only donate to kids within my own district, but also kids in foster care, along with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Community Service: My job as a member of National Honor Society and secretary of Spanish Honor Society is to contribute and organize to community service projects. Through both of these I have donated toys, food and clothes to local charities along with teaching younger kids Spanish.

Person you look up to and why: My mom

is the person I look up to most. She always put the needs of my brother and me above her own. She makes sure everything is taken care of for me so I can continue to be successful. My mom is my number one supporter in everything I do and encourages me to keep going when things get rough. Without her constant love and support I would not be the person I am today.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Tenner hands down has had the most impact on my life inside and outside the classroom. He encourages all of his students to freely express their opinions and that our voices do matter. Mr. Tenner treats his students like we are real people and is always honest with us because he knows what we are capable of and only wants us to be the best we can be. While I am learning Mr. Tenner's class lessons, I am also learning life lessons that will be carried with me always.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: After high school and college, I hope to go onto medical school to become a pediatrician or a pediatric oncologist. My goals are to be happy and to have an impact on the children's lives that I am working with.



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Elizabeth O'Konski, a senior at Greenwich Central High School, is a leader by nature.

"She is comfortable around peers and adults, well spoken, appropriately funny, says all the right things," said Becky Catlin, her high school counselor.

Six years ago, Liz began as a helper at Fair Camp, a day camp program for children from surrounding cities to attend the Washington County Fair. Fair Camp counselors bring the children around the fair, show them the animals and do activities with them to share agriculture education.

ELIZABETH O'KONSKI, 17, Greenwich Jr.-Sr. High School

Two years ago Liz took over the program and now serves as the overseer and coordinator.

"This is a huge undertaking and Liz manages it with ease and lots of heart," Catlin said. "She has a soft spot for children and agriculture."

While she does not live on a farm, Liz is very active in Greenwich Future Farmers of America and has served as treasurer for two years. During quarantine, Liz organized a virtual FFA banquet, which turned into a five-day event.

Liz is described as "mature beyond her years," a friend to all and a leader.

"She is appropriately assertive, a go-getter who does her research and explores her options before making a decision," Catlin said. "She values the input and experiences of the adults around her. Regardless of where she started, Liz has grown into a very well equipped young adult, prepared to do and be her best."

Liz works two jobs and plays lacrosse. She does all this while maintaining her endlessly upbeat and positive personality, which is contagious to those around her.

Parents/Guardians Names: Michael and Suzanne O'Konski

Siblings: Michael O'Konski, age 10

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is solely my want to help others and put a smile on somebody's face every single day. Seeing others happy and love life, makes me do the same.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is the Washington County Fair, Fair Camp. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing a smiles on all of the kids' faces from the beginning to the end of the day. I love to make their day fun, educational and make them look forward to visiting us again!

Community Service: I am very active in the Washington County fair, my newest endeavor being the Junior Committee, as we bring new and fun ideas to the fair both during and outside of fair week. I am a director of the Washington County Fair, Fair Camp in which inner-city children come to the fair for the day and we tour them around the grounds and let them spend a day seeing all agriculture and our fair has to offer. I enjoy making it fun so they laugh, but also educational, by adding fun facts about each animal and barn we tour.

Person you look up to and why: I look up

to Rebecca Breese. I met Rebecca a few years ago through the fair. Rebecca pushes me every single day to work towards my goals and is always there for a helping hand no matter what. She is an amazing role model and leader and I cannot say enough great things about her. I hope to make an impact on someone's life someday as she has to mine.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Chris Kelly - Mr. Kelly is one of the Ag teachers at Greenwich. I owe my FFA experience to him, even though it has taken me all of high school to be in one of his Ag classes. Since 4th grade he has had me help in the FFA Farmland at the Washington County Fair and has pushed me to be the best Ag student, leader and person I can be.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I will be attending HVCC in the fall to study radiology. I plan to attain my Associates in applied sciences and continue my education with a Cardiac Sonography certificate program. I love to help others in need and even those that are not in need. With my degree I hope to work at a local hospital and do just that.



©TAYLOR SALAWAY

Jonathan Osika, a senior at Queensbury High School, is a very assertive, confident, poised, articulate and well-meaning young man with unquestionable character.

His high school career didn't start out that way though, according to his school counselor Kevin Sullivan, who said Jonathan entered QHS a quiet and reserved young freshman trying to figure out how he could fit in.

He was elected Junior Class Secretary, which prompted leadership roles in the Key Club and prompted others to see him in the role of a leader.

JONATHAN OSIKA, 17, Queensbury High School

He was selected a two-year captain of his tennis team and joined the Captains' Club.

"He developed into an academic leader," Sullivan said, and Jonathan is now one of the school's "Top-Ten" academic students of the senior class.

Jonathan is active in the Key Club, Student Senate, National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Yearbook, tennis, cross country and ice hockey, and serves as class secretary. He also is the Spotlight Award Recipient in Technology.

Jonathan volunteers at Taste of the North Country, Queensbury Community Scholarship Association Phone-A-Thon, and Habitat for Humanity.

Sullivan said: "Jonathan is the youngest of three highly motivated, community integrated, academically oriented, and socially sensitive boys within the Osika family. Respect for self and others is the family mantra, and Jonathan most certainly is a prime example and role model in this regard."

Parents/Guardians Names: Tom and Gina Osika

Siblings: Jerod and Tommy Osika

Grade Level: Senior

Personal Inspiration: One of my biggest inspirations is my brother Tommy. Ever since I

was young he was always someone to look up to whether it was in or outside of school. To see him move onto a great school like RPI and graduate with a great job showed me that with the same hard work I could be in a similar position as him. This belief was strengthened when I witnessed my other brother Jerod on the same path to success. My family as a whole has been a huge motivation for all of my actions.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment has to be my position at work. Three summers ago I started as a busboy at a diner in Lake George and worked my way up to being a core part of the wait staff. Just this past summer, one of my coworkers offered to put in a good word for me at a higher end restaurant in which I ended up transferring too. Starting this summer I will be the youngest waiter in their staff and it is all because of the hard work I have constantly put in these past three years.

Community Service: Through Key Club and National Honors Society I have done numerous community donations to food drives to ticket collecting at the balloon festival. I also put in about 40 hours at Habitat for Humanity where we construct low income housing for needy families.

Person you look up to and why: While this is a very tough decision I would have to say my mom. I can't remember the last time I saw my mom sitting on the couch and just relaxing. My parents own their own business which forces them to do a lot of work from home. My mom will come home just to work even more almost until she goes to bed. Even on the weekend she cleans the whole house when she has nothing else to do. It's this hard work and dedication that makes me look up to her so much.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My current Microeconomics teacher Mr. Burns. Inside the classroom he has made learning complex topics understandable and enjoyable. He has that kind of contagious attitude such that when he is happy, you are happy. Mr. Burns will have a lasting impact on my education due to the fact he has associated learning with fun.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: -Run a marathon -Become a 46er -Travel around the US and live out of my car -Achieve financial freedom.



©ADIRONDACK SCHOOL PORTRAITS

Elonne Pisacane, a senior at South Glens Falls High School, is considered by her teachers to be a mature, driven and outgoing leader who is always willing to volunteer her time for her school and community.

Elonne is active in the South High Marathon Dance, Varsity Reading Program, Parents' Night Out, Senior Citizen Drama Club Dinner, Ballard Elementary School events, Santa's Elves Letter Writing for first graders, Friends of Moreau Lake, Bellringing for the Salvation Army, South High Freshman Orientation, Double H Ranch,

ELONNE PISACANE, 17, South Glens Falls High School

and Spanish Honor Society Tanglewood Teaching Program.

As vice president of Student Government, Elonne and other officers designed a slideshow to increase attendance at the school-wide Social Emotional Wellness Day.

"Ellie has an open mind and truly believes that people's differences and uniqueness should be celebrated," said her teacher Kerri Ketcham. "She is compassionate about others and freely gives of her time to help anyone in need."

Elonne and her twin sister, Qwin, took the initiative to create the organization *Bettering Environments Everywhere (B.E.E.)*, working to raise awareness of the declines in the bee population.

Elonne is also a member of the varsity field hockey team and studies tap, jazz and lyrical dance. She is a member of the South High concert band. She is also involved in Key Club and Girl Scouts and serves as a lector in her church.

Her AP U.S. history teacher Laurie Darling Gutheil described Elonne as "one of the most disciplined, hard-working, and self-motivated students a teacher could wish to work with."

Parents/Guardians Names: Jeffrey Pisacane and Bree Pisacane

Siblings: Qwin Pisacane

Grade Level: Senior

Personal Inspiration: I find inspiration in music and also in the world around me, whether it be a beautiful sunset, my classes at school, or a current event on the news. The world around me makes me think deeply and often inspires me to write.

Biggest Accomplishment: A few poems that I wrote with my twin sister won writing contests at the Festival of Young Artists at SPAC in my freshman and sophomore years of high school. Then I was a runner up in my junior year. It was an honor to be selected and boosted my confidence as a writer. I cherished the experience because I met amazing people and was able to celebrate my love of writing by reading a poem on the SPAC stage, which was incredible.

Community Service: I'm part of Key Club at school. It provides me with many outlets through which to volunteer. Many of my favorite events involve working with children because I hope that I can inspire them to give back to the community. I recently began my own service organization called B.E.E. (Bettering Environments Everywhere) to help raise awareness for pollinator declines and encourage people to work to make the world a healthier place by supporting

the environment.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my grandmothers on both sides of the family. My name is a combination of theirs and I strive to be like them in spirit. They are both strong women who didn't let stereotypes hold them back and pursued success in life, even when people were against their advancement. These women persevered and found happiness and success. I want to be able to approach obstacles with the fortitude that they did and overcome any challenge.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: One of my teachers who has greatly impacted me is Mrs. Gutheil, my AP US History teacher. She challenged me and provided me with the support I needed to excel in the course. I also get to work with Mrs. Gutheil in student government, where she is a positive force helping us accomplish our goals.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My goal in life is to find happiness by helping the world become a more positive place. I hope to study science, more specifically bioengineering, in college so that I can research and develop new innovations to help make the world a better place and leave a lasting impact on the world.



©ADIRONDACK SCHOOL PORTRAITS

Qwin Pisacane, a senior at South Glens Falls High School, has been described as an extremely talented writer and a student who is mature beyond her years. Qwin currently ranks No. 1 in a graduating class of 240 students and has a grade point average of 99.20.

Her teacher Laurie Darling Gutheil called Qwin empathetic and honest and a leader by example.

"She has the ambition, dedication, intellectual curiosity and talent to excel in all of her endeavors," Gutheil said.

Qwin has led several Restorative Justice circles

QWIN PISACANE, 17, South Glens Falls High School

for the district's Day of Dialogue. Her leadership in this group has allowed students a safe, non-threatening environment to discuss personal and school issues. Qwin is also the secretary of Student Government.

Her teacher Kerri Ketcham said: "Qwin is compassionate, kind, and treats fellow students and teachers with respect. She is non-judgmental and can view a situation from multiple perspectives. When she sees something wrong or hears a student judge another, she is not afraid to speak up."

Qwin is active in Santa's Elves Letter Writing for first graders, Varsity Reading Program, South High Marathon Dance, Ballard Blizzard Dance, Double H Ranch, Eighth Grade Moving Up Day Tour Guide, Salvation Army Bellringing, Catholic Youth Rally, Senior Citizen Drama Club Dinner, Freshman Orientation Night, and EYE — Educating Young Engineers.

She is also active in Restorative Justice, Key Club, Concert Band, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, field hockey and Girl Scouts. She takes dance classes, serves as a lector at her church and is a Day Care Helper.

"Qwin's dedication to our community and her passion for helping others is unmatched," said her guidance counselor Stephanie Erwin.

Parents/Guardians Names: Bree Pisacane and Jeffrey Pisacane

Siblings: Elonne Pisacane

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am constantly inspired by the world around me. One of my biggest inspirations is probably my faith, which inspires me to work toward a better future and a better me. Praying gives me strength and motivates me to continue working hard, even through my struggles.

Biggest Accomplishment: I love to write creatively, and junior year I entered a national contest for Spanish Honor Society. The piece had to be written in Spanish and was co-authored by my twin sister. It was an accomplishment to even enter the contest since I had never tried writing a story in Spanish before. Several months after I entered, I got word that my writing was to be published in *Albricias*, the national Spanish Honor Society literary and arts magazine. It was exhilarating to be published and is, without a doubt, one of my biggest accomplishments.

Community Service: As a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Key Club, I have access to many amazing volunteer opportunities within the community. Many of my favorite forms of volunteering in-

volve younger students within my school district.

Person you look up to and why: One of the people I most look up to is my twin sister, Elonne. We are very close and share a lot of the same experiences. I am motivated by her hard work and her strength, and I admire her drive to become a change maker in the world. She is so accepting of everyone and always thinks of others first.

I aspire to be like her in her kindness and empathy.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: All of my English teachers have been very positive influences. Ever since I entered my first writing contest freshman year, they have been so supportive of all my literary endeavors. I am so grateful for Ms. Ketcham, Mrs. Leavens, Mrs. Fagle-Fedeles, and Mrs. Smith for all of their support!

Goals, dreams & aspirations: The future is full of thousands of possibilities and I desire to make the most of as many as I can. My immediate goal after high school is to go to college for bioengineering. I love science and I love the idea that engineers design and create for the betterment of the world. Bioengineering combines these two loves into one and allows me to move forward with my aspiration to change the world.



© JOHN WONG

Kylie Potter, a senior at Queensbury High School, is a leader among her peers and takes every opportunity to volunteer her time in her community.

Kylie has spent seven Christmas Eves playing violin on the Oncology Floor at Glens Falls Hospital in memory of her grandmother.

Kylie also devotes her time to Key Club, Double H Ranch, Teen Advocacy Group, orchestra, choir, Drama Club and the Queensbury Recreational Soccer program.

KYLIE POTTER, 17, Queensbury High School

“Much of Kylie’s volunteer work centers on guiding the next generation of students and athletes in our community, as well as assisting the developmentally disabled,” said family friend John Wright. “To say that our community needs more young people like Kylie would be an understatement.”

Kylie is part of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She has made Principal’s List quarterly and was named Spanish Student of the Year in 2018 and Spanish Student of the Quarter in 2019.

She has received the Jim Mills Achievement Award and has attended the week-long Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., through People To People International.

Kylie is a multi-sport athlete, playing soccer, lacrosse and Alpine skiing. She is also a part of the orchestra, chorus, Select Choir, Drama Club and the Woza Soccer Student Leadership Board.

Kylie has traveled to Malawi, Africa and to Costa Rica to teach soccer with the Woza organization. She volunteers her time at Double H Ranch’s adaptive ski program and is also employed at West Mountain as a ski instructor.

Parents/Guardians Names: Jaime De-Long

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I always keep the end goal in sight when I need inspiration. I always tell myself that you only get out what you put it, and it’s important to keep pushing, even when it seems like you can’t anymore, because even if things don’t go your way, you can confidently say you put your heart into it and can move on.

Biggest Accomplishment: I was given the honor of receiving the Jim Mills Award which recognized that I was the most involved student in my class

Community Service: Volunteer at Double H Ranch teaching adaptive skiing, mentoring middle school violinists

Person you look up to and why: Chad Syniec. He’s the head coach at my gym and is the main reason I look forward to going. He always has the best attitude, and always pushes me to do my best. Even when I fail, he is there to talk me through how to be successful the next time around

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Greg Verheyne. He is someone I look up to as both a teacher and a person. He is compassionate, dedicated, and has such a big heart for everyone. He always has something positive or wise to say and I am grateful to have met him.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My main goal is to be happy. I want to go to college and earn my degree in Public Health and see where that takes me. I’ll always remember where I came from but it’s almost my time to explore the world.



Olivia Sheffer, a senior at North Warren Central School, can best be described as focused, determined, caring, articulate and hard working.

“Olivia’s overwhelming desire to succeed both academically and personally is reflected in her academic and extracurricular choices,” said her school counselor Michael Therio.

Olivia serves as the president of Students Against Destructive Decisions due to her willingness to always choose the right path, despite pressure to do otherwise.

Olivia has also been selected as a Natural

Helper and Junior Student of the Month.

“Olivia is a person of integrity and excellence,” Therio said, “and she is known in our community as someone who will always choose the best option for herself and those she cares about.”

Olivia participates in National Honor Society, varsity cheerleading, Foreign Language Club, and in the local Rotary outreach program. She has performed in the Drama Club in many key roles.

Olivia is enrolled in the highly competitive New Visions Health Careers Exploration program.

She has logged community service hours as an Adirondack Teen Leadership and Service participant, a Crandall Library assistant, a Library Reading Club aid, and as a North Warren Highway Cleanup team member. Olivia has also participated in Glens Falls Hospital Health Care events, Community Thanksgiving Dinners, and with the Upward Bound Program through SUNY Adirondack.

Olivia is also a member of Guiding Steps North Dance and spends countless hours in recitals and competitions.

OLIVIA SHEFFER, 17, North Warren Central School

Parents/Guardians Names: Stephanie Burgess-Securo and Matthew Securo

Siblings: Jameson Securo

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: My personal inspiration is to always be the best version of myself. I always want to strive to be better than I was before, not only in school, but also in my personal life. I never want to settle and always try to keep pushing for the best.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is being accepted into the New Visions Health Career program. I was accepted into this program for my senior year of high school and it has been the most amazing experience I have had in my high school career. It has opened my eyes to so many different parts of the medical field and I am so thankful to have this opportunity.

Community Service: Community Thanksgiving dinner, Glens Falls Hospital career event, Adirondack Teen Leadership and Service, Landscaping and yard cleanup, Upward Bound, North Warren Natural Helpers Highway Cleanup, Library reading club aid, winter carnival, 100 days of school celebra-

tion help, Crandall Library Dr. Seuss Event

Person you look up to and why: Someone I look up to is my mom. My mom has always and will always be my best friend and I cannot thank her enough for what she has done for me. I would not be where I am today without her endless love and support.

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 my guidance counselor, Mr. Therio. Mr. Therio has always been there for each and every one of his students and has made sure we are always on the right path. Mr. Therio has always made it known that we can always come to him with any questions or concerns and he will always be there to help. I am extremely grateful that Mr. Therio was a part of my high school experience.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: My long term goal is to become a Pharmacist. I would also love to eventually travel and explore more of the world.



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Sydney Snyder, a senior at Glens Falls High School, has passion, dedication and enthusiasm in all the roles she plays both in school and in her community.

Sydney is active in the Key Club, Yearbook, International Club, National Honor Society and the Strolling Strings orchestral group, while maintaining a high honor roll average. She also works as a server in a senior center and babysits.

She is an AP Scholar, has been selected for VIP awards, and was nominated for the St. Lawrence

SYDNEY SNYDER, 17, Glens Falls High School

University Book Award, St. Lawrence University Augsburg/North Country Scholarship, and University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award.

International Club advisor Shamon McKeigan said Sydney helps organize and direct many of the club's service and educational activities.

During International Activity nights, Sydney visits the Glens Falls Elementary schools and teaches students about other countries through games, crafts and dance. Through the club, Sydney has also collaborated with the World Awareness Children's Museum.

Her teacher and former Key Club advisor Maura Ludlow said Sydney has put effort and thought into keeping Key Club active during the pandemic.

"Sydney was a shy and quiet person as a ninth grader and even as a 10th grader," Ludlow said, "but has matured and found her voice as her high school career has advanced."

Parents/Guardians Names: Julie and Steve Snyder

Siblings: Ava Snyder

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: The quote "the best is yet to come" has always been my personal

inspiration. This reasoning encourages me to work harder and not settle for good enough. Everything can always be improved upon, and I strive to always be a better version of myself.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment thus far was going to Perú with a group from Spanish class, and the self-growth that came with it. This was my first time outside the country and being away from my family for more than just a few days. Overcoming my nerves and stepping outside of my comfort zone allowed me to go on this trip of a lifetime.

Community Service: I have volunteered with St. Baldricks, the World Awareness Children's Museum, Camp Chingachgook and the Glens Falls Medical Mission. I have also been a part of many other service activities like the Festival of Trees, GFHS Concession Stands, and Taste of the North Country. Also, during the school shutdown last spring, I volunteered as a virtual reading buddy to 2 first graders.

Person you look up to and why: There are so many, but one person I look up to is my sister, Ava. Although she is younger than me, she has been through so much in her lifetime. Watching her go through tough treatments for cancer at a

young age, she peaked my interest in the medical field. If one day I become even half as strong as her, I will be so grateful. She has fought her whole life and every time she pulls through. Although we don't always (ok... rarely) see eye to eye, she is someone who inspires me to fight for each and every day.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mrs. Shannon McKeighan is the teacher who has influenced my life the most. Mrs. McKeighan was my Spanish teacher and International Club Advisor. She has such a welcoming personality and genuinely cares about everyone. Inside the classroom, she is a fantastic teacher and because of her I found a passion for foreign language and culture. Outside the classroom she inspired my passion for community service. Mrs. McKeighan has changed my life for the better in every sense.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: As of right now, I see myself becoming a doctor specializing in maternal-fetal medicine, or neonatology. I dream of someday living in a large metropolitan area, such as Boston, and raising a big family of my own.



© JEFFREY TENNENT

Kaden Tennent, a senior at Bolton Central School, is a student with a passion for technology. He has been described by his teachers as humble and quiet as well as calm and confident.

"Kaden is the definition of a leader," said his teacher Lori Humiston.

Kaden holds many leadership positions at school through Key Club, National Honor Society and Student Council. In 10th grade he was selected to represent Bolton Central School at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference which inspires students to commit to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation.

KADEN TENNENT, 17, Bolton Central School

For the past two years, Kaden has been a strong leader in the YMCA Youth and Government program.

"Kaden is outstanding as a student and a person," said Denise Clark, his school counselor. "He is well liked by every teacher, coach, advisor and administrator. He considers himself a 'geek' because he loves technology. But there is so much depth to Kaden as a person you can't even begin to talk about his growth."

Kaden has volunteered multiple hours of his own time for events such as Elementary Computer Club, Bolton Extra Special Time (BEST) and Student Chromebooks Sign-out Nights.

His teacher Jennifer Carlson said: "Kaden has proved time and time again that he is a true role model for elementary students in the building, volunteers his own time to make Bolton Central School the best it can be and uses his interest in technology to be our most valuable 'tech enthusiast.'"

Parents/Guardians Names: Shirley Tennent and Jeffrey Tennent

Siblings: Sierra Detrick, Kenzie Tennent, Loren Tennent, Devin Tennent

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: Elon Musk, arguably

one of the most powerful figures in the world, has been a major inspiration for me throughout my teenage years. His strong work ethic coupled with his seemingly limitless drive to push the envelope of what is possible has inspired me as an individual, who is coincidentally highly interested in space exploration.

Biggest Accomplishment: In the sixth grade, I was selected to attend the Envision Youth Leaders State Conference by my teachers. This was a weekend-long conference with students from across the state. At the time, I was a very shy, quiet individual and I didn't particularly enjoy the thought of leaving my parents for this amount of time. I was one of the youngest students to attend. Despite this, on behalf of all the students who attended, I was selected to give the speech at the closing ceremony. Even to this day, I believe that this conference was a turning point for me. I became more confident with myself and more independent as a whole - I became a stronger leader. Rather than running from my fear, I faced it.

Community Service: Key Club, National Honor Society, and Student Council have all allowed me to participate in serving my community.

Person you look up to and why: There is no doubt in my mind that my parents are incredible people. The individual that I am today is derived from their unrelenting will to give me the best life they possibly can; it is evident in everything that they do. Whether it be studying with me on late school nights to providing me the resources to take advantage of every academic opportunity granted, my parents have always looked at what they believe is best for my future.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Ms. Carlson - she has always believed in me from the very beginning. Whether it be always giving me access to any form of technology at school to requesting that I fly my drone for school events, Ms. Carlson has always been inclusive. However, most importantly, she has always acted selflessly by providing a consistent and outstanding education for all students, regardless of their differences.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: Upcoming space exploration missions including Artemis, SpaceX Starlink satellite deployments, and overall any mission pushing humankind to the far reaches of the universe excite me. My selected major: Aerospace Engineering



© JOHN WONG

Jenna Tooley, a senior at Granville Jr.-Sr. High School, has been described as a leader in her high school while having a positive influence in her community.

"Jenna has continually challenged herself academically and never backed down from a challenge," said her teacher Michele Bromley. "She has become a very insightful student and is respected by her peers and staff alike."

Jenna is an active participant in just about every facet of the school community. She is a member of the Math League, M3 Math Challenge Team, Spanish Club, Quizbowl, Student Council, Homework Club, student newspaper,

JENNA TOOLEY, 18, Granville Jr.-Sr. High School

Spirit Club and National Honor Society.

Jenna has served in many leadership roles throughout her high school career, serving as president of her class, Student Council and the National Honor Society. She is the vice president of the Spanish Club and serves as secretary for HOBY Area 5. She also participated in Empire Girls State.

Jenna is a scholar-athlete and a fierce competitor on the field hockey field and on the basketball court. Jenna is a valued editorial board member of her class' literary magazine, as well as being a very creative contributor.

"Her cheerful nature and openness to feedback mean she is always learning and growing as a learner, an impressive strength that will continue to serve her well in life," said her teacher Willard Hardin III, who said Jenna is "undoubtedly one of the best students I have ever worked with."

Parents/Guardians Names: Melissa Bernard and Aaron Tooley

Siblings: Dylan Tooley, Grace Tooley, Ava Tooley

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: Brooke and Jaimie DiPalma who lost their father to suicide decided to establish a program called PS I Love You Day to create awareness about mental

health and suicide prevention. What these two young women have done is truly remarkable and as a result, their compelling story has allowed me to bring this program to my school.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is having the opportunity to advocate for my school and community by being an elected student representative for the No Place for Hate Program as well as the Ps I Love You Day and many other attempts to advocate for social change. Being involved in clubs such as Student Council and National Honor Society have allowed me to address issues in my school and allow more student voice.

Community Service: I tutor a student in Geometry, I am a representative in the No Place for Hate Student Panel and I have started mentoring a Ukrainian Student in learning English. I am also heavily involved with the Hugh O'Brian Leadership organization where I have made cards for residents at nursing homes, made packages for Operation Adopt a Soldier, made cat and dog toys for Pets Alive, and a donation drive with activities and games for the WAIT House.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my mom because she has always en-

couraged me to challenge myself in order to fulfill my greatest accomplishments which will allow me to be successful in my future endeavors.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: Mr. Hardin has positively impacted me both inside and outside the classroom because although he maintained high expectations for me in the three years I have had him, it has been entirely worth it in my success with academics and community involvement. His mathematics courses were not only practical for my upcoming endeavors, but he adequately prepared me for my future education at a university, and I have been familiarized with what to expect as a rising college student. Through his critical yet insightful teaching skills, I was able to earn a 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam and I hope to earn 5's on both my AP Statistics and AP Calculus BC exams this year.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I ultimately hope to create social change and reverse the decline of our country by traveling abroad in college and immersing myself in diverse cultures to implement positive change.



© KIMBERLY CHEK

Cameron Wian, a senior at Schuylerville High School, has been described as a mature young man who leads by example.

"Cameron is an extremely hard worker and often sets the tone for discussions, as well as the standards for excellence in the classroom," according to his school counselor Sarah Rust.

Cameron has spent countless hours volunteering in the school community. He is part

CAMERON WIAN, 17, Schuylerville High School

of the Environmental Club, Drama Club and Spanish Club, Math Team, FIRST Robotics Team 4508, and Quiz Team. He has educated elementary and middle school students to raise awareness regarding climate change, he has helped with set building for various drama productions and he has collected books for Project Cameron's Story.

He has volunteered for the Summer Technology Enrichment Program, during which he developed curriculum so he could teach students how to use various software programs.

Within the larger community, Cameron has volunteered at Hudson Crossing Park, assisting with the Triathlon, Winterfest, Cardboard Boat Races and spring trail cleanup.

Due to his love for the environment, Cameron has also assisted with the collection of water samples from the Hudson River to help determine better methods for keeping the river safe and clean.

He is also a three-sport athlete, playing on the soccer, ski, and track and field teams.

He also holds down a part-time job.

"Cameron wears many hats," Rust said, "and wears them all with maturity and poise."

Parents/Guardians Names: Cynthia Wian, Kent Wian

Siblings: Alayna Wian

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I get inspired by individual innovators: people who make advancements in or demonstrations of new technology without the help of a big team and a large budget.

Biggest Accomplishment: At the beginning of quarantine last year, I began designing a keycard lock for my bedroom door. By the end of school, I had a fully functional lock that opened when the correct keycard was held within an inch or two. The project was a challenge that involved many different skills that I had been attempting to teach myself, and I considered it a success.

Community Service: Hudson Crossing Park events Summer Tech Enrichment Program assistant Drama club set building/teardown Saratoga Homeless Shelter Thanks-

giving Meal 2019 Schuylerville athletic events fundraising

Person you look up to and why: James Hobson, an engineer and YouTuber who turned his passion for making movie gadgets real into a career. Starting with small projects in his garage, he has since progressed into running a company devoted to turning science fiction into reality.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: James Burleigh, who both teaches well and makes learning fun. He also was my modified soccer coach, and those were some of my favorite soccer seasons because they were just overall fun.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I hope to get a degree in mechatronics or robotics and then start a career related to one or both of those.



© LAUREN HULL PHOTOGRAPHY

Cameron Woodard, a senior at South Glens Falls High School, has reached the level of Eagle Scout and has performed countless community service projects. His projects included building a permanent book station in the Harry Betar Park in Moreau and for the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund.

Described by his teacher Travis Birkholz as a “leader and role model to his peers,” Cameron is able to communicate effectively with adults and is open to new ideas and ways to better himself.

Cameron is also involved in Varsity Club,

CAMERON WOODARD, 17, South Glens Falls High School

Business Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Principal’s Advisory Council and the South Glens Falls Marathon Dance.

Cameron is a leader on the basketball court, the baseball field and in the classroom, said his math teacher Kristian Keller, who described him as humorous, witty, intelligent and attentive.

Cameron is in the process of applying for acceptance to the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has received the Clark’s University Leadership Award and Rotary Youth Leadership Award.

“Cameron’s work ethic and dedication goes unmatched by most,” said his guidance counselor Jodie McGough, who described him as personable, respectful and conscientious.

Cameron also has a deep interest and a passion for United States history and volunteers at his church serving dimmers.

His AP U.S. history teacher Laurie Darling Gutheil said Cameron has an “impeccable character and a humble attitude.”

Parents/Guardians Names: Karen and James Woodard

Siblings: Kailyn Woodard

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I have always been

driven from within to achieve all of the goals that I set out to accomplish. My faith is a big part of my life and continues to move me forward on my path to success. Furthermore, I aspire to the work ethic of Michael Jordan and Derek Jeter, and what they have accomplished in life and who they are as people.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment would be earning my Eagle Scout Award through Troop 2, Glens Falls. My Eagle Scout project was in tribute to Ben Osborn, who is an Army veteran who was killed in Afghanistan. His legacy stands as I built a book station and a pavilion in his honor in the Town of Moreau Recreational Park.

Community Service: Some things that I have done include helping out with bottles and food drives for my local food pantry, serving senior citizens at the United Methodist Church dinners, and each year I help wrap gifts for the Moreau Community Center for their holiday care program. I have also helped with the cleanup of Double H Ranch through the National Honor Society.

Person you look up to and why: I look up to my parents. They have always supported me

and guided me on a path for success. I have seen the successes of my parents and want to have similar success in my future. They have given me countless opportunities to better myself and have taught me valuable life-long lessons that have made me who I am today. They have done so much for me and I am grateful to have had their support.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: I have been very fortunate over the years, and currently, have had some really great teachers that have influenced me both inside and outside of the classroom at South Glens Falls and St. Mary’s - St. Alphonsus Regional Catholic School. It is hard for me to narrow down a particular teacher, but I would like to take this time to thank all of my teachers for helping me along my path and giving me a positive experience inside and outside the classroom.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: I want to go to a good college, have an opportunity to play either basketball or baseball in college, get a degree that builds my knowledge to create, earn a good income, and enjoy life.



© ADIRONDACK SCHOOL PORTRAITS

Chelsea Wright, a senior at Minerva Central School, is a leader both in and out of school. She has also served as a student representative on numerous school committees, including the Attendance Committee and the Superintendent Search Committee and the Athletic Merger Committee, when the school switched its affiliation from Newcomb to Johnsbury in order to have sufficient numbers to field athletic teams.

“This was a contentious topic for many,” said her English teacher Robert Kirker, “but she handled it with aplomb and even helped design our new combined team logo.”

CHELSEA WRIGHT, 17, Minerva Central School

Chelsea has also been recognized with the New York State Triple “C” Award for her courage, character and commitment.

Chelsea has served her community by coordinating a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Pennies for Patients, Community Book Exchange and the School Backpack Program.

She has been involved in *Odyssey of the Mind*, *Youth and Government*, *The Post-Star Academic Bowl*, *National Honor Society*, *Yearbook*, *Student Council*, *jazz band*, *Outdoors Club* and is the editor-in-chief of *Ember*, the school’s literary magazine.

She also plays soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field.

“As she entered high school Chelsea was not the most outgoing student,” Kirker said. “She found her voice, however, and took some chances to grow personally.”

This was shown through her involvement in the arts. Chelsea has a passion for painting, drawing and music. Several of her pieces of art were accepted into the juried show at *The Hyde Collection*. She has had solos in school concerts and performed at the official Veterans Day memorial dedication in front of the Town Hall.

Parents/Guardians Names: Karen and

Greg Wright

Siblings: Karissa (older), William (younger)

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: A personal inspiration I have is to motivate people to enjoy the beauty of the Adirondacks while educating them to still being conscious of their environmental impacts.

Biggest Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment so far has been winning the Hyde Collection’s High School Juried Show “best in show” award for one of my paintings in 2020. I had gotten in the year prior to this, and I aspired to create something award-worthy. I painted Minerva Lake because I create fond memories of my town’s lake each and every year. It has the swimming dock and ropes painted at sunset. A completely random person to me saw this painting at the Hyde and liked it so much, he wanted to buy it from me. And so, I sold it.

Community Service: My family is heavily involved with the Minerva Volunteer Fire Department, so I have helped them with numerous fundraisers and events since I was little. For example I have helped out with, pancake breakfasts, dog shows, Minerva Day festivities, and throwing candy in parades just to name a few.

Person you look up to and why: I prob-

ably look up to my sister the most, and I always have. Since she is an artist herself, I am willing to bet she was the one who taught me how to draw when I was little. Not only has she taught me things, but she has also shown me that blood is thicker than water and I value her protectiveness. I feel like if I didn’t have an older sibling I would probably be a little worse off, and having an older sibling is basically like having a permanent best friend.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: This is honestly such a difficult question to answer because every teacher I have had the joy of learning from has positively impacted my life with that being said, Mrs. Winslow, my old physical education teacher, has had a grand impact on me. She had aided and pushed me to perform to the best of my abilities in all my sports, and she fought for me when I deserved better.

Goals, dreams & aspirations: A personal inspiration I have is to motivate people to enjoy the beauty of the Adirondacks while educating them to still being conscious of their environmental impacts. I plan to do this through my eager passion for art. I would like to use my talents in a positive and beautiful way.



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