



The
Secretary
of
Education
Scholars

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"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." - B.B. King

**Congratulations to the
2017 Secretary of Education Scholars**

Delaware

Department
of Education



Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.

Secretary of Education

Dear Secretary of Education Scholars:

Congratulations on achieving the honor of being named a Secretary of Education Scholar. This distinction is awarded to Delaware's highest performing students for exemplary achievements.

You are a role model for all students to emulate as a result of your exemplary work ethic, dedication, and accomplishments in and out of the classroom. I know your family, friends, teachers, and administrators are extremely proud of your success. Additionally, you have much to look forward to in the future, for you have the qualities critical to making a significant difference in not only your life but also in the lives of others. As you prepare for college and careers, be sure to reflect on and appreciate your achievements, as we do.

You have our admiration, support and best wishes. We look forward to your continued success and unlimited potential to do great things.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan S. Bunting". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "S" and "B".

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education



CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Alyssa Ball

Caesar Rodney High School

The daughter of Theresa and Ralph Ball of Magnolia, Alyssa has a 4.0 grade point average. She is a hardworking, motivated and intelligent young lady. Aspiring to work in the field of education, she has done an outstanding job building her resume to work in this field. Alyssa has been a wonderful student working in the Early Childhood Education program at Caesar Rodney High School. She is working as a peer teacher at an elementary school in our district. She is working at a daycare center as well. Allyssa is someone with tremendous work ethic and has a love for helping children. She is going to be a fantastic educator. Alyssa plans to attend Newberry College in the fall and will major in elementary education.



Grace Collins

Caesar Rodney High School

Grace is a phenomenal student. Daughter of Daniel and Kimberly Collins of Wyoming, Grace has a 4.0 grade point average and is a leader inside and outside of the classroom. For the past four years, Grace has been a member of the Caesar Rodney High School band. She began as a marching band tech and then became a section leader. She continued to have a great work ethic and became drum major. Grace also made All State Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Women's Choir. Additionally, she participates in numerous clubs and activities, such as the Latin Club, Speech and Debate/Model Congress, and National Honor Society. Grace will attend either Harvard or Princeton University and plans to major in political science and economics.



Sherry Kumar

Caesar Rodney High School

Sherry is the daughter of Mahendra and Vinita Kumar of Camden. She has the ability to think critically to solve complex problems. This makes her an invaluable asset to our Technology Student Association and Math League teams. Sherry has a drive to help those in need, which is reflected in the countless hours she has devoted in service activities through her involvement with the National Honor Society, the Indian U.S. Society of Delaware, and the Spanish and Leo clubs. Sherry also has been instrumental in raising money to help the local arts program in our community. Sherry is a bright, dedicated student, who plans to major in biomedical engineering at either the University of Pittsburgh or the University of Delaware. Upon completion, she will pursue her goal of becoming a cardiologist.



Cyrus Shanehsaz

Caesar Rodney High School

Cyrus is an exceptional student who combines intellect with ambition, talent and compassion. The son of Hooshang and Pamela Shanehsaz of Dover, Cyrus has taken the most challenging curriculum available, including 12 Advanced Placement courses, earning the designation of AP Scholar with Distinction. His extensive leadership, initiative and intellect have been recognized through his selection to the Governor's School for Excellence, Delaware Boys' State, and the US Senate Youth program, in addition to the leadership he has demonstrated in his chosen high school clubs and sports. Cyrus will attend the University of Pennsylvania and pursue a degree in economics.



Capital School District



CAPITAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Carolyn Lewis

Dover High School

Carolyn, daughter of Roger and Anne Lewis of Dover, excels as a student and is passionate about her goals. She holds a 102.438 grade point average and is a Distinguished AP scholar. Carolyn has participated in extracurricular activities such as the National Honor Society, concert and select ensemble chorus, and in the school's drama productions. Carolyn has shown commitment to her school and community by volunteering in many opportunities through the Future Farmers of America program and with the National Honor Society. Carolyn plans to major in animal science with pre-veterinary concentration and aspires to become a veterinarian.



CAPITAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Samantha Pitts

Dover High School

Samantha is a stellar student with exceptional character. She is the daughter of Nicole Jackson and Dennis Pitts of Dover. Samantha holds a 103.185 grade point average and is a member of the National Honor Society. Samantha participates in marching band, concert and select ensemble chorus, and is captain of the cheerleading team. Samantha received All-American Cheerleader and Scholar Athlete awards. She is a member of the All-State Chorus and the Kent County Honors Band. She represented her school as ambassador in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership and in the Governor's School for Excellence. Samantha plans to major in biomedical engineering at a yet-to-be-determined college.



Yousef Sheikh

Dover High School

Yousef is a diligent student who has been taking college courses since his freshman year of high school. He is the son of Nauman and Zubia Majeed of Dover. Yousef is very involved in school and in the community. He volunteers at nursing homes, Islamic Relief USA, and Heart-to-Heart Drive. He is an active member of DECA, BPA, Science Olympiad and the National Honor Society. Yousef founded the Chalkboard Charities, an educational charity aimed at developing countries. He has a grade point average of 101.88. Yousef plans to attend the University of Delaware and will major in quantitative biology.



Lake Forest School District



Christie Little

Lake Forest High School

Christie Little, daughter of Larry and Sharon Little of Harrington, is ranked first in her class of 215 seniors with a grade point average of 103.46. Christie has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Honor, a Presidential Scholar (candidate for both the general and CTE categories), and Miss Lake Forest. In addition, she has participated in the Governor's School for Excellence, Kent County Teen Court, and the Kent County Youth Philanthropy Board. She holds officer positions in FFA, Student Council, National Honor Society, and has performed countless hours of community service. Prior to law school, Christie plans to attend Swarthmore College to major in psychology.



Samuel Price

Lake Forest High School

Samuel Price, son of Jay and Diane Price of Felton is ranked second in the class of 2017 with a 103% grade point average. Samuel started taking Advanced Placement classes in his sophomore year. He has completed five AP exams with 3's or higher. He scored a perfect 5 on his AP Psychology exam. Samuel is taking four AP classes and 1 college course this year. He is a member of the National Honor Society and various other clubs. He has completed more than 100 hours of community service. Samuel has a full Quest Bridge Scholarship to Stanford University, where he will major in mathematics.



Milford School District



Alexis Peterson

Milford High School

Alexis is the daughter of Michele and Charles Peterson of Greenwood. She is ranked No. 1 in the class of 2017 with a grade point average of 4.8. Alexis has received honor roll for all marking periods while in high school, also maintaining an A average in all Advanced Placement classes. Alexis received an Award of Excellence from the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists for "outstanding academic performance, leadership potential and dedication to serving humanity through the profession of medicine." She also received an Award of Excellence from the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists for "outstanding academic performance through science, technology, engineering or math." Alexis will attend Hampton University in the fall and will major in human services.



Daniel Zang

Milford High School

Son of George and Karen Zang of Milford, Danny is ranked No. 2 in his class with a grade point average of 4.76. He is enrolled in the Academic Challenge Program at Delaware Technical Community College, where he takes all of his math courses. Danny is the vice president of the Leo Club and volunteers on a regular basis at the Food Bank of Delaware, Banneker Elementary and the Calvary Church Soup Kitchen. Danny plans to attend the University of Delaware and major in mechanical engineering with a concentration in aerospace engineering.



POLYTECH School District



Hannah Coté

POLYTECH High School

Hannah, daughter of Marc and Michelle Coté of Magnolia, is ranked first in her class. As a leader, Hannah's involvement has been plentiful and diverse. She is class secretary, POLYTECH School Board student representative, Girl Scout Troop vice president, and National Honor Society president. She also organized the Hugh O'Brian Community Leadership Workshop this past fall. Hannah is no stranger to community service. As a recipient of the 2016 President's Volunteer Service Award and the 2016 Alexander Hamilton Merit Award, Hannah has volunteered countless hours with Girl Scouts, her church, a local pediatrician's office, and Habitat for Humanity. Hannah's first college choice is Wake Forest, and she plans to major in the health and exercise science/pre-physician assistant program.



Robin Cox

POLYTECH High School

Robin is the daughter of Edgar and Sara Cox of Dover. Robin is a broadcast media student and ranked No. 2 in her class. A very humble individual, Robin downplays her academic achievements. Yet, she has managed to win silver in Skills USA, become certified in Adobe Premiere Pro and Photoshop CS6, and earned a Master of Technology Diploma, all while maintaining Principal's Honor Roll throughout her entire high school career. She also plays two instruments, sings, acts, fences, and analyzes Bible scriptures in her spare time. Robin plans to attend Liberty University, The Philadelphia School of Art, Delaware Technical Community College, or the University of Delaware to major in performing arts or music composition.



Kyland Catchings Positive Outcomes Charter School

Kyland is the son of Gladys and the late Sherman Catchings of Magnolia. As the school's top scholar, he epitomizes the results that can be achieved by hard work in a nurturing environment. Kyland's dedication to his studies and the effort he puts into any assignment given is an inspiration to his peers and teachers. He is president of the school's chapter of the Delaware Career Association. Kyland is undecided on his college choice and plans to major in mechanical engineering.



Smyrna School District



Lindsey Asbury

Smyrna High School

Daughter of Darryl and Dawn Asbury of Smyrna, Lindsey works hard to excel in all that she endeavors. She has been a varsity field hockey player for four years and is involved in lacrosse, soccer, and indoor track and field. Lindsey is a member of National Honor Society and Student Government Association. She is the class treasurer and treasurer of Letterman's Club. Lindsey is a member of the symphonic band, in which she is the first chair French horn. She has also been a member of the Delaware All-State band for six years. Lindsey is undecided on the college she will attend but plans to major in general engineering.



Maxwell Berman

Smyrna High School

Maxwell is the son of Dr. Andrew Berman and Stephanie Hall-Berman of Smyrna. He is a studious and unwavering person. Max is involved in his school by being active in the National Honor Society, Letterman's Club, Blue-Gold and the Student Government Association, where he has held the position of committee chair. Max has helped the community by working the Special Olympics Basketball Skills Challenge, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and fundraising for the MS Society. He has lettered in both soccer and tennis and actively participates in GoJu karate. Max will attend the University of Delaware in the fall and will major in biological sciences on the pre-medicine path.



James Latavitz

Smyrna High School

James Latavitz, son of Janinne and Joseph Latavitz of Smyrna, is a dedicated individual who strives to do his best in every activity of which he is involved. He serves as the president of the Smyrna High School Student Government Association, vice president of the National Honor Society, and student representative of the Smyrna School District Board of Education. He enjoys volunteering during his free time with Christiana Hospital as a summer volunteer and the Smyrna Environmental Action Seekers doing various environmental projects. In the fall, James will pursue his academic interests at the University of Delaware majoring in biomedical engineering.



Appoquinimink School District



Appoquinimink School District
THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

Kishan Patel

Appoquinimink High School

Kishan is a diligent and enthusiastic young man who strives for excellence in everything he does. He is the son of Hermendra and Rupal Patel of Bear. Kishan is ranked within the top of his graduating class with a 4.638 cumulative grade point average. He is the president of the Appoquinimink High School National Honor Society, member of the cross country and indoor track teams, as well as the team manager for the outdoor track team. Kishan is also the executive treasurer of the AHS Student Council, a member of Math League, the AHS Model U.N., and the Sportsmanship Committee. He has volunteered in the Rounding Program at Union Hospital and as a teen counselor at Safety Town. Kishan plans to attend Temple University and will major in biology.



Appoquinimink School District
THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

Krishna Suresh

Appoquinimink High School

Krishna, son of Suresh and Muruga Purushothaman of Bear, is ranked within the top of his graduating class with a 4.667 cumulative grade point average. He is the vice president of the National Honor Society, a member of the Math League and captain of the Science Olympiad team. Krishna is also the captain of the tennis team, and he recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He is a member of the University of Delaware Journal Club and interns at the Vascular Physiology Lab at the STAR Complex at UD. Krishna has participated in the Christiana Care Job Shadowing Program and the Mini-Medical Program, in addition to the Summer VolunTEEN Program. Krishna has also volunteered at multiple agencies throughout high school. He is a Presidential Scholars candidate and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Krishna will attend the University of Pennsylvania and major in bioengineering.



Appoquinimink School District
THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

Zan Usmani

Appoquinimink High School

Son of Saqib and Anila Usmani of Middletown, Zan is ranked within the top of his graduating class with a 4.644 cumulative grade point average. Zan is the secretary of the National Honor Society, has been a member of the Odyssey of the Mind, cross country team, and the indoor and outdoor track teams. Zan has also participated in Math League, Model United Nations and the school's book club. He has volunteered at a local dentist's office throughout high school, allowing him to shadow and observe the day-to-day operations. An AP Scholar with Distinction, Zan owns his own Balisong Modification Company. He plans to attend Widener University and will major in biology.



Appoquinimink School District
THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

Yutong (Crystal) Li

Middletown High School

Daughter of Yinan Li and Tiantian Xing of Middletown, Crystal is ranked at the top of her graduating class with a 4.582 cumulative grade point average. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction award winner who is also involved in many extracurricular activities. Crystal is involved in Math League, Science Olympiad, orchestra, jazz band, and plays varsity tennis. In addition to her National Honor Society volunteer hours, she also gives piano lessons and is part of the Dover Symphony. Crystal plans to study biomedical engineering and pre-med at Georgia Tech, Columbia or Johns Hopkins University.



Appoquinimink School District
THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

William Nylander

Middletown High School

Son of John and Wanda Nylander of Middletown, William is ranked No. 2 in his graduating class with a 4.389 cumulative grade point average. He has been involved in numerous extracurricular activities including varsity soccer, football, swimming, golf and FFA. In 2013, William placed 2nd in the State Geography Bee and tied for 1st place in the 2016 American Mathematics Competition at Middletown High School. William sees the good in others and feels that he was meant to work in an area where he could utilize his gifts in that capacity. In the fall, William will attend Liberty University, where he will major in social work.



Brandywine School District



Ryan Downey

Brandywine High School

Ryan, son of Scott and Ramona Downey of Wilmington, is a top student at Brandywine High School. Ryan will be graduating in the top 1 percent of his class with a 4.3 grade point average. Finishing his senior year, he has challenged himself by taking rigorous course loads every year, including 13 Advanced Placement classes and eight honors courses. Ryan has defined what a leader is at Brandywine by becoming the student body vice president, National Science Honor Society vice president, a board member of the National Thespian Honor Society, and captain of two varsity teams. After school Ryan spends his time on the field playing soccer, on the court playing men's volleyball, or in the theater doing a little bit of musical theater. During his time in athletics, Ryan has earned all-conference academic awards three times as well as the honors of being the best goalkeeper in his conference and accumulating the most goalkeeper saves in the Tri-State area. This fall, Ryan will attend the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa to study aerospace engineering. Eventually Ryan dreams of being an astronaut and colonizing a foreign planet.



Sarah Gentry Meinecke

Brandywine High School

Gentry, daughter of Kathryn and Brandon Gregg of Wilmington, is first in the class of 2017 with a 4.7 cumulative grade point average. During her high school career, Gentry has taken 13 Advanced Placement classes and became an AP Scholar her junior year. She built her leadership skills while running the student referendum campaign during her junior year as student body president and was re-elected as president her senior year. Gentry played varsity field hockey all four years at Brandywine and was captain her senior year and made 1st and 2nd team all-conference her last two years on the team. She also is a National Honor Society member and president of Brandywine's Science National Honor Society. Gentry plans to attend Mississippi State University in the fall and major in biomedical engineering.



Kristen Chou

Concord High School

Kristen Chou is an outstanding representative of Concord High School. Kristen is the daughter of Chenghua Chou and Hsiaoju Wang Chou of Wilmington. Her academic record speaks for itself, maintaining an impressive 4.0 GPA with a ranking of No. 2 in her class. Kristen has been willing to go above and beyond the norm to meet her academic goals and requirements. This year she has chosen to take Advanced Placement Macro and Microeconomics online as Concord does not offer them as part of its regular curriculum. Last spring, she took the AP Chinese exam, earning a 5 without the benefit of a classroom experience. Over the past two summers Kristen has traveled to Taiwan as part of ADVENT, dedicating many hours to teaching English to Taiwanese students. She is also extremely active in her local community and school organizations, including National Honor Society, DECA, Governor's School for Excellence, and Chorale. Kristen is strongly considering Villanova, UNC or Georgetown and will major in finance.



Dhruv Mohnot

Concord High School

Dhruv is the son of Manish and Meetu Mohnot of Wilmington. He is a brilliant, conscientious, and driven young man. With a 4.9 weighted GPA, Dhruv ranks first in his class. Dhruv has earned a perfect 800 on four SAT subject tests. He has taken eight Advanced Placement exams, scoring 5 on each. Dhruv has earned the Presidential Award for Volunteer Service, led TEDx Youth breakout sessions, and established numerous organizations. Polethia, Y Innovations, Inc., and Concord XYZ are among Dhruv's ventures. He has been recognized by Delaware Today magazine in its "20 Under 20" feature. Dhruv is undecided about his college choice but plans to major in finance.



Luke Christman

Mt. Pleasant High School

Luke is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program, which is the most rigorous academic program available to high school students. Son of Juliane and Harry Christman of Wilmington, Luke is a self-confident, self-disciplined and insightful young man who is dedicated to his academics and being an active member of the student body. During his high school career he has played varsity soccer and is the captain and founding member of the men's volleyball team. Luke was inducted into the National Honor Society and is the treasurer along with being a founding member of the Human Rights Club. Outside of school, Luke swims for his local swim club and plays soccer for two community leagues. Luke will study engineering at a yet-to-be-determined four-year college or university.



Emily Gripp

Mt. Pleasant High School

Emily is an intelligent, hardworking student who is committed to her academics and enjoys being involved in the school and local community. Daughter of Karen Gripp and Daniel Webster of Wilmington, she is dedicated, conscientious and principled with great leadership qualities. She is enrolled in the IB Program, is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, and has been recognized with the Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award. Emily is an officer for National Honor Society and is this year's News Journal high school correspondent. She prides herself in giving to the community and volunteers with Forgotten Cats and the Brandywine Zoo and has organized an annual event called Lions, Tiger and Genes (for families/children with genetic conditions). Emily plans to study pre-med at Penn State.



NEWARK
CHARTER
SCHOOL

Erin Dickert

Newark Charter School

Erin Dickert is an expressive young lady with wide-ranging talents and a heart of gold. Daughter of Carl and Mary Dickert of Newark, Erin is downright endearing and selfless amid a throng of extremely competitive students. She is at the top of Newark Charter's first senior class where she is tied for No. 1 with a 4.55 GPA. Erin, a two-sport varsity athlete, led her Math League team and earned a 5 on the Advanced Placement Calculus BC exam while she also earned awards in the National Spanish exam three years in a row. She is in Newark Charter's (Post-AP) Calculus III class, and she also earned a 5 on the AP English language exam and studies—on her own time—German at the Delaware Saengerbund, while also taking AP Spanish. Intellectual versatility is clearly one of Erin's hallmarks, and she'll bring that with her to Dartmouth College in the fall. She will major in biology (genetics) and Spanish.



NEWARK
CHARTER
SCHOOL

Shaily Patel

Newark Charter School

Shaily Patel, daughter of Samir and Amita Patel of Newark, is a leader of leaders at Newark Charter. Her main strength lies in her understanding of the depths of leadership that cover all aspects of decorum – in sentiment, substance, tactfulness, and appearance. Her leadership skills are demonstrated in the position of president of the National Honor Society. Tied for No. 1 in the class with a 4.55 grade point average, Shaily was recently named a finalist for North Carolina State's selective full Park Scholarship after being nominated by Newark Charter faculty on account of her character, leadership, scholarship, and service. Shaily is a game-changing Mock Trial attorney, a Science Olympiad veteran, a consummate tutor, and a trendsetter that Newark Charter will never forget. Shaily -- a future doctor -- is undecided about her college choice.



Christina School District



Comfort Osundina

Christiana High School

Comfort is a hardworking and dedicated young lady. Daughter of Ezekiel Osundina of Newark, Comfort is ranked among the top in her class with a 4.4 grade point average. She has excelled in the classroom as well as in extracurricular and community activities. Comfort is an officer for the National Honor Society, involved with DECA and is one of the student leaders in marching band. She is a motivated young lady who has always placed emphasis on her education. Comfort manages her time well and finds time to work and help in her community without sacrificing her school work. She is humble in all that she does. Comfort never turns her back on anyone in need. She is an amazing young lady with a very bright future. Comfort plans to attend Temple University and major in neuroscience in the fall.



Erika White

Christiana High School

Erika is one of the most involved students in the senior class at Christiana High School. She is the daughter of Darlene and Myron White of Newark. With a grade point average of 4.3, she continues to be ranked among the top in the class while playing a sport in every season, playing in the marching band, competing with the NJROTC drill team, participating in the school musical, being involved in the National Honor Society, and working part-time. To say she has good time management would be an understatement. Erika is a very disciplined young lady who is well-liked and well-respected by all of those she encounters. At this point in time, Erika is undecided as to whether she is going to enlist with the U.S. Marines or attend either Villanova or the University of Delaware to major in nursing.



Haley Henshaw

Delaware School for the Deaf

Hailey, daughter of Tammy Henshaw of Newark, is ranked first in her class. Hailey is extremely active in her school and community, volunteering with organizations such as Faithful Friends, Stockings for Soldiers, and Habitat for Humanity. Hailey is the president of the DSD chapter of the Junior National Association of the Deaf. She is also a three-sport athlete: softball, volleyball and basketball. She was the captain for the volleyball and basketball teams. Hailey is a well-rounded student who represents the DSD Blue Hawks with pride. In the fall, Hailey will be majoring in biology at Gallaudet University.



Sierra Lynn Dotson

Glasgow High School

Sierra is the daughter of Michelle and Benny Dotson of Newark. She is a prime example of a polite, friendly, well-rounded student. Sierra showcases her leadership abilities by participating in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. She is the varsity captain of both the lacrosse and swim teams, woodwind section leader of the school's marching band, and treasurer for Glasgow's FFA chapter. In addition to all this, she is ranked top of her class, challenging herself with rigorous Advanced Placement courses and maintaining a 4.3 grade point average. Sierra intends to pursue studies in communications/journalism following graduation.



Ashley Nicole Grinnell Glasgow High School

Ashley, daughter of Kristy Grinnell of Newark, is an extremely hard-working and ambitious individual. She has a cumulative grade point average of 4.3 and takes several Advanced Placement and honors courses. Ashley has participated in several extracurricular activities, including swimming, where she was co-captain and won Flight-B Conference Champion for her butterfly; tennis, where she is captain and plays as first singles; and many others, such as cross country, math league, and student government. She was a delegate at the Governor's School for Excellence and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program. Ashley plans to attend the University of Delaware and will major in biology.



Joshua Jasmin Newark High School

Son of Keith and Heather Jasmin of Newark, Joshua is highly motivated, mature, polite, patient, well-read and intelligent. During his high school career, Joshua excelled academically and ranks second in his class. He is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, such as Newark's Nature Society, Astronomy and Aeronautics organization, Chamber Choir and soccer team. He is also president of Newark's Patriot Project, which he started in 2015. Joshua's project goal was to inspire pride in our country by promoting good citizenship and increasing awareness of the importance of military service members and first responders. Joshua plans to attend Ashland University and major in history and political science.



Emily Thompson

Newark High School

Emily Thompson, daughter of Christine and Robert Thompson of Newark, is diligent, detail-oriented and demonstrates a love of learning. She achieved the status of an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and is ranked No. 1 in her class. Emily shows leadership skills as president of the Nature Society and creative director of the Improv Troupe. She sings in a small acapella group called Track Nine. Last summer, Emily had an engineering internship at the University of Delaware with graduate and undergraduate students in a lab. Emily has not yet decided where she will go to college, but she will study biology and plans to go into research.



Colonial School District



Tyler Ballance

William Penn High School

Tyler is the son of Weijun and Daniel Ballance of New Castle. Throughout his time at William Penn High School, Tyler has been a model student and admirable young man. He has taken every honors and Advanced Placement course offered to students and has a 4.34 cumulative grade point average. Participating in Science Olympiad, National Honor Society and lacrosse has kept Tyler busy beyond academics. He always strives to excel in all that he does. Tyler plans to major in math in college.



Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jacob Campbell

William Penn High School

Jacob is the son of Wendy and Stephen Campbell of New Castle. During his time at William Penn High School, Jacob has been the community outreach chair for Student Council, on the Science Olympiad team, captain of the VEX Robotics team and vice president of the National Honor Society. He is very involved with his church, the Lion's Club, and the Youth Philanthropy Board. Jacob has received Distinguished Honor Roll, the President's Award for Academic Excellence and Widener University's High School Leadership Award. He also attended Governor's School for Excellence. Jacob has not yet decided on a college, but has been accepted to University of Delaware's Honors Program and Widener University and plans to major in physics.



Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alexandria Getchell

William Penn High School

Alexandria, daughter of Corinna and John Getchell of Middletown, has worked diligently to achieve the greatest points of her potential. She has maintained above a 4.0 grade point average and taken 14 Advanced Placement courses. Alexandria is the captain of the varsity swim team and has been on the varsity tennis team for three years. Also she has participated and medaled in Science Olympiad. Alexandria's leadership ability is demonstrated by being the president of the National Honor Society and her participation in Governor's School for Excellence. She has accomplished all of this while working a part-time job since her sophomore year. Alexandria is undecided on her college choice and plans to major in biochemistry and move on to medical school.



Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alexis Robles

William Penn High School

Alexis Robles is the son of Agustina and Alberto Robles of New Castle. He is committed to working hard academically while balancing many extracurricular activities. Alexis has been a member of the school's National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, indoor track and lacrosse teams. He always works hard and strives for the best. His qualities stand out in the STEAM field, especially in engineering and physics. Alexis has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and is ranked No. 4 in his class. He plans to major in physics at a college yet to be determined.



Marlena Williams

Delaware Academy of
Public Safety & Security

Marlena, daughter of Bree and Raymond Williams of New Castle, is a dedicated student whose dreams of becoming a medical missionary are coming to fruition after acceptance to 13 colleges with scholarships valued at more than \$238,000. Marlena pursued opportunities to take advanced classes, including dual enrollment, while participating in extra-curricular activities like varsity cross country and soccer. She has earned the Lifesaver Award for her assistance in emergency situations, a service award for leading the Fire Truck Committee, and Top Cadet in Public Safety III. She will graduate in the top tier of her class. Marlena embodies DAPSS Core Values in and out of the classroom. Her college choices include Duke University or Regent University, and she will major in international and religious studies.



Sarah Buehler

Delcastle Technical High School

Daughter of Debra Buehler of Wilmington, Sarah is an outstanding student. Her greatest achievement is how she takes responsibility for herself and her education and has done so well. Sarah's determination, maturity, kindness and quiet strength are just a few of the many great characteristics that make her such a wonderful young adult. Sarah has an outstanding grade point average and is No. 1 in her class. She participates in dual enrollment courses at a local college and Science Olympiad and is a leader in her career area. Sarah will attend college at Nebraska Wesleyan University and major in communications or science and education.



Vlada Kupriienko

Delcastle Technical High School

Vlada will graduate from the first class of Delcastle's surgical technician program and plans to pursue her education in the neuroscience field. Daughter of Natalia Wolhar of Newark, Vlada has earned an impressive grade point average of 4.11, which is even more astounding when you discover that she is an English learner and grew up speaking Russian. Vlada has taken advantage of every opportunity to enroll in challenging courses and will leave high school with nine college credits due to dual enrollment courses she has taken at Delaware Technical Community College. Vlada is an amazing student who is not only intelligent but also extremely genuine and caring. She has volunteered at Elwyn Institute by assisting cognitively impaired patients. Vlada will pursue a degree in neuroscience at a yet-to-be-determined college.



Kalli Morris

Delcastle Technical High School

Kalli Morris is an outstanding student who will graduate from Delaware's new surgical technician career area. Daughter of Kathryn Killen of Wilmington, Kalli has earned an impressive 4.11 grade point average. She has earned nine college credits from dual enrollment courses she has taken at Delaware Technical Community College. In the fall, Kalli plans to continue her education in the medical field and utilize the SEED Scholarship to attend the nursing program at Delaware Technical Community College.



Julie Clark

Paul M. Hodgson Vocational
Technical High School

Julie, daughter of Bill and Jennie Clark of Newark, is ranked No. 1 in her class. Julie has shown her leadership ability as the vice president of the National Honor Society through which she volunteers numerous hours in the community. She is captain of the girls' lacrosse team and earned second team all-conference in field hockey. Julie challenges herself academically by taking classes at Delaware Technical Community College. She works in the student activities office assisting with various activities within the school, such as parent night and SkillsUSA. Julie enjoys community service. She is an acolyte in church, Mud Run participant, and volunteers at various organizations. In the fall, Julie will be a Blue Hen, attending the University of Delaware to major in English education.



Stephanie Gonzalez-Carranza

Howard High School
of Technology

Stephanie is kind, hardworking, driven and dedicated. Daughter of Yadira Carranza of Wilmington, Stephanie is a member of the National Honor Society, student council, SCA Executive Board, The Howard Voice, Howard Student Leaders and the yearbook community. Stephanie is a class officer and was class president and Ms. Howard her junior year. This year she placed fourth in the Skills baking competition. Stephanie is ServSafe certified and works at Seeds of Jesus Day Care, where she offers dietary support. Recently, she worked at AI DuPont Children's Hospital offering dietary support as well. Stephanie is a student of the Culinary Arts program at Howard, where she is a leader among her peers, gaining recognition for her professionalism and skill. She will attend Johnson and Wales University to study baking and management.



Nashaye Harris-Larson

Howard High School
of Technology

Nashaye is focused, well-spoken, resilient and a natural leader. Daughter of Shaun Harris of Bear, she holds the highest grade point average in her class and is highly involved at Howard. She is a dedicated member of the National Honor Society, student council, and The Howard Leading Ladies Club. She also played varsity soccer, cross country and basketball during her high school career. Nashaye is a Certified Nursing Assistant after passing her state certification exam during her junior year. She works at a Montessori school as a nurse's assistant and as a health aid at two medical facilities. Nashaye will attend La Salle University in the fall, majoring in biochemistry. She will pursue a career as an OB/GYN.



Jeremy Abney

St. Georges Technical High School

Jeremy is an extraordinary student who is salutatorian for his class. He is the son of Dana and Parris Abney of Newark. Jeremy's flawless transcript boasts a 4.20 GPA and includes the school's most challenging and rigorous coursework. He has earned 12 college credits from dual enrollment courses. Jeremy's accomplishments include a Governor's School for Excellence nomination, earning the Presidential Scholarship from the University of Delaware and National Honor Society membership. Jeremy is an ambitious, disciplined, and compassionate young man. He will study chemical engineering at the University of Delaware in the fall.



Sarah Brown

St. Georges Technical High School

Sarah is the daughter of Angela and Thomas Brown of Port Penn. She is an exceptional student and is the valedictorian for her class. With a perfect high school transcript, Sarah carries a 4.21 GPA, all the while challenging herself with the school's most rigorous curriculum, including multiple dual-credit college courses. Sarah's accolades include a first place finish in the Biotechnology Laboratory Skills HOSA State Competition and National Honor Society membership. She is a well-rounded young lady with extracurricular involvement including membership with the Heavenly Hooves 4H organization and 13 years of horseback riding on the equestrian team at C-Line Stables. Sarah is incredibly hardworking, positive, driven, and personable. Sarah will attend the University of Delaware, where she will study in the pre-veterinary science program.



Red Clay Consolidated School District



Ava Cruz

Cab Calloway School of the Arts

Ava is the daughter of Andrew and Stephanie Cruz of Wilmington. National Merit Commended Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and Carson's Scholar are just a few of Ava's accolades. Ava is truly an exceptional young woman, with innate leadership abilities, who proudly represented her school as its HOBY ambassador. She is a model school citizen, a dedicated member of TSA, an active member of the National Honor Society, and co-founder and president of the Communications Arts Honor Society. A talented graphic designer, Ava is often the "go-to" when faculty require a creative eye to assist with a project or design. Ava plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania and major in visual studies with a pre-med track.



Jocelyn Gilbert

Cab Calloway School of the Arts

An AP Scholar with Distinction ranked at the top of a very academically competitive and motivated class, Jocelyn clearly stands out as one of the school's best and brightest. Daughter of Gregory and Christine Gilbert of Newark, Jocelyn immersed herself into a carefully selected rigorous, yet well-rounded, curriculum. Her interest in STEM naturally led her to become involved with Science Olympiad and Math League, where she has found great success. Jocelyn's academic excellence, coupled with her commitment to service and leadership skills, aided her induction into the National Honor Society. A member of four strings ensembles, she is as dedicated to her musical talents as she is to her academics. Jocelyn will attend Cornell University in the fall and major in electrical and computer engineering.



Jordan Cogswell

Conrad Schools of Science

Daughter of Heidi and Larry Cogswell of Newark, Jordan is a young woman who has excelled and thrived at all levels during her academic career. With a grade point average of 5.08, she ranks No. 2 in her class while challenging herself with the most rigorous of schedules. Jordan has been a member of the concert band, the FFA, National Honor Society and the Science Olympiad team. Outside of school, Jordan is a competitive dancer and has been performing for 14 years. She will pursue a degree in pre-veterinary studies/animal science at a yet-to-be-determined college.



Paul Ryan

Conrad Schools of Science

Paul, son of Deborah and Michael Ryan of Wilmington, is a young man who exemplifies what a high achieving, well-rounded student is all about. Ranked No. 1 in his class with a grade point average of 5.08 and serving as class president, Paul has been at the forefront among his peers. He is an AP Scholar, an athlete, and a young man dedicated to his community. Paul has represented Conrad at the Governor's School for Excellence, the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program, and the Delaware Youth Leadership Network. While he is still undecided on a college, he plans to pursue a degree in civil engineering.



Sarah Gotthold

John Dickinson High School

Sarah is the daughter of Steven and Beth Gotthold of Wilmington. She is ranked No. 2 in her class with a cumulative grade point average of 5.087. She is involved in numerous activities including National Honor Society, student government, and wrestling (as a manager). Sarah has also served as captain for volleyball and softball, represented the school as a Blue-Gold Ambassador, and founded Dickinson's Community Service Club. She always strives to do her best and will continue to do so in college. Sarah plans to attend James Madison University with an undeclared major.



Emily Jones

John Dickinson High School

Emily, daughter of Geoffrey and Laurie Jones of Wilmington, is ranked No. 1 in her class with a cumulative grade point average of 5.104. Besides achieving straight A's throughout her high school career, Emily is a member of the National Honor Society, student government, and the Dickinson Community Service Club. She also participated in volleyball and softball all four years, serving as captain for the latter. Emily's passion is art, and she has given back to the school many times through her designs and drawings. In the fall, Emily will attend Savannah College of Art and Design to study animation.



Nicholas Schreiber Alexis I. DuPont High School

Nick Schreiber is a very strong student academically and has received distinguished honors every year. Son of Jackey and David Schreiber of Newark, he ranks second in his class out of 241. Outside of the classroom, Nick has been very active. He is a member of the BPA and DECA. Both groups are school service groups that give back to the students and staff at AI. Nick is also a member of Mock Trial. He has a strong interest in social studies, stating it is his favorite class because it provides interesting information about our past and how we interact together. He is also employed as an election officer. Nick plans to attend either the University of Delaware or the University of Maryland in the fall and will major in political science/computer science.



Michelle Shao Alexis I. DuPont High School

Michelle is the daughter of Hong Li and Lixin Shao of Wilmington. Michelle's current grade point average is 5.031, ranking her at the top of her class. She has earned distinguished honors every year. This year Michelle was appointed as the band squad leader. She has been a member of the Science Olympiad for the past four years. The Olympiad team collectively solves problems after school and later competes in a statewide event. Michelle is a member of the National Honor Society, Math League and Environmental Action Committee, and is a teacher's aide. She is also involved in athletics in varsity swimming and tennis. Michelle is considering University of California, Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin, or Georgia Tech and will major in computer science.



Mandeep Kaur

Thomas McKean High School

Mandeep Kaur is the daughter of Rajinder Singh and Kulwinder Kaur of Wilmington. She is a dedicated student ranked No. 2 in her class with a grade point average of 4.514. Mandeep has participated in numerous extracurricular activities including Science Olympiad, National Honor Society, tennis and soccer. She is also the vice president of Rho Kappa, and the chapter president of FCCLA. Mandeep has applied to and been accepted at several colleges and universities but has not made a decision at this time.



Destyne Rook

Thomas McKean High School

Daughter of Nicole and Karl Rook of Wilmington, Destyne is an extremely hardworking student. She is ranked No. 3 in her class with a 4.47 grade point average. Destyne has been a member of McKean's AVID program since 10th grade, involved in the LGBTQ+ advisory and animal clubs. She also enjoys writing and is a talented artist. Destyne plans to attend Hartwick College in upstate New York, where she will major in English.



Andy Chen

Charter School of Wilmington

Andy is an ambitious, hardworking, and driven young man. He is the son of Hongfeng Chen and Jingping Men. Andy has demonstrated intelligence and dedication in several areas. A member of the National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, and Math League, Andy has obtained a perfect score at the invitational meet in 2016. He has also qualified for AIME and made all-state senior band for flute and piccolo. A highlight of Andy's was performing with a local symphony orchestra. He has run cross country and is most proud of the fact that he has maintained straights A's for his entire academic career thus far. His 4.690 (he will have taken 17 Advanced Placement exams by the time he graduates) has helped him be at the top of his class. Andy is weighing his options on where he will attend college next year. He plans to study business, economics and political science.



Benjamin "Ben" Xing

Charter School of Wilmington

Ben is ranked at the top of his graduating class with a 4.649 cumulative grade point average. He is the son of Chunchun Xing and Huiling Yang of Newark. Ben has been on the Charter tennis team throughout his high school career. He is a valued member in school clubs, including Math League, Economics Challenge, World Quest, Sustainability Club, and ACM. He excels in academic competitions as well. Ben qualified twice for the AIME, once in 10th grade and again in 11th. He also took first place in the New Castle County Science Fair in the Engineering category. Ben received several awards on the National Spanish Exam, winning gold twice. He has developed his interest and talent in music. He has been nominated to be a violin player in the 2017 All Eastern Orchestra. Ben volunteers at his local library, hospital, in school as a Science Ambassador, and works at MathPlus on weekends. Ben plans to study mechanical engineering in a yet-to-be-determined college.



Jacob Hudson

Delaware Military Academy

Cadet Jacob Hudson is one of the most spirited and high achieving cadets at the Academy. Son of Tim Hudson of Wilmington, Jake has defined himself as a leader. Not only has he led as captain on the football team but also as one of the most active and influential senior class presidents to date. He has masterfully planned and executed pep rallies, dances, and even a dodgeball tournament that raised more than \$800 for suicide awareness and prevention. Cadet Hudson also challenges himself academically with Advanced Placement courses and holds an impressive 3.83 grade point average and has earned a spot in the National Honor Society. Most recently, Cadet Hudson was nominated by Sen. Chris Coons to the US Naval Academy, where he plans to study engineering.



Ava Rice

Delaware Military Academy

Cadet Ava Rice is the daughter of Tatiana Rice of Hockessin. She is one of the schools most well rounded cadets. Scholastically she has risen to the top of her class with a 4.3 grade point average and has pushed herself to take the most challenging courses available, including Advanced Placement courses. She is also an active member of the National Honor Society and Science Olympiad, where she is one of the academy's all-time leading medal winners. Ava has also displayed impressive leadership skills, talent, and dedication as a member of the DMA's marching band. Cadet Rice plans to attend Cornell University, where she will major in mechanical engineering.



Cape Henlopen School District



Benjamin Conrad

Cape Henlopen High School

Son of Jeffrey and Michaela Conrad of Lewes, Benjamin is the perfect example of an independent and determined learner. He ranks at the top of his class with a 102.6 cumulative grade point average and has carried a heavy course load including honors, Advanced Placement, Academic Challenge, and University of Delaware dual enrollment classes throughout his high school career while also maintaining a part-time job. Benjamin is very involved in school and around the community; he recently completed his Eagle Scout project, installing small libraries outside of the elementary schools in the Cape Henlopen School District. He is the consummate athlete participating in Cape's tennis and swim teams. Benjamin is responsible, inquisitive, has a great sense of humor, and always strives to excel in all that he does. Benjamin plans to pursue a career in computer engineering.



Erik-Stephane Stancofski

Cape Henlopen High School

Son of Erik and Hiba Stancofski of Lewes, Erik-Stephanie is a hard-working, ambitious young man with a thirst for knowledge. He is ranked at the top of his class with a 4.175 cumulative grade point average. Erik-Stephane strives to be the best at what he does. He is the National Honor Society historian, class president and member of the Leo Club. He is also captain of the varsity lacrosse team, earning all-conference and all-state honors, captain of the swim team, earning all-conference honors, and he played varsity football. Erik-Stephanie plans to attend Georgetown University, majoring in biology with a pre-med track.

Delmar School District



Summer Black

Delmar High School

Summer displays the perfect combination of being compassionate, hard-working and witty. Daughter of Emerson and Laura Black of Laurel, Summer strives to excel in all that she does. She is ranked at the top of her graduating class with a 4.6 cumulative grade point average. Summer is very involved in school and around the community. She has challenged herself academically by taking Academic Challenge Program classes since eighth grade and most recently dual enrollment Wilmington University courses. Summer served this past year as the Delmar High School band drum major, is an active member of Key Club serving candy to community children at Trick or Treat night, and has organized 5K runs to support Veteran's as a member of the Red Cross Club. Summer plans to attend the University of Delaware or Washington College in the fall and major in computer science.



Rehan Choudhry

Delmar High School

Rehan is a hardworking, outgoing and emphatic individual. Son of Samar Choudhry of Delmar, Rehan has a 4.5 cumulative grade point average. He has participated in several extracurricular activities that include serving as president of the Key Club, vice president of National Honor Society and secretary of Business Professionals of America. He also tutors students in algebra, chemistry and trigonometry/pre-calculus. Rehan is the vice president of the Student Government Association that assists with community service activities including Trick or Treat Night, Delmar Fall Carnival, and elementary school field day. In the fall, Rehan plans to attend Johns Hopkins University to major in biology.

Indian River School District



Erin Haden

Indian River High School

Erin is the daughter of Richard and Kristin Haden of Dagsboro. Erin is a conscientious student who works above and beyond the requirements to be successful. Erin is ranked No. 2 in her graduating class with a grade point average of 4.64. She has participated in a variety of extracurricular activities such as the Leo Club and the National Honor Society. Erin has also been a member of the swim, field hockey, and lacrosse teams. In the summer of 2016 she participated in a medical internship in India. In the fall Erin plans to attend a four-year university and major in medicine to fulfill her dream of becoming a surgeon.



Hayden McWilliams

Indian River High School

Son of Carl and Rebecca McWilliams of Fenwick Island, Hayden is an exceptional student who strives to be successful. He is ranked at the top of his graduating class with a grade point average of 4.67. He has been involved in a variety of extracurricular activities that include being a member of the National Honor Society, Leo Club, Foreign Language Activity Group, and the Business Professionals of America. Hayden is also the goalie for the varsity lacrosse team. In the fall Hayden plans to attend a four-year university and major in financial engineering.



Jean-Akim Cameus Sussex Central High School

Jean-Akim is an extraordinary young man who excels in the classroom, on the soccer field and in the community. He is the son of Altes Cameus and Sophonie Jean Baptiste of Georgetown. Jean-Akim is an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate. He is multi-lingual—fluent in English, French, Haitian Creole and Spanish. He is a Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America Scholar (LEDA) and attended the summer institute at Princeton University. He works with First State Community Action and our area schools tutoring non-English speaking students. This is a special young man who is in tune with the needs of our global society. Jean-Akim is undecided of his college choice at this time but plans to study engineering.



Andrew Evan Sussex Central High School

Son of Jeffrey and Terri Evan of Dagsboro, Andrew is ranked at the top of his class. He is an exceptional young man who excels in Academic Challenge, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. He captains the cross country team and is vice president of the Business Professionals of America. Andrew attended the Governor's School for Excellence, Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association Student Leadership Conference, National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Youth Leadership Council, the Business Professionals of America state and national leadership conferences, and is a member of the Sussex County Youth Philanthropy Board. In the fall, Andrew will attend Penn State and will pursue a degree in engineering.



Luis Garcia Osorio

Sussex Central High School

Luis is a humble and respectful young man. He is the son of Luis Garcia Mena and Maria Osorio Ramirez of Millsboro. Luis is an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate. Twice Luis attended Delaware Latino Summit, where he focused on the public policy agenda to work to connect businesses, schools and organizations to Delaware's growing Hispanic community. Luis attended the Delaware Congressional Youth Conference, where he had the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and citizenship by participating in thought-provoking discussions on current events and always strives to excel in all that he does. He is fluent in English and Spanish. Luis will study chemical engineering at a yet-to-be-determined college.



Laurel School District



LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TyAnna Handy

Laurel High School

TyAnna is the daughter of Tyrone and Anna Handy of Laurel. TyAnna learned at an early age the importance of having the right balance. This is reflected in the many activities in which she has been involved. In school, she has maintained high academic standards while being part of the National Honor Society and Student Government Association and serving as senior class president and yearbook editor. She participated in field hockey, basketball, and soccer. In the community, TyAnna is the president of the Laurel Leo Club and member of the Delaware Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Board. She is also a volunteer at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital. TyAnna will attend Delaware State University in the fall and major in nursing.



LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Alexandria Ullman

Laurel High School

Daughter of Ron and Tina Ullman of Laurel, Alexandria is ranked No.1 in her class. Throughout her years in school, she has been inducted into every level of National Honor Society and completed every Advanced Placement course that has been offered. During her junior year, Alexandria was selected for the United National Pilgrimage. She has been involved in athletics, playing varsity field hockey and softball. In 2014, Alexandria became a Delaware State Softball Champion, one of her proudest accomplishments. She has also participated in the Senior and Big League Softball World Series held in Roxanna. Alexandria is considering Ohio State University and her future plans are to become an orthopedic surgeon, specializing in sports medicine.



Seaford School District



Hannah Doyle

Seaford High School

Hannah, daughter of Richard and Lisa Doyle of Seaford, is a hard-working, focused and motivated student-athlete. She is ranked No. 1 in her class with a weighted grade point average of 105.6 as an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate. Hannah participates in student government, National Honor Society, Math League, Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and has contributed and led our field hockey, cross country and track and field teams. She has represented the school at Governor's School for Excellence, Girls' State, Principal's Advisory and the DIAA Leadership Conference. Hannah plans to attend Rowan University and major in biomedical engineering.



Sierra Snigier

Seaford High School

Sierra is the daughter of William and Lisha Snigier of Seaford. She is the embodiment of all that is positive in a young person today. Sierra is ranked No. 2 in her class and is highly motivated and well rounded. She has been on the varsity hockey team for three years and the tennis team for four years. Sierra has participated in student government, Principal's Advisory, National Honor Society, Key Club, and FFA. She has been a HOBY ambassador, RYLA delegate, and is a Carson Scholar. She always strives to excel in all that she does. Sierra is undecided about her college choice but plans to study public relations/business administration.



Sussex Technical School District



Ari August

Sussex Technical High School

Daughter of Jennifer August of Rehoboth Beach, Ari is truly an exceptional young lady. Academically, Ari is ranked No. 2 in her class. She has completed the five-year Academic Challenge Program in which she earned 24 college credits in English and math from Delaware Technical Community College and the University of Delaware and was the recipient of the student excellence award for English every year. Ari is a member of the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She completed two technical areas at Sussex Tech: Health Professions and Carpentry/Mill & Cabinet Technologies. Ari's leadership resume includes: delegate to the United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth and Delegate to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation. She has served the community as a four-year member of the Key Club, where she coordinated multiple service projects for several local organizations. Ari is considering attending the University of Delaware, where she will major in biology.



Brittany Ritter

Sussex Technical High School

Daughter of Douglas and Kara Ritter of Millsboro, Brittany is a truly distinguished young lady. Academically, Brittany is ranked No. 1 in her class. She has completed a total of eight Advanced Placement and dual enrollment courses in 11th and 12th grades. Brittany is a member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society, where she serves as secretary for both organizations. She is also a member of the Spanish Honor Society, where she serves as president. Brittany has consistently earned a perfect 100 average in her technical area: Digital Publishing & Design Technologies. She is an integral member of Math League, Sussex County Youth Philanthropy Board, Science Olympiad, Odyssey of the Mind, Project Unify and the Jefferson Awards Students in Action Team. Brittany is also a proud member of the Raven Nation Marching Band, in which she is a majorette and has performed in New York City, Disney World, and most recently the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. Brittany is deciding between Georgia Tech and Ohio State University; she plans to major in industrial design.



David Cohen Davis

Sussex Academy High School

Cohen is the son of Bill and Andrea Davis of Seaford. He has led Sussex Academy's first graduating class in many ways. His 4.55 grade point average is the result of strong A averages in every single class, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate diploma program courses. He has served as president of Leo Club, National Honor Society, and student government. His passion for science and engineering has shown in his work on the Science Olympiad team and county and regional science fairs. Cohen also participated in junior varsity Lacrosse, varsity swim team, and multiple theatrical productions. Cohen is considering Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and will major in computer engineering.



Magdalena Limon Gutierrez

Woodbridge
High School

Magdalena is a very positive, dedicated and hardworking student at Woodridge High School. She is the daughter of Irma Gutierrez and Martin Santos of Bridgeville. Magdalena has participated in many extracurricular activities including serving as the treasurer for the National Honor Society, member of the Spanish Honor Society, and participant in the recent Sussex County Science Fair, where she earned first place honors. She has served as the president of the Woodbridge HOSA chapter, attended the Governor's School for Excellence, and in her free time, logs many volunteer hours at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford. Magdalena is ranked No. 2 in her class and is weighing her college options. She plans to major in physical therapy.



Beth Manlove

Woodbridge High School

Beth, daughter of Ed and Pam Manlove of Felton, is ranked No. 1 in her class. She has participated in a range of extracurricular activities including serving as a four-year member and president of the Woodbridge FFA and vice president of the National Honor Society. Through her active participation in FFA, Beth has completed countless hours of community service in the Bridgeville area and through the county. She was captain of the volleyball team and a member of the varsity soccer team, where she was a four-time academic all-conference honoree. Beth is a highly motivated and dedicated student who is weighing her college options. Beth will major in elementary education.



Criteria for Secretary of Education Scholars' Nominations

Since 1984, the Secretary of Education has honored top students from Delaware's public high schools for their many academic achievements. The principals were asked to nominate top seniors they considered to be exemplary scholars of the graduating Class of 2017 based on local criteria. The number of scholars from each school was calculated based on the school's student enrollment. The principal completed the nomination for each scholar including a 100 word narrative citing the student's qualifications for this honor.

This is a night to honor the 2017 Secretary of Education Scholars as well as celebrate public education in Delaware.

Congratulations

2017 SCHOLARS



Delaware



*Department
of Education*

Betty Forbert, Coordinator
Department of Education
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Townsend Building
Dover, Delaware 19901
302-735-4035
www.doe.k12.de.us