

# Suburban Life Scholars

## Downers Grove North

### Abigail J. Murphy

**Notable Student Academic Achievements:** 4.0+ honor roll for 5 out of 6 semesters (2013-2016) AP Scholar with Distinction, Member of the All State Journalism Team (2016) 4th in State for Newspaper Design (2015) 3rd in State for Newspaper Design (2016) National Honor Society (2016) Spanish National Honor Society (2016). Student's GPA is 4.

**Student Involvement in Activities:** 1st in sectionals for Newspaper Design (2015) 1st in sectionals for Editorial Writing (2016) 3rd in sectionals for Newspaper Design (2016) Journalism sectional champions (2015 & 2016) IJEA 3rd place for Serious Commentary (2016) IJEA 3rd place for Personality Profile (2016) Excellent in Online News Package at the NSPA national convention (2014) 4 years-Track and Field and 2 years basketball team.

**Student Involvement in Community Service:** Volunteer-HGNA (Helping Girls Navigate Adolescence), Feed My Starving Children, Retirement Home.

**Nominated by Kevin M. Leslie, Guidance Counselor:** Abbey has been a great student and positive contributor to our school in academics, activities, and athletics. Her character and leadership has shown most in her passion for journalism and contributions through the "Omega" newspaper. She is bright, compassionate and caring. I am proud to recognize Abbey as a Suburban Life Scholar.



## Downers Grove South

### Valerie Blackmore



**Notable Student Academic Achievements:** During her four years at Downers Grove South High School, Valerie has challenged herself with a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, taking nearly every honors and advanced placement class available to her. She ranks near the top of her large and talented class, scored impressively on the ACT, and has earned National Merit Commended status. All of this said, you will not find a more humble, grounded young woman than Valerie – she is kind and open minded to everyone she encounters. Student's GPA is 4.42.

**Student Involvement in Activities & Community Service:** Outside of school, Valerie actively pursues learning opportunities and seeks to help others in her community. Notable experiences for Valerie include the Farrell Fellows Summer Internship and Science Achievers program at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, serving as a counselor in training during summer Girl Scout camps, taking a two week summer research computing class at the University of Notre Dame, volunteering at Safety Town for younger children, and traveling to Spain with her Spanish class. Here at DGS, Valerie is a part of Scholastic Bowl, Movie Club president, Snowball, Freshmen Play, National Honor Society, and Key Club.

**Nominated by Kate Blader, School Counselor:** Valerie Blackmore is a positive, ambitious, and genuine young woman. She is incredibly creative, uniquely intelligent, and persistent in working toward her goals. In her own words: "I'm a die-hard optimist and, consequently, I think anything is possible!" Valerie has proven herself to be not only one of my top students, but also someone I truly look forward to hearing about as she navigates beyond her high school years.