

Suburban Life Scholars

Downers Grove North

Emily Grigg



Notable Student Academic Achievements: National Merit Commended Student; 4.0 and above Honor Roll (9,10,11,12); National Honor Society (11,12); National French Contest-Silver Medal Recipient; National French Society (10,11,12); AP Scholar with Honor; National Forensics League Degree of Superior Distinction; Published in Northwind (DGN literary magazine). Student's GPA is 4.0.

Student Involvement in Activities: Color Guard and Winter Guard (9,10,11,12); Color/Winter Guard - Captain (11,12); Prism (Gay-Straight Alliance) – President (10,11,12); Speech Team - Event Captain of Impromptu Speaking and Original Comedy (11,12); Theatre – publicity and technical crew head (10,11).

Student Involvement in Community Service: Downers Grove Township Peer Jury (10,11,12); Downers Grove Township Fish Food Pantry (9,10); National Honor Society volunteer work (11,12).

Nominated by Greg Stolzer, School Counselor: Emily has contributed so much to our school community as well as the broader Downers Grove community. She is an exceptional student, an accomplished leader and respected citizen. Through her efforts in the classroom and leadership in school activities, she has demonstrated great character and a commitment to pushing herself to accomplish great things. Through her leadership of our Prism group, our school's Gay-Straight Alliance, as well as her volunteer work through Peer Jury and our National Honor Society, Emily has shown her respect for all people as well as the importance of serving one's community. I am proud to recommend Emily for recognition as a Suburban Life Scholar.

Downers Grove South

Vanessa Patino



Notable Student Academic Achievements: Ranked in the top 10% of her class, National Honor Society, 4.0/4.0 unweighted grade point average, Member of National Society of High School Scholars, PE Leader. Student's GPA is 4.0.

Student Involvement in Activities: Peer Tutoring (3 Years), Varsity Cheerleading (3 years), National Honor Society (2 years), Track and Field (2 years), Special Needs Aide (2 years), Gymnastics (1 year), Student Council (1 year), Choir (1 year).

Student Involvement in Community Service: Peer tutoring in DGS literacy center, Peer Tutoring with DGS special needs students.

Nominated by Lavon Robinson, School Counselor: Vanessa's has yet to receive anything less than an A in her high school career. Each year she consistently enrolls and succeeds in a more rigorous course load. For Vanessa, she is not satisfied by simply receiving an A. She actively engages in discussions and likes to challenge others' viewpoints in order to spur discussion and elevate learning. Vanessa makes academics her top priority all while continuing to be competitive in sports and excelling in her activities. During her lunch period, she voluntarily spends half the period tutoring students with special needs and the other half in our English tutoring center. For many members of the Patino family and Vanessa's neighborhood in which she was raised until the age of 10, school is not a priority. Vanessa will be one of the few from her family to graduate from college. She wants to be a role model for her family and friends to show that college is an option. Her plan after college is to go back to her old community to change these negative, fixed mindsets around college and education. Vanessa is one of the most genuine, mature, and driven students I have worked with in my career.