

Suburban Life Scholars

Downers Grove North High School

Sophia Chaulk

Academic Achievements: Sophia has made the Honor Roll every semester of her high school career while taking a rigorous college preparatory course load including Honors and AP English, AP US History, and AP Psychology, and AP Environmental Science.

School Activities (clubs, athletics): Sophia has been a 4-year member of our choir program and as a result of her dedication and talent, she was chosen to be a member of the accomplished Treble Ensemble. She is currently a Positively North Star. She was on the Freshman Class Board, has served as a basketball manager, and is currently serving as an aide in the Social Studies Department as well as a PE Leader.

Outside Activities: Sophia has served as a retreat leader on a Mission trip to Jamaica. She also sings in the Youth Choir with her church.

Nominated by Mark Wasik, School Counselor: Sophia has earned strong grades within a challenging college preparatory curriculum. She is proud of having earned respectable grades in AP US History, a college level course, as a sophomore in high school. More so, what she learned in AP US History further developed her love for history. Sophia has always appreciated the learning process which is why she has decided to pursue a degree in Education. As a senior, she continues to challenge herself with two AP courses. Within our school community, Sophia has been heavily involved in our choir program and I know she would like to continue with choir in college. Also, Sophia is a dedicated violin player who has been playing since elementary school. Sophia is a leader among her peers and has been recognized as such serving as a Physical Education Leader, assisting PE teachers with freshmen and sophomore level classes and as a Positively North Star serving as a role model for freshman as they navigate their first year of high school. Within the greater community, Sophia has volunteered with her church partaking in mission trips.

Sophia accurately describes herself as creative, optimistic, hard-working, and helpful. She has developed a reputation for her willingness to help struggling students, another indication of her strong aptitude to teach. I am certain she will be successful in college and beyond.

Downers Grove South High School

Grace DeCarlo

Academic Achievements: High honor roll all years of high school thus far, took AP Language and Composition last year and received a 4 on the test; taking AP Literature and Composition, AP Environmental Science, and AP Calculus AB this year.

School Activities (clubs, athletics): Received second place in the Indian Prairie Public Library Cool Compositions competition in 2014, received third place in the Indian Prairie Public Library Cool Compositions competition in 2015, current president and editor-in-chief of the Calliope literary magazine club.

Community Service: Volunteered at Operation Horses and Heroes for a year, volunteered at Hanson Center Equine Therapy Center for three years, volunteered at Forest View Farms for four years, aided with the recent school pumpkin recycling event, volunteering at the Belmont prairie clean up event this upcoming Saturday.

Nominated by Kanagavel Vetri, School Counselor: I have been fortunate to work with Grace DeCarlo for nearly two years and I have appreciated her dedication to school and her community. Grace has been a standout student who has demonstrated poise and compassion in managing her busy extracurricular and academic schedule. She has progressively excelled as a student and challenged herself to reach her academic potential. Grace also enjoys volunteering in her community and participating in efforts to help veterans in need. It is her desire and drive to help others which sets her apart from her peers. In spite of maintaining a rigorous school, work, and volunteer schedule, Grace displays a positive attitude, humility and overall pleasant disposition. I have been impressed with her hard work and I am confident she will reach success after high school.

Downers Grove North High School

Niara Briggs

Academic Achievements: AP classes, Close-up, Washington D.C., Camp College.

School Activities (clubs, athletics): Imani Steppers - Captain, Track and Field - Co-captain, Spanish Club, Student Council, TV Club

Outside Activities: Food pantry volunteer, Bonfield Express volunteer, Giving Tree volunteer

Nominated by Nicole Gibson, School Counselor: Simply put, Niara is awesome. She possesses a resiliency and quiet determination that is unmatched by her peers. Always kind and respectful, Niara strives to make decisions that are consistent with her high level of integrity and character. Throughout high school, she has developed a passion for film and video editing. In her junior year, Niara was accepted as one of 11 students to participate in "View From the Directors Chair." She was mentored by a film maker and produced a documentary that was screened at the Tivoli Theater to over 200 people. It comes as no surprise that Niara is selecting film production as her college major. Additionally, Niara has been a valued contributor to girl's track and field and the Imani step team. She was chosen by her teachers to serve as a J. Kyle Braid (JKB) Scholar, an organization where students are selected based on their commitment to abstaining from drugs and alcohol and school leadership. Niara is truly deserving of being this month's Suburban Life Scholar.

