

Section 1

National High School Heart of the Arts Award

JAN 28 2019

METROPOLITAN LEARNING CENTER FOR GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

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DATE: 1, 24, 19

TO: Cherese Miller "Heart of the Arts"

FROM MLC: Antonella Maccarone

FAX NUMBER: 203-250-1345

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 7

Confidential

FYI

Please Reply

Additional Comments/Information:

Thankyou for the opportunity



Caroline Gwara



CAS High School "Heart of the Arts" Award Nomination - 2019

NOMINEE INFORMATION (check one):

- Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer
 Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator
 Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee:

Caroline Gwara

(first, middle, last)

Current Address:

594 Highland Street

(street address)

Wethersfield CT 06109

(city, state, zip)

Phone:

860-989-5646

E-mail:

caroline.A.Gwara@gmail.com

School (if any):

Metropolitan Learning Center

City:

Bloomfield

State:

CT

Zip:

06002

INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

Name of Nominator:

Antonella Maccarone

Phone:

860-242-7834

E-mail:

amaccarone@crec.org

School:

Metropolitan Learning Center

Street Address:

1551 Blue Hills Avenue

City:

Bloomfield

State:

CT

Zip:

06002

Nomination Form – page 2

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

* Please see attached letter of recommendation.

Thank you.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "CAS Heart of the Arts Award."

* Please see attached letter of recommendation.

Thank you.

METROPOLITAN LEARNING CENTER FOR GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Caroline Gwara a genuinely kind young woman with strong vision and determination. As her school counselor for the past four years I have been able to witness her growth first hand. I am always amazed with her persistence and ability to master any subject or project at hand.

A strength that immediately comes to mind when I think of Caroline is self-driven. Caroline has always had a strong drive inside and outside the classroom. In the classroom, ~~teachers often observe her using her intellect to engage others.~~ In her IB Biology HL class, where lab work is vital, Caroline's focus on attention and detail pulls in her class mates as they watch on and observe her techniques. She has led group discussions, challenging her peers to think in-depth while bringing people together to achieve a common goal. Teachers have said that, "she revels in the intellectual exchange of ideas." She is also a member of Leo Club, National Honor Society, and stage crew. One of Caroline's most impressive activities in school besides her academics is her commitment to the arts. Given the opportunity as a first grader, Caroline began her musical career and has since gained confidence and improved her abilities to play increasingly complex pieces with the violin such as Phantom of the Opera and compositions from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Playing the violin so long has taught Caroline how to balance various activities in her life and become more disciplined. She has also won the CREC Holiday art contest two years in a row. This is awarded to the best art design submitted by a student for the district holiday card. Outside of school Caroline is a proud member of the Polish Scouts. Through this organization Caroline has been able to share her love of her heritage with other Polish scouts. Most importantly it has helped Caroline to build leadership skills as she now has been awarded second leader in charge for the younger and older Polish Scouts.

Another strength that comes to mind with Caroline is her perseverance. In her Junior year Caroline unfortunately had to work through the loss of a close relative on top of that her mother undergoing heart surgery. Yet she handled it with much strength and compassion. She immediately took the role of the care taker in the house making dinner each night for her mom and dad. In this process she realized how good of a baker she was becoming as well as learning how to make traditional polish foods. She also helped care for her mom which although she has always helped now became more of a 24/7 watch. Throughout all of this Caroline never complained. Instead she finished with her best high school performance earning her 4.41 GPA and bumping her into ranking 6th in her class and a full diploma candidate. I am always amazed how with all the adversity that can be placed before some students how well they can still perform. It is no surprise based on the values which have been instilled in her that she would make an incredible addition to the medical field.

Caroline is truly a gem. Her values of sticking to her beliefs, family first, selflessness, and being herself will guide her faithfully through her life's journey. She is truly a remarkable young woman who has already made a difference in the lives of many. I whole heartedly recommend Caroline Gwara for admission into your school.

Best Regards,

Antonella T. Maccarone
School Counselor
860-242-7834 Ext: 2365



Grade: 12 Gender: F
 YOG: 2019 DOB: 03/09/2001

Student Transcript

Gwara, Caroline

CT SASID#: 4758569736

Home Address:
 594 Highland St
 Wethersfield, CT 06109

Metropolitan Learning Center

1551 Blue Hills Ave.
 Bloomfield, CT 06002
 Ph: 860-242-7834
 Fax: 860-242-0732



Course	Dept	Grade	Credit	Course	Type	Grade	Credit
17-18 Metropolitan Learning Center							
IB-DP Biology HL 1	Science	6	1.00				
IB-DP History SL 1	Social Studies	6	1.00				
IB-DP Literature HL 1	English	7	1.00				
IB-DP Mathematics SL 1	Math	7	1.00				
IB-DP Spanish SL 1	World Lang	6	1.00				
IB-DP Theory of Knowledge 1	Social Studies	6	1.00				
IB-DP Visual Arts HL 1	Art	7	1.00				
16-17 Metropolitan Learning Center							
AP Comparative Government	Social Studies	5	1.00				
IB-Algebra II - H	Math	6	1.00				
IB-Art 10	Art	7	0.50				
IB-Design 10	Technology	6	0.50				
IB-Fitness 10	PE/Health	7	0.50				
IB-Physics	Science	6	1.00				
IB-Power of Voice	English	6	1.00				
IB-Spanish III - H	World Lang	P	1.00				
Personal Project/CAPStone	Capstone	7	1.00				
Teen Leadership	PE/Health	7	0.50				
15-16 Metropolitan Learning Center							
IB-American Literature	English	6	1.00				
IB-Art 9	Art	6	0.50				
IB-Biology	Science	6	1.00				
IB-Design 9	Technology	5	0.50				
IB-Exercise Science 9	PE/Health	6	0.50				
IB-Geometry-H	Math	5	1.00				
IB-Health 9	PE/Health	7	0.50				
IB-Spanish II - H	World Lang	7	1.00				
IB-U.S. History - H	Social Studies	7	1.00				

Service and Action Hours

9th	10th	11th
38	69	CAS

Grading Scale

MLC/IB Grade	Letter Grade	GPA Conversion (Reg/Honors/AP)
7	A / A+	4.3 / 4.55 / 4.8
6	A-	3.8 / 4.05 / 4.3
5	B / B+	3.1 / 3.35 / 3.6
4	C	2.2 / 2.45 / 2.7
3	D	1.1 / 1.35 / 1.6
2	F	0
1	F	0

Grade	Potential Credit	Earned Credit	GPA
9th	7.00	7.00	3.94
10th	8.00	8.00	3.93
11th	7.00	7.00	4.41
12th			
Total	22.00	22.00	4.10

AP = Advanced Placement H = Honors
 All others are College Prep.

Class rank is cumulative and includes all classes.

MLC is on a 4.3 scale.

Honors/SL courses are weighted by adding .25 and AP/HL courses by adding .5 to the value of the grade.

Transcript printed on October 31, 2018

Class Rank: 6 out of 87

Antonella Maccarone

School Official Signature

Date

This transcript is unofficial unless signed by a school official.

Caroline Gwara
594 Highland Street, Wethersfield, CT. 06109
Caroline.A.Gwara@gmail.com
(860) 519-3808

EDUCATION

Metropolitan Learning Center for International and Global Studies
Bloomfield, CT

Expected Graduation: June 2019

MLC is an authorized International Baccalaureate World School offering the Middle Years Programme (MYP) for grades 6-10 and the Diploma Programme (DP) for grades 11-12.

IB – DP DIPLOMA CANDIDATE

HONORS/AWARDS

GRADE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| • Honors with Distinction/High Honors | 9,10,11 |
| • National Honor Society | 10,11,12 |
| • Art Academic Achievement Award | 10,11 |
| • CREC Holiday Card Design Contest | 10 |
| • Personal Project/Capstone | 9,10 |
| ○ Designed and sewn a traditional Polish Dance Costume | |

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| • Polish Scouts, Hartford, CT. | 11-12 |
| ○ Learned about Polish history, culture and how the Organization was started | |
| ○ Learned important survival skills and techniques for camping | |
| ○ Visited different camps and events to meet and work with Scouts from all over the country and the world | |
| • Second Leader “Przyboczna” in charge for Polish Scouts | 12 |
| ○ Plan and lead meetings for the younger and older Polish Scout groups in Hartford, CT. | |
| ○ Teach Scouts about the circumstances in which the organization was built, important events in Polish History, and survival skills and necessities | |
| • Leo’s Club | 11 |
| ○ Planned and attended social service activities that would benefit our community | |
| • Polish Folk Dance Group | 5-10 |
| ○ Danced traditional Polish folk dances at Polish events | |
| • MLC Band Violinist | 6-10 |
| • Attended Polish Saturday Language School | 1-9 |

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| • Teacher Assistant for Polish Saturday Language School, Hartford, CT. | 9,10,11,12 |
| • Teaching CCD at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, Hartford, CT. | 10,11,12 |
| • Manager for MLC Varsity and JV High School Softball Team | 11 |
| • Stage crew for MLC Drama Club Productions | 10,11 |
| • Volunteering at various church events | 9,10,11,12 |

Caroline Gwara
594 Highland Street, Wethersfield, CT. 06109
Caroline.A.Gwara@gmail.com
(860) 519-3808

SPECIAL SKILLS

Fluent in Polish
Fluent in Spanish

GRADE

WORK EXPERIENCE

- The Lodge at Cold Springs
- Take food orders from residents as well as serve them meals
- Clean up dining room and set the table after meal times

12

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Nathanael T. Batson

(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Loren Fields – Lawrence High School Band Director

Phone: 207-242-2514

E-mail: lfields@msad49.org

Street Address: 9 School Street

City, State, Zip Code: 04937

Date: January 25, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Michael Bisson

Title: Assistant Executive Director

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

X Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Nathanael, T., Batson
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 11 Sunrise Drive
(street address)

Fairfield, ME 04937
(city, state, zip)

Phone: (207)660-1021

E-mail: ybatson@gmail.com

School (if any): Lawrence High School

City: Fairfield State: Maine

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Lawrence High School (Maine) has a Senior trumpet player, Nathanael Batson, who is blind as the result of a brain tumor. During different debilitating bouts caused by this affliction, he has fought back each time and regained his musical footing.

Nathanael made the Kennebec Valley Music Educators' Association Band (KVMEA) all years & All-State his Sophomore year but was taken out of the equation and almost lost his life his Junior year. He worked super hard to overcome and succeeded in making a first chair in KVMEA and placing in the All-State Band this year.

Nathanael memorizes ALL of his music and is becoming well-known for his stirring performances of the Star-Spangled Banner at various school, civic and community events.

He achieved the vaunted rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America in his early teens by organizing a Pops Band that performed a free concert at the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta.

Nathanael will be attending UMaine as a part of their Honor College. He will be heavily involved with the Music Department while pursuing his degree (possibly law.)

Nathanael has the pure heart of a servant and possesses an old yet gentle soul ...what a truly spectacular "overcomer" he is, and an inspiration to all of us who know him!

I know of no other worthier student anywhere.

- Loren Fields, Lawrence High School Band Director

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

The following is a timeline of challenges and accomplishments put together by Nathanael describing the obstacles that he has overcome embedded with the honors that he has received.

In following this timeline, it paints a clear picture of the outstanding young man that Nathanael is. His is a true representative of the Spirit of Maine.

2005

June – Doctors confirm that Nathanael has a brain tumor caused by neurofibromatosis

August – Nathanael starts Chemotherapy at Maine Children’s Cancer Program

October – The Current chemotherapy is not working for Nathanael. The doctors decide to change his initial treatment

2006

March – Nathanael is hospitalized with complications after a lumbar puncture and influenza

August-September – Nathanael has his tonsils removed and returns one week later due to a tonsil bleed. He later has an emergency surgery due to a tonsillectomy

2007

February - Nathanael goes to Sea World to swim with dolphins for his Make-A-Wish trip

2008

January – Due to the increase of fluid in the brain and intercranial pressure, Nathanael has surgery to have a shunt placed in his brain. Two weeks later, his shunt fails. He later has emergency surgery for a shunt revision

2009

April – Nathanael’s tumor grows, and his vision gets worse. He starts a clinical trial at Dana Farber

August – Nathanael has kidney failure due to side effects from the chemo. He is pulled off the medication with no permanent damage to his kidneys

2010

June – Nathanael begins trumpet lessons

2011

Nathanael continues to take trumpet lessons from his private teacher

2012

Nathanael performs in District 4 Band

Nathanael has several visits to ER with issues related to his shunt

June – Nathanael participates in a National Convention with his church youth group. While at the conference located in Wisconsin, Nathanael plays his trumpet in the orchestra

2013

Nathanael performs in District 4 Band

May-June – Nathanael starts another round of chemotherapy at Maine Children's Cancer Program, but the initial treatment is ineffective. Nathanael then receives a different chemotherapy but develops neurological symptoms from it. Nathanael later stops the treatment with no permanent damage

August – Nathanael has severe headaches and is hospitalized. While in the hospital, he has a shunt revision

2014

January – Nathanael is accepted to participate in the Kennebec Valley Honors Band

June – Nathanael receives the Order of the Arrow in Boy Scouts. Later that month, Nathanael participates in a National Convention with his church youth group. While at the conference located in Tennessee, Nathanael plays his trumpet in the orchestra

2015

January – Nathanael is accepted to participate in the Kennebec Valley Honors Band

April – After months of headaches, Nathanael is hospitalized and has another shunt revision

May – Nathanael plays the National Anthem during a fundraiser for a local Boy Scout Council

June – Nathanael organizes a concert to honor the veterans for their service to the United States of America as his Eagle Scout project

July – Nathanael earns Eagle Scout three days after his fifteenth birthday. He will later earn a total of forty-two merit badges and three Eagle Palms

2016

January – Nathanael is accepted to participate in the Kennebec Valley Honors Band

March – Nathanael participates in the Laramie Project for the One-Acts Festival with his high school. They advance to the State Competition of judging. Later that month, Nathanael plays the National Anthem during a fundraiser for a local Boy Scout Council. During the event, Nathanael meets the guest speaker, former Senator George Mitchell

April – Nathanael is hospitalized and placed in the PICU after having multiple shunt revisions

May – Nathanael performs in the Maine Allstate Music Festival as a member of the band, still having stitches from his previous operation

October – Nathanael has the honor of meeting Mr. Wynton Marsalis

December – Nathanael is hospitalized and has multiple shunt revisions, resulting in him missing his Christmas Concert. Nathanael becomes critically ill and was placed in the PICU over Christmas

2017

January – Nathanael is hospitalized and has another shunt revision

February – Nathanael performs in the Kennebec Valley Honors Band, still having stitches from his previous operation

May – Nathanael is inducted into the National Honors Society. Later that month, he performs in the Maine Allstate Music Festival as a member of the band

June – Nathanael plays the National Anthem during a luncheon for a local Boy Scout Council

July-August – Nathanael is selected to participate in the 2017 National Scout Jamboree Band in West Virginia. The band performed for over 40,000 people from across the world, including the West Virginia Veterans Home and Charleston Mall

October – Nathanael's vision gets worse and he is put on an oral chemotherapy. After two weeks of chemotherapy, he starts to have problems with his shunt. He soon becomes critically ill and goes to the ER. He has slurred speech and cannot look up. He is taken by ambulance to the hospital. He then has surgery to replace the shunt. Nathanael was doing well, but soon has a grand mal seizure. He is placed in the PICU and has multiple surgeries. He is taken off the oral chemotherapy

November – Nathanael is given a new shunt that changes how fast the CSF drains into his abdominal cavity. He comes home the following day but is unable to audition for the Kennebec Valley Honors Band or the Allstate Music Festival. He undergoes physical therapy to regain his strength, but he struggles to play the trumpet

2018

February – Nathanael is placed on the oral chemotherapy again

June – Nathanael plays the National Anthem during a luncheon for a local Boy Scout Council. Later that month, Nathanael is selected to participate in Dirigo Boys State. He joins the band where he is asked to play bugle calls during the raising and lowering of the flag

October – Nathanael is one of two seniors to receive the Alfred Yesue Memorial Scholarship during the 2018 Marching Band Finals Award Ceremony. He is the first person from his high school to receive the award

November – Nathanael is accepted into the Honors College at the University of Maine

December – Nathanael has the privilege of meeting the Canadian Brass during their Christmas Concert. Nathanael has both a photo and video session with them. The members are very inspired by Nathanael's ability to play music despite his disability

2019

January – Nathanael advances to the state level for the Elks Most Valuable Student competition

February – Nathanael will perform in the Kennebec Valley Honors Band. Despite his challenges, Nathanael received the second highest trumpet score in the region

May – Nathanael will perform in the Maine Allstate Music Festival as a member of the band. Despite his challenges, Nathanael received the sixth highest trumpet score in the state



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

The deadline for returning the completed nomination
to the MIAA Office is Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Name of Nominee: Nicholas Paul Capodilupo
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Jim Quarromoni
Phone: 781 783 5120 781 741 1560 ex 2161
E-mail: JQUARROMONI@HINGHAM.SCHOOLS.ORG
Street Address: 17 UNION ST HINGHAM HS
City, State, Zip Code: HINGHAM 02043
Date: 1/30/19

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Peter Smith
Title: MIAA Associate Director
Signature: Peter Smith

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the MIAA Office is Wednesday, January 30, 2019

- Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer
 Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator
 Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: NICHOLAS PAUL CAPODILUPPO
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 16 Saw Mill Pond Road
(street address)

Hingham, MA 02043
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 781 749 4061

E-mail: DANAMANCINI@COMCAST.NET

School (if any): Hingham High School

City: Hingham State: MA

NOMINATION FORM

The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the MIAA Office is Wednesday, January 30, 2019

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

See ATTACHMENTS :-

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Nick's involvement in the arts is considerable as listed on the included document. Most impressively, Nick has been able to be a strong part of the arts AND ATHLETICS at Uxbridge High School.

He has particularly made his mark singing the National Anthem at over 50 events to date, including the MIAA award ceremony.

Nicholas Capodilupo
Nomination for:
Heart of the Arts Award
1/30/2019

Current High School Involvement and honors:

Varsity Football

Varsity Wrestling Team

Advanced school choir

Premier choral Spectrum honor choir (only tenor in group)

Jazz spectrum choir (only tenor)

MMEA Southeast Senior District Chorus (Soloist)

MMEA All State Chorus (Symphony Hall Performance)

Outstanding Contribution Award for Chorus

Andrew B. Warhaftig "Catching Kindness" Award recipient

Snug Harbor Community Chorus scholarship Recipient

Snug Harbor Community Chorus soloist

Drama Club - lead role in Fall Musical and Spring Play

Cohasset Dramatic Club - Rent the musical soloist

Veterans Appreciation Club - National Anthem soloist at all Town Veterans events throughout the year.

High School Sports National Anthem Soloist throughout the year - Football, basketball, hockey, volleyball, soccer, wrestling, lacrosse, playoff games at various venues

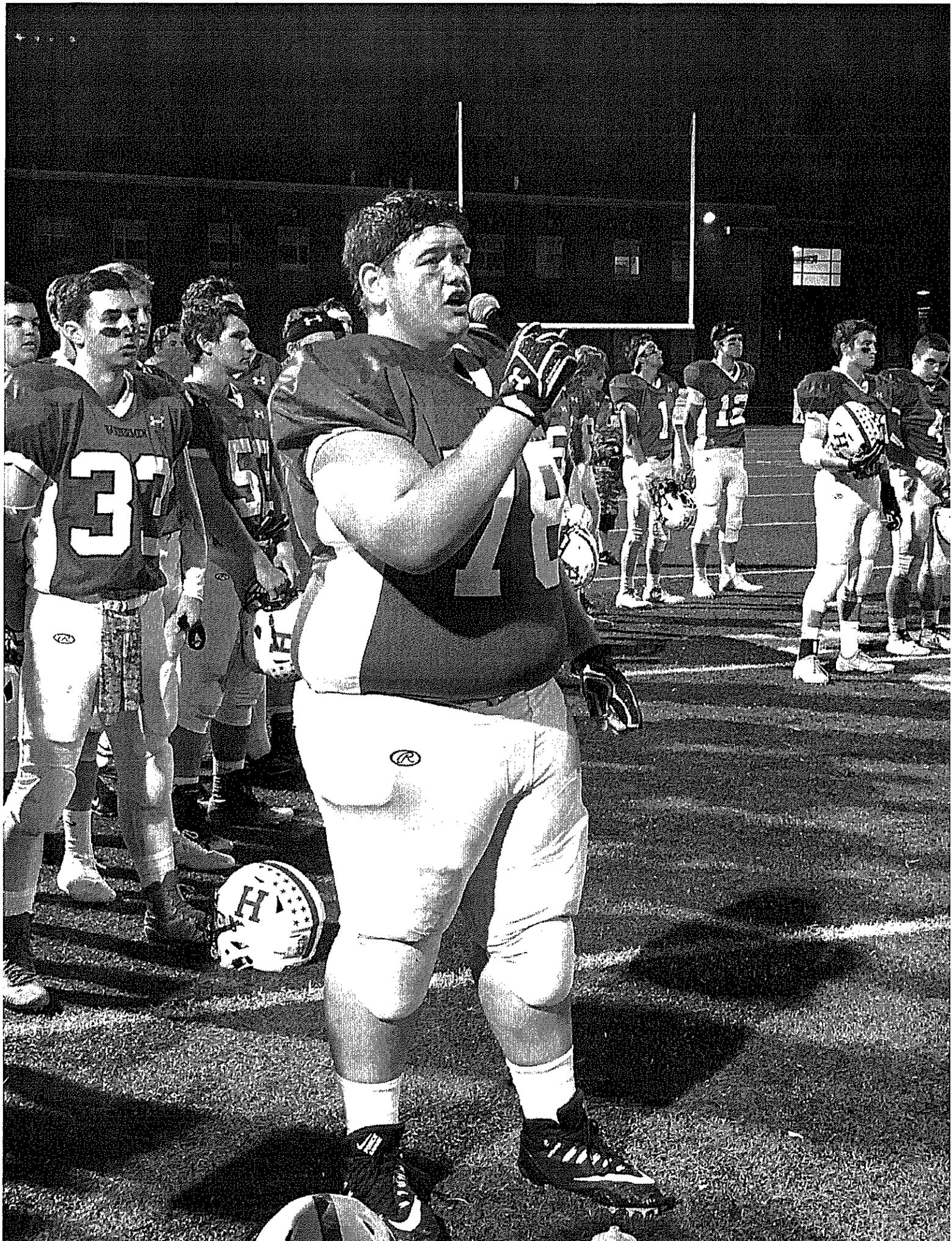
MIAA Annual Meeting - National Anthem performer

4th of July Road Race - National anthem performer

First Church of Pembroke soloist and choir member

Hingham Congregation Church soloist

SNAP at Sunset Point Summer camp counselor



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: [Tab here] Henry Sodt _____
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: [Tab here] Jannah Tabbacchino _____

Phone: [Tab here] (609)-597-9481 _____

E-mail: [Tab here] jtabbacchino@srsd.net _____

Street Address: [Tab here] 75 Cedar Bridge Road _____

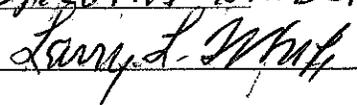
City, State, Zip Code: [Tab here] Manahawkin, NJ 08050 _____

Date: [Tab here] January 31, 2019 _____

State Association Endorsement:

Name: [Tab here] LARRY L. WHITE _____

Title: [Tab here] EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR _____

Signature: [Tab here]  _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: [Tab here] Henry Sodt
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: [Tab here] 6 Cannonball Drive
(street address)

[Tab here] Barnegat NJ 08005
(city, state, zip)

Phone: [Tab here] (609)-850-1069

E-mail: [Tab here] hsodt@srsd.org

School (if any): [Tab here] Southern Regional High School

City: [Tab here] Manahawkin State: [Tab here] NJ

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

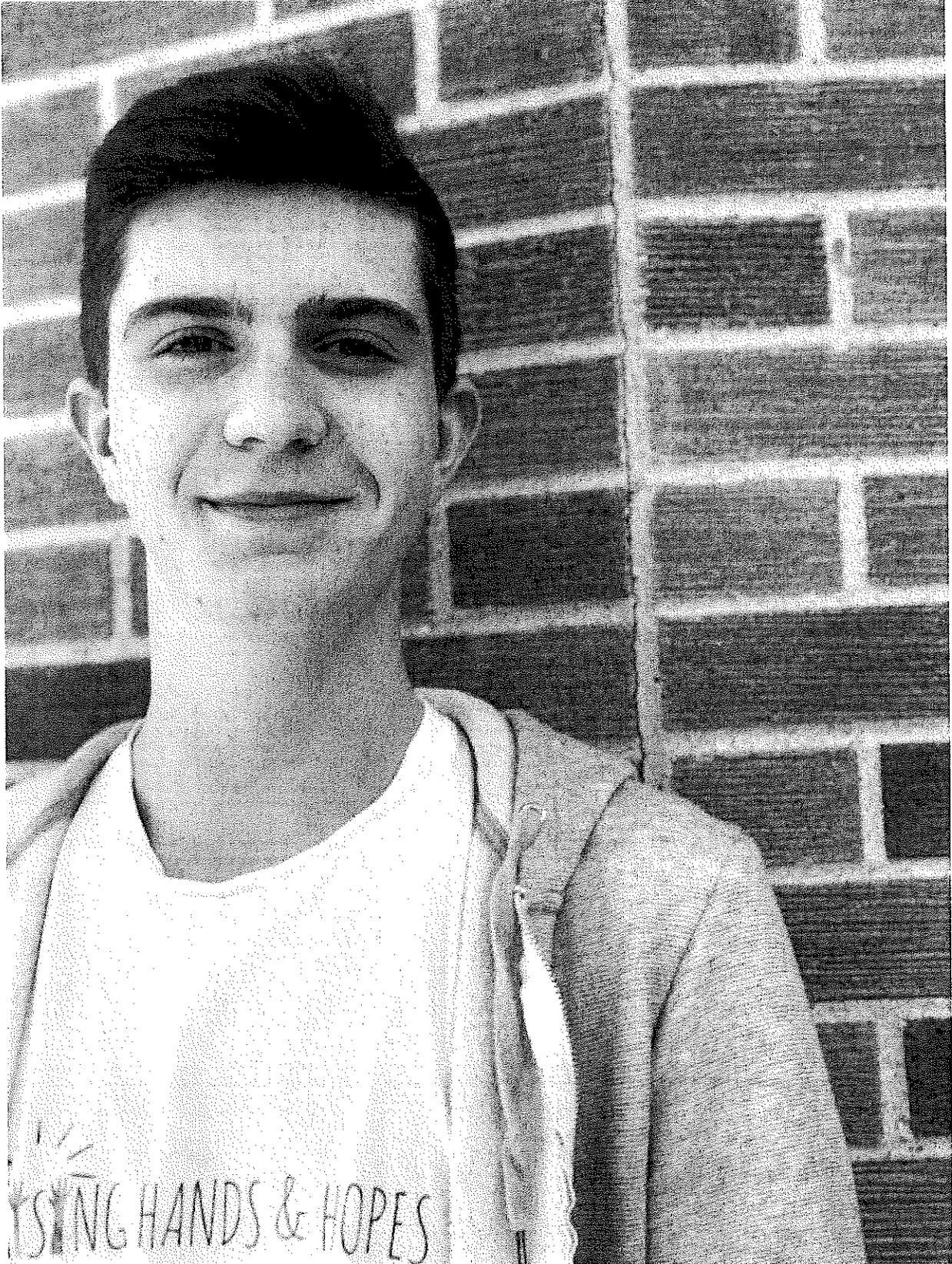
[Tab here]

Henry is an outstanding member of the Southern Regional High School performing arts department. He consistently demonstrates excellence in his work ethic, performance abilities, leadership, and cooperation within an ensemble in all areas of his involvement. Henry's department activities include Honors Select Choir, Concert Choir, District Musical, and Tri-M Honor Society. Outside of school, Henry's involvement in the arts includes being a student and instructor at Starlight Performing Arts in Manahawkin and a performer with Surflight Theatre in Beach Haven. In addition to the hours and dedication Henry applies to the arts, he is also a member of National Honor Society, Japanese Honor Society and club, German club, Buddy club, Key club, Interact, and Student Council; all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and honor roll status.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

[Tab here]

Henry's heart for the arts is consistently shown through his dedicated and passionate approach to his classes, clubs, and teaching, and his genuine and respectful nature toward his teachers, peers, and students. While Henry's incredible talent and intelligence is evident through his many musical and scholastic achievements, it is his heart that truly shines in the arts, as well as all that Henry takes on. He is the founder of a non profit organization, Raising Hands & Hopes, which advocates for children's education in third world countries. Henry organized a 5k run in our community last May, which raised \$3800 toward a \$50,000 campaign for a school in Ghana. He has since received approval for a second run this May, and is in the final steps of launching a merchandise line to continue to raise money for this incredibly heart felt cause.







SOUTHERN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCEAN COUNTY

October 24, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Several years ago I heard of a boy that was moving into our school district. I was informed that he was mature, smart and talented. A winning combination for any teacher but as the high school choral director, this was truly exciting news. Fast-forward four years and Henry Sodt has exemplified all the initial characteristics that were mentioned and many more.

Since his arrival at Southern Regional, Henry has been apart of the 135-member Concert Choir and has earned membership into the Honors Select Choir. Winning many county and state honors, the Honors Select Choir performance and competition schedule has required extensive student participation beyond regular school hours. For the past three years, Henry has also been a member of the Southern Regional Theatre Company, involved in shows such as *Sister Act*, *Me and My Girl* and *The Addams Family*. Outside of school, he has performed with Starlight Performing Arts Academy as well as the Bellarine Theatre Company, a local theatre troupe.

Despite long hours of rehearsal and shows, his musical and acting talents have not faltered his academic studies. Recognized throughout the music department and the school for his high academic standing, Henry is a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society and Tri-M National Music Honor Society, which recognizes academic and performance excellence in music.

Henry is one of the most mature students I have taught within my career. His high level of responsibility, along with his compassion towards others has allowed him to be a role model within the choral program as well as the school. He is an active member of a number of service organizations within our school community such as Interact Club, Key Club and Student Council. These organizations contribute time and labor to many events such as the Atlantic City Rescue Mission Food Drive, Dance Marathon for the Oceans of Love Charity and Relay For Life. In addition, Henry founded the non-profit organization, Raising Hands & Hope. This organization advocates for children's education in third world countries. Henry has planned, organized and executed fundraisers for this charity, such as a 5K run.

I encourage you to consider Henry Sodt as a candidate for your incoming freshman class. Not only will his musical talents enrich your program, but also his maturity, responsibility and creative abilities will contribute to your school.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below or by phone at (609)-597-9481 ext. 2031.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carolyn Placa
Southern Regional High School
High School Choral and Vocal Ensemble Director

"Committed to Excellence"

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF REVENUE AND ENTERPRISE SERVICES

CERTIFICATE OF INC, (NON PROFIT)

RAISING HANDS & HOPES INC.
0450134566

The above-named DOMESTIC NON-PROFIT CORPORATION was duly filed in accordance with New Jersey State Law on 01/17/2017 and was assigned identification number 0450134566. Following are the articles that constitute its original certificate.

1. **Name:**
RAISING HANDS & HOPES INC.
2. **Registered Agent:**
CHRISTINE SODT
3. **Registered Office:**
6 CANNONBALL DRIVE
BARNEGAT, NEW JERSEY 08005
4. **Business Purpose:**
ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES
5. **Duration:**
PERPETUAL
6. **Effective Date of this Filing Is:**
01/17/2017
7. **Method of electing Trustees as set forth herein:**
AS SET FORTH IN THE BYLAWS
8. **Asset Distribution:**
AS SET FORTH IN THE BYLAWS
9. **First Board of Trustees:**
CHRISTINE SODT
6 CANNONBALL DRIVE
BARNEGAT, NEW JERSEY 08005

HENRY SODT
140 NORTH MAIN STREET
MANAHAWKIN, NEW JERSEY 08050

ROBERT SODT
6 CANNONBALL DRIVE
BARNEGAT, NEW JERSEY 08005

10. **Incorporators:**
ANNA MANUKYAN
5850 GRANITE PKWY.
SUITE 215
PLANO, TEXAS 75024

11. **Main Business Address:**
6 CANNONBALL DRIVE
BARNEGAT, NEW JERSEY 08005

Additional Articles/Provisions:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CAPITAL MARKETS, SECURITIES,
AND INVESTMENTSUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND INSURANCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3003

BIPARTISAN HEROIN TASK FORCE
CO-CHAIRMAN

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write to express my support for Henry Sodt as an excellent candidate to attend your institution. Henry, a Senior at Southern Regional High School, is a well-rounded young man who is very involved in his school and community.

Henry has a strong work ethic that has allowed him to excel academically as well as in his extracurricular activities. Henry's passion for community service has propelled him into becoming very involved with various organizations at his school. He has a deep understanding of the power of uniting people with a common goal and has utilized this skill in the various leadership roles that he has held. In his junior year, Henry founded the Japanese Club at his school in hopes to create an environment where people could socialize over their interest of Japan. He is also a National Honor Society and a member of the Interact Club, Key Club, Student Council, German Club, and Buddy Club. Henry has volunteered over 100 hours through these organizations while managing a 4.0 GPA and a rigorous academic schedule of many Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

Henry sets ambitious goals for himself and works diligently to achieve them. He always finds time to give back to his community. He has been recognized for his hard work with many awards and accolades. He was a member of the Japanese Honor Society and Music Honor Society and has been on the Honor Roll list all throughout his high school career for his continuous high grade point average. Henry is also the founder of a non-profit organization called Raising Hands & Hopes, in which he advocates for children's education in third world countries.

I admire Henry's determination to immerse himself in causes that he is passionate about and his desire to further his education. I believe that he will be a great asset to the academic culture of any institute of higher education he should attend. As a natural leader who facilitates the unity of people, I am confident that he will take the knowledge gained from his past experiences, to collaborate with his peers and serve his community. Thank you for your consideration of this fine candidate. If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 732-569-6495.

Sincerely,



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

OCEAN COUNTY
33 WASHINGTON STREET
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753
(732) 569-6495
(732) 998-8137 (FAX)

WASHINGTON D.C.
506 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4766
(202) 225-0778 (FAX)

macarthur.house.gov

BURLINGTON COUNTY
535 EAST MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 122
MARLTON, NJ 08053
(856) 267-5182
(856) 574-4887 (FAX)

Henry Soul

6 Cannonball Drive

Barnegat,

NJ 08005

hsodt@srsd.org

Education

Sep 2015 - Present

Southern Regional High School

Manahawkin, NJ

Grade 11

4.0 GPA, AP United States History 2, AP English Language & Composition, AP Biology, AP Psychology, Honors Select Choir, Japanese 4, German 3, Trigonometry, Calculus 1. Founder and president of Japanese Club Director of Key Club

Extracurricular Activities

Oct 2017 - Present

Japanese Club

Grade 11, 12

3 Hrs/Week

Total Hours: 46

Founding this club, I wanted to create an environment where people could relax and socialize over their interest of Japan. With this club, my goal was to focus more on the culture of Japan more than anything. We had our very first meeting on

Sep 2016 - Present

German Club

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Hrs/Week

Total Hours: 12

This club allows all students who take German to interact and think of ideas to fundraise and promote the German community of Southern Regional High School.

Sep 2015 - Present

Buddy Club

Grade 10, 11

1 Hrs/Week

Total Hours: 12

This club provides an opportunity for students to aid special education students by creating crafts. This club builds connections and friendships.

Sep 2015 - Present

Interact Club

Grade 10, 11, 12

2 Hrs/Week

Total Hours: 12

The Interact Club is more of a community volunteer based extracurricular activity. For example, we volunteer for "Chowderfest", a huge local event that serves chowder from all over the area. This club enforces

Sep 2015 - Present

Key Club

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

3 Hrs/Week

I am currently a director for Key Club and plan to run for vice president this year. This club has played a huge role in shaping my high school career and how valuable community volunteer work really is.

Sep 2015 - Present

Student Council

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

3 Hrs/Week

Total Hours: 3

Student Council promotes volunteer work around the school and hosts a "Dance Marathon" every year that raises money for children diagnosed with cancer in our area. I thoroughly enjoy being apart of this club and changing the community because of it.

**Skills/Academic
Achievement**

Mar 2018

Japanese Honor Society

Grade 11, 12

Skill Level: none

93 or above average for all

demonstrated a true understanding of the Japanese language and culture.

Mar 2018

National Honor Society

Grade 11, 12

Skill Level: none

Accepted into this society meant that I displayed leadership, academic motivation and a passion to support my community/school.

Jun 2017

Honor Roll

Grade

Skill Level: none

Achieved Honor Roll for all of 9th grade, 10th grade and 11th grade.

Music/Artistic Achievement

Oct 2017 - Present

Music Honor Society

Grade 11, 12

3 Hrs/Week

Being accepted into the Music Honor Society was definitely a highlight of my high school career. Being an active member of the Music Honor Society means giving back to the music department frequently such as, cleaning

*the music rooms, handing out
programs for community
concerts and singing for
school concerts.*

Leadership

I am a founder of a non profit organization called, Raising Hands & Hopes, in which we advocate for children's education in third world countries. I spend a lot of my time on my nonprofit as I plan to pursue this type of work in the future.



Section 2

National High School Heart of the Arts Award



Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

January 31, 2019

John Gillis
Associate Director of Publications and Communications
National Federation of High Schools
PO Box 690
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Dear Mr. Gillis,

It is with pleasure and pride that I submit this information to you for consideration of John Stroube for the NFHS Heart of the Arts Award. Please consider this as a supplement to the application.

Although the KHSAA does not directly sponsor competition in Fine Arts at this time, we do have a tremendous cooperative working relationship with the Kentucky Music Educators Association and would hope the committee does not in fact "penalize" our nominee because of our lack of sponsorship. This gentleman has been nominated on multiple occasions, and in a Section with limited participation from member states in Fine Arts, his contributions merit special consideration.

John is an outstanding individual and I truly believe he is worthy of section award consideration. I wholeheartedly ask on behalf of the KHSAA that you and your committee review this material, and give her the utmost consideration for the section award in this great program. He is an outstanding educator and supporter of education and education-based activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Tackett", written in a cursive style.

Julian Tackett
Commissioner

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2018)

Name of Nominee: John Stroube
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Julian Tackett

Phone: 859-299-5472

E-mail: jtackett@khsaa.org

Street Address: KHSAA, 2280 Executive Drive

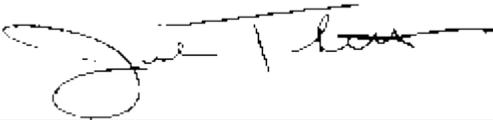
City, State, Zip Code: Lexington, KY 40505

Date: January 31, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Julian Tackett

Title: Commissioner

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: John Stroube
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: KMEA State Office, PO Box 1058
(street address)
Richmond, KY 40476
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 859-626-5635

E-mail: john@kmea.org

School (if any): Kentucky Music Educators Association

City: Richmond State: KY

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: William Edward Cornforth
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Amy Minch

Phone: 304-243-0400

E-mail: aminch@k12.wv.us

Street Address: 1976 Park View Road

City, State, Zip Code: Wheeling, WV 26003

Date: [Tab here]

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Bernard Dolan

Title: Executive Director of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

Signature: Bernard Dolan

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: William Edward Cornforth
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 98 Edgwood Street Apt. E101
(street address)

Wheeling, WV 26003
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 304-281-6311

E-mail: bcornfor@k12.wv.us

School (if any): Wheeling Park High School

City: Wheeling State: WV

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Bill Cornforth, or "Cornforth" as he is lovingly called by his students, is the heart and soul of the most highly decorated speech and debate program in the history of high school forensics in the state of West Virginia, perhaps even in the United States. The Wheeling Park High School speech and debate team has captured the West Virginia Speech and Debate Association state championship for the past 39 consecutive years, and Bill Cornforth has coached each one of those championship teams either as the head debate coach (1979-2004) or the head coach of the entire speech and debate program (2004-present). His teams' accomplishments over the past 9 years at the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) tournament have earned Wheeling Park High School the NCFL Founders Award for Excellence in Speech. He has reached the status of Two Diamond Coach in the National Speech and Debate Association. Accomplishments of this magnitude are not achieved without the indefatigable efforts of a passionate leader, and he is that leader. In addition to coaching and teaching a full load of classes, Mr. Cornforth also leads the school's successful theater program. Every year of his teaching career, he has directed at least one of the school's two major theatrical productions, and he has served as technical director for both the fall play and the spring musical every year since 2004. He sponsors the Park Players club, and he created and coordinates "Class Act," a night of performances by students who are coming up through the theater program but may not be ready for the major productions. To provide more opportunities for his students to hone their acting and technical theater skills, he co-directs Wheeling Park students in their annual entry to the WV State Thespian Festival One-Act Play Competition. To keep the school's streak of state speech and debate championships alive, he coordinates the Middle School Speech and Debate Workshop/Tournament for Ohio County Schools. Through this program, he tasks the current speech and debate team members with teaching the middle school participants the rudiments of the various events. This ensures the continuation of a program of excellence at the high school level. At the state level, to make sure speech and debate remains vibrant, Mr. Cornforth has served and continues to serve in various officer positions with the West Virginia Speech and Debate Association (formerly the WV Interscholastic Forensic League). To give his students an opportunity to experience theater at its finest, he organizes an annual New York trip, giving his students the opportunity to see four Broadway plays in three days. He has championed equity and access for students long before those concepts became educational buzzwords. Mr. Bill Cornforth has created a legacy of excellence in the arts because his students know they are loved, valued, and respected. He is loved and beloved by his students in return. To borrow a quote from *The Wizard of Oz*, one of his many successful productions: "'A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.'"

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Wheeling Park High School (WPHS) Head Speech and Debate Coach (2004-present)
(38 consecutive state championships)

WPHS Head Debate Coach (1979-2004)

Director, WPHS Park Players Fall Play (1979-2004)

Director, WPHS Park Players Spring Musical (2004-present)

Technical Director for all Park Player Productions (2004-present)

Park Players Club Sponsor

Creator and Coordinator of Class Act (a showcase for rising thespians and upperclassmen)

National Speech and Debate Association Two Diamond Coach

National Catholic Forensics League Founders Award for Excellence in Speech

WPHS Educator of the Year 2013

WV Speech and Debate Association Officer (Offices Held: President, Vice President (current), and Treasurer)

Co-Director, WPHS entry to the WV State Thespian Festival One-Act Play Competition

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the VHSL is January 14, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Kayla Renee Scott
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Madeline Michel

Phone: 434-249-2491

E-mail: mmichel@k12albemarle.org

Street Address: 1400 Independence Way]

City, State, Zip Code: Charlottesville, VA 22902]

Date: 12/16/18

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Darrell Wilson

Title: Assistant Director for Activities

Signature: Darrell W. Wilson (electronic signature)

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Kayla is the pride of our school. She has earned respect from every faculty member for her hard work and dedication to scholastics as well as extra curricular activities. She is an active participant in the AVID program where she is a regional spokesperson for the program. Kayla has been involved in so many things. She is an honors scholar in our Health and Medical Sciences Academy, and as part of her internship program she shadows a cardiovascular surgeon. Kayla is an honor roll student, a peer tutor, and the lead choreographer for our school musicals. She has been the manager of the girls' basketball team for several years. She has been in the VHSL Theatre program since ninth grade. Last year she won acting honors for her role in the 2017 VHSL entry "A King's Story." This year, she wrote, directed and starred in "#WhileBlack," entry for the 2018 VHSL Theatre Competition. The play won third place at regionals and first place out of sixty plays in the Virginia Theatre Association Conference in Norfolk Va. She also won awards for best director, best original script, and best actor. Kayla spent all summer working on this very nuanced play about gentrification and racial profiling. She managed to show many points of view and to use comedy to provoke thought.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

You cannot possibly find a student more deserving of The Heart of the Arts Award than Kayla Scott. She is one of my most economically challenged students, yet she is by far the hardest working and most committed theatre student I have ever taught. Kayla has been in every show we have presented since she was in middle school and has made it her business to be at every rehearsal while balancing jobs, internships, and a rigorous science based curriculum.

Kayla is one of the top students at our Health and Medical Sciences Academy. Because she interns twice a week with a cardio-thoracic surgeon, she cannot be enrolled in my drama class. But she has been enrolled every year in my Improvisation class because she wants to make sure that she keeps up her acting skills. She also realizes that improvisational acting will help her in any field she pursues. She has been in every VHSL one act play since ninth grade.

Kayla is a tiny little powerhouse. At four foot-eleven, she commands the stage with her beautiful dancing skills and her powerful voice. I have never had to tell her to project! Kayla is the kind of dancer who tells a story with her body. I can hardly watch anyone else on stage when Kayla is dancing.

Kayla is involved in theatre and internships while holding down three jobs to help her mother pay the bills. She shoulders responsibilities unknown to most girls her age, yet always manages to maintain top grades and bring a sense of excitement and discovery to her classes. She lives in a rural African American enclave outside of Charlottesville in a tiny run down house that does not have access to adequate Internet service. Despite these challenges, Kayla has emerged as one of the most talented students in our school. There is no one who doubts her ability to contribute to whatever community she joins.

Since tenth grade, Kayla has been the lead choreographer for all of our musicals. She has excellent organizational skills and is able to command the respect of her peers with her no-nonsense yet empathetic leadership style. This year, Kayla has tried something completely new for her. She has written a one act play, #WhileBlack, that won first place in the 2018 Virginia Theatre Association Conference against over fifty other schools. Kayla has taken her own experience in the black community of Charlottesville and created beautiful, three-dimensional characters that tell the story of gentrification and racial profiling. Kayla played one of the lead roles in this play and also directed it. For any other student, I would not advise being the playwright, actor and director, but somehow Kayla is pulled it off magnificently. I think that's because she has garnered the respect of every one of her peers. Kayla is known throughout the school as the girl who is never satisfied with mediocrity. She gives her all in every class and activity.

Kayla has suffered with severe eczema all her life. She often has to take a day off school to sit in a bathtub to moisturize her skin. Yet she still manages a 4.3 GPA. She has never complained, even on those days when her skin was red and swollen. Fortunately, Kayla has found a miraculous dermatologist who has prescribed a new treatment that has controlled her skin flare-ups. Kayla is now ready to conquer the world.

Section 3

National High School Heart of the Arts Award

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: **HANNAH VINES**
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: **Ron Ingram**

Phone: **334-263-6994**

E-mail: **ringram@ahsaa.com**

Street Address: **7325 Halcyon Summit Drive**

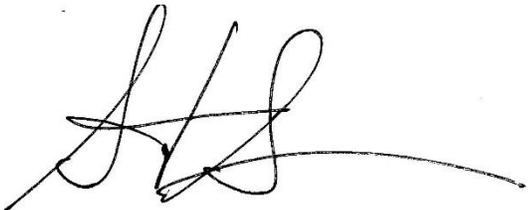
City, State, Zip Code: **36117**

Date: **January 29, 2019**

State Association Endorsement:

Name: **Steve Savarese**

Title: **Executive Director**

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: **HANNAH VINES** _____
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: **1632 Shades Crest Road** _____
(street address)

Vestavia Hills, AL 35226 _____
(city, state, zip)

Phone: **(205)253-1974** _____

E-mail: **havines19@gmail.com** _____

School (if any): **Vestavia Hills High School** _____

City: **Vestavia Hills** _____ State: **Alabama** _____

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.
 - Vestavia Hills Speech and Debate Team
 - Vestavia Hills High School Volleyball Team - Team Captain
 - Literacy Club - Vice President
 - National Honor Society
 - Spanish Honors Society
 - Spanish Club
 - Fitness Club
 - Peer Tutoring
 - Youth Leadership
 - Vestavia Hills Track and Field Team

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."
 - Member of the Vestavia Hills HS Speech and Debate Team
 - Alabama Student Leadership Committee (2017-18 and 2018-19)
 - National Student Leadership Representative (2018)
 - Vestavia Speech and Debate Team leader
 - AAU Academic All American
 - University of Kentucky Book Diversity Award
 - All Over the Mountain Volleyball Team
 - 2018 AAU Volleyball Nationals Runner-up - Team Captain
 - Junior Volleyball Association (JVA) Watchlist
 - Homecoming Queen
 - Miss Vestavia Nominee

HANNAH VINES OF VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

The senior in the Class of 2019 is a perfect example of what a well-rounded student-athlete should be. She has been a student leader, not only in her high school as a member of the VHHS Speech and Debate Team, she has also been a key member of the AHSAA Student Leadership Council and was one of two state representatives at the NFHS Summer Student Leadership Summit in 2018.

She is also a leader in volleyball, considered one of the best players in the nation, and spent much of her summer volunteering in various charitable projects, including going to South America to teach reading skills to students in Guatemala.

The homecoming queen last fall, her fellow students adore her and her selfless life of serving others.



Hannah Vines, Vestavia Hills High School Senior (Class of 2019)



Vestavia Hills High School

2235 LIME ROCK ROAD

Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216

TELEPHONE (205) 402-5250

FAX (205) 402-5262

January 30, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Miss Hannah Vines as a nominee for the NFHS Heart of Arts award. Hannah is currently a senior at Vestavia Hills High School. She is captain of the varsity volleyball team playing outside hitter where she achieved All-State honors and All-Metro honors. Miss Vines represented Vestavia Hills at the AHSAA Student Leadership Conference and was one of two state of Alabama representatives to the NFHS Leadership Conference last year. Hannah maintains an outstanding GPA as an honors student at VHHS and is a novice member of Speech and Debate Team, where she competed and placed in two tournaments this year, winning her division in one.

These accolades are just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, of what Hannah provides to VHHS. Miss Vines is kind, philanthropic, enthusiastic and full of VH Rebel spirit. She cheers on her classmates and teammates in their activities and participates in our school clubs and charity drives. Hannah is a model student for what we call the Rebel Edge, that set of characteristics that defines what we value at VHHS and what will help students find success in their life beyond high school.

Miss Hannah Vines is an incredible athlete, a true difference maker on the court. This is only one small part of her life and what value she adds to our school community. Hannah is a young woman of great character, tremendous work ethic, and model student. She is deserving of this recognition. Thank you for your time and consideration of Hannah Vines for this wonderful honor.

Sincerely,

Tyler N. Burgess, Ed.D.
Principal
Vestavia Hills High School

From the Over The Mountain Journal

‘We’re All Just Teenagers Trying to Find Our Way’: Vestavia Volleyball Star Dedicated to Service off the Court, Sacrifice on It

August 7, 2018



Vestavia's Hannah Vines, above left, made a mission trip to Guatemala with

Shades Mountain Baptist Church during spring break 2018.
Photos special to the Journal.

By Blake Ells

Vestavia Hills senior volleyball star Hannah Vines had a busy summer. She and Bayside Academy's Sam Koby were selected to represent Alabama at the National Federation of State High School Associations' Student Leadership Summit.

NFHS Executive Director Bob Gardner kicked off the summit, which was held July 23-25 in Indianapolis, with a message that Vines said was the most important she heard during the summit.

"If service is beneath you, then leadership is beyond you," she recited. "That's the biggest thing that I took away from that conference."

Otherwise, she said that meeting other kids from across the U.S. was a highlight of the trip.

"We're all different, because we're all from different parts of the country. But it was also cool to see how we're all the same. We're all just teenagers trying to find our way," Vines said.

The trip's origins can be traced back to March, when Vestavia Hills principal Tyler Burgess and athletics director Jeff Segars first chose Vines to represent the school at the Alabama High School Athletic Association Student Leadership Conference. It was there that she and Koby were chosen from among 18 students to represent the state at the NFHS summit.

Vines' service began early in life, largely because of her dedication to her church, Shades Mountain Baptist. She was serving others through vacation Bible school as early as elementary school, involvement that has continued all the way to her first foreign mission trip to Guatemala earlier this year.

She's been passionate about Spanish since middle school, and the opportunity to reach kids in a Spanish-speaking country was exciting for her. It's something she plans to do again next spring.

"It was cool to go down there and learn more and to be immersed in the language," she said. "It was also cool to work with kids. That was my favorite service work I've ever done."

She's also heavily involved in the Literacy Club at Vestavia Hills High School. Each year, the club has a book drive to collect books for local kids.

“We also take part each year in ‘Birmingham Reads,’” she said. “We take a day off from school and we go around to different inner city schools and read to young students. I really enjoy being involved in that.”

Her service isn’t limited to her community. She’s also one of six seniors returning this year to play on the volleyball team, which just returned from a retreat in Florida. They made their goals clear, and they’re eager to top last season’s super regional run.

“We all came up with a word that we want to represent this season, and the word that we came up with was ‘sacrifice,’” she said. “We decided that if we hope to really make a difference from years’ past, we all need to be willing to sacrifice our time, our bodies and our attitude to get what we want. Our goal is to make it to state. We haven’t made it to state in a couple of years, and that’s our goal for this season. We want to get past super regionals and make it to state.”

She won’t have to spend her senior season sweating where she’ll go to college; Vines has already signed to join Samford University’s squad in the fall of 2019. It’s a decision that worked for her on a lot of levels, since it will allow her to stay near the church congregation with which she has grown to be so heavily involved.

Samford’s coaching staff is supportive of her educational path even though it will be time-consuming.

“I was very interested in going into pharmacy school,” she said. “Other schools really didn’t like that. The schedule was ‘too hard to work around.’ Samford was really flexible with that. And they offer so many other courses that are faith-based and allow me to continue to do mission work. Samford was the perfect fit.”

Vestavia Hills opens its 2018 season at Hoover on Aug. 23.

Her more than a game video on the AHSAA Now website:

MORE THAN A GAME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3fayZMkAkY>

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Mary "Danielle" Waldrop
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Katelyn Ostopick

Phone: 904-673-4567

E-mail: Katelyn.ostopick@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Street Address: 600 SR 206 West

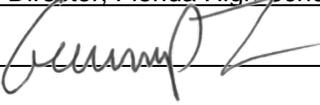
City, State, Zip Code: St Augustine, FL 32086

Date: 9/24/2018

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Mr. George Tomy

Title: Executive Director, Florida High School Athletic Association

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____ Teacher _____)

Name of Nominee: Mary Danielle Waldrop
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 69 M L King Ave
(street address)

St Augustine FL 32084
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 904 814 7554

E-mail: mary.waldrop@stjohns.k12.fl.us

School (if any): Pedro Menendez High School

City: St Augustine State: FL

NOMINATION FORM

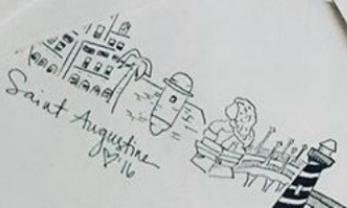
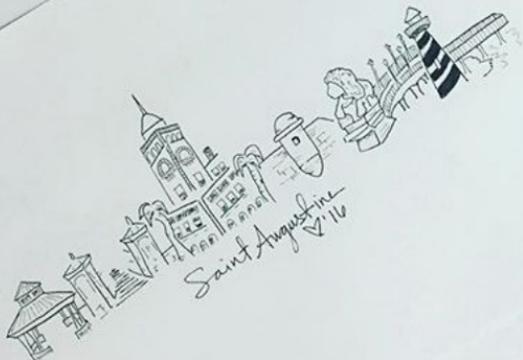
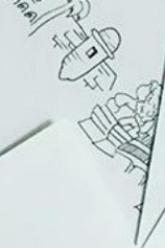
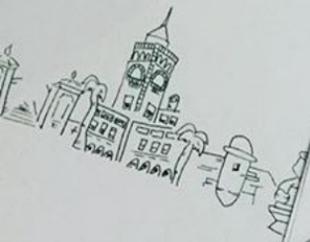
1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Mrs. Danielle Waldrop currently teaches high school Art, co-sponsors our school's Athletic Leadership Council, is a co-sponsor of the sophomore class/student body, sponsors Senior Women, and Art Club, and sits as co-chair of the school's SAC committee. She received the STAR Mentor Award from a former athlete in the 2018 school year. She did all these duties with grace while being a mom of two energetic twin boys as well as an infant baby boy.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Mrs. Waldrop lead Hurricane Irma relief efforts for our entire community of St. Augustine when the storm wreaked havoc on our city. She created a watercolor illustration of the St. Augustine skyline with other memorable local landmarks added in. She sold both the watercolor illustrations as well as printed the same design on t-shirts, for relief efforts. Her charitable contribution raised over \$3,000 for Hurricane Irma victims. In addition, this wasn't the first time she had done something like this. Just the previous year, in October, Hurricane Matthew hit our little seaside town as well, where she created a different skyline illustration, but still sold the portraits and printed t-shirts for relief efforts. She raised over \$12,000 for Hurricane Matthew efforts. In all, she contributed to over \$15,000 to both hurricane relief efforts that took place less than a year apart. She used her craft and love of art to help others in their time of need, not accepting a single penny or financially benefiting from any money donated/funded; 100% proceeds went straight to relief funds locally. I feel that due to her contributions and selflessness, she is more than worthy of receiving this prestigious award. She is the definition of a servant leader with a compassionate heart.







NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Joseph Scott Garcia-Carreras
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Kelly Ingle

Phone: 706-454-1562

E-mail: kelly.ingle@lakeoconeeacademy.org

Street Address: 1021 Titan Circle

City, State, Zip Code: Greensboro, GA 30642

Date: 1/24/19

State Association Endorsement:

Name: [Tab here]

Title: [Tab here]

Signature: [Tab here]

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts

Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Joseph Scott Garcia-Carreras
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 1231 Pine Grove Road
(street address)

Greensboro, GA 30642
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 404-375-8004

E-mail: josephgarciacarreras@gmail.com

School (if any): Lake Oconee Academy

City: Greensboro

State: Georgia

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

- *Drum Captain*
- *Member of Symphonic, Jazz, and Pep Bands*
- *Georgia Thespian Member*
- *Received the 2018 One-Act Play State "Best Actor" award (Class A Public)*
- *Technology Internship*
- *"Student of the Month" for Greensboro-Putnam County Rotary Club*
- *Member of Youth Worship Band at Common Faith Network*
- *Received the Lake Oconee Academy Cornerstone "Community Award"*
- *Over 100 volunteer hours logged at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Egleston Hospital)*
- *Teaches snare drum and hand drumming classes at Lake Oconee Academy and The Arts Barn, LLC in Greensboro, GA*
- *Winner of "Dancing with the Lake Oconee Stars" benefit for local crisis pregnancy center <https://www.facebook.com/theartsbarnllc/videos/1308765012549394/>*
- *Member of Sole Momentum Cloggers - dances every year at Kirk Cameron's "Camp Firefly," a camp for critically ill children and their families*
- *Cumulative (weighted) GPA 3.885; Cumulative (unweighted) GPA 3.750*
- *Organized a "Christmas Tree Drive" for pediatric patients having to spend the holidays at Egleston hospital (This is what he chose to do to celebrate his 18th birthday. Eighteen years earlier, he had been a patient in a NICU and his family spent Christmas in the hospital.)*

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

From a very young age, Joseph Garcia-Carreras learned what it means to be resilient. Much of his childhood was spent suffering with high fevers, anaphylactic allergies, two auto-inflammatory conditions, PFAPA and CRMO, which sometimes required the use of a wheelchair or walker. Most recently his strabismus (an eye condition) prevented him from driving during much of his junior and senior years in high school.

Joseph has always had an innate ability to play percussion. As a toddler, he could repeat intricate rhythms on Solo cups and Oatmeal boxes. His percussive skills continued to develop as he grew older and drumming is what he says kept him centered and gave him an outlet in his most frustrating times of illness.

Medically speaking, Joseph was dealt a very challenging hand and could easily have succumbed to the pain and difficulties he was facing. However, that is not the kind of person Joseph is. He has chosen to embrace the things that make him so different from so many people. And as he continues through his senior year, he is finding increased strength and stamina; diving even deeper into the world of Arts that he so dearly loves.

Earlier this year, the Lake Oconee Academy theatre program advanced to their first ever State One-Act Play competition. Joseph took the title of "Best Actor," largely because he was able to draw from his own life experiences when developing his character. The Arts continue to be a grounding force in his life. It is beautiful to see how Joseph uses his talents to serve the community in so many ways.

(see attached photos)

Video of Joseph drumming at a young age:

https://www.facebook.com/lora.garcia.7/videos/vb.100000658353723/518777638154177/?type=2&video_source=user_video_tab

I attached the mp4 video of the above link to the email message sent to Tommy Whittle. If you are unable to access the link above, please use that video attachment. Thank you!



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Angela Womble Rawls
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Matt Rowan

Phone: 601-932-7939

E-mail: mrowan@pearlk12.com

Street Address: 500 Pirate Cove

City, State, Zip Code: Pearl, MS 39208

Date: January 28, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Mr. Don Hinton

Title: Executive Director of MHSAA

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator **X Other (Choir director)**

Name of Nominee: Angela Womble Rawls
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: Pearl High School 500 Pirate Cove
(street address)

Pearl, MS 39208
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 601-260-4707

E-mail: arawls@pearlk12.com

School (if any): Pearl High School

City: Pearl State: MS

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

The nominee has been teaching for 26 years in the Pearl Public School District; from 1993 to 2010 as the junior high director and assistant high school director, and from 2010 to present as Pearl High School Director of Choral Activities. During that time she has directed 10 various large choirs and 10+ various smaller ensembles. Her groups have consistently received superior and Sweepstakes ratings at local, state, and regional festivals. She is the musical director (vocal and orchestral) for the Pearl High School annual musical theater productions. As assistant director, she helped take students to sing/compete in Europe, New York, NY (3 times), Destin, FL (2 times), and Atlanta, GA. As director, she has taken students, to Disney Honors, San Antonio, TX, and Memphis, TN (2 times). Each year, she prepares students for state honor choir auditions and accompanies the ones who are selected to the event. Her groups have sung for the Pearl Community Thanksgiving Service and 10+ various other community events for 26 years and counting. Under her direction, Pearl High School choirs have collaborated with a local college on two different occasions. She prepares students for solo and ensemble competitions, as well as preparing seniors for college auditions. Having been in numerous leadership positions in state professional organizations, she helped to organize and implement several opportunities for not only her students, but students throughout the state such as: solo and ensemble festival for both junior high and high school; state honor choirs; Pearl High School's Riverland Choral Festival every fall for 15 years, as well as hosting district and state festivals. She is a National Board Certified Teacher, 2003 and 2013. She received the coveted 2018 Mississippi America Choral Directors Association Ernestine Ferrell Award for excellence in choral music in Mississippi.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Angie Womble Rawls was my choral assistant in the Pearl Public School District for 17 years. I watched her grow as a musician, educator and leader during those years. She is very inspirational to students and works exceptionally well with colleagues. She is very talented and passionate about the Choral Art. Angie has served our state on different levels of leadership as a member of Mississippi Music Educators Association, including state president, and the Mississippi Chapter of American Choral Directors Association. She has been recognized with numerous honors and awards because of her success, leadership and organizational skills. She is highly respected in the choral education community in our state as well as in the southeast. She has served as an adjudicator and clinician in numerous states throughout the years. When the time came for me to make a decision to retire, there was no doubt in my mind that Angie would succeed me and continue the 29 years legacy of Pearl Singers. To this date she has accomplished all and more than I expected she would. The legacy continues. The relationships she builds with students and colleagues as a leader is recognized and applauded. Angie is most worthy of the recognition as the recipient of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award." I seriously hope you will consider her for this award. She will represent it very well.---Donna McCommon

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Brenda LaRaine Fess / Beaufort High School Anti-Bullying Drama Production
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Jerome Singleton, Commissioner (Tammie Newman, submitting)

Phone: 803 896 0417

E-mail: tnewman@schsl.org

Street Address: 121 Westpark Blvd

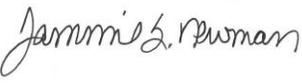
City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29210

Date: January 10, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: South Carolina High School

Title: Commissioner / Communications and Public Relations Director

Signature:  

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator **Other (Specify Director / Producer)

Name of Nominee: Brenda LaRaine Fess "Anti-Bullying" Drama Production
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 123 Sea Pines Drive
(street address)

St. Helena Island, SC 29907
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 843-252-7638

E-mail: bhsdramabooks2015@gmail.com

School (if any): Beaufort High School

City: Beaufort State: South Carolina

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Mrs. Fess has been an educator for over twenty-one years. She has been the theater teacher at Beaufort High School for fourteen years. She was the varsity volleyball coach for five years and she put her coaching career on hold to raise a family.

She is seven times "teacher of the year," nominee. Mrs. Fess uses her position as a teacher to reach out to students to talk and teach the students in her district about bullying. She has written 2 original plays for her theater students to present in order to help with cause.

In 2017, They presented some of their show for the National High School League Convention in Hilton Head. Since then they have been asked to be a presenter for High School athletes and Athletic Directors at the 2019 Leadership Convention in Columbia SC.

In 2017, Dr. Ross, national Principal of the year at Chapin High School, saw a few scenes and asked if they could come to Chapin High School and perform for entire school (approx. 1300 students)

In 2018, 2017, and 2016, Mrs. Fess' and her theater students were recognized by Beaufort County, County Council for their work to take a stand against bullying. The troupe, with Mrs. Fess leadership, has performed for over 7,000 students since the start of the program. The county council proudly gave them a declaration of "Anti-Bully Month" in October.

In 2017, Mrs. Fess received *Paul Harris Fellow Award* from the Rotary of the Low Country. The Rotary has partnered with Mrs. Fess and her students to help take a stand against bullying. Starting in 2012, the Rotary of the Low Country has been a huge partner with BHS Theater. They have supported them in presenting program at conventions in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Baltimore, Maryland, and they work together in order to get the message out to all 6th graders in the district.

In 2016, Mrs. Fess and her students were showcased on SCETV Carolina Classroom as part of teen suicide and bullying

In 2014, Governor Nikki Haley invited the troupe to present to her the program where they earned a resolution for their performance. They were also featured in the local Beaufort style magazine.

In 2013, 2014, and 2015 they were nominated for "What Works South Carolina," grant.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

In 2013, Mrs. Fess son was bullied on a school bus when he was in third grade. Devastated by this event, Mrs. Fess asked her students if "Bullying was still an issue in school?" Overwhelmingly, her students started sharing situations where they have been a victim, a bystander and even a bully. After ripping off the band aid, Mrs. Fess and her theater classes made a promise to each other and themselves to take a stand against bullying. They made a pact to NEVER be a BULLY, A VICTIM or BYSTANDER. They promised "When they would SEE SOMETHING, they would SAY SOMETHING. That promise, and 7 years later over 300 theater students have been a part of the cause and they have performed for over 7000 students.

Mrs. Fess goal is to keep performing and talking so students will know what to do when they see Bullying and what to do if they are a victim. If we stay quiet, then the Bullies win. We are the ONLY high school in the state with an in house performance on such an important topic. Most districts bring in speakers to talk about this issue. Beaufort County allows their students to teach their peers about Bullying.

Mrs. Fess would like for more schools to do what they are doing. Winning this award would help allow her the possibilities to reach out to other schools so everyone would come together to help fight the epidemic we BULLYING.

Please read the attached letters from community members and students of all ages who have been impacted by the program.



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Jerome P. Singleton, Commissioner
P. O. Box 211575
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-6575
803-798-0120 ♦ www.schsl.org

OZZIE AHL
President
Rock Hill

January 10, 2019

SAM TUTEN
Vice President
Johnsonville

Dear NFHS HOTA Judges Panel,

RECHEL ANDERSON
Ridgeland

MIKE BEASLEY
Barnwell

RYAN BROWN
Columbia

KATHY COLEMAN
Saluda

RAY COOPER
Prosperity

PATRICK FINNERAN
Charleston

SHAWN JOHNSON
Blackville

SAM JONES
Eastover

DAN MATTHEWS
Camden

ANNA MILLER
Chapin

JOE QUIGLEY
Little River

KAREN RADCLIFFE
Ashley Ridge

ROBBY ROACH
Williamston

MICHAEL STONE
Mullins

MAUREEN TILLER
Clinton

JOHN TINDAL
Manning

JOSH TRAHAN
North Augusta

STEVE WILSON
St. Matthews

Please accept this letter of recommendation and celebration for the Beaufort High School Drama Club's "See Something, Say Something" anti-bullying production and Brenda Laraine Fess. What a phenomenal method to shed light on such an important issue in our schools.

In recent years, I heard lots of rumblings and positive feedback on this program prior to witnessing the informative and moving performance. I do not use the terms 'moving,' 'powerful,' or 'inspirational' often but my reaction to the students and the message was truly an unforgettable experience for myself as well as our Section III guests while on Hilton Head Island in 2017. There wasn't a dry eye in the house so to speak once the performance was over and the message resonated with all who were privileged to watch these students and Ms. Fess in action. It is apparent she has put her heart and soul into this program, the students and most importantly, the anti-bullying initiative.

I am thoroughly convinced once you review our packet of letters as well as visit the links provided, you too will appreciate the mastery in which the students, under the direction of Ms. Fess, deliver such a powerful message for all ages. I thank you in advance for your sincere consideration of our nominee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerome P. Singleton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".



Representative Shannon S. Erickson

South Carolina House of Representatives

320-C Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

803-734-3261

shannonerickson@schouse.gov

January 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Back in 2011, a child was bullied on a school bus and a parent sought solutions to not only help her child (and others) deal with this circumstance but also to empower children to be positive role models and activists for this growing problem. Mrs. LaRaine Fess, a parent and educator, had a mission and turned to her Beaufort High School drama students for their help and insight to develop an action plan.

These students with their innovative teacher set about to instill courage in students to do something positive when they see their classmates in trouble, to empower victims to know their self-worth and that things can improve, and to inspire adults to create atmospheres where bullying behavior is not tolerated. The dynamic team believed that they must lead by example and start giving students the tools they need to handle these situations. They also believed that every school should take the initiative to solve this problem by pulling their communities together to address the issue.

By creating student leaders who lead by example in the classroom, hallways, field, court and stage, the **See Something – Say Something** movement began. The students and Mrs. Fess wrote a play, a musical show, which they performed to share their message in a unique and dynamic way. They initially rolled it out to their school, then to local schools and eventually “on the road” in South Carolina and North Carolina – so far. Each year, the show is updated with and by new students, given a fresh look and updated terminology and context so that it’s relevant and remains meaningful.

Mrs. Fess and some of the Beaufort High School drama students, were honored to meet then South Carolina Governor, Nikki Haley in 2013 when she came to Hilton Head to visit their school for Creative Arts. In February 2014, the team travelled to the state capital and performed for her and her staff. They were also awarded a South Carolina House of Representatives Resolution commending them on their work.

Supported by the Rotary of the Low Country, County Councilwoman Alice Howard, community volunteer Charlotte Gonzales and many others, the troupe continues their work and have been recognized by Beaufort County Council in 2016, 2017, 2018.

The Beaufort High School Drama Program, led by Mrs. LaRaine Fess, is worthy of all of our praise and recognition. I cannot think of a more deserving group to honor with awards and accolades and certainly hope that you will consider them worthy of high distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon S. Erickson".

Shannon S. Erickson

South Carolina House of Representatives, District 124, Beaufort, Member
House Ways & Means, Transportation & Regulations Subcommittee, Chairman
House Committee on Regulations and Administrative Procedures, Member
House Majority Party, Whip
South Carolina Citizen & Legislative Joint Committee on Children, Co-Chairman

January 26, 2019

Dear Ms. Newman,

My name is Luke Durbin and I graduated from Beaufort High School in 2014. I was a participating student during the first year that the Drama Department's bully play came to fruition. This production was a work in progress for our class, as it was the first year our thoughts and plans were transformed into a work of art that influenced both the student body and the entire community. Mrs. Fess's initial intentions for this play were to simply raise awareness of the bullying epidemic among students and to allow current students to share their personal stories through acting. Little did she know that this play would win awards on a national scale, and that each year her students would introduce unique experiences that touched the lives of the community in unexpected ways. As the show has adapted each year to illustrate the personalities of incoming students, new stories are told and the message grows stronger.

A teenager during this time, I was struggling with confusion regarding my personal identity, and this show provided a platform to express those feelings in a healthy, appropriate manner. My high school years consisted of depression, anxiety, self-harm and an eating disorder that slowly developed as a result. Eventually, I discovered that this was all symptomatic of a gender identity crisis. Although born female, I have identified as a male from the age of three. The misalignment between my body and mind caused inner turmoil, as I grew older. I was "different" than my peers and never felt as if I fit with any particular group. I had friends from many different groups, sports teams, and classes, but it felt as if none of them truly knew me. After I began to dress in boys' clothes and cut my hair, the stares, whispers and gossip were

relentless. My health issues continued and I was physically very ill in addition to being mentally exhausted.

Mrs. Fess and the drama department provided a safe space that allowed me to accept myself without fear of judgment. The bully show was an opportunity to partially share my story among classmates who all had their own stories and struggles buried beneath the surface. I quickly learned that every individual in our class was carrying the weight of personal and/or familial struggles that many of them did not care to discuss. This show opened my eyes to the importance of raising awareness among teens and adolescents that bullying comes in various forms and can drastically affect the lives of its victims. The malleable, developing brains of teenagers are especially vulnerable to bullying. This is a time when kids are discovering who they are and who they would like to become, and the process of growing into oneself often includes exploration and many mistakes.

I believe it is the duty of adults to instill kindness and empathy in our school systems, so that our children grow to be adults with human decency and an appreciation for diversity. The bully show has clearly made great strides toward achieving this goal, and the community has benefitted from its production each year. Mrs. Fess has a bleeding heart for her students, and uses her position as an educator to help students discover that they are worthy, they are loved and their lives are just beginning. She certainly helped me to realize that there was a future awaiting me in which I could unapologetically be myself and achieve my goals and dreams. Although I have not seen how the bully show has transformed over the years, the fact that it has continuously adapted is proof that it is dynamic and effective. I can confidently claim that this play allowed for comfort in my own skin, and I am certain it will award this same gift to students for years to come.

I am currently a recent graduate of the College of Charleston and will be attending the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Greenville this fall. Needless to say, I have come a long way since my high school days and have grown into my identity with ease after leaving for college. I am looking forward to pursuing a career as a Physician, and my journey discovering my identity has laid the foundation for my decision to become a health care provider. I will always be grateful for the support I received in high school from the Beaufort High School's Drama Department and this production.

Sincerely,

Luke Durbin

When You See Something, Say Something Letter

Avery Thomas

When I was deciding what high school to go to, the main factor at play for me (who aspires to someday be an actor) was which high school has the drama department who does the most for the community? My decision about choosing a school was made simple when I found out that not only does Beaufort High do an amazing musical every year but Beaufort High also tours an anti-bullying show to different schools in the area.

When You See Something, Say Something (also affectionately referred to as the Bully Show) as something I had heard about before but had never actually seen until I got into high school. I remember watching it the first time my freshman year when all of the kids were in rehearsal for it and knowing that come my sophomore year, I was going to be involved because there is no way to watch it and then not want to be a part of it. The whole show reinforces the idea that bullying is wrong by showing things from not only the perspectives of the victim and the bully but also the perspective of the bystanders (those who make a conscious decision to do nothing to prevent the bullying). Through the course of the show we get to teach all who see it about what it is like to be bullied, the implications of bully, and how to prevent yourself and others from being bullied.

In the Bully Show, the main scene (one that I am lucky enough to be a part of) is titled "Everything". It is about a day in the life of a student who is bullied (I play the student). The scene begins with the student waking up and having good thoughts in their head (represented by another actor), reminding the student that they are loved, beautiful and valued. As the day progresses, the bad thoughts begin to take over to the point that the student begins to feel that suicide is the only option. For me, the moment that changes is when I look over and see the good thoughts, fighting to get to me, fighting to remind me that I am loved, valued and beautiful. In that moment, I throw down the weapon and decide that I too must fight to remind myself that I am those things. The scene ends with good winning over evil but only because the student decides that there is another alternative. I cannot tell you about the number of crying students I have met after the show who have explained that they are the student in that scene in real life but that after seeing me fight to stay alive and to remind myself that I am worth it, they know that good will win and that they must keep going. I am so thankful every single day to be a part of a show in which I can help to remind a person that they are valued, they are beautiful, and most importantly they are loved.

This show has changed me in ways that I cannot describe. To be a part of this show, you must walk the talk, meaning that when you sign up for this show you must speak up when you see someone being bullied (you cannot be a bystander), you obviously cannot be mean to anyone else (you cannot be a bully), and also you cannot allow yourself to be bullied (you cannot be a victim). Hearing the stories that some of my classmates tell about how they were bullied but that because of the show they have now chosen to speak up for themselves and be brave, it makes me so thankful that we have such a show out in our community. I know that I personally have

become a much more confident person through the course of this show which has enabled me to be able to stand up for myself and those around me in the face of adversity.

This show has also opened up a talking point for me and other actors/students in various areas of the country. When I went to Carnegie Mellon University to study acting for the summer, we had to discuss the most moving show that we had ever been a part of with our class. As soon as I mentioned the bully show, my class was amazed! Many of them asked for examples of our scenes and asked if they could pitch similar projects to their schools. My hope is that someday we will be able to tour our show across the country so that everyone will be able to experience the heart wrenching, moving and yet truly uplifting story that is When You See Something, Say Something.

When I first saw the bully show, it struck a nerve that I didn't know I had. How I was feeling inside was being expressed through other people; it was me on that stage. It made me feel like I wasn't alone, what I was feeling inside was a real thing and my emotions were valid not just something I was making up in my head. For a 6th grader, which is who we mainly perform for, that is a harsh reality. School should be an environment where we go to learn and can feel safe, not somewhere we fear or dread to go. I'm so thankful to be a part of this show today, it has truly changed my life. This message is so important and everyone needs to hear it. All of this would not be possible without my role model/drama teacher Mrs. Fess. She holds us accountable and to a different standard. To be a part of this show we have to practice what we preach. We can't justify just talk the talk we have to walk the walk. We cannot be a bully, a victim or a bystander. Seeing this show starts a conversation. It only takes one person to make a change. I'm very thankful to do it alongside amazing cast mates that I formed lifelong friendships with. We truly put our whole hearts onto that stage and every single show is just as important as the last. Because if we can reach just one person it's all worth it, we've made a difference. It has taught me so many things and molded me into the person I am today. I've learned how to be a leader not only in school but in my community and have and have learned so many valuable communication skills that will help me far into the future. It is an honor to be able to take a stand in something I believe in and to lend a hand to people that felt the same way I did in sixth grade. Bullying in all forms can make you feel very isolated, so being able to tell people that they are not alone and that they don't need to be afraid to speak up is something I truly value. I will never give up and I will keep all of these lessons with me for the rest of my life.

Beaufort High School Theater Department
Taking a stand against BULLYING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-u6uM_wwoRM

The above link was a video made by a student to show people what we do with our show.



Lemon Challenge

2014, we created the LEMON Challenge to pledge to take a stand against bullying #savorthesour



Performing for Gov. Nikki Haley



2015: <http://www.rotary7770.org/rotary-club-of-the-lowcountry-recognized-by-beaufort-county-council-and-beaufort-county-school-board/>



This was the first show and the first cast. This cast in 2013 were majority Sophomores and Juniors. They were the spark to get the fire going.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQjSf7qMb7U&t=47s>

The link above was when we were on Carolina Classroom on SCETV. The topic Bullying and Suicide. We are the second segment.

<https://eatsleepplaybeaufort.com/beaufort-high-drama-club-tough-on-bullies/>

Article Local Magazine

Performance at Chapin High

<https://rotaryclubofthelowcountrybeaufort.org/stories/anti-bullying-campaign>

From the Rotary.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24Z4cD-61S8>

A video with the first cast, we wanted to get on ELLEN



<http://www.rotary7770.org/zone-33-rotary-peace-symposium-includes-anti-bullying-message-from-beaufort-high-students/>



ON FEBRUARY 6, BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA DIRECTOR LARAIN FESS AND HER DRAMA IV CLASS PERFORMED THEIR ORIGINAL BULLY PREVENTION PLAY, “WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING” FOR GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY AND MEMBERS OF THE SC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. “THE ENERGY WAS OVERWHELMING!” RAVED MS. FESS ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE IN THE STATEHOUSE AUDITORIUM. GOV. HALEY REMAINED IN THE VENUE WELL AFTER THE PERFORMANCE CONCLUDED, TALKING WITH THE STUDENTS ABOUT THE PLAY, WHAT MOTIVATED THEM TO WRITE IT, AND THE IMPACT THEY BELIEVE IT MIGHT HAVE ON VIEWERS. BILL EVANS, ALONG WITH MS. FESS AND OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, KENNETH HODGES, ACCOMPANIED THE DRAMA GROUP AS BOTH A MEMBER OF THE ROTARY OF THE LOWCOUNTRY, AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION. BHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JENNIFER WOODS AND PRINCIPAL COREY MURPHY MADE THE TRIP TO COLUMBIA TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL’S TALENTED THESPIANS. hour certificate of attendance. Call to register:

2014 Beaufort Gazette: <https://yourislandnews.com/school-notes-57/>





January 25, 2019

To HOA Judges Panel:

On behalf of Riverview Charter School, I am proud to write a letter of support on behalf of Beaufort High School's "If You See Something Say Something" nomination for the *National High School Heart of the Arts Award*.

The "If You See Something, Say Something" initiative is an absolute passion of Theater Director LaRaine Fess. She is unwaveringly committed to enacting positive change by empowering students of all ages to recognize and combat bullying. For the last three years my own daughter has had the opportunity to perform in this show, and I've witnessed first hand how contagious Ms. Fess's passion for this topic can be. Her passion is so genuine, it brings power, weight and "heart" to each actor's performance and to the show as a whole.

However, the most beautiful aspect of this initiative is the way it empowers students to teach other students strategies for combatting bullying. I am continually amazed at the audience's engagement in the show (particularly on a topic that can be incredibly difficult), and by the connections that the children in the audience make with the actors. In turn, the actors – who are all high school students – feel the joy that comes from enacting positive change in their community. A truly win – win scenario with a positive impact that extends far beyond any classroom.

The "If You See Something Say Something" initiative is an amazing example of the positive change that a high school theater can have on a community, and I'm proud to support their nomination for the *National High School Heart of the Arts Award*.

On behalf of Riverview Charter School,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison H. Thomas".

Alison H. Thomas
Director



Representative Shannon S. Erickson

South Carolina House of Representatives

320-C Blatt Building

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

803-734-3261

shannonerickson@schouse.gov

January 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Back in 2011, a child was bullied on a school bus and a parent sought solutions to not only help her child (and others) deal with this circumstance but also to empower children to be positive role models and activists for this growing problem. Mrs. LaRaine Fess, a parent and educator, had a mission and turned to her Beaufort High School drama students for their help and insight to develop an action plan.

These students with their innovative teacher set about to instill courage in students to do something positive when they see their classmates in trouble, to empower victims to know their self-worth and that things can improve, and to inspire adults to create atmospheres where bullying behavior is not tolerated. The dynamic team believed that they must lead by example and start giving students the tools they need to handle these situations. They also believed that every school should take the initiative to solve this problem by pulling their communities together to address the issue.

By creating student leaders who lead by example in the classroom, hallways, field, court and stage, the **See Something – Say Something** movement began. The students and Mrs. Fess wrote a play, a musical show, which they performed to share their message in a unique and dynamic way. They initially rolled it out to their school, then to local schools and eventually “on the road” in South Carolina and North Carolina – so far. Each year, the show is updated with and by new students, given a fresh look and updated terminology and context so that it’s relevant and remains meaningful.

Mrs. Fess and some of the Beaufort High School drama students, were honored to meet then South Carolina Governor, Nikki Haley in 2013 when she came to Hilton Head to visit their school for Creative Arts. In February 2014, the team travelled to the state capital and performed for her and her staff. They were also awarded a South Carolina House of Representatives Resolution commending them on their work.

Supported by the Rotary of the Low Country, County Councilwoman Alice Howard, community volunteer Charlotte Gonzales and many others, the troupe continues their work and have been recognized by Beaufort County Council in 2016, 2017, 2018.

The Beaufort High School Drama Program, led by Mrs. LaRaine Fess, is worthy of all of our praise and recognition. I cannot think of a more deserving group to honor with awards and accolades and certainly hope that you will consider them worthy of high distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon S. Erickson".

Shannon S. Erickson

South Carolina House of Representatives, District 124, Beaufort, Member
House Ways & Means, Transportation & Regulations Subcommittee, Chairman
House Committee on Regulations and Administrative Procedures, Member
House Majority Party, Whip
South Carolina Citizen & Legislative Joint Committee on Children, Co-Chairman

Dear, Anti-bullying performance

Thank you so much for the performance you really taught me a lot with the bully and I cried when the second one came on when he was telling her to cut herself and I know that that was a play. My feeling was sad because I was bullied in first grade and it was very sad for me because they would do it on a daily base but one of the girls that bullied me she stood up for me because she realized what they were doing to me. It's really sad that someone would take thier life because they had no one to talk to.

Love, Gabbie. awentz
6th grade

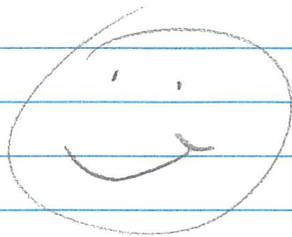
10.25.18

Youth Theater!

Dear Beaufort High School,

Thank you for showing us how people feel when they get bullied. I really hope that if there were bullies in the bleachers will now stop bullying other people. Thank you for using your time to show all 6th graders what being bullied is like and not do it to other people, so people don't have to think they are a mistake.

'God made us all different and unique.' Thank you all again!



Sincerely,

Tylee James
(RRA Student)

Friend Letter

10/25/18
Anthony. B

Dear youth theater

Thanks for a anti bully show because there are some people who don't have a heart or feelings. I been bullied before in 3rd grade he also was a boy with no heart he hit me said I was a midget so I told my mom and my mom said the tomorrow she was going to see who it was. So the next day my mom said you hit my son one more time I call 911.

Dear,

Actors taking action

I really admire how you had the courage to put on a play and sing like that you did an amazing job and in my opinion it really made a statement about bullying. Seeing so many people get put to tears I know it was awkward and tucking. I wish I could see it again and again.

From,

Cameron Duodette

Dear BHS Drama,

Thank you. The play was very touching. It showed me how to deal with bullying. I used to get bullied a lot when I was in elementary school, and I also get bullied now. Thank you again for the performance.

From, Conner
Allred

Dear Actors taking action

Thank u 4 the wonderfull Act it really helped me
see what I should do it really made me tear up I was
trying to hide in my turtle neck so no one would see
me cry btw thank you

my COMPASSION: DAMIAN

Section 4

National High School Heart of the Arts Award

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Johnathon Harry Giesecke
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Matt Troha

Phone: 309-663-6377

E-mail: mtroha@ihsa.org

Street Address: 2715 McGraw Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Bloomington, Illinois, 61704

Date: January 31, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Craig Anderson

Title: Illinois High School Association Executive Director

Signature: Craig Anderson

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Johnathan Harry Giesecke
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 505 Pebble Beach Court
(street address)

Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 815-520-6757

E-mail: jgiesecke10@gmail.com

School (if any): Belvidere North High School

City: Belvidere State: Illinois

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Johnathan is currently a senior and involved in the following programs at Belvidere North HS:

- Debate Team member.
- English Honor Society member.
- Spanish Honor Society member.

Johnathan is also involved in his community in the following programs:

- Boone County Republicans Junior Chairman.
- Legislative Assistant for State Representative Joe Sosnowski.
- Youth Restorative Council member.

Johnathan has achieved the following awards & honors in debate for BNHS:

- 2019 ASU Triple Ocots.
- 2018 Fenwick Invite 5th place.
- 2018 Thunder Invitational 1st place.
- 2018 Thunder Invitational 2nd place speaker.
- 2019 NCFL Nationals Qualifier.
- 2018 NCFL Qualifier 2nd place.
- 2018 NCFL Qualifier 8th place speaker.
- 2018 William Fremd Invitational 3rd place varsity.
- 2018 William Fremd Invitational 8th place varsity speaker.
- 2018 Schaumburg Saxon Invitational 3rd place varsity.
- 2018 NSDA Outround participant round 9.
- 2018 IHSA Varsity All-State Team member.
- 2018 IHSA State Finals 3rd place varsity.
- 2018 NSDA National Qualifier.
- 2018 Districts 1st place varsity.
- 2018 TOC Silver Division Qualifier.
- 2018 NCFL National Qualifier.
- 2017 CCFL Qualifier 6th place.
- 2017 CCFL Qualifier 9th place speaker.
- 2017 Schaumburg Saxon Invitational 2nd place varsity.
- 2017 Schaumburg Saxon Invitational 2nd place varsity speaker.
- 2017 NSDA National Qualifier.
- 2017 Districts 4th place varsity.
- 2017 ICTA Semi-Finalist junior varsity.
- 2016 Libertyville 5th place speaker.
- 2016 CCFL qualifier 2nd place varsity.
- 2016 Nordic Debates 4th place varsity speaker.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

As you can see from the accolades above, Johnathan is an accomplished member of his high school debate team. He jokes that his grandma pushed him toward debate as a freshman at Belvidere North because in her words, "he already argues enough".

Kidding aside, Johnathan had a very real obstacle in his path toward simply participating in debate, let alone excelling at it. He was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, a nervous system disorder that often causes repetitive movements or unwanted sounds, in second grade.

As a result of Tourette Syndrome, Johnathan's main symptoms included tics where he would often involuntarily add words to sentences, in addition to hand gestures and rolling his eyes. His debate coach Nicole Kroepel recalls that early in his debate career, he would often add the word "here" into sentences when he was debating. Admittedly, Johnathan is not a natural speaker and his Tourette Syndrome symptoms are agitated when he is under stress or pressure, which are common traits felt by most high school students in a public speaking setting, let alone those participating in a debate competition.

While his courage is inspiring, Johnathan's passion for debate is equally impressive, especially as it relates to this award. His debate coach Nicole best sums up Johnathan by saying: "I noticed the ticks when he was a freshman, but he didn't tell me about it right away. He never tried to use it as an excuse or a crutch. Knowing him better now, it was because he wasn't going to let his disability define him. He never lets it get in his way. He is not the most naturally gifted speaker I have coached, nor was he a natural for debate. He set himself apart in his desire to get better and willingness to work at it. He always wants to be better...better than the last round...better than the last tournament...better than the last season...better than the last year. He has an indomitable spirit. His gratitude is so overwhelming that it makes my job more rewarding. If you were to watch him right now, you would never have a clue that he wasn't a natural at debate or that he has Tourette Syndrome."

Johnathan reflected on his own experiences with Debate, saying:

"I love debate because it has taught me how to communicate effectively, be a better writer and a more articulate person. But am I also a competitor, so the best part is definitely getting a trophy. There was a stigma with my Tourette Syndrome in middle school, kids could be mean about it, so there was a social impact. In the classroom, it was also sometimes more difficult to focus, so it made developing my organizational skills that much more important. Tourette's didn't impact me as much socially by the time I reached high school, but it was more significant in debate. It can make speaking very difficult. Nerves and stress make it worse and it causes me to start to skim or not stop to add punctuation when I am speaking. You can almost feel your brain going faster. I was just lucky to have a coach (Nicole Kroepel) willing to work tirelessly with me to help overcome and improve. I always hated talking about Tourette Syndrome. I didn't want people to look at me different or change their perception of me, but I have learned that being different is ok. Be proud of what makes you unique and embrace what makes you different."

Johnathan plans to attend University of Illinois at Chicago and major in Public Policy. He is already active in politics, and sees a potential future for himself there. Regardless of his career path, he already plans to become a debate judge as a means to "give back to the debate community that has given me so much".



Section 5

National High School Heart of the Arts Award

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Braelyn Macie Falls
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Jeff True

Phone: 620-490-0303

E-mail: truej@usd245ks.org

Street Address: 1780 2nd Road

City, State, Zip Code: Neosho Falls, Kansas, 66857

Date: January 29, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Bill Faflick

Title: Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Executive Director

Signature: 

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Braelyn is a senior at Southern Coffey County High School in LeRoy, Kansas. Braelyn was diagnosed with a rare eye disease called Stargardt's at age seven. This disease is the juvenile form of Macular Degeneration which has left her with only 20/400 peripheral vision. She relies on a magnifying system and braille to assist her in the classroom as well as everyday tasks.

Braelyn is currently ranked number one in her class with a GPA of 3.98 and was selected as a Kansas Honor Scholar. Each semester in high school Braelyn has achieved the Superintendent's Academic Award and has been selected each year by the high school staff as a Student of the Month at Southern Coffey County High School.

Braelyn has served as class President her junior and senior year and is also the President of the Student Council this year. She was the Student Council Vice-President her junior year. In addition to this she has been involved in multiple extra-curricular activities, organizations, clubs, held leadership roles, and received awards/honors which include: Varsity Scholars' Bowl all four years; Varsity State Scholars' Bowl qualifier in 2017; Titan Leadership Group all four years; Titan Leadership Secretary in 2017-18; Titan Leadership President in 2018-19; Fellowship of Christian Athletes her junior and senior years; St. John Lutheran Church Youth Group all four years; received the Citizenship Award her junior year.

Perfect attendance is very important to Braelyn, and she has received this award her sophomore and junior year while only missing two days in her High School career.

Another remarkable fact about Braelyn is that she has also been very involved in our athletic program at SCCHS. As her coach, I have had the pleasure of coaching her in volleyball, basketball, and track all four years. This year she has served as a team captain in both volleyball and basketball. Braelyn qualified for the State Track Meet as part of our 4X100 Relay team in 2016, 2017, and 2018. She also ran on our State qualifying 4X400 Relay team in 2016 and 2018.

In addition to her school extracurricular activities, Braelyn has found time to volunteer her services with activities such as Vacation Bible School during the summer and making visits to the sick and elderly at both our local Life Care nursing home and The Meadows retirement home. She has also participated in local food drives and Christmas caroling.

Another one of Braelyn's passions the past three years has been her involvement with our school's Honor Flight program. This program takes United States military veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their memorials. Our students and community raise 100% of the funds for these trips so that there is no cost to those who participate. Braelyn has volunteered and participated as a Student Guardian on six of these trips. She has helped at all of our local fundraisers. As Honor Flight Coordinator, I have had the opportunity to watch Braelyn interact with her Veteran on each trip. She does an amazing job of taking care of them and works to maintain contact with each of her veterans in the months and years after!



2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Braelyn is a remarkable young woman who does not view her disability as a limitation. Her wonderful personality and perspective about life is an inspiration to all. The list of her achievements and leadership roles in school and the community is extraordinary.

Reestablishing the High School Drama Department was something that Braelyn advocated for her junior year. With success, she has **held leading roles and served as a student director**. She carried on her love for the arts by participating in forensics her sophomore, junior, and senior year. At State Forensics her junior year, she placed seventh in Improvised Duet Acting and was a **State Champion in Humorous Duet Acting**.

Dancing is something at which Braelyn enjoys and excels. In her nine years of dancing she has taken Tap, Jazz, Pom, Musical Theatre, and Hip Hop classes. She has been a member of Bri's Dance Studio Competition Team for the last six years. The dance team has received many awards and high placements at competitions. Unfortunately, there is not a high school dance team at Southern Coffey County for Braelyn to join and perform.

Braelyn is very passionate about working as a mentor to provide inspiration and motivation to students who are blind and/or visually impaired. Envision Inc. in Wichita, Kansas runs a summer program called Level Up. She volunteers as a mentor to help other students learn how to use assistive technology. For the past three years she has participated in the annual Envision 100 meter race and was a guest music performer at the Envision Gala this past fall.

Braelyn is dedicated in helping raise funds and awareness for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Each summer she forms a team for the Vision Walk in Kansas City, Missouri. Serving on the board as a youth chair and leading warm ups for the walk are a few other ways that she helps spread awareness. Her dance team has showcased their competitive routines at the walk as guest performers many times.

As you can see, Braelyn is a very busy and productive young lady in our school and community. The amount of time and effort that she puts into each day is amazing! The fact that she does all of this while being totally blind in her front vision and only having 20/400 vision out of the side of her eyes is nothing short of extraordinary! I feel that she is the epitome of what this award is all about and would be an outstanding representative of the prestigious Heart of the Arts honor.



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

**(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is
February 1, 2019)**

Name of Nominee: Waseca (MN) High School One-Act Play____
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: John Millea, Minnesota State High School League

Phone: 612-834-5528 (cell)

E-mail: jmillea@mshsl.org

Street Address: MSHSL, 2100 Freeway Blvd

City, State, Zip Code: Brooklyn Center MN 55430

Date: January 15, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: John Millea

Title: Media Specialist

Signature: John Millea

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer
PERFORMING ARTS Administrator Athletic Administrator Other
(Specify __Performing Arts Group__)

Name of Nominee: Waseca High School One-Act Play
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: Waseca High School 1717 2nd St NW
(street address)

Waseca MN 56093
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 507-835-5470 _____

E-mail: [Tab here] _____

School (if any): Waseca High School

City: Waseca State: MN

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

No one who saw Waseca High School's 2018 one-act play performance of "Booby Trap" will ever forget their emotions as the play unfolded. It's the story of an American soldier who sits in a far-off combat zone, trapped in place by a land mine. As he awaits his fate, scenes from his past, present and future unfold around him. The play, by Ed Monk, was Waseca's contribution to the Minnesota State High School League's competitive one-act play season.

"Booby Trap" has been performed by school groups around the country, but this production had a rare personal touch because it was dedicated to Caleb Erickson, a Waseca High School graduate and member of the Marine Corps who was killed while serving his nation. Adding to the emotions of the experience, his family grew very close to the students who performed, and the play also raised money to assist area military veterans who are struggling.

Caleb's father, after seeing the play for the first time, told the students, "I see Caleb in each one of your faces."

Caleb, who was only 20 years old when he died, was a member of the Waseca Bluejays football and wrestling teams in high school in his small hometown in southern Minnesota. Caleb joined the Marines after graduation and was killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2014 when a line of military vehicles was attacked; he was a gunner on the final vehicle in the convoy.

After rehearsals had begun, Waseca theater director Karen Pfarr Anderson had an idea. One of her friends is Rue Erickson, Caleb's older sister. Karen contacted Rue with an idea: "We should do this for Caleb."

"I talked to Rue first and said I didn't want to do it without their blessing," Karen said. "We talked about raising money and we thought we might get a couple hundred bucks."

What happened was amazing. People heard about the play and the efforts

to raise money, and they came to see the play in droves. There is no admission fee for one-act plays at the school, but donations were accepted and the dollar figure went into the thousands. But more than the monetary donations, the cast and crew of high school students forged a very strong personal relationship with Caleb's family.

"Besides Caleb being a humble guy, we are not, as a family, going to let his memory disappear," said his father, Barry Erickson. "We may be a little arrogant about that once in a while, but that kid deserves to be remembered. When I heard about this play and that they were doing it in honor of Caleb and his memory, and to raise a few bucks to help out other Marines, it just wound me up completely."

WHS seniors Garrett Natysin and Allison Dufault, who portrayed the soldier and the soldier's wife in "Booby Trap," were in junior high when Caleb was killed.

"We have received so much support from our community," Allison said. "It's been incredible to be able to do something for people who give so much to us. And it's really opened our eyes to what being in the military means."

The donations have gone to the Caleb Erickson Memorial Fund, which is dedicated to helping veterans in need. Veterans from Waseca and around Minnesota saw the play, and the high school students quickly became aware of the impact they had on the wider community.

Most of the students involved in the play didn't know Caleb personally and some were not fully aware of the sacrifices made by members of the military and their families.

"This is a great opportunity for them to learn about this hometown hero," Pfarr Anderson said. "To not only understand the sacrifice that he gave, but that all military men and women give. Whether they come home or not, that's the price they put on the line."

When Barry Erickson saw the performance for the first time in a rehearsal setting, it was emotional for everybody. He spoke to the students, telling them, "I see Caleb in each one of your faces."

"That touched my heart," Pfarr Anderson said, "it touched the kids' hearts,

and that made them want to do the best they possibly could. They would do that anyway, but it added something that you almost can't describe. It added a different element."

MSHSL one-act play is a competitive activity, but that aspect was almost an afterthought to the cast and crew.

"When we started talking about competing, they were like, 'I haven't thought about that,' " Pfarr Anderson said. "They were so focused on 'This is for Caleb. This is for his family.' Because this story is not just about the man, the soldier, it's about the people they leave behind. That really meant a lot to the kids."

Garrett and other actors wore military uniforms on stage, with the uniforms and patches donated by Waseca-area veterans. The service members who saw the play included the soldier who delivered Caleb's Marine dog tags to his family.

Before the play was first performed in Waseca, Caleb's dad spoke to the audience.

"I explained the anger I felt that he is not with us anymore and he deserves to be," Barry said. "He deserved to see this play. He deserved to have babies. It wasn't meant to be. He was not scared of dying. He was a Marine and that's the Marine spirit.

"These kids do this with all their heart. You can tell they're determined to do a good job, whether they knew him or not."

As the one-act play season came to a close, Pfarr Anderson said, "While we are saddened that this show is ending, we know that what we've done with it will last. I know and every one of my cast and crew members know that we accomplished infinitely more than we ever dreamed with this show. We put together a wonderful show that was powerful, purposeful, and performed with attention to detail and reality.

"We made new friends in the Erickson family and the contingent of veterans and supporters that came to see us and our show. Most importantly, we learned about, remembered, and honored a wonderful young man, Caleb Erickson, and raised thousands of dollars for his

memorial fund. That gift and the lessons about bravery and service these kids learned will go on to do far more than winning a trophy.”

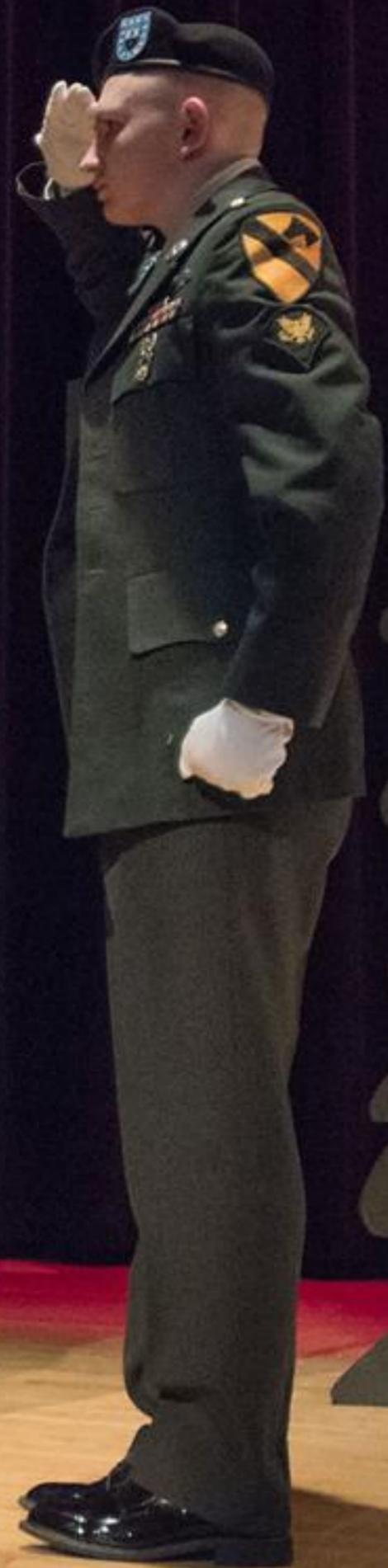
Photo: Cast and crew of Waseca High School’s “Booby Trap” with the family of the late Caleb Erickson (sister Rue Sticha, mom Karla Madden, and dad Barry Erickson).

Photo: A team of Marines carries the remains of Caleb Erickson upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

(Several other photos are also attached.)

Caleb Erickson Memorial: <https://www.calebericksonmemorial.com/about-caleb.html> (includes photos).







NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Tamara (Tammy) Holzer
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Lisa Parry

Phone: 605-941-5970

E-mail: Lisa.Parry@k12.sd.us

Street Address: 306 South Main Street

City, State, Zip Code: Arlington, SD 57212

Date: October 22, 2018

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Brooks Bowman

Title: Assistant Executive Director

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Tamara (Tammy) Holzer
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 319 South Main Street
(street address)

Arlington, SD 57212
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 605-203-0999

E-mail: Tamara.Holzer@k12.sd.us

School (if any): Arlington Schools

City: Arlington State: SD

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Tammy has been Arlington Public School's junior high school and high school oral interpretation coach for nearly 30 years. In those three decades, Tammy has created a robust fine arts program in a small district where student can be reluctant to participate in this branch of extracurricular activities.

Her teams consistently earn their way to and perform exceedingly well at district, region, and state meets, and many of her individual competitors have been double-entered—even triple-entered—at the state meet.

In addition to coaching a full slate of interspers, Tammy finds a way to host five local varsity and four local junior high meets each year. Teams from all over the region travel to Arlington because of her reputation for running an efficient and effective competition. There are times she must turn teams away because she already has an abundance of teams registered, and she takes her obligation to provide them with a pleasant experience very seriously.

As part of her commitment, Tammy volunteers to hold the Dakota Valley Conference Meet each year (though this could be passed from school to school). She even went so far as to establish a Team Excellence Award (much like they do at the State Festival) to recognize the most accomplished school. This group walks away with a plaque they can display when they return home.

Finally, Mrs. Holzer is an outspoken advocate for the smallest districts in our state. When issues come before the rules committee, she speaks up and makes sure those in power consider the unique challenges B schools face. Truly, without voices like Mrs. Holzers, the "Goliaths" would all too often trample the "Davids" in our rural state.

Ultimately, Tammy wants students involved in oral interpretation to have their voices heard and to be praised for their efforts and accomplishments. She knows this extracurricular opportunity is as important as any, and she strives to instill this belief in the kids and adults of the community. In an effort to spread this message, Tammy hosts an annual local meet featuring all of her participants. During this evening, the kids are the stars as they deliver their pieces, enjoy food and fellowship with all who came to hear them perform, and receive scholarship awards Tammy establishes each year.

Yes, Tammy makes oral interp a BIG DEAL in Arlington...as it should be. As she nears the end of her selfless and impressive career, she deserves to stand—if only for a moment—in the same spotlight she has shined on so many kids over so many years.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

The narrative above surely supports Tammy's nomination. Please consider, also, that Tammy recently fought and won a battle with cancer. While this took a physical and emotional toll on her, it is unlikely the students with whom she worked realized the depths of her struggle. You see, even in her darkest hours, she found a way to put on a smile, find words of encouragement and direction for them, and lead them to success in front of their judges. It was quite something to see.

Just this summer, Tammy received the "all clear" from her oncologist, and we, her school family, join her family in being thrilled. She is looking forward to these last few years of her career in education with anticipation and excitement, and I know her interp team is, too. There is a lot of love for Mrs. Holzer among the kids, and a lot of love for Tammy among the staff! She has given of herself for three decades...even when she had little to give. She inspires us all.

Section 6

National High School Heart of the Arts Award

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Juan Enrique Ramos
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Kari Keiser and Karri Wesson

Phone: 479-631-3519

E-mail: kari.keiser@rpsar.net karri.wesson@rpsar.net

Street Address: 1114 S. 5th St.

City, State, Zip Code: Rogers, AR 72756

Date: Jan 30, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Lance Taylor

Title: Executive Director, Arkansas Activities Association

Signature: Lance Taylor

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Juan Ramos _____
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 2914 N. 14th Pl _____
(street address)

Rogers, AR 72756 _____
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 817-729-4921 _____

E-mail: jramos06@rps30.k12.ar.us _____

School (if any): Rogers Heritage High School _____

City: Rogers _____ State: AR

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Juan moved to Rogers from out of state his freshman year. Before he even began school he contacted the Music department to see what the expectations were for the fall, so that he would be prepared. He excels at both the clarinet and the violin. He has been enrolled in the Heritage High School band and the orchestra for both his freshman and sophomore years. In this time, he has proven himself as clarinet section leader in the top band, and assistant concertmaster in the top orchestra. This year he was named the youngest drum major in HHS history. In all of his classes he is highly engaged, hard working, and helpful to students and teachers. He is personable, good natured, conscientious, dedicated, and extremely responsible.

As a drum major, Juan arrives at school early each day in order to set up equipment for both marching and concert band. He leads and conducts the Pep Band in rehearsals, parades, and assemblies. He is an outstanding leader.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

While maintaining excellent grades in all classes, Juan has made All Region Orchestra and All Region First Band. This semester, as a sophomore, he will audition for Arkansas All State Band. He practices both violin and clarinet diligently, helps to lead sectionals, and always volunteers for additional musical opportunities. He is an outstanding musician.

MUSICIAN'S PLEDGE

1. I will...
2. I will...
3. I will...ors.
4. I will give...
5. I will re...
6. I will tr...ct.
7. I will ha...
8. I will su...em...
9. I will ke...of...cure.
10. I will co...ow a...
11. I will per...integ...
12. I will ho...ensemble...at I do.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Louis Dean Gonzales
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination: _____

Name: Katie Zdanowski

Phone: 970-565-3722 x2158

E-mail: kzdanowski@cortez.k12.co.us

Street Address: 418 S. Sligo

City, State, Zip Code: Cortez, CO 81321

Date: 1/8/2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: [Tab here] Bethany Brookens

Title: [Tab here] Assistant Commissioner

Signature: [Tab here] Bethany Brookens

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Louis Dean Gonzales
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 25595 CR N.6 Loop
(street address)

Cortez, CO 81321
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 970-560-0507

E-mail: louis.gonzales@cortezstudents.org

School (if any): Montezuma-Cortez High School

City: Cortez State: CO

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Louis is actively involved at Montezuma-Cortez High School, as well as in his community. For his entire high school career, Louis has been a contributing member of the M-CHS band program, and has been involved with the state finalist Marching Panthers, the Symphonic Winds, the Pep Band, the Jazz Band, and the Musical Pit Orchestra. It is also worth noting that Louis has held leadership positions in many of these groups.

Outside of the fine arts, Louis is also a member of the National Honors Society, as well as the M-CHS Track Team. Louis is also enrolled in the Cortez Junior Firefighter Program. While honoring his many commitments outside of the classroom, Louis also manages to maintain a competitive GPA while simultaneously working part time in his family's business.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

I can say without reservation that Louis consistently demonstrates every value of the "heart of the arts." My staff and I first recognized Louis for his incredible service to the band program. However, as we got to know him better, we realized that this humble attitude of service to others extends to every branch of his life. Not only is Louis always willing to arrive early or stay late to help with the many tasks needed to run an effective band program, but he can also be found early in the morning in the hallways, helping younger students with their math homework. Other times, I will find him in a practice room at lunch, helping another musician learn his or her music. It is a widely known fact around Montezuma-Cortez High School that whether you are a student or a teacher, Louis is always happy to help you out.

In addition to service to his school and classmates, Louis serves his community through his involvement with the Cortez Junior Firefighter Program. This group meets weekly to receive firefighter training, and acts as an on-call volunteer force that responds to real-life emergency calls as their school schedule permits. Additionally, students in this group are required to spend regular 12-hour weekend shifts at the fire station as they become trained to fulfill real firefighting duties. Louis hopes to pursue a career as an emergency medical responder, and his dedication to this goal is evident in his choice to pursue this rigorous program.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the way that Louis has persevered in the face of adverse circumstances. In the spring of 2018, Louis suddenly and unexpectedly lost his mother to a pulmonary embolism. While such a life-altering event would derail many teenagers (and adults, for that matter), Louis returned to school after grieving his loss, and went on to demonstrate such strong leadership that he was unanimously selected by both students and staff to serve as drum major for the state finalist Marching Panthers. In the face of his own personal tragedy, Louis chose to work harder to support his peers, achieve his own academic and musical success, and ultimately lead the marching band to one of their best seasons to date.

I cannot say enough about the character of this young man. He truly possesses the humility and maturity of a true leader, and he is an asset to every program that is lucky enough to have him.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Virginia (Ginny) Lynn Stewart
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Lynn Herbel

Phone: 405 623-0443

E-mail: aimeeherbel@mooreschools.com

Street Address: 300 North Eastern Ave

City, State, Zip Code: Moore, Oklahoma 73160

Date: January 7, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Mike Plunkett

Title: Fine Arts Director

Signature: _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Virginia (Ginny) Lynn Steward
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 8409 Canyon Trail Drive
(street address)

OKC, OK 73135
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 405 664-6380

E-mail: ginny.stwrt@gmail.com

School (if any): Moore High School

City: Moore State: Ok

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Ginny Stewart is a straight A student with a rigorous schedule of college and high school classes at Moore High school. Ginny is a senior, heavily involved in the vocal music program. She is in the show choir "Mane Attraction" as well as the chamber choir, "Apollyras". She studies voice privately, auditions for local theater groups and often times wins the lead role in the school musicals. Ginny is very involved in musical theater and wanted to be a professional performer someday.

Ginny has been accepted into the Kristen Chenoweth Broadway boot camp the past 2 summers, allowing her to work with professional actors and choreographers and vocal coaches. Her pursuit of excellence for her own craft is only rivaled by her desire to allow EVERY student the opportunity to perform. Her passion for the arts drives her to ensure that EVERYONE feels a part of the vocal music program at Moore High School.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Ginny believes that every kid should be able to experience the feeling of performing in front of a crowd, and thought that special needs kids are often times not given this chance. She spoke about this with her vocal music teacher, and Ginny had the idea of combining the 24 show choir students with 24 special needs students to put on a musical show, complete with dialogue, singing and dancing! Each show choir student would be paired up with a special needs student. The show choir member would be responsible for teaching the choreography, singing and dialogue to their special needs friend. They purchased "**Disney: The Movies-The Music**" by John Jacobson, celebrating 75 years of Disney music. Ginny quickly decided to adapt the dialogue to their specific situation. Ginny was the catalyst for developing the relationship with the special needs students, learning their abilities, encouraging their involvement and keeping the attitudes of the other students engaged and positive.

In May of 2018, this inclusive musical, adapted by Ginny, opened to a full house. The musical was a giant success. It's hard to say who got more out of this experience, the show choir students or the special needs kids! Because of the success of this musical that Ginny Stewart had the courage to adapt for ALL students in May 2018, Moore High School made the decision to make this a regular part of the curriculum for the show choir. They partner with the special needs classes 2-3 days a week and they present a musical at the end of each semester. The performance is in front of the entire student body, and they LOVE it. This experience has changed the culture of the show choir and the special needs community at Moore High School. Ginny has changed her intention to major in music performance to now major in Special Education.

Click on the following link to access special needs musical:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZUCE_VYwENC9I4LxWbC1tpvdbXj7sUri

Clink on the following link to access special needs musical:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZUCE_VYwENC9I4LxWbC1tpvdbXj7sUri

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Dayton Thomas
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Chris Schmidt

Phone: 512-232-9101

E-mail: cschmidt@uiltexas.org

Street Address: 1701 Manor Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Austin, TX 78722

Date: January 31, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Chris Schmidt

Title: UIL Public Affairs Representative

Signature:



NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Dayton Thomas
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 310 E. Market St.
(street address)

Mabank, TX 75147
(city, state, zip)

Phone: [Tab here]

E-mail: amrhea@mabankisd.net

School (if any): Mabank High School

City: Mabank State: Texas

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Dayton Thomas participates in various clubs at Mabank High School, such as National Beta Club, DECA and archery (he uses a modified bow and usually places in the top 3). He is a member of the National Honor Society and remains in the top 10% of his class. Dayton is very involved in his youth group at church, and has given sermons to his youth group. He, along with his twin brother Dylan, attends the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Camp every year and is a true leader at camp. He is a positive force and role model for the younger campers who also have muscular dystrophy.

In January 2019, Dayton advanced to State in UIL Congress and won 2nd place overall in Conference 4A. As a sophomore, Dayton placed 3rd for the sophomore class in the Texas Association of Pupil Transportation speech contest.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Dayton Thomas is an exceptional student that has overcome great adversity to become a UIL state medalist. It is for this reason that the UIL believes he is deserved of the National High School Heart of the Arts Award.

Dayton and his twin brother Dylan were born with Muscular Dystrophy (MD) – a rare disease that afflicts less than one percent of the United States population – and developed Scoliosis as toddlers. MD causes progressive weakness and loss of muscle mass. The twin boys were late reaching some of the early milestones, like not learning to walk until 15-16 months of age, and their posture was off due to compensating for the progressing weakness of their muscles. With their poor posture and increased weakness they began to walk on their toes. Their calf muscles tightened and it became difficult for them to walk without falling.

While they have had multiple surgeries, their first was to have their Achilles Tendons released their Kindergarten year. The risk of this surgery meant they may no longer be able to walk without assistance, or possibly not be able to walk at all. After Dayton's surgery, he began using a wheelchair for the first time. As the Scoliosis progressed they required their first back surgery; growing rods were put in their backs in hopes of helping with the progression of Scoliosis. The length of the rods was increased every 6 months, which was described to the family as "like jacking up a car." This also meant surgery every 6 months and a week or more recovery each time. After 3 years, doctors decided it was time to fuse them due to respiratory risks during surgery and the perceived difficulty in maintaining their limited airways should issues arise. Dayton's surgery was over 11 hours long but he did very well and made it through recovery, though it was not easy.

From Dayton's parents: "Despite all the adversity the boys live their lives everyday with grace and a smile on their faces. They have never been bitter or angry or even asked why this happened to them. They live everyday with kindness, compassion and an absolutely crazy sense of humor. They believe in God and trust what he has planned for them. They would give the shirts off their backs to anyone that needed it and provide support and encouragement to their friends."

As a high school freshman, Dayton joined the speech & debate team at Mabank High School where he learned how to express opinions in front of a group and not be a shy public speaker. When it comes to competing in UIL Congress, Dayton faces several complications that require forethought and practice.

1. Range of mobility: Because he cannot raise his arms, he holds his placard by bending his elbow and uses his other hand to help wave his arm to gain attention during questioning. Though Dayton maintained a line of sight with the Presiding Officer, he drove his wheelchair to the front of the room using his placard technique every time to gain attention from the speaker.
2. This also affects his physical excursion when using a gavel as a Presiding Officer. He also cannot grasp stopwatches, therefore, was granted permission to use his offline phone to time speeches.
3. Dayton lacks the muscular power to breathe in a consistent rhythm that would be considered normal for any other person. In order to speak, he must pace his breathing, avoiding speed, and concentrating on clarity.

As he continued to compete in debate, his confidence grew and soon he was winning medals. All of Dayton's hard work culminated in January 2019 with his biggest victory in speech & debate to date as he advanced to the UIL Congress State Championships.

Competing at state came with its own unique challenges as there wasn't much time for Dayton to stretch out after long rounds. Breaks consisted of going to the restroom with his mother or aid. So, after 6 hours debating, 2-3 hours of walking/lunch, and another possible hour of dinner, he wasn't able to get respite from the confines of his wheelchair until the hotel each night. Travel also required forethought as they had to choose a hotel between the UT campus and Texas State Capitol. Driving would have added unnecessary time and effort since the wheelchairs have to be locked down into the car with straps. Dayton's coach pre-walked the route to ensure handicap accessibility and safety. Once at each location, Dayton and his coach had to locate accessible bathrooms and elevators large enough for his motorized wheelchair.

Working through each of these additional challenges, Dayton excelled in the competition at state. He was one of 58 students in his conference to advance to UIL State Congress. During the preliminary rounds at state, he was one of two students elected by his peers as Presiding Officer. To be elected Presiding Officer, there is an audition period where each nominee makes his or her case as to why they should hold the position. At the end of the audition, all members of the chamber vote and elect the Presiding Officer by a majority vote. The top two are the Presiding Officers, one for the morning session and one for the afternoon session. Dayton advanced beyond the preliminary round to Super Congress held at the Texas State Capitol, and ultimately won 2nd place overall in Conference 4A (the 3rd largest conference in UIL competition).

Dayton will continue to compete in speech & debate this spring in Extemporaneous Speaking. He plans to attend Dallas Baptist University after high school in hopes of pursuing a degree in ministry.







Aff Action
Flom Alter



 Dayton
Thomas







Thomas

Perkins

Lischka

USL

Section 7

National High School Heart of the Arts Award

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Tristan McMichael
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Roger Blake - CIF

Phone: 916-239-4477

E-mail: rblake@cifstate.org

Street Address: 4658 Duckhorn Drive

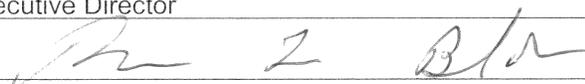
City, State, Zip Code: Sacramento, CA 95834

Date: January 30, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Roger Blake

Title: CIF Executive Director

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

X Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Tristan McMichael
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 80 Clough Street
(street address)

Quincy, CA 95971
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 530-927-9733

E-mail: tamcmichael03@gmail.com

School (if any): Quincy High School

City: Quincy State: California

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Tristan is very active on campus in sports, clubs, and band. He recently completed his second season on the high school boys soccer team and will be starting his second year on the tennis team this spring. He is the Secretary/Treasurer for the QHS chapter of the California Scholarship Federation, Secretary for the Gay-Straight Alliance Club (GSA), and a member of the Service Club. He recently organized and completed a Stockings for Preschoolers drive for the Service Club where he gathered toy donations, then helped deliver stockings to the 6 area preschools.

He has auditioned for and been accepted to the NCBCDA 2019 High School Honor Band (NORCAL). He has previously auditioned for and participated in the CMEA-NS Honor Bands for every year he was eligible (2016-2018). Outside of school, Tristan is a member of the High Sierra Community Orchestra and recently completed a run in the stage orchestra for a local production of the Full Monty.

Tristan currently has a 4.0 GPA (the highest available to sophomores and below) and has earned the Trojan Scholar Award every semester.

Most recently, he was named a Student of the Month for Quincy High School and worked with the high school student leadership team to have band included in Homecoming and other spirit events on campus.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Tristan has been active since elementary school in trying to rebuild the band program for Quincy's public schools. The elementary school and high school have traditionally shared a single, $\frac{3}{4}$ time, music teacher, with band being treated as an optional extracurricular activity for those who could afford to rent an instrument.

After Tristan highlighted the issues with access and affordability for Quincy students through his fundraising as well as an impassioned plea to the local school board, the Plumas Unified School District changed the music teacher position to a full-time position. They purchased musical instruments and made band a mandatory class for the 5th grade. The elementary school also implemented a K-6 music program, where every student has weekly access to music education.

Tristan's other accomplishments include:

- Raised funds for the repair and purchase of instruments for students to use over the course of three years through a variety of small, independent fundraisers. This past fall, Tristan donated two new trumpets and a gently used clarinet purchased with money he raised to the band program.
- Worked with his music director to form three small ensembles with more advanced students, to help keep band students from becoming bored, including arranging music to fit the different combinations of instruments. Quincy Chamber Winds, the most advanced of the ensembles, performed at the Region V Music Festival where they received a Rating of Excellent.
- Created a saxophone quartet with junior high students who most recently performed at the Winter Concert, and continues to mentor beginning and intermediate saxophone students.
- While Quincy High was without a band director over the summer, he created, organized, and participated in a Band Float for the Quincy Music Program in the Plumas-Sierra County Fair Parade to highlight music education.

- Created, organized, and ran a community-wide Jazz/Swing Night Fundraiser at the Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds. Tristan made presentations to six local nonprofits, who helped cover event expenses, including the venue rental. The inaugural event was held January 26, 2019, featured over a dozen different musical groups and more than three hours of live music, raising over \$2,700 for the Quincy Music Program.

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Students in middle and high school sometimes face tough scheduling choices when their favorite class offerings — like music — conflict with other courses, many required for graduation or college prep. The QHS Concert Band members say they universally favor more scheduling flexibility. Rehearsing for an upcoming performance are, back row, from left: Bliss Soares and Krystina Oravetz. Middle row, from left: Nick Caiazzo, Russell Nickerson, Nick Graham, Sabrina Walmer, Cameron Olsen, Emily Walmer and Joel Frank. Front row, from left: Tristan McMichael, Kody King, CoraGrace Hardee, Chloe Emmot and Sylvia Wood. Photo by Roni Java



QHS student leads effort to improve schedule choices and increase support for PUSD music program

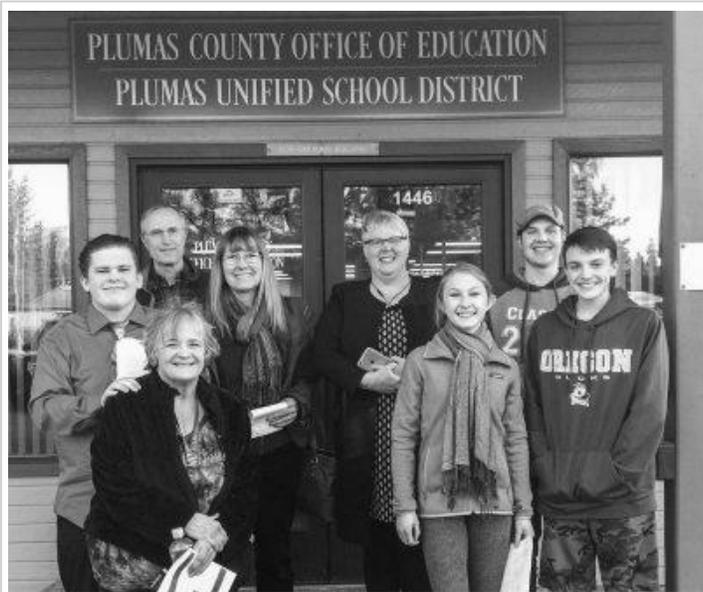
May 16, 2018 Staff

Tristan McMichael is a man on a mission. He is passionate about the value of the Plumas Unified School District's music education program and he hopes to convince the school board to increase support for music from the early grades up into high school.

He has his work cut out for him.

But first, he'd settle for elementary school students having better music-class time slots in which to study and build their competencies.

And the Quincy Junior-Senior High School freshman would also be really happy to see more class scheduling options for seventh- through twelfth-graders so they can attend a music class without having to forego other, equally important course offerings — like a foreign language, AP history and others.



Taking their case for increased support for music education directly to the PUSD school board at a recent meeting were, clockwise from front left, Virginia Ekonen, Tristan McMichael, David Wood, Lucinda Wood, Marty Walters, Benjamin Heaney, Nicolas Caiazza and Sylvia Wood. Photo submitted

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An avid musician, McMichael is working to make school district leaders aware of accumulated changes to the music education program in Quincy schools that he feels are detrimental.

"I originally joined band to see what it was like. Once I did, I found that it's a lot of fun," McMichael said recently. "I love music because no other class has you working together with other people like band does. But music in our schools has been torn apart in the last few decades. I'm trying to rebuild our program and prevent it from completely collapsing."

Interviewed after he took a delegation of supporters to speak before the PUSD School Board on behalf of improved support for K-12 music education, McMichael explained that a successful music program creates "ladders" of opportunity from kindergarten through high school.

Preschoolers and kindergartners learn about music structure with blocks; first-graders explore tambourines and bells; second-graders expand to xylophones; and third-graders develop their talents reading notes and playing recorders.

Practice, practice, practice makes accomplished musicians.

After that, it's beginning band, advanced band and then on to junior high and high school band opportunities.

It's hard to get the necessary time with a teacher and time to learn or practice when music education is as infrequent as half an hour a week for elementary students, McMichael suggests.

And he isn't alone in his quest to save and improve local music education.

Trained as a K-12 music teacher, Luke Barnes has been leading the QHS band for five years. His students perform as a concert band and play jazz, pop and pretty much any kind of ensemble pieces.

"There's a lot of research out there about the many benefits of a music education," Barnes said during an early morning rehearsal of the QHS concert band. "The challenges of the students' schedules, that's the issue — not the interest of the kids. There's no one final solution."

But McMichael worries greatly about the future of school music in Plumas County and potential impacts down the road with fewer college scholarships available due to a dwindling supply of dedicated, talented student musicians out of Quincy, in particular.



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"I've grown to love music and I want to go to college to be a music teacher," McMichael said, adding that

Quincy music studies enrollment has been declining for a range of reasons at both the elementary and secondary schools and this is impacting the future of school music programs in general.

He noted that within the last four years, Quincy has lost its elementary school choir, the high school choir and the jazz band.

The third-grade recorder program is suffering, he said, and the beginning and advanced band program for elementary students needs more support, too.

"I have run fundraisers and an instrument drive to make more instruments available to students so that cost isn't a barrier for those who want to join music," McMichael commented. "However, after I did that, the schools put elementary band (early in the morning) before school for the second time and our numbers started to drop again."

McMichael maintains that, "Many high school band kids and parents who went through the same time change, saw the negative affects. Our numbers at the elementary school are extremely low. The high school has talked about getting rid of our junior high band if we have less than 10 members next year. The school uses our music teacher more for computer classes than music. That is why we went to the district office to speak at the board meeting. When the numbers started to drop — and no help came from the administration — I had to step in."

An impassioned letter of support from Johnene McDonald accompanied McMichael and several music boosters to the school board meeting in late March.

Her letter detailed 35 years of support for local music education and the development of a 30-piece community orchestra, all through the work of McDonald's Face the Music Studio.

"I have watched nine music teachers come and go at Quincy High School," McDonald wrote. "All of those teachers were amazing music teachers and they came here trying to do a good job for the kids. They all left over similar issues, which came down to having their music classes chopped in half and being expected to teach other subjects instead of music."

McDonald added that "cutbacks" in all of Quincy's music classes are creating "fewer and fewer young musicians who are accomplished enough to play at the community orchestra level."

She explained that many of her best students have studied music even before kindergarten and “children need to take music lessons early enough in life to develop the technique needed to perform in beginning or advanced band, in junior and senior high, and with a community orchestra.”

McDonald wrote, “I fear if we lose another good music teacher, the music program may never be revived. What a horrible loss to our community and our young people.”

The school board members took the matter under serious consideration, acknowledging the district values music as a critical learning tool that keeps students engaged in school.

Music, as part of PUSD’s Visual and Performing Arts programs, also helps to develop well-rounded individuals, the trustees agreed, and encourages skills they believe are vital for success in the 21st century.

McMichael’s campaign to raise awareness of students’ and schools’ music-class needs elicited a promise to discuss the vision of PUSD music programs and support for students.

Trustee Dwight Pierson thanked McMichael, parents and other students for coming before the board.

“We certainly have phenomenal talent in this community,” Pierson said. “I was in both athletics and band myself. At halftime, we took off our shoulder pads and marched in the school band. I can’t tell you which I enjoyed more.”

Pierson acknowledged the school board has been “struggling with these legitimate questions that have been raised about the future of our music education program.”

Fellow trustees on the board concurred that they would like to see school schedules be able to provide class options that conflict as little as possible with music classes, as well as other courses that make it hard for students to take the things that strongly interest them — and still complete requirements, etc.

Trustee Dave Keller said, “I’d like to see the schools make this a priority.”

Trustees Jolene Cline and Leslie Edlund, president of the board, talked about what kinds of options are available, within the structure of a school day.

Concerns were raised about moving music, or other important course offerings, to before or after school hours due to transportation issues.

Trustee Traci Holt, clerk of the board, said she had spent time recently with one of her local principals to go over master schedule planning.

“My head was spinning,” Holt said. “We ran into limitations and issues about when classes can be offered. I feel their pain. How do we find a happy medium?”

Pierson and Edlund acknowledged that (taking music and other desirable classes) had “worked in the past, it’s been done.”

The trustees also said they understood all teachers will be protective of their own programs and many things are important, such as the need to learn a foreign language, take AP classes for college success, participate in sports and much more.

“We are limited because of the size of our district and we have all these competing needs,” Pierson commented. “This is worth exploring district wide — ways we can support these programs. We shouldn’t put kids in a position where they only have tough choices, like it’s music OR sports, but not both.”

Trustee Holt suggested the district needs to be prepared “to put some resources toward” resolving more support for the music and performing arts programs.

Edlund agreed, and at the elementary level, too. For the upper grades, she considered possibly offering band on two days and AP studies on the others.

All of the school board members agreed, with gratitude, that Quincy and Plumas County in general provide welcome support for the schools and various educational programs, saying they want to demonstrate commitment for the program needs, too.

The trustees expressed interest in finding creative scheduling solutions and working with school site leaders.

Board President Edlund said, “Our music program is small now; regaining robustness is going to take some time. It will take some rebuilding.”

PUSD Superintendent Terry Oestreich told the board she and her leadership team would talk about what some solutions might look like.

Trustee Pierson commented, “We empathize with the challenges. There are so many things we have to address (throughout the district), a lot of

things are on our plate. Perhaps we need to look at what we can take off the plate.”

Oestreich appreciated the board’s understanding and said she would work with the school principals “about offering opportunities.”

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NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Taylor Kay Tilby
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Lacey Wing

Phone: 801-505-2445

E-mail: Jordandrillteam@gmail.com

Street Address: 1955 E. Ashley Ridge Rd

City, State, Zip Code: Sandy, UT 84092

Date: 01/22/2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Rob Cuff 

Title: Executive Director, UHSAA

Signature: [Tab here]

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Taylor Kay Tilby
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 12038 Draper Ridge Drive
(street address)

Draper, UT 84020
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 385-246-5343

E-mail: taytil48@gmail.com

School (if any): Jordan High School

City: Sandy State: Utah

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Sophomore at JHS
2nd year member of the Charlonian Drill Team
2 time Academic All Region recipient
Currently taking 3 honors classes and 1 AP class
4.0 gpa for both quarters thus far this year

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Taylor is the personification of sportsmanship and no doubt has exemplary heart and passion for dance. We are honored to have her as a returning member of the Jordan High Charlonians. Taylor consistently inspires and lifts her teammates and coaches as she expresses her passion for life through dance at every practice and in every performance. One simply cannot help but be inspired by her dedication to her craft and her desire to stand as an example to those around her.

Taylor was born with a rare genetic disorder called TARS Syndrome leaving her with limited use of her arms and a prosthetic leg. We as a team and as a community are better off having known Taylor and look forward to watching her progress even further in her dancing career.

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Jordan drill team offers freshman dancer an opportunity to be 'the girl other people need to see'

By Amy Donaldson @adonsports

Published: February 4, 2018 7:20 pm

SANDY – Taylor Tilby lives a conspicuous life.

It's not her choice to stand out. It was a genetic twist of fate that prevents her from ever just blending in with the crowd.

So when a friend suggested the freshman try out for Jordan High's drill team, she was more than a little hesitant. High school is hard enough without giving strangers another reason to stare.

"I was scared because the team kind of scared me," she said. "I don't like to compare myself to others, to what they can do. I was nervous because I didn't know what the other girls would think of me being on the team."

Her mother was even more anxious.

"My first thought was, 'No way,'" said Shannon Tilby. "Everyday she deals with people looking at her. She doesn't like being in the spotlight, and this is going to be hard. ... But after talking with her and the coaches, I just felt like why not."

Jordan High School freshman Taylor Tilby, center, waits backstage with other Jordan Charlionians before one of the drill team's performances at the state semifinals at Utah Valley University in Orem on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. | *Jacob Wiegand, Deseret News*

In fact, it was an email from coach Lacey Wing that turned the conversation from a terrifying, unrealistic fantasy to a real possibility.

"I thought, 'Maybe she is the girl other people need to see,'" Shannon Tilby said. "It doesn't matter how you look. You just do what you love."

And that's all Taylor Tilby wants to do.

The 14-year-old was born with TAR syndrome, a rare genetic condition in which patients are born without the radius bone on the forearm. Taylor also has a prosthetic leg because her knee was fused. Despite having very short arms and a prosthetic leg, Taylor has "never shied away from anything," said her father, David. "She played soccer, but didn't like the contact. She's a fantastic singer, and we thought that's the route she would go. But she loved dancing."

Shannon Tilby put her daughter in dance classes at age 5.

"It was really like physical therapy is how it started," Shannon said. "She couldn't quite keep up with the girls her age, so it got a little hard for her. She didn't want to do it."

They took some private lessons, and she developed a bond with the teacher, who helped Taylor see more possibilities in dance.

"We were just trying to keep her active," Shannon said. "When she got into the private lessons, the teacher asked her if she'd be willing to compete? She said 'yeah, I'll try it.' She was lucky to have an amazing teacher who just really inspired her that she could do it her way, and it would be OK."

She didn't just participate in the competitions, she won.

"She came home with some huge trophies," Shannon said laughing. Then she and a friend did some dances together, and it was that friend, Kenzie Tait, also a freshman at Jordan, who said they should both try out for the team." Buoyed by the support of the coaches and Tait's friendship, Taylor tried out, made it and helped Jordan reach the finals of the 5A state drill team competition last week.

She said participating in drill team hasn't just given her something to do, it's transformed her high school experience.

"It was hard, really hard," Taylor said. "I've loved it. I just love feeling included. I don't feel different when I'm around (the girls), I guess. They don't treat me different. I feel like I can do what I want with them without feeling judged or without feeling like I don't belong."

She admits that sometimes she gets tired of the stares and the comments — even those meant to be positive. It is a difficult thing to be someone's inspiration simply because you were born with a genetic disorder. She describes it as "hard and cool."

Taylor said she's had reservations, even after making the team. Luckily, she has very supportive coaches and teammates, and her passion for dance outweighs any fear.

"I have had hesitations about being in certain dances," she said, admitting she worried that she might hurt the team's ability to compete. "I talked to the coaches, and they said they'd talked to judges, that I wouldn't hurt them. That made the hesitation go away. They wanted me."

Like any dancer, any athlete, Taylor Tilby finds joy and purpose in doing something others might not see as a possibility for her.

"When I'm performing I feel like I've accomplished something," she said, noting their dance number was to the song "Bird set free." "I like to go out and dance. I like to show people what I can do, and that nothing can hold you back."

"She was everything we're looking for," coach Wing said. "She's talented; she's a hard worker; she has a positive attitude. It was a no-brainer that she would be part of our team. ... And what she's brought to our team, it's hard to even put into words. She has created a unique, special bond with this whole team. ... She's just incredible."



Jordan drill team offers freshman dancer an opportunity to be 'the girl other people need to see'

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CoolStacey - Mt Pleasant, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 8:22 p.m.

Watching the video, that's a beautiful thing. Seeing a girl with a mother who didn't let her daughter's condition slow her down. Way to go mom! I love how you empowered Taylor to walk through life, knowing she can do it. Very inspirational. Thank you for sharing your talented young daughter. Thank you coaches and team, for seeing Taylor's strength. Thank you Taylor, for being fearless!

♥ Like ⚠ Report

wattsde - Sandy, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 8:02 p.m.

Good job mom and dad.

♥ Like ⚠ Report



Feb. 5, 2018 6:17 p.m.

She proves the truth of the saying: We're all more alike than we are different.

Like Report

AW2018 - Herriman, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 3:39 p.m.

I watched her perform at the drill state semi-finals on Thursday and then again at the finals on Saturday at UVU. I LOVED watching her dance, she was graceful and it was so neat to see she could be included and valued. Many people stood up in the crowd to clap for her, it didn't matter what team they were there for. I hope she continues to dance and warm the hearts of spectators.

Like Report

stevo123 - Driggs, ID

Feb. 5, 2018 3:19 p.m.

After the news this last week, I needed that story. Best of luck to the team.

Like Report

The Moose - Eagle Mountain, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 1:31 p.m.

This is a great story on so many levels.

When I couple this with the political climate and today's technology, I'm glad there are people who don't see birth handicaps as a choice to end a life. What if her parents decided it would be too difficult to raise a child in these



impressive human beings to ever live.

Thanks for being a positive role model who makes all who come in contact with you better.

Like Report

Leahcim - Lehi, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 12:59 p.m.

What an inspiring story and a triumph for Taylor! Way to go, girl.

Like Report

Be Practical - Sandy, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 12:11 p.m.

I have noticed that the youth of today seem to be so much more accepting than of my generation. Maybe it's just a function of who I was hanging with in high school but I would give anything to be able to go back and hit a reset button on how I treated some of my relationships. Never pass up an opportunity to do the right thing.

3 Like Report

Doctormtv - Salt Lake City, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 9:39 a.m.

Wonderful story. With so much negativity and bullying going on during those difficult high school years, it's great to read a story like this. Taylor can certainly dance and absolutely belongs on that drill team. Embracing what a person brings to the team, instead of focusing on what they don't is incredibly refreshing. Go Taylor and Go Jordan Drill.



Louisiana Cougar - Pineville, LA

Feb. 5, 2018 7:48 a.m.

God bless this young lady and the members of her group -- and for the leaders who realized the virtues she possessed.

We need more examples of role models like this young woman -- and those who love her!

LC

3 Like Report

Pale Bear - Orem, UT

Feb. 5, 2018 7:29 a.m.

In TAR Syndrome, they are born withOUT a radius in the forearm.

Like Report

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Teammate inspires Jordan High drill team; Alta High to compete at nationals

Mar 07, 2018 05:02PM • By Julie Slama



Jordan High drill team performs their mime character dance. (Kevin Darrow/Jordan High)

She's been stared at, had nasty comments made to her and then, later, those dancers who talked about her came to apologize.

Even though Jordan High freshman Taylor Tilby, a member of the Jordan High drill team, said she appreciated them apologizing, it doesn't make it any easier.

Tilby has TAR syndrome, a rare genetic condition in which she was born without the radius bone on the forearm. Tilby also has a right Van Ness leg prosthetic because her knee was fused.

"I love to dance and I want to show others what I can do," Tilby said. "I can't stop people from staring at me, so why not do what I love?"

It's that attitude that head coach Lacey Wing said inspires her team.

"She is our hardest worker and she never complains," Wing said. "I saw her dance when she was little, on a mini cheer squad. She was incredible then and has taken every opportunity to improve. She gives our team a new perspective and they realize there is so much more than winning."

As a result, Wing said the 23-member team has become closer.

"Our bond as a team is incredible. She inspires her teammates and I've heard from other coaches how she has inspired their teams," she said.

Tilby said she's there for her fellow Charlonians.

"I love how we work hard every day. We get up early every morning so we're practicing by 5:45, and then we've practiced after school and on Saturdays. We do a lot for each other and with each other," she said.

Tilby, who had a cousin on the drill team, was motivated to join when her friend, Kinzie Tait, asked her to audition with her.

"I was doing solo competitions with my studio, but these girls on the team have become my friends," she said, adding that it helped her with her transition to high school.

When Jordan qualified for state by placing fourth in region, Wing said that the excitement was almost uncontrollable.

"It's the best our girls have ever done. We've had a lot of coaching changes and inconsistency. The year before I came on, they barely had enough girls for a team," said Wing, who has coached the past two seasons.

Wing, who graduated from the program in 2008, was joined by two other Jordan High drill alumni, Sadie Osborne and Stephanie Darrow.

"We went back to the basics and taught techniques. This created a bond among the girls and put pride back in our program," she said.

That translates into their dances with their best dance being military, Wing said.

"For us, it clicked right away. We had precision from the start and that usually takes months," she said.

This year, their character dance is a mime dance.

"The girls' faces are painted white with silly expressions and they wear white gloves and black and white striped costumes. The girls embody the characters and the judges love it and want more," she said.

Tilby and her teammates perform in the dance program set to the song "Birds Set Free," something she said has "just let us dance for the love of it. We show how strong we are and how much we mean to each other."

This season, the team won sweepstakes at the Wasatch Invitational in December by winning first in officer dance, pom and dance, second in character, and third in hip-hop.

"We were shocked. We weren't used to our school name being called in the top three," Wing said.

At the Jan. 13 Rocky Mountain Classic, they placed third overall in 5A, with a first place in officer, second in pom and third place in military, dance, character and hip-hop.

"We received the judge's choice award with best technique," Wing said.

Next up for the team is a 6 p.m., Thursday, March 1 showcase in the school's gym, 95 E. Beetdigger Blvd. (9880 South), followed by tryout clinics at 4 p.m., Wednesday, March 7 and again, Wednesday, March 14. Auditions for girls who have a 2.5 GPA or higher will be at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22 and Friday, March 23. There will be tryout packets at Jordan as well as Eastmont and Mount Jordan middle schools.

Before this season's Charlonians disband, they will take master contemporary dance classes at The Edge and workshops at Disneyland March 15-18.

"We want the girls to see what the dance world looks like and to help prepare them with more experience," Wing said. "It's been a great season and they've learned so much more than winning."

Alta High School's 29-member drill team, Las Scelles, is scheduled to compete in the Contest of Champions March 3 at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando after competing at state.

"I am happy that the girls got the opportunity to compete at state," head coach Kesha Prince said. "The experience is good to have, even without going on to finals. This team came in to the year more skilled than any of my previous years. However, the one thing I am very proud of is their ability to keep pushing. They have learned new skills and really pushed to the point that might not be comfortable to them. So, although we didn't do well with placing, I am happy that they are growing in the art of dancing."

Through the season, Prince said the team focused on improvement through three invitational meets: Wasatch Invitational, Falcon Classic and the Rocky Mountain Invitational.

Their character dance is one of Egyptian goddesses.

“Our costumes are so cool, with lots of gold, metallic blue and velvet. We have staffs with cobras at the top and black wigs. I came up with the idea by thinking of something that could be intense but could match our style and skill of the dancers,” Prince said.

Alta’s theme for the year, “Vinimous, Vidimous, Vicimous” or “We came, we saw, we conquer,” was a shift from the individual to a team approach, she said.

“Our captain came up with it and when doing so she wanted something that included a team ideal. Our theme is focused on the ‘we’ (as) there is no ‘I’ in team,” she said.

One regularly scheduled team activity is to perform service projects every quarter. Prince said that during the first quarter the team went to Altara Elementary to read to the kindergartners, and last quarter they held a toy and item drive for Primary Children’s Hospital.

After nationals, Las Scelles will hold a year-end show in late March before holding tryouts at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, April 28. A parent meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 19. Girls need to have a 3.0 GPA to try out for drill, but must maintain a 2.5 GPA while on the team, she said.

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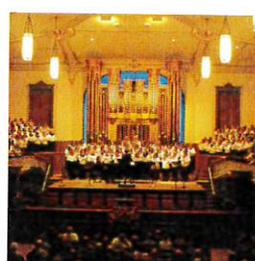
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Section 8

National High School Heart of the Arts Award

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Emma Brenn Lawless
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Jennifer Chaffee

Phone: 503-913-8989

E-mail: chaffeej@canby.k12.or.us

Street Address: 1229 SE 13th Place

City, State, Zip Code: Canby, OR 97013

Date: 1/30/19

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Peter Weber

Title: [Tab here] Executive Director

Signature: [Tab here] Peter Weber

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

X Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Emma Brenn Lawless
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 1361 SE 9th Ave
(street address)

Canby, OR 97013
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 503-314-6624

E-mail: lawlesse@stu.canby.k12.or.us

School (if any): Canby High School

City: Canby State: Oregon

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Emma is a sophomore student at Canby High School. She is a member of the varsity Dance Team and a member of the Yearbook staff. As a member of the yearbook staff Emma covers many different events, activities, clubs and stories. She also takes photographs, writes articles, creates page layouts and more. She works under the advisement of the yearbook teacher. During her freshman year on dance team the team won their 6th consecutive DDCA Championship in the Modern Division and the teams' 4th consecutive OSAA State Championship in the Show Division.

Emma sings in the high school choir, is a member of the campus SAFE Club and Motorcycle Club!

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Emma was born with Amniotic Band Syndrome, a birth defect that affects the growth of limbs. As a result, Emma was born with only half of her right arm. It developed to just below her elbow and then didn't grow anymore. She is missing the lower half of her arm and does not have a right hand. Although Emma looks different from other kids her age, she has never let this birth defect become a "disability" or hold her back. As a child she played soccer, lacrosse, and took dance and gymnastics classes. During the spring of her 8th grade year she saw the audition notice for the high school dance team – and she decided that she wanted to be a member of that team! She didn't have extensive dance training, and she was missing half an arm which could pose some challenges, but she showed up and auditioned with determination and passion. Her skill was developing, but the coaches all agreed that she would be a great member of the varsity dance team.

Throughout the past year and a half Emma has flourished on dance team. We do a lot of floor work (rolls to the ground, dancing on the ground, getting up off the ground) and Emma never says "I can't do that" or "That won't work". She has mastered the skill of adapting and finding a way to get it done no matter what. She never wants the choreographer or coaches to change what they are creating for everyone because of her arm. We often forget she is even missing half of her arm because she is so good and pushing through and making it work no matter what. We recently hosted a kids' clinic for dancers Kindergarten through 8th grade. I must have heard at least 10 kids ask "What happened to your arm?". Emma smiled at each kid and said "I was born like this!". She would then proceed to let them look, touch it or ask more questions. Last year we took the team to a studio in Portland to take a dance class. The studio had many large photos on the wall of different dancers. One of the dancers had the same arm as Emma and she was so excited to see this dancer represented in the studio. She declared, "Look, its' me!"

Emma and her family have adapted an amazing sense of humor about it, and they are a wonderful support system for each other.

We are so honored to be Emma's coaches and her team loves and respects her so much. Emma is just Emma – a girl with passion, determination and brave beyond her years. She exemplifies what it means to be the heart of the arts! I hope you get a chance to watch her dance this year.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Chiawana High School Marching Band, Kevin Clayton and Peter Blake,
Directors
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Jim Rice

Phone: (425) 338-1875

E-mail: jricemusic56@gmail.com

Street Address: 11307 – 32nd Drive SE.

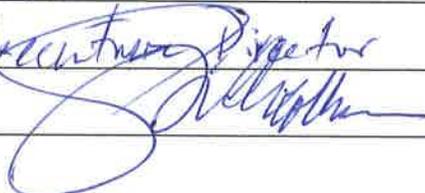
City, State, Zip Code: Everett, WA 98208

Date: January 10, 2019

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Mike A Colbrese

Title: [Tab here] Executive Director

Signature: [Tab here] 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Marching Band and Directors)

Name of Nominee: Chiawana High Schoo Marching Band, Kevin Clayton and Peter Blake, Directors

(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 8125 West Argent Road

(street address)

Pasco, WA 99301

(city, state, zip)

Phone: 509-543-6786

E-mail: kclayton@psd1.org

School (if any): Chiawana High School

City: Pasco

State: WA

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Chiawana High School's Marching Band is just one component of their school's comprehensive music program that focuses on balance and success in all areas of music education. Whether on the marching field, a concert hall, or music festivals throughout the Northwest, Chiawana students represent their school and community with the utmost of pride, commitment, and achievement. Most importantly, they are proud that their music program is helping to raise future generations of leaders, doctors, teachers, scientists, laborers, and parents with the skills necessary to thrive as successful adults.

Chiawana High School is a highly diverse Title I designated school with a vision of success for all students, helping them to understand their responsibility to develop a moral and ethical grounding and to have courage to achieve. Student enrollment is approximately 2,700 students, of which about 64 percent receive free or reduced meals.

The Chiawana High School Marching Band has achieved significant success, winning sweepstakes and first place awards at contests throughout the northwest. Most recently they earned the Sweepstakes Award as the most outstanding marching program at the Puget Sound Festival of Bands in Everett, Washington in October.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

This Fall the Chiawana High School Riverhawk Marching Band and Color Guard presented their 2018 program "Just Another Brick!" Using musical selections from Dmitri Shostakovich and Pink Floyd, the Riverhawk Marching Band brought to life parallels from history to current events. Refusing to be put into a societal mold and learning lessons from our past, students presented in their performance a demand that their individual and unique voices be heard as they become the world leaders of the future. They creatively and inspirationally portrayed how, as contributing members of society, they will not be "Just Another Brick" in the wall.

In the October 30, 2018 edition of the Tri-City Herald, the writer had this to say about this fine marching band.

"PASCO, WA – Chiawana High School marching band took home top honors at a festival in Everett last weekend. The 97-member band won the "Sweepstakes Award" at the 31st annual Puget Sound Festival of Bands on Oct. 27.

It marks the Riverhawks' first-ever sweepstakes award at a major competition, a school district news release said. The honor is given to the best marching band, regardless of classification. Chiawana's band also won for Best Overall Music, Best Overall Visual, Best Overall Colorguard, and Best Overall Effect.

"Through the use of music, movement and color, we've been able to have discussions with students about responsibility, uniqueness, acceptance of difference, finding their own voice, and leaving their mark on this world," said Kevin Clayton, band director, in the release. "We couldn't be more proud of the kids and their ability to embrace the show's message. Not only was the show's message conveyed, it was understood and celebrated by the communities who received it."

The band's performance was called, "Just Another Brick," and included music from Dmitri Shostakovich and Pink Floyd. "The show also included short audio segments from defining moments in American history, including former President Ronald Reagan's memorable speech at the Berlin Wall in 1987," the news release said."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kevin Clayton, the Chiawana High School Marching Band lead director had these additional thoughts concerning this truly effective program.

- "The message, more than any other music event we've produced, reached the hearts and minds of our general student body, our teaching staff, our parents, and our community.
- In an era of increasing divisiveness, we had a vision of creating a message that could resonate with all individuals – regardless of gender, political affiliation, sexual orientation, age, race, and so much more.
- A friend once told me, "teach their hearts, not their talent". Although I always believe this, it's simply too easy to get in the mode of teaching skills. With this show, we made a concerted effort to teach their hearts and the payoff in achievement was overwhelming."

It is my honor to nominate this fine group for the NFHS Heart of the Arts Award.

Sincerely,

Jim Rice, Past President, Washington Music Educators Association

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HEART OF THE ARTS AWARD NOMINEE

(The deadline for returning the completed nomination to the NFHS is February 1, 2019)

Name of Nominee: Julie Ann Goodwin

(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Katherine Facklam

Phone: 406-750-9985

E-mail: facklamk@sw1.k12.wy.us

Street Address: 30 WY-28 #300

City, State, Zip Code: Farson, WY 82932

Date: 31 Jan 19

State Association Endorsement:

Name: Ron Laird

Title: Commissioner

Signature: 

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

X Student Coach Administrator Official Trainer Performing Arts
Administrator Athletic Administrator Other (Specify _____)

Name of Nominee: Julie Ann Goodwin
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 89 Farson 1st North Apt. #5
(street address)

Farson, WY 82932
(city, state, zip)

Phone: 307-212-0955

E-mail: 19goodwiju@students.sw1.k12.wy.us

School (if any): Farson-Eden High School

City: Farson State: WY

NOMINATION FORM

1. Please describe nominee's current involvement in high school. If applicable, please list any accomplishments or honors attained.

Julie Goodwin is involved in volleyball, basketball, and track which are the only athletics for girls offered at our small rural school. She is also a member and active participant in the WSHAA State Art Competition and Student Council. She has also held office in her class for the three years she's been a part of this high school. Julie has Lettered in basketball, track, volleyball and art. She has been awarded our school's Outstanding Sportsmanship award in basketball and volleyball multiple times which is an award chosen by the referee of the current contest who witnessed outstanding displays of sportsmanship during that contest. She has also been a Blue Ribbon winner at the WSHAA State Art Symposium two separate years. She is also a member of our school's chapter of the National Honor Society.

2. Please list nominee's actions or accomplishments that deem him or her worthy of the "National High School Heart of the Arts Award."

Julie Goodwin exemplifies this award in my humble opinion. Julie came to our school at the beginning of her sophomore year of high school. To say that she's endured adversity doesn't scratch the surface. Julie has lived through her mother's drug addiction which eventually led her mother to walk out on the little family consisting of Julie, her father and little brother when Julie was a pre-teen—after many departures and reemergence's since Julie was very young. Julie has lived through homelessness and poverty, all by the time she was 14. She was on very shaky ground, but knew the kind of person she wanted to be... In the midst of homelessness her father made the choice to move his little family into his parents' home in Farson, WY. And so, Julie came to live with her grandparents and join the class of 2019 at Farson-Eden High School. Julie hadn't played any organized sports before coming to FEHS. She wasn't sure about them, but new friends encouraged her to try; Julie has been a starting senior on all of her teams this year and was a starter last year as well. She's naturally athletic and excels in that field. She is also incredible academically maintaining a 3.7 or above GPA. She is an incredible natural talent in the visual arts as well. Julie is smart, athletic, creative, and driven and she's achieved all of her accomplishments completely on her own. She has had a job since she moved to Farson as well! This young lady could have become one of those lost children that growing up amidst similar circumstances often creates...but this young lady knew who she wanted to be from a young age and has been working tirelessly to achieve her goal. Julie Goodwin is only 18 years old and yet, she is the definition of 'strength through adversity' as she has used her situation as a motivator to move up and move on and into the world. She has her sights set on college and is working very hard to earn scholarships to make that a reality for herself. I know without a doubt that this incredible young lady will succeed in whatever path she chooses for herself because she's risen above her upbringing to ensure success for herself. She is an inspiration, which is why I believe that Julie Goodwin should be this year's recipient of the Heart of the Arts Award.