

BLACK HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Jordyn Maultsby



Parent /Guardian(s): Catrina Christoffer and Glen Maultsby

Achievements in Category: Jordyn had a difficult time with learning in her early years, especially with understanding concepts. But with support of those around her, she was able to communicate her needs and get help to improve and succeed.

Other Achievements: The 2010-11 yearbook editor; involved with DECA; the DECA photographer; helps out in the community trying to meet as many needs as possible; has her own photography business, taking family portraits and doing sports and wedding photography; varsity cheerleading, 2 years; participated in student court; received American Association of University Women Scholar Program Award for Technology.

Future Plans: Attend Whatcom Community College and obtain an AA degree, then transfer to The Art Institute of Seattle and obtain a BA in photography.

CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL

Noah Mattson

Parent /Guardian(s): Martha Hankins and Tim Mattson

Achievements in Category: Noah faced and overcame obstacles that made going to school itself a challenge. He was diagnosed in 2nd grade with Tourette syndrome, and it took 6 years of effort for him to feel he had control of his body, though he still must avoid stressful, chaotic or unfamiliar situations. "I couldn't focus on what the teacher was saying. ... I spent a lot of time hiding," he said. In 6th grade, he transferred to the SOS program at Marshall Middle School, which let him relax and figure out one thing at a time. He was able to join the Marshall Alternative Program after 1 year. In high school, he joined Capital High School's SOS program, where he learned organization and social skills. "I was so busy dealing with what my body was doing that the support really made a huge difference," he said. His message to anyone faced with adversity: Believe in yourself and "get a support structure. Find people who believe in you."

Other Achievements: Addressed Olympia School District Board in support of special education and PAT's programs; participated in student interview panel for new principal; interested in Shakespeare, history, chemistry and biology.

Future Plans: Attend Western Washington University next year.

NEW MARKET SKILLS CENTER

Heaven Butler



Parent /Guardian(s): Melissa Mead

Achievements in Category: Heaven is a remarkable young woman who has overcome significant obstacles throughout her life. She has faced family issues, homelessness and health issues. While she continues to work through difficult challenges, she consistently demonstrates a hard-working, dedicated work ethic toward her education. She has developed strong self-awareness and self-advocacy skills, which she applies to both her personal life and to her Construction Trades and Academic programs. Although circumstances sometimes force her to leave school, she has kept returning and is now finishing.

Other Achievements: Nominated for Most Employable Student of the Month in Applied Learning Lab.

Future Plans: Further her education after high school and pursue a career in early childhood education.

NORTH THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Josepha Burke



Parent /Guardian(s): Stephen and Barbara Burke

Achievements in Category: When you meet Josepha, you think first of her accomplishments, not of the adversity she's overcome, and that's because that's what Josepha thinks of first. She has severe congenital joint contractures, which entails reduced muscle mass and movement. She has difficulty writing, opening doors and maintaining balance. She cannot carry a backpack, and has cramping in her hands and arms. Having this disability has formed her frame of mind toward others with disabilities and one of her mottos is "live and let live"; she is accepting of all others. She is thankful to have her mind and intelligence because they compensate for not being able to play sports. She also believes it's easier for her to adapt to equipment than to have equipment adapted to her. For example, she has just learned to drive a car, and she does it without adaptive devices. Her biggest challenge is not physical; it's being stared at and patronized, she says. The intense physical and occupational therapy she has always undergone have taught her how to "be" in the world, and she thinks being a teenager with a disability has strengthened her as a human being.

Other Achievements: Capital Lakefair princess; editor-in-chief of school newspaper the Rampage; active in Kids in Koncert in their Premier Youth Choir of the Northwest; FBLA; lector at her church; peer tutor in math; works at Holy Family Elementary School as an after-school tutor; has taken many AP classes; maintains B+ average.

Future Plans: Attend Western Washington University, working toward majors in English and psychology and minors in French and Spanish; may become an educator or translator.

NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Andreas J. “AJ” Karrer



Parent /Guardian(s): Andreas and Michelle Karrer

Achievements in Category: Andreas incurred a life-threatening head injury during sophomore year and was out of school for 3 ½ months, recovering and attending speech and physical therapy. He had slurred speech and a left leg weakness. But his body has gotten stronger ever since, and in his senior year, he was even able to play football. His family is grateful to the staff and teachers of Northwest Christian High School, who helped him get back on track with his schoolwork and grades. The teachers planned a curriculum for him that would allow him to finish his sophomore year. The prayers he and his family received during this time have led AJ to believe that prayer and Jesus will help him through any rough time.

Future Plans: Obtain a degree in horticulture and landscape design.

RAINIER HIGH SCHOOL

Katy Dawson



Parent /Guardian(s): Jana and Chris Holterman

Achievements in Category: Katy has been independent for the past 2 years. Her living situation made attending school difficult, yet she has maintained a 3.1 GPA and competed in cross-country, wrestling and track. She is an active member of FFA and serves her community through many service projects.

Other Achievements: Honor Roll; competed at state cross-country meet.

Future Plans: Attend South Puget Sound Community College and become a firefighter.

RIVER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Harold “P.We” Sanders Jr.

Parent /Guardian(s): Karen and Roy Witt



Achievements in Category: P. Wee grew up in East St. Louis, becoming involved with a gang at 14. He came to Lacey to visit his father and, early in his freshman year, his father was arrested, leaving P. Wee little choice but to return to East St. Louis. However, a River Ridge High School family invited P. Wee into their home. He has been there throughout high school with his mother's blessing.

Other Achievements: Football, 4 years; participated in varsity track, power lifting and varsity wrestling; member of RRHS Leadership, participating in community service, fundraising and planning student activities.

Future Plans: Attend College of the Siskiyous to play football and major in welding, then transfer to Washington State University.

SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Sanar Matti



Parent /Guardian(s): Futna Taylor and James Taylor

Achievements in Category: Sanar's mother was an interpreter for the U.S. Army in Iraq, which made the family targets of Saddam Hussein's forces. An attack on their family home badly injured Sanar's older brother; the family escaped to Syria. From Syria, they were able to come to the U.S. None of the horrible things Sanar has seen in his life seems to have damaged him and he remains good-humored. Sanar learned English quickly and has been very successful here.

Future Plans: Enlist in the U.S. Army after high school graduation, where he is highly in demand because of his Arabic and English language skills.

SOUTH SOUND HIGH SCHOOL

Catherine Henderson



Parent /Guardian(s): Laura Henderson and Daniel Henderson (emancipated)

Achievements in Category: At a young age, she lost her father to drug overdose and lost a true chance at childhood because of her parents' addictions. In high school, she had a deep "teen love" that turned into a pregnancy, which she battled without her son's father. She joined the Army National Guard, hoping to make her family proud, but it only raised her stress. Her home life isn't always easy, but she has found school to be her getaway to a better future.

Other Achievements: Despite challenges, she obtained her GED, finished high school early and is now enrolled at Everest College.

Future Plans: Continue her education to obtain a Registered Nurse license.

TUMWATER HIGH SCHOOL

Emily Harris



Parent /Guardian(s): Mark Harris, Alisia Miller and Kay Harris

Achievements in Category: At the beginning of her senior year, she only had 12 credits. Now she has 16: 4 credits earned in one semester. She has better grades now than she ever has before: 4 As and 2 Bs. Her attendance is a lot better now that school is one of her top priorities. She has improved and succeeded in many ways and is amazed she's making it out like this.

Other Achievements: Nominated for this award; Gotten 100% on 2 consecutive chemistry tests this month, when science used to be her worst subject.

Future Plans: Go to Victoria, B.C., to attain a business degree, then own a tattoo shop.