

## Maryland School for the Deaf Thalia Guettler, Senior

“Growing up as a female, I saw the world to be harder for women to navigate and I found myself wanting to be an advocate for them and this is my opportunity to do so.”



Thalia Guettler

Nomination Statement: Thalia has been a student leader and peacemaker at Maryland School for the Deaf since elementary school. She is a positive and hardworking, patient and inclusive, and takes seriously the dignity of peers, staff, and all community members. As President of the Student Body Government, she has led efforts to address many concerns, while acknowledging all perspectives. She is an outstanding Dual Enrollment student, successfully navigating the challenges of five college courses via ASL interpreting services at Frederick Community College and Hood College. Her success inspires deaf and hard-of-hearing students of all ages to work to make their dreams for a brighter future into a reality.

**Designated Charity: Global Fund for Women**, which is a non-profit foundation funding women's human rights initiatives.

**Brunswick High**  
**Celeste Barber, Senior**

“I’ve always been involved with community outreach programs through my church, school and home. Everyone has a story and a background. It’s important to recognize and help those who need it, but may not directly ask. Accepting this award gives me an important platform to advocate for those that may not be able to advocate for themselves.”



Celeste Barber

Nomination Statement: Celeste has participated in many activities at Brunswick High, including the theatre program, BHStage, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Model UN. She has also been active in Upward Bound, and other leadership and service activities in her church and the wider community. She is a caring young leader, who consistently looks for ways to spread tolerance and kindness. She appreciates different backgrounds, and shows respect and compassion for all.

**Designated Charity: Advance Worldwide**, a Christian non-profit organization that partners with local churches in remote areas to support their community transformation effort.

**Catoctin High**  
**Emma Ford, Senior**

“I want to be someone who helps anyone in need. I want to spread kindness and inspire others to get involved in service to the community.”



Emma Ford

Nomination Statement: Emma is always looking for the positives. She spends time every summer on mission trips for her church, helping families who cannot afford to repair their homes. She helps teachers set up their classrooms before the school year begins. She is an ally to the LGBTQ community and a member of the GSA. She helps in the Birthing Center at the Great Frederick Fair, teaching parents and children about the care of animals, and helping to deliver the calves. She and a friend started an American Sign Language Club at Catoctin, to educate their peers about the deaf community. She loves teaching sign language, and is proud of how many students attend the meetings. They come because they respect her, and feel affirmed by her. She makes others feel at peace, to spread peace.

**Designated Charity: St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital**, whose mission is to research and treat catastrophic pediatric diseases. No child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.

## Frederick High Jasmine Pinchinat, Junior

“Growing up I was surrounded by people that did not look like me. I hated the skin I was in and longed to be like everyone else. Then my mother began working for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and I began to volunteer there, focusing on arts and academics, and community youth engagement. Working with talented students that looked like me inspired me to try to organize the NAACP Youth Council. It gives me and people that look like me a way of fitting in, and a way to change our community by studying and addressing issues that can drive us apart, and making space to celebrate our differences.”



Jasmine Pinchinat

**Nomination Statement:** Jasmine organized and leads the NAACP Youth Council at Frederick High. The Youth Council seeks to bring students of all colors and backgrounds together in a spirit of social tolerance and inclusion, and to raise awareness about racial and cultural bias. It looks at disparities in voting, criminal justice outcomes, health, economic power, and lack of opportunity that weaken and divide our communities, and seeks to shape the culture of the school with regard to fairness and equality.

**Designated Charity: United Way of Frederick County**, which envisions a community where all individuals and families achieve their potential through healthy lives, education and financial stability.

## **Friends Meeting School Gabrielle Magid, Senior**

“I saw something that needed to be done, and I worked to get it done. One thing I've learned is that working towards introducing a population to new ideas is far from linear, and you often hit many road bumps, but seeing the effect it has is beyond invigorating.”



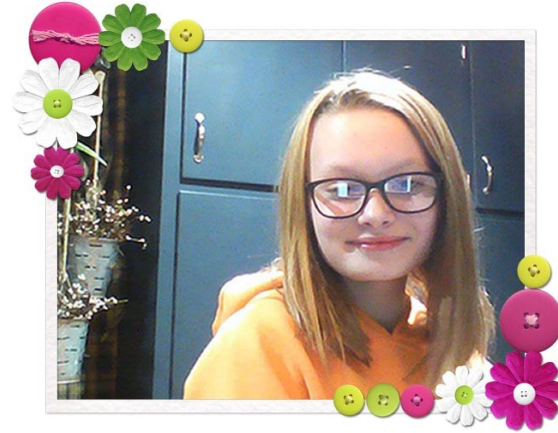
Gabrielle Magid

**Nomination Statement:** When Gabrielle starts something, she always finishes it, and she is always looking for different ways to challenge herself. For the past two years she has worked closely with our Peer Mediation program and helping our younger students resolve conflict peacefully. She has volunteered at the Frederick Rescue Mission many times, and also volunteers as a tutor for younger students through the Latino Student Fund. Gabrielle also runs our school's GLOW club and organizing an LGBTQ awareness conference for parents and students.

**Designated Charity:** **Keshet**, which works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and their families in Jewish life.

## Heather Ridge School Cheyenne Presgraves, 7th Grade

“I feel honored to be selected for the Peace Award. My interest in refugee children was inspired by wanting to help them feel safe in their new country. I have created coloring books and journals that allow a child to choose a picture and colors to show how they are feeling. In addition, stress balls, breathing techniques and therapy dogs could be beneficial. It is very important for them to be able to share in a small group, where they can feel safe to talk about thoughts and feelings.”



Cheyenne Presgraves

**Nomination Statement:** Cheyenne came to Heather Ridge from out of state, after experiencing significant traumas. She has worked closely with her teachers to let go of misconceptions and broaden her world view. She has engaged in conflict resolution to solve problems with peers and has helped her peers to work things out in a constructive way. Because of the way she has taken responsibility, she serves on our Student Leadership Team. In a unit on human rights, Cheyenne chose to study the Children’s Refugee Crisis, and developed a plan to assist refugee children. The growth she has demonstrated this year is inspiring. She has overcome prejudices she previously held, and has committed to becoming more peaceful and kind. We are very proud of her.

**Designated Charity:** **American Diabetes Association**, which seeks to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of those affected by diabetes.

**Linganore High**  
**Renata Farrell, Junior**

“I created a program to welcome new students from non-public school backgrounds and redistricted students to LHS, inspired by my own experience transitioning from Catholic school. I know that even small gestures of grace and kindness can help to create an integrated community that feels like a family.”



Renata Farrell

Nomination Statement: Renata came to Linganore from St. John Regional Catholic School, not one of our regular feeder schools. Because of the challenges she faced as a 9th grader, she has organized an ambassador group to help others who are having trouble transitioning into Linganore. She spends time listening to other students reflect on their own experience in hopes of finding ways to create a welcoming environment for all students. Renata is also actively engaged in the classroom, reaching out to students who are struggling or disengaged. Her commitment and kindness reduce conflict and create the opportunity for all students to have a voice.

**Designated Charity: The Arc of Frederick County**, which helps people with developmental disabilities to have lives filled with purpose and meaning, by providing services, advocacy, and creating supportive communities.

**Middletown High**  
**Emma Wilkinson, Senior**

“Although my sister started Marks’ Backpacks, what inspired me to get involved happened in 2014, when two homeless people froze to death in Washington D.C. Working with the homeless led me to want to help under-represented people worldwide. I credit my hope of becoming a humanitarian aid worker to Marks’ Backpacks and my sister Corrine.”



Emma Wilkinson

Nomination Statement: Emma is co-vice president of a grassroots initiative for the homeless community in Washington DC called Mark’s Backpacks, and has spread awareness of this organization through fundraising events at her high school. She enjoys teaching young children the importance of acceptance and inclusion through organizations such as the Learning Bee, Knee High Knights, and the Creative Children’s Center. Emma has also spent time in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand, where she has helped teach English to women and children, and has helped install water filters in needy villages.

**Designated Charity: Sao Sary Foundation**, which is a charity for children and families at risk of sex trafficking and water poisoning in Cambodia.



**Oakdale High**  
**Evan Cranmer, Senior**

“As I became increasingly aware of the egregious injustices occurring in the world around me, I recognized the necessity of helping those who have been historically demonized and oppressed. Everyone deserves to be welcomed--regardless of background.”



Evan Cranmer

Nomination Statement: Evan consistently supports those who are discriminated against, and defends those who cannot defend themselves, regardless of religion, race, gender or ethnicity. In class, he tries to educate his peers through thoughtful discussion not to use hurtful or discriminatory language. His willingness to share personal experiences creates a safe space where students can speak freely about sensitive topics. Evan’s service project for the Leadership Academy was to plan a bowling fundraiser to support the Centro Hispano de Frederick, which provides a variety of services to the growing Hispanic population in Frederick. He recently marched with people from many backgrounds in support of Muslim rights. He is interested in politics and hopes to attend law school.

**Designated Charity: The Frederick Center**, which works to support, educate, link, organize, and provide outreach to the Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer community of central Maryland.

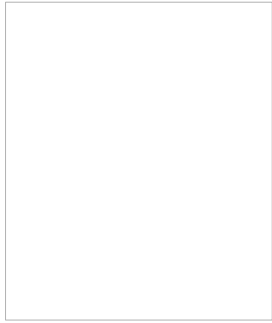
# Governor Thomas Johnson High

## Student Voices

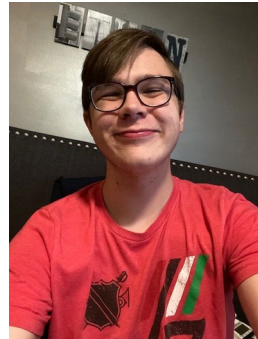
Student Voices was a collection of administrators and students from across Frederick County high schools who worked together to eliminate racial, social, and economic bias across the schools. It was a group that allowed us all to be vulnerable around others unlike ourselves through opportunities that enabled us to make first-hand changes in our surrounding community. We were each given a chance to host one high school student from a neighboring high school. Allowing the student to experience one day at a different school, in the hopes that they would take their experience and help eliminate the biases that surround that school. From this experience, we were able to take away the value of eliminating prejudices in our school community by building a similarity between students and staff. Student Voices was a program designed to promote change and with this change we are able to make a difference in our community.



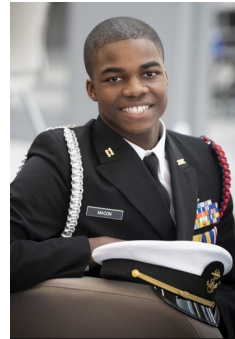
Janeel Kimberly Black,  
Senior



Le Na Choung, Senior



Ethan Heinlein Dudash,  
Junior



Malachi Gabriel Macon,  
Junior



Cecilia Marie Morales,  
Junior



Jade Marie Smith, Junior

**Nomination Statement:** Student Voices was established last year in response to a directive from Superintendent Theresa Alban that four area high schools address the negative perceptions and racial and cultural biases that had infected their athletic competitions and other student and community interactions. The students chosen to take on this task at Governor Thomas Johnson were recommended by teachers and club leaders because they were open minded, positive, and would be committed to supporting and promoting our school. Our Student Voices members met to discuss the positive and negative aspects of our school, and talk among themselves about interactions with students from the other schools. They then met with the representatives from the three other schools to discuss their perceptions and experiences, with the goal of finding ways to promote the positive and eliminate the negative. Through this program, many friendships were established, leading to ongoing communication, and laying the groundwork for greater inclusion and acceptance. The students nominated for this award from GTJHS are our current Juniors and Seniors who completed this program.

**Designated Charity:** **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**, a voluntary health organization that supports those affected by suicide, and uses research, education and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death.

## **Tuscarora High**

### **Cora McDaniel, Junior**

“I want the way I live my life to make a difference, and service work has provided me a way to do that. There is no better feeling than being a positive influence on the community you live in, and that is what Project Lit has done for me. We've done some amazing things over the last two years and I can't wait to get started.”



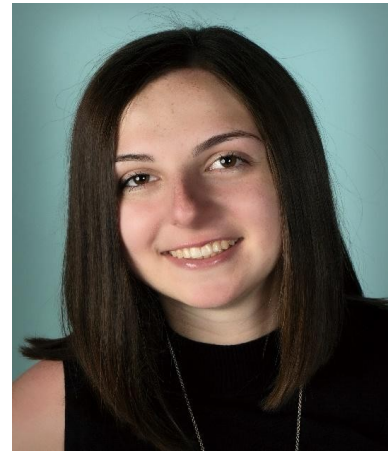
Cora McDaniel

**Nomination Statement:** In her sophomore year at Tuscarora, Cora McDaniel joined Project Lit, a national grassroots literacy program. She believes strongly that everyone should have access to culturally relevant books that promote a love of reading. Over the past two years, she has worked hard to make the Tuscarora Project Lit chapter known throughout the community. She has taken the lead in networking and communicating with businesses, and has organized multiple fundraisers. Cora makes herself available to do whatever is needed, because she believes that literacy is a way to bridge gaps and strengthen community.

**Designated Charity: Heartly House**, which has a mission of ending domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse, and providing victims with safety, shelter, and supportive services.

## Urbana High Carolyn Pascal, Senior

“When I was twelve, I realized that peace cannot coexist with hunger and poverty. Then I learned that the best way to end hunger in developing nations is to educate teenage girls. I had found my life’s work. My nonprofit, Educate Girls to Eradicate Hunger, Inc., has now provided tuition, room & board, and uniforms to 34 girls in Malawi. My “Educate Girls Superhero 5K” attracted 150 runners from 7 states! Learning of my own indigenous heritage, and the damage done to indigenous cultures by imperialism, I also founded the Indigenous Peoples Literature Society. Since June 2019, I have led workshops at my public library, a runners’ expo, a youth summit, a book fair at Barnes & Noble, and various book groups to promote inclusion and respect, by exposing the public to cultures of indigenous peoples from Oceania, the Americas, Africa, and Asia.”



Carolyn Pascal

Nomination Statement: Carolyn believes the first step in achieving peace is to ensure that all people’s basic needs are met. When she was 12, she saw a young mother struggling to cross the road holding a newborn and pushing a tattered umbrella stroller loaded down with a toddler and canned goods, and she decided she had to do something. She contacted the Greater Urbana Area food bank, reached out to retailers, and with the support of a former school counselor collected over 3600 urgently needed items. In 2018, she founded a nonprofit called Educate Girls to Eradicate Hunger, to spread the message that secondary schooling for girls can end the cycle of hunger in developing countries. She is now in year two of her ten-year plan to raise the funds needed to educate 100 girls: See more at: <https://educategirlstoeradicatehunger.org>. She has also launched a literature group called Indigenous People’s Literature Society, to promote interest in indigenous cultures.

**Designated Charity: Educate Girls to Eradicate Hunger** is the nonprofit founded by Carolyn, as described above.

**Walkersville High**  
**Madison Lancaster, Senior**

“After discovering that Frederick County has numerous students who lack educational resources, I was inspired to bring engaging activities to these promising students. My program provides hands-on science experiments to children from underprivileged communities. I base the lessons on work done by women in STEM to further encourage the girls in my clubs. Sometimes we have women scientists come to engage with the students and speak about their work. These children have had an incredible effect on me. They love the sense of accomplishment they feel after completing the experiments. Seeing how bright they are gives me confidence and hope for their future.”



Madison Lancaster

**Nomination Statement:** Madison is very active as a school leader and community volunteer. She has undertaken mission trips to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, and loves learning about the world. She volunteers at the Walkersville Food Bank, helps plan the Walkersville Community Show, and coaches middle school recreational volleyball. She is currently helping coordinate a “Women in Science” club at the Boys and Girls Club of Frederick, and hopes to earn a degree in Agricultural Medical Biotechnology.

**Designated Charity:** **Housing Authority of the City of Frederick**, whose mission is to engage with Frederick’s low and moderate income residents by providing a healthy foundation for economic self-sufficiency through employment and educational supports in safe, affordable housing.