

4/25/2019

2019 Scholastic Superstars: Harley LaRue



Harley LaRue

Name: Harley LaRue

School District: Greater Nanticoke Area

Parents: Megan Mikulka and Ricky LaRue

Q. What accomplishments are you most proud of and why?

A. I was featured in The Citizens' Voice as a student journalist in both the 2017-18 school year and the 2018-19 school year. Given this opportunity, I was able to reach out to an even larger group of people and showcase GNA's alumni as well as GNA's progress within the school district. Being able to proudly represent my school and highlight what talent lies within is incredibly important to me as many outsiders look down upon those who attend schools in a relatively poor community, especially when their state test scores aren't what they should be due to low funds. In 2018, I was also declared a QuestBridge Finalist by QuestBridge. QB is a program that encourages poor, intelligent students to apply to elite schools, such as Yale and Princeton. Although I didn't "match" and receive a full ride to one of the schools, it was an incredible honor to know that I had the opportunity to have these schools look over my admissions file so carefully. I was later accepted through regular decision into Tufts University.

Q. What were your most rewarding school or community activities?

A. I am a journalist for my high school newspaper, The GNA Insider. With our website and Facebook page, my articles are able to reach thousands of people with the click of a button. I've written many tributes to GNA's alumni, showcasing their talent and success, and in turn, I've received cards and words of appreciation from their friends and family. Knowing and understanding how my words, even when typed, can impact or alter others' opinions is

something I consider an accomplishment. The school newspaper also gives me a creative outlet where I feel safe to express my opinions.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. When I'm not finishing up AP homework or catching up on sleep, I spend my free time writing. Although I spend five days of each week dedicating hours to my high school newspaper, I'm never tired of writing, especially creatively. While journalism allows me to write every day, most of the facts are already laid out for me before I even begin to type. I much prefer to be able to sit back and come up with my own ideas, ones that have never been put on paper before. It helps me to de-stress after a long day of work or a particularly stressful day at school.

Q. What are your plans after high school graduation? Why did you choose this path?

A. After much encouragement from my family, I will be attending Tufts University after high school. I will be a first-generation student, but my mom has always motivated me to work hard in order to obtain success in both the present as well as the future. I want to be able to proudly represent my family as well as my school district. As of now, I haven't decided what major I will be pursuing. I want to do this not only to make my family proud, but to make myself proud.

Q. What do you see yourself doing and where do you see yourself living in 15 years?

A. In 15 years, I see myself advancing my career and possibly starting my own family. I also hope to leave Pennsylvania and explore the world. I've never really thought that far ahead, but I'm hopeful for the future.

Q. Who do you most admire and why?

A. I most admire my mother, who has always supported me since day one. Despite the many, many challenges she has faced throughout her life, including near poverty, she's always come out on top stronger than before. She's never given up hope, and she's always looking for the positive even on the worst days. She's inspired me to better my own life and do the things she couldn't due to the circumstances.

In a sentence, what is your philosophy of life?

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Q. The most interesting thing about me is ...

A. The most interesting thing about me is my unwavering determination and dogged resilience.

About Harley LaRue:

Harley is a member of our National Honor Society chapter, student council, and writes for our school newspaper, the GNA Insider. She has overcome many personal adversities, but has never let her academics fall behind. She is a Questbridge finalist candidate, which is an incredible honor. Questbridge is a competitive nonprofit program that works with several top-tier colleges and universities that provide full scholarships to students who are high-achieving students that have a significant financial need to afford college. She participates in a local chapter for suicide prevention, and works part-time at Sheetz.

From her educators' nomination:

“She is an incredible student and young woman. She has displayed maturity and resiliency that far surpasses her peers. She has worked so hard in school to be at the top of her class, and even to become a Questbridge finalist. She deserves recognition for her hard work, dedication, and desire to be better. She is a true role model to all.”