GOLCHS Students inducted into the National Honors Society

Charlene Shepherd, Class of 2017

Prior to the 2017-2018 school year, none of the students at Great Oaks Legacy Charter School understood the magnitude of being inducted into the National Honors Society, also known as NHS. This is a prestigious organization that recognizes the academic and personal achievements of high school students across the United States.

On Tuesday, March 13th, ten of our very own Great Oaks Legacy high school students were inducted into the inaugural chapter of the National Honors Society. Each selected student had a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, and exhibited excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Mabel Atuahene is a tenacious 11th grader who is balancing her GOLCHS academics with a Rutgers University college course.

Makayla Dunbar is an ambitious 11th grader whose resume boasts activities such as 11th grade president, and captain of the girls' basketball team.

Charlise Footman is a courageous member of the 11th grade class who balances the GOLCHS Step Team and Rutgers Pathways to Achievement and Success with rigorous college courses taken at Rutgers.

Miquel George is an inventive 11th grader who values hard work and community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Tell us who you are.
My name is Charlene Shepherd and I am a freshman student at Kean University. My current grade point average (GPA) is 3.19, and my major is Biology with a Pre-Med focus.

What is one major lesson Great Oaks has taught you after graduating high school?
In high school I struggled with my behavior. I thought I was always right about everything and teachers were just out to get me. This impacted my relationships with teachers. However, when I went to college I realized that I was truly an adult and people would treat me as an adult. That is when I realized that college is definitely not like high school. You have to make adult choices that impact how you handle difficult situations. I realized that I am judged by people based off of the decisions I make and how I present myself.

What is one memory you have during your time at Great Oaks?
One vivid memory I have is when Great Oaks Legacy would host the annual family barbeques. I loved getting a chance to meet my peers’ family members while eating good food, dancing and having a good time. It was also a chance for me to see the faculty and staff in a fun social setting. To me, those family barbeques represented that our school was more than a name, but a family unity.

COLLEGE BOUND

Newly Inducted: National Honor Society

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Hurchille Laguerre is a gregarious 10th grader who enjoys a good debate and values those around her.

Stacia McCoy is a diligent 10th grader who brightens every room with her smile and peaceful demeanor.

Heidy Monteza is a resourceful 12th grader who plans on attending Rowan University and majoring in Biology.

Nicole Silva is an audacious 12th grader who plans on attending Cedar Crest College and majoring in Biology.

Amandeep Singh is an industrious 10th grader who prides himself on a strong work ethic and positive working relationships.

Geramee Sorbino is a sincere 10th grader who exemplifies what it means to RISE as a high school student.

What advice would you give to the 8th grade you?
I would definitely tell the 8th grade Charlene to study more often and put your pride aside. Lastly, I would tell her to keep your friend circle small. This matters because the less friends you have, the less drama you encounter. Also, your friends serve as a motivation for you. Your friends are the ones that encourage you to do the right thing, both personally and educationally.

What are your future aspirations?
I plan on graduating with my Bachelors of Science in Biology, and minor in either Human Anatomy or Psychology. I also plan on enlisting in the Air Force, and taking my MCATs to hopefully enroll into medical school. Ultimately, I would like to be become a Pathologist.

8th Grade Transition Information for Students and Parents April 2018
I strive to have all students engage in the science in an enthusiastic and authentic way. The focus of the science is to allow students to become scientists, and give them the room to explore and create connections that are fundamental to the content. Once the observations and initial connections are made, the class will engage in a discussion to create the depth of content. Often times the content will also relate to the students’ lives, looking to understand actual experiences they have noticed in the world around us. This is a follow-up year of chemistry, which allows us to delve into the deeper connections of the topics in chemistry, and to see why and how the world works. These connections are made in the laboratory and discussed during the whole class.

The students work to improve their laboratory techniques which will prepare them for their work in the sciences in college. This includes familiarization with different lab techniques, as well as the chemicals commonly used and found in laboratories. This allows the students to understand the common tools of a chemist. After each lab, the students respond to questions and have to make conclusions based on the results of the experiment. Students will often critique their own methods of investigation in order to review how their technique can be improved upon.

By allowing the students to investigate freely and utilize the tools of the field, students are better equipped for college where they are expected to know laboratory techniques and equipment. Additionally, students build the ability to work collaboratively and productively. This prepares students both to work in lab groups, and, in a more general sense, a study group for their classes. The ability to work collaboratively is paramount in the sciences.

I believe that the most interesting thing about AP Chemistry is that it allows students to gain a greater understanding of the other fields of science. By studying chemical reactions that involve organic compounds, we gain a greater understanding of the biological world. Similarly, when we discuss the molecular nature of a chemical reaction, we make the connection to the field of physics and see how chemistry is physics on a microscopic scale. This connectedness with the other fields of science is often overlooked, and yet it makes the science come alive.