

TEEN EXCELLENCE



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As third in the Class of 2019, Graceann Bennett is, according to nominator Rosemarie Earl, "an outstanding individual who has it all: she is an incredible athlete and is a bright, self-motivated, hard-working and enthusiastic student (and) she is more than willing to help others in the community."

At Lake George School, Graceann has been

GRACEANN BENNETT, 17, Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School

president of each the Varsity Club and Class of 2019 for five years. She is active with National Senior Honor Society, Student Council and the Captains Leadership Council, a historian for the Spanish National Honor Society, a Rock Solid senior leader and member of the National Senior Honor Society. She is a student in the New Visions Health Explorations Program at Glens Falls Hospital.

Graceann met weekly at the local library helping foreign workers learn English. She has participated in fundraisers for the American Cancer Society, Operation Santa Claus and American Red Cross Bloodmobile. She worked on the junior prom.

Graceann has been captain of the Varsity basketball and volleyball teams. She has been named an All-Ironclad League MVP, Times Union Small School Basketball Player of the Year and Times Union Tuesday's Best Athlete of the Week, and selected to First Team All-State and News Channel 13 All-Star Team. Despite having surgery on her knee last year, she attended every practice and game and was there to support her teams. Graceann is a referee for the Youth Commission Basketball program.

Parents/Guardians Names: Jeff and Mi-

chelle Bennett

Siblings: Mackenzie and Cole

Grade Level: 12

Personal Inspiration: I am most inspired by the motivation to be the best version of myself that I can. The hardworking nature of my parents has always motivated me to never settle.

Hobbies: Basketball, working out, boating, horseback riding

Biggest Accomplishment: Signing to play division I basketball

School Activities: Basketball, volleyball, student council, varsity club, honor society, Spanish honor society, rock solid senior leadership

Community Service: Rock Solid Senior Leadership - mentoring a group of freshman students everyday Helping coach the youth/modified basketball teams in Lake George Tutoring foreign workers in Lake George in English so they could better assimilate to a new culture Throughout high school, fundraising around \$15,000 for breast cancer with the Lake George volleyball team

Person you look up to and why: My mom - Her independence and strength is so empowering. She is the definition of a strong woman

and I aspire to have a presence and impact on others like she does.

Name a teacher who has positively impacted your life inside and outside the classroom and how: My Dad was my 8th grade history teacher. Aside from being one of the best academic teachers I have ever had, outside of the classroom he taught me to be the person I am today. Every day, I strive to emulate his patience, leadership, kindness, and knowledge. My Dad is the reason I love to learn and I'm so glad that I get to share that with him.

Activities outside of school: AAU basketball, lifting, horseback riding, swimming, boating, shopping

Favorite pastime: Spending time with family

Favorite food: Italian

Favorite movie: The Blind Side or Coach Carter

Favorite music/artist: Dan+Shay

Favorite book: Sum It Up by Pat Summitt

Goals, dreams & aspirations: After college, my dream is to go to medical school to become an orthopedic physician for a collegiate or professional sports team.