

ALUMNI NEWS

ARIANNA BORSONI - SPN Class of 2005

Arianna Borsoni, '05, currently a freshman at St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, was recently awarded a scholarship grant through the United States Achievement Academy (USAA). Borsoni was eligible for the scholarship, having been a recipient of the USAA Journalism Award for 2005. (Borsoni was one of four graduates who were recipients of this award last year). To be eligible for both, a student must meet a number of criteria, including, but not limited to: overall academic performance, leadership, & skills and aptitude in the specific subject area.

Borsoni's performance in Journalism and as a member of Student Media (having served as yearbook editorial assistant in 6th grade, sports co-anchor of the news broadcast in 7th, and last year, as editor-in-chief of the newspaper), was one of the key factors in her nomination and subsequent acceptance for both awards.

From Jeff Fraley, President of the USAA: "Our non-profit Scholarship Foundation consists of teachers representing different grade levels. They spend many hours reading and carefully considering every scholarship application received. This scholarship grant places your student in an elite group. USAA scholarship recipients are well-rounded students who strive for academic excellence."

The 2004-05 school year was the second year that this special recognition was given to students enrolled in the Journalism class/program at St. Philip Neri School. The Achievement Academy's criteria allows students in grades 6-8 to be eligible for the award, but it is Journalism teacher Mr. Leo's decision to nominate only students in the 8th grade. Of the nine students nominated by Mr. Leo last year, only four were accepted. Borsoni is the first SPN student to have qualified and been awarded this scholarship.

Mr. Joe Leo is a graduate of St. Joseph Notre Dame High School (class of 1996), and was himself, editor of their newspaper, "The Kaleidoscope," serving as Co-Editor during his Junior year, and Editor-in-Chief during his Senior year. He was also a member of the yearbook staff.

[SPN's Journalism program has been recognized nationally via the National Elementary Schools Press Association (NESPA), and its concurrent publications/media produced by Student Media (a school organization) has been in the spotlight of the local professional news media and featured in their publications.]

For more information on the United States Achievement Academy, visit their website at: www.usaa-academy.com