



BELLE VERNON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BELLE VERNON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is a true honor to recommend Ms. Baylee Martin as a candidate for the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen award. I currently teach Baylee in our Advanced Placement English 12 Language and Composition course, and I am highly confident in her ability to thrive at the postsecondary level. Baylee is a well-rounded, humble young woman whose work ethic is second only to her character.

Throughout high school, Baylee has maintained above a 4.0 GPA and High or Highest Honor Roll status while enrolled in many of our most challenging courses. In our English class, Baylee demonstrates exceptional academic dedication and a well-roundedness that sets her apart from her peers. Baylee made a memorable first impression with her overview and analysis of *Close to Shore*, a book about the 1916 Jersey Shore shark attacks. When speaking, Baylee exudes authenticity and her thoughtful comments reflect an analytic mind. This is also true in our daily discussions as much as it is in her writing. During Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Ms. Martin showcased her ability to analyze literary style, and during Huxley's *Brave New World*, she evidenced her creativity by connecting contemporary lyrics from Lady Gaga, Lorde, and others to the text. She proved her versatility and critical thinking ability with her exploratory essay on her relation of disabilities to Victor Frankenstein's monster. Recently, Baylee lead a *Lord of the Flies* Socratic seminar as though she were a teacher herself. It is impressive when a student displays one or two of these qualities, but it is rare to have a student who encompasses them all. For this reason, Baylee distinguishes herself from her peers as a deserving scholarship candidate.

While academics play an integral role in the merit for a scholarship, I believe that Baylee's humility, leadership, and her determination also distinguish her. As her resume would indicate, Baylee is highly active beyond the classroom. Her roles range from that of Musical Dance Captain to an active NHS and MIC/SADD member. The list, much like her experience on stage, is extensive. However, an intangible not included on resumes is that of character. Ms. Martin carries herself with an unparalleled humility. She never boasts, she seeks personal growth, she acts ethically, and she shows sincere empathy towards others. In other words, Baylee is a young woman with character. She is a student who teachers hope the underclassmen would look to emulate. Beyond this, I know that she has persevered amidst some personal adversity. Though she may be a soft spoken and gentle young woman, she is tenacious, and in my eyes, she possesses true grit.

It is my pleasure to highly recommend Baylee Martin for the Outstanding Young Citizen award. I cannot think of a more deserving young woman. I am certain that she will take full advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead and will give back to others when her journey is complete. If there are any questions that I can answer, please feel free to contact me personally.

Respectfully,

Mr. Heath Curran
Teacher of English
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**The Vision Statement of the Belle Vernon Area School District is to
"Access the Future through Excellence in Education"**