



Kokomo Schools

Education Foundation Newsletter



October 2018

Alumni Spotlight

Aaryan Morrison

Kokomo High School Class of 2018 salutatorian Aaryan Morrison was named the 2018 Distinguished Young Woman of America, prevailing over 49 other U.S. participants and earning a total of more than \$48,000 in cash scholarships. This award marks the first time since the national scholarship program's inception in 1958 that an Indiana teen has claimed the title.



Aaryan, the daughter of Kismet and Bronwen Morrison, graduated from Kokomo High School in June, after earning a 13.429 GPA (on a 12-point scale). Aaryan is attending Harvard University to study government, with a focus on international relations. The National Merit Commended Scholar and Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction also plans to learn French and Swahili. After graduating from Harvard, Aaryan intends to work for the United Nations Development Program, where she hopes to initiate and lead programs to help women and children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In February, Aaryan became the first Howard County teen in more than two decades to earn the title of Distinguished Young Woman of Indiana and prevailed over 22 other Hoosier participants. Contestants in the state program were evaluated on scholastics, talent, fitness, self-expression, and an interview. In addition to the state title, Aaryan was recognized for best overall scholastics and best self-expression, while earning preliminary awards in both fitness and interviews at the state competition.

During the following months, Aaryan spent time mentoring young students, and spreading the Distinguished Young Women's message: **"Be Your Best Self."** The organization encourages young people to **"Be Studious," "Be Healthy," "Be Involved,"** and **"Be Responsible."**

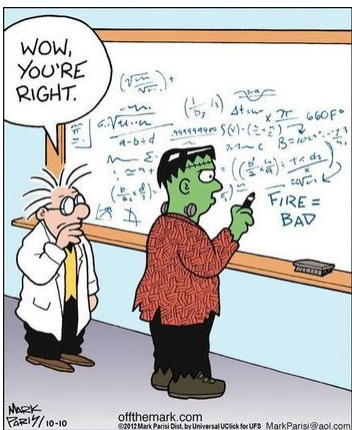
"As a self-titled nerd, I love the 'Be Studious' element because I believe it is the foundation to being your best self," Aaryan explained recently. "Education is an incredible privilege that provides countless opportunities for exploration and growth. Staying committed to my studies in the International Baccalaureate Program afforded me the chance to study abroad in England, act as a student ambassador to China, and engage in dialogue about Sharia Law and human rights with students from South Africa and Iran. Most significantly, being studious has helped me realize my passion for the global classroom and advocate for more international initiatives within my own school. Being studious is more than just staying in school; it is shaping your education in order to discern that about which you are passionate."

On June 19th, Aaryan traveled to Mobile, Alabama for the Distinguished Young Women National Program. Aaryan's two weeks in Mobile culminated with the National Finals, where she performed on stage during this showcase. Contestants in the National Finals were evaluated on scholastics, talent, fitness, self-expression, and interview. In addition to the National title, Aaryan also earned category awards in scholastics, interview, and talent. For her talent, Aaryan performed a lyrical dance to the musical selection "To Build a Home" by The Cinematic Orchestra.



WildKat 5K Recap

Cool temperatures didn't keep participants from showing up and supporting the Education Foundation WildKat 5K on Friday, October 5th. We had over 25 runners. Principals Mr. Augustus of Boulevard and Mrs. Wright of Pettit Park were the winners in the male and female categories. Great job! Thank you to Steele Benefit Services for donating \$200 to support this activity!



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