



ACHIEVE  
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honesty  
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2025

Division Student Awards

HONOURING STUDENT EXCELLENCE



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Division Academic Excellence Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate overall exceptional academic achievement in a range of subjects in International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement or regular programming.

## **Sophie Eyo**

### ***Academy at King Edward***

Sophie has applied herself with passion and persistence in every course she has enrolled in. Her involvement in extracurricular pursuits such as creating props for the school play in Technical Theatre as well as establishing and leading the crochet club further demonstrate that she is well rounded, organized and involved in the greater school community. Sophie is planning to attend post-secondary after high school and is interested in a career in theatre production. Her creativity and compassion for others will serve her well as she continues through her educational journey and into life beyond school. Sophie's dedication to her classes as well as her ability to accept feedback and reflect on her practices will take her far in her post-secondary studies and beyond.

## **Haisar Mohamed**

### ***Argyll Centre***

Haisar is an exceptional student. He consistently demonstrates intrinsic motivation, working towards comprehension without the need for external prompts or rewards. In the classroom, Haisar is a thoughtful and engaged contributor, bringing energy and curiosity to every discussion. He works exceptionally well with his peers, fostering a collaborative environment by valuing all perspectives and offering his own insights and support. The efficacy with which he employs this commitment to education is evidenced by his achievement of the standard of excellence with distinction in all of his courses. He has an inquisitive mind, fueled by a genuine desire to better understand the world around him. He often looks outside of curricular constraints with his inquiries. His goals are never limited to grades—he seeks real understanding and the ability to apply his knowledge meaningfully in the future.

## **Pablo Perez**

### ***Centre High Campus***

Pablo demonstrated exceptional academic achievement across all subject areas, consistently excelling in a demanding and rigorous course load. In all his classes, Pablo exceeded expectations. He was a dedicated student, focused on improving his abilities and expanding his knowledge. He was also a natural leader, energetically engaging in class discussions and activities. Pablo actively and respectfully sought feedback, consistently looking at ways to improve his marks through the In-Reach program. He was never afraid to try new things or take a risk, recognizing that sometimes mistakes lead to great learning. As he begins his Bachelor of Engineering at the University of British Columbia, Pablo enters the next chapter of his academic journey with a remarkable foundation and a clear capacity for continued excellence.

## **Syed Rizvi**

### ***Dr. Anne Anderson***

Syed's academic record is truly outstanding and serves as a clear testament to his intellectual capabilities and dedication. His achievements in a demanding selection of Grade 12 Advanced Placement and rigorous academic courses are particularly noteworthy. Exemplary learning was demonstrated consistently across all subject areas, highlighting Syed's intellectual curiosity, strong work ethic and capacity for critical thinking. His performance showcases consistently high achievement across a diverse range of challenging subjects, demonstrates Syed's intellectual breadth, his capacity for in-depth understanding and his resolute pursuit of academic excellence.

## Isabella Evans

### *Eastglen*

Isabella is a passionate, dynamic learner who consistently elevates classroom discussions with thoughtful insights and strong leadership. Excelling across disciplines, she has a particular passion for the sciences, earning acceptance into the prestigious WISEST Summer Research Program, where she explored the challenges faced by women and diverse individuals in STEM. Isabella also makes a significant impact in the fine arts, contributing to set design for school productions and performing as a guitarist, bass guitarist and vocalist at concerts within the school and community. Her creativity, resilience and drive for excellence set her apart. Isabella's commitment to learning and her desire to uplift others will ensure she continues to inspire and lead, making a lasting, positive impact wherever she goes.

## Chris Lebrudo

### *Edmonton Christian High*

Chris has been remarkably consistent in the level of academic excellence he has exhibited throughout his time at Edmonton Christian High School. He is equally adept across various subject disciplines and exhibits all of the habits of a dedicated and conscientious student. Chris not only works for his own success, but is helpful to peers, constantly striving for understanding and mastery.

## Andrew Yang

### *Harry Ainlay*

Andrew demonstrates excellence through his commitment to maintaining a high academic standard, consistently achieving one of the highest academic results throughout his three years at Harry Ainlay. He efficiently manages his time to balance academics, his personal life and social commitments. Andrew has also been involved in his community, volunteering at Edmonton's Food Bank and at events such as the Cariwest Festival. Andrew's passion for technology and innovation is evident through his involvement in various collaborative projects. He has collaborated with peers from across Edmonton Public Schools to compete—and often secure victories—at hackathons and competitions, including natHacks Alberta, the Canadian Team Mathematics Contest (CTMC) and the NASA Space Apps Challenge. Within the school, Andrew leads the computer science club and holds executive roles in both the robotics and math clubs, showcasing his leadership and dedication to fostering a strong STEM community.

## Carmen Ma

### *J. Percy Page*

Carmen is a fantastic student that demands excellence from herself. She consistently asks insightful questions, reflecting her genuine curiosity and deep interest in every class, and is dedicated to achieving a thorough understanding of all the topics covered. Carmen is a highly intelligent and diligent student that models the behaviours of an engaged and lifelong learner, and actively shares her knowledge with peers, supporting them in their learning journey. She will be successful in any field of study she chooses to pursue in the future. With her exceptional work ethic and dedication, Carmen is the perfect recipient of this award.

## Olya Boiko

### *Jasper Place*

Olya is as brilliant as she is hardworking. Her dedication to intellectual excellence and the intensity with which she pursues her academic goals are an inspiration to everyone around her. She consistently demonstrates exceptional performance across all her classes and effortlessly moves between STEM courses and the humanities, deftly adjusting to new challenges and achieving success in everything she attempts. Since arriving from Ukraine less than three years ago, Olya has demonstrated remarkable resilience, adaptability and determination—consistently exceeding even the highest academic and personal expectations despite significant challenges. She has ambitious plans to study biological sciences in university and there is no doubt whatsoever that the combination of brilliance, grit and academic commitment that she possesses will guarantee success in university and beyond.

## Taylor Green

*Lillian Osborne*

Taylor is an engaged learner, ethical citizen and entrepreneurial thinker who demonstrates curiosity, initiative and a commitment to helping others. She consistently asked thoughtful, probing questions that not only deepened her own understanding but also enriched class discussions. Recognizing a need to enhance study tools, she took the initiative to develop a comprehensive Biology 30 study guide website. After seeking and incorporating feedback from her teacher, she refined the resource and generously shared it with peers to support future students in their learning. Her willingness to take risks, think critically and contribute selflessly reflects her dedication to education and community. Taylor's initiative not only showcased innovation and resilience but also demonstrated compassion and leadership by ensuring learning was more accessible for others. Her passion for knowledge, problem-solving mindset and commitment to supporting peers make her a deserving recipient of this award.

## Jasreet Hundal

*M.E. LaZerte*

Jasreet has consistently demonstrated exceptional academic achievement across all of her IB subjects. She has earned high nineties in all courses, all while constantly striving for improvement. Jasreet's commitment to excellence is obvious in the pride she takes in her work. While her academic achievements are prolific, she is also a very engaged learner and classmate, and strives to enrich her own learning experiences while also contributing to her class community. Jasreet's passion for learning, drive for excellence and eagerness to engage in thoughtful discussion make her a natural leader and role model for her peers. Jasreet's commitment to excellence does not stop in the classroom; her involvement in student-led initiatives has brought thoughtful attention and advocacy to voices and groups within the school community. Her involvement in the IB Leadership Council, especially, has provided an insightful look into the needs of that learning community.

## Aamen Gill

*McNally*

Aamen is a dedicated full IB student who embodies the IB Learner Profile as an engaged learner, ethical citizen and leader with an entrepreneurial spirit. Aamen has maintained an average of high nineties in both Grade 11 and 12. He not only succeeds academically, he also excels at his contributions within the school and his community. He founded and leads the Tiger STEM Club, participates in the Students' Union and South Asian Culture Club, and tutors fellow students in math and science. Aamen stands out as the only high school student working as a research assistant in a graduate/PhD-level synthetic and physical organic chemistry lab at the University of Alberta. He also contributed as a Youreka Canada data researcher, collaborating on manuscript-based research. Aamen's commitment to academic excellence, leadership and research highlights his well-rounded IB experience, making him a true embodiment of the IB spirit.

## Sarah Lee

*Millwoods Christian*

Sarah consistently demonstrated academic excellence throughout her time as a student, driven by her dedication, intellectual curiosity and strong work habits. In class, she actively engaged in discussions and regularly contributed thoughtful, insightful ideas. Whether she was solving a physics problem or learning French grammar, Sarah showed she was talented in many areas and was eager to learn. Her passion for learning and commitment to personal growth made her an exceptional student and a positive role model for her peers. She excelled across all academic subjects—including calculus—and demonstrated her dedication by also pursuing studies in the French language. Beyond academics, Sarah actively participated in school initiatives that helped build a stronger sense of community within the school. Her well-rounded abilities and enthusiastic approach to all her endeavours truly set her apart.

## Katherine Cai

### *Old Scona*

Katherine is a full IB student who has excelled across all areas of study. She maintains an average in the high nineties in her core courses. Her exemplary performance is expected to continue in all of her IB subjects. Katherine is a highly engaged learner who embraces new academic challenges with enthusiasm. Her commitment to personal growth was especially evident in her successful completion of Psychology SL IB online, where she earned a rating of 'excellent performance.' She truly embodies the IB learner profile attributes and is a positive influence within the classroom—always supportive and helpful to her peers. Over the past three years, Katherine has shown remarkable growth both academically and personally.

## Isabelle Virani

### *Queen Elizabeth*

Isabelle is undeniably an exceptional recipient of the Academic Excellence Award. Her academic prowess is not just theoretical; it is clearly demonstrated by her perfect scores on both the AP Chemistry and AP Biology exams. Graduating with academic distinction as one of Queen Elizabeth's top scholars underscores her consistent mastery of a demanding Advanced Placement curriculum. Isabelle embodies the rare combination of intellectual brilliance and genuine compassion. Her leadership of the school-wide peer tutoring program—especially her patient and empathetic support of students learning English as an additional language—demonstrates her strong commitment to empowering and uplifting others. Furthermore, her dedication to early literacy in the wider community demonstrates a profound belief in the power of education for all. Isabelle's academic achievements are matched by her unwavering drive to make a tangible difference, making her an eminently deserving recipient of this award.

## Xavier Park

### *Ross Sheppard*

Xavier consistently achieves exceptional academic success across all subjects, earning honours with distinction annually, including the top overall average in Grade 11 as a dedicated French Immersion student. Thriving in his second language, he proudly speaks and promotes French. Driven by a genuine passion for learning and a high level of inquiry, engagement and natural intelligence, Xavier approaches every new learning situation with zeal and embraces challenges with strong problem-solving skills. He actively seeks personal growth in all his courses and readily responds to unique learning opportunities. A conscientious and hardworking student, Xavier's love of learning and collaborative spirit enriches the classroom environment, reflecting his maturity, empathy, humility and strong ethical values. His engagement, passion, curiosity, resilience, adaptability, respect, compassion and sense of responsibility are truly noteworthy.

## Sol Mendez

### *Strathcona*

Sol's academic achievements are the epitome of excellence. Sol's attention to detail, incredible work ethic and diligent engagement in all her courses drove her to deepen her understanding and to complete all assignments and assessments at a high standard. Sol completed many of her Grade 12 courses with near-perfect averages and consistently encouraged her peers to strive for excellence alongside her.

## Darius Nychka

### *Victoria*

Darius exemplifies the qualities of an IB learner through a unique blend of intellectual curiosity, compassion and creative energy. As a Grade 12 student in the IB Career-related Programme, Darius has demonstrated exceptional dedication to both academic and co-curricular pursuits. Darius approaches each task with integrity, insight and initiative. Their enthusiasm is contagious, inspiring both peers and younger students to take risks in their own learning. Darius' presence in the school community is marked by kindness, leadership and an unwavering commitment to inclusivity. As a leader in the arts, Darius has brought depth and dedication to theatrical productions. In rehearsals, they embody the IB Learner Profile, showing thoughtful reflection, courageous risk-taking and clear communication. Darius is not only a learner, but also an ethical citizen and a spirited innovator, and we are proud to recognize them with this well-deserved Academic Excellence Award.

## Avery Pepper

### *Vimy Ridge Academy*

Avery is a student-athlete who exemplifies the qualities recognized by the Academic Excellence Award. She has consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement in personal, social and academic pursuits. With a combined overall average of over 90 per cent in her Grade 12 year, and having earned honours with distinction for six consecutive years at Vimy Ridge Academy, Avery's commitment to her studies and intellectual curiosity are undeniable. Avery's academic strengths are further complemented by her significant involvement in the Vimy Dance Program, offered in partnership with the Edmonton School of Ballet. She successfully challenged the Solo Seal dance exam—the highest level of the Royal Academy of Dance—demonstrating exceptional strength, artistry, technique and dedication. A natural leader, Avery has spearheaded fundraising initiatives, tutored peers, volunteered to teach younger dance students, and led a group in creating an original contemporary choreography for the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees. Her ability to articulate a vision and persevere through challenges highlights her emerging leadership and capacity to drive positive change. Avery's proactive approach to learning is reflected in her acceptance into the highly competitive engineering program at the University of Alberta, her receipt of the Indigenous Entrance Scholarship, and her nomination for the esteemed Schulich Leader STEM scholarship. These accomplishments underscore both her academic excellence and her future potential in a demanding and impactful field.

## Sukhmeen Sandher

### *W.P. Wagner*

Sukhmeen demonstrated exceptional dedication to her academics, excelling across a broad range of courses. She challenged herself with six Advanced Placement classes while maintaining an overall average in the high nineties throughout high school. She understood the value of hard work and a positive attitude, and always put in the extra effort to achieve her goals and create a positive environment for her peers. Her contributions went beyond the classroom, as Sukhmeen was committed to making a meaningful difference in her school and community through her involvement in the school peer tutoring program and Community Helpers Program. She demonstrated empathy, compassion and initiative by dedicating many hours to volunteering with a charity that combats loneliness among the senior population, in addition to spending several hours each week at a local continuing care home.

# CAREER AND LIFE PATHWAYS AWARD

The Division Career and Life Pathways Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in one or more of the following areas: Business, Administration, Finance and Information Technology (BIT), Health, Recreation and Human Services (HRH), Media, Design and Communication Arts (MDC), Natural Resources (NAT), Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation (TMT) and Career Transitions (CTR).

## **Samuel Krebs**

### *Academy at King Edward*

Sam has shown a keen interest in hands-on learning from the moment he came to high school. He has been consistently engaged in his construction classes and is always willing to help out others in class if needed. Sam is currently registered and excelling in the Green Certificate Program, working with horses. His love of all things outdoors has served him well as he has progressed through the program. After high school, Sam would like to pursue a career in agriculture or forestry. His easy-going, approachable personality coupled with his passion for hands-on work will take him far in his future career journey.

## **Alex Medeiros**

### *Argyll Centre*

Alex has demonstrated outstanding knowledge and skills in two Career Pathways categories: Business, Administration, Finance and Information Technology (BIT), as well as Health, Recreation and Human Services (HRH). In the BIT category, Alex excelled in computing science, achieving top marks in advanced programming solutions and second language programming. His ability to learn and apply new knowledge and skills in algorithm and code structures was outstanding. He consistently created solutions that were professional, contemporary and incorporated exciting user experience interfaces. His solutions were complex, with advanced structures and design. Within the HRH category, Alex actively pursued a career in soccer, with aspirations to play at the professional level. He was training full-time while completing his high school diploma, demonstrating exceptional commitment and discipline. Alex is a well-rounded individual who consistently strived for excellence in all of his pursuits.



## **Maddie Firmaniuk**

### ***Braemar***

Maddie demonstrated a strong commitment to both leadership and agriculture during her time at Braemar. She was determined and self-motivated, approaching each challenge with focus and a positive attitude. Her green thumb was especially evident during Garden Day preparation, where she nurtured her plants with care and attention, ensuring they were healthy and thriving. Throughout the year, Maddie demonstrated exceptional resilience. Whether speaking at assemblies, creating content for the school's social media, or helping design the yearbook, she brought creativity, dependability and a spirit of teamwork to everything she did. What stands out most is her courage to step beyond her comfort zone. She embraced challenges and reflected meaningfully on her growth. Thoughtful and resilient, Maddie also brings joy and laughter to those around her. We are incredibly proud of all she has accomplished and are confident she will continue to inspire others with her positivity and strength.

## **Kamaya Lessard**

### ***Dr. Anne Anderson***

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Kamaya as the recipient of the Career and Life Pathways Award, in honour of her exceptional dedication and contributions to the Dr. Anne Anderson broadcasting program over the past two years. She has consistently demonstrated remarkable talent, professionalism and leadership. Her intelligence, kindness and positive influence have left a lasting impact on both the quality of our productions and the culture of the program. Whether working on camera or behind the scenes, she approaches every task with enthusiasm, precision and a collaborative spirit. Kamaya is not only a skilled broadcaster but also a role model and mentor to her peers, elevating those around her through her guidance and example. Her commitment to excellence and passion for storytelling have been instrumental in shaping the success and growth of our program. Kamaya is highly deserving of this recognition and the opportunities it may bring.

## **Austin Enright**

### ***Eastglen***

Austin distinguished himself through exceptional performance and a clear passion for his work, particularly excelling in areas aligned with the Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation (TMT) pathway. His remarkable aptitude and advanced skills developed in both Construction and Automotive showcased a strong work ethic and a deep understanding of these critical trades. Furthermore, Austin's excellence in Foods highlighted his versatility and commitment to mastering valuable, practical life skills applicable across various fields. Beyond his technical skills, Austin's reliability and sense of responsibility made him a role model for his peers. Austin was always willing to help out other students.

## **Ericka Tshuma**

### ***Edmonton Christian High***

Ericka embarked into the field of photography with the intent of taking reference photos for her own artwork. Throughout her studies, Ericka demonstrated a keen creative eye and precision in her mastery of photographic concepts. She was a conscientious and engaged learner in the classroom, eagerly taking on creative challenges and working collaboratively alongside her peers. Ericka worked independently and with discipline to assemble a final semester portfolio of her photographic work. Ericka continued to develop her photography skills outside of the classroom as well, and volunteered her time to take photographs for the yearbook at various school events. For her exceptional dedication and proactive contributions, Ericka is highly deserving of recognition for her achievements.



## Molly Burwood

*Harry Ainlay*

Molly is intrinsically motivated, thoughtful, creative and a wonderful team player. Over the past three years in Communication Technology at Harry Ainlay, Molly has actively contributed to the school community by producing high-quality videos. Two standout projects include a CTS promotional video—which required over 50 hours of work—and an open house highlights video that effectively captured the spirit and offerings of Harry Ainlay High School. Molly is a dedicated content creator who applies her video editing skills beyond the classroom, producing promotional videos for various events throughout Edmonton. Her passion for both her school and her city is evident in her work, which showcases the rich diversity and experiences they offer. With strong creative talents and a professional approach, Molly is poised to continue building a wide network of future clients who will undoubtedly value her contributions and expertise.

## Andrea Navarro Rodriguez

*J. Percy Page*

Andrea was an outstanding Grade 12 student who exemplifies the qualities of an engaged learner, ethical citizen and entrepreneurial spirit. In the cosmetology program, Andrea consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication to mastering technical skills while showing initiative in seeking out new learning opportunities. She was a leader in the classroom, supporting peers with patience and professionalism, and upholding the highest standards of integrity in her work. Andrea's passion for the industry, combined with her strong work ethic and commitment to excellence, made her a deserving recipient of the Career and Life Pathways Award.

## Rufta Tesfagherhis

*Jasper Place*

Rufta was nominated for this distinguished award without reservation. She embodies the very essence of an engaged learner, an ethical citizen and a remarkable entrepreneurial spirit, making her an exceptionally deserving candidate. As an engaged learner, Rufta demonstrates a profound commitment and active contribution to the learning environment within the CTS program at Jasper Place High School. Her willingness to challenge herself is evident in her participation in the High School Culinary Challenge and Skills Canada competitions. Furthermore, she consistently volunteered at school open houses over all three years, as well as at teacher retirement celebrations. Her passion for learning extends beyond the curriculum, fueling her ambition to pursue culinary school and achieve the prestigious double Red Seal in both culinary arts and baking—a goal that speaks volumes about her lifelong dedication to her chosen field.

## Mary Wu

*Lillian Osborne*

Mary exemplifies the qualities required for the Career and Life Pathways Award through her outstanding contributions to Lillian Osborne High School TV (LOHSTV) and excellence in Digital Media 10, 20 and 30. As both an anchor and advertising coordinator for LOHSTV, Mary demonstrated exceptional communication skills, creativity and leadership, ensuring high-quality broadcasts while fostering a collaborative environment. Mary consistently pushed creative boundaries, demonstrated a keen entrepreneurial mindset by exploring new ideas and engaged her audience effectively. Additionally, she has shown exceptional commitment to fashion studies, elevating her skills in design and craftsmanship, showcasing her creativity and dedication to being a lifelong learner. Beyond her technical skills, Mary was a role model of integrity and responsibility, inspiring her peers through her hard work and commitment.

## Ellena Henriquez

**M.E. LaZerte**

Ellena is a dedicated and passionate student who consistently demonstrated discipline and enthusiasm for sewing and fashion. The moment she entered the classroom, she was focused and ready to create. Her strong work ethic, self-motivation and determination set her apart as a student who not only embraced challenges but thrived on them. Ellena's deep knowledge of fashion and sewing techniques, combined with her eagerness to learn, made her a standout in her studies. She was always willing to push her creative boundaries, explore new concepts and refine her skills. Her commitment to excellence and continuous improvement ensured that she excelled in every project she undertook. With her dedication and perseverance, Ellena is sure to find success in the fashion industry. Her passion, discipline and love for learning will undoubtedly lead her to a bright future. She is truly deserving of the Career and Life Pathways Award.

## Kashvi Patel

**McNally**

Kashvi was a Grade 12 honours student who spent her three years at McNally primarily focused on courses within the BIT cluster. Her commitment to project-based learning also led her to explore the MDC and TMT pathways, where she pursued social entrepreneurship and community-building initiatives. She began with Business 10 in her first year, and as the McNally Makes program took shape, she became an original and integral member—playing a key role in prototyping and refining the finance and customer service processes. Drawing on and applying her learning from modules in finance, accounting and entrepreneurship, she collaborated with students from various CTS programs to help school and community projects succeed. By dedicating over 150 hours during her Grade 12 year to innovating and refining financial processes, she made significant contributions to the program while gaining valuable experience aligned with her career goal in accounting.

## Hibaq Hassan

**Queen Elizabeth**

Hibaq is a truly deserving recipient of the Career and Life Pathways Award, recognized for her inspiring journey of finding purpose through community involvement—an experience that fueled her academic success. She consistently dedicated her time and skills to strengthening her school community. As a representative of Alberta at an AP conference in Toronto, Hibaq further demonstrated her leadership by blogging about the experience to inform and inspire other students about available opportunities. Her transformation—from a student without a clear academic direction to one who thrived on supporting others—highlighted the power of discovering one's niche. Hibaq's commitment to giving back and her proactive efforts to guide her peers set her apart. She embodied the spirit of the award and showed great promise for continued contributions. Her ability to turn personal growth and resilience into shared strength made a lasting impact. Hibaq not only envisioned a better future for herself but also worked tirelessly to help others realize their potential.

## Julie Hong

**Ross Sheppard**

Julie stood out as an exceptionally dedicated and knowledgeable student, demonstrating exceptional academic achievement within Health, Recreation and Human Services (HRH). Her invaluable commitment to the Ross Sheppard Sports Medicine program saw her work tirelessly, providing crucial assistance to student athletes with injuries. Balancing countless hours of taping, running tests and supporting the athletic trainer while consistently achieving honours in all her classes truly embodied the admirable qualities we value in our students. Throughout her time at Ross Sheppard, Julie consistently showed unwavering dedication and respect to both staff and students. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact she will undoubtedly have on society in her future endeavors.

## **Zev Johnston**

### **Strathcona**

Zev was a student who consistently went above and beyond in their field, constantly exploring new ideas and investigating topics beyond the curriculum. Their curiosity and dedication set them apart, as they sought deeper understanding and pushed the boundaries of their learning. Zev frequently engaged in projects that reflected both creativity and critical thinking. Alongside their academic excellence, they were a generous and kind classmate, always willing to share knowledge and support others in their success. Next year, they will pursue industrial design at the University of Alberta.

## **Suzannah Belliveau**

### **Victoria**

Suzannah exemplifies the qualities of an engaged learner, ethical citizen and entrepreneurial spirit. Their dedication to learning was evident in their leadership within the school's photography and yearbook projects, where they actively shared their technical expertise and problem-solving skills with peers. As an ethical citizen, Suzannah demonstrated responsibility and collaboration, often stepping up to support others and ensuring projects were inclusive and well-executed. Their entrepreneurial spirit shone through their initiative in organizing content creatively, finding innovative solutions to challenges, and approaching tasks with a professional mindset. Whether mentoring classmates in photography or meticulously designing the school yearbook, Suzannah embodied the core values of CTS education. Their ability to combine technical skills with leadership and integrity made them a truly deserving recipient of this award.

## **Kaden Reist**

### **Vimy Ridge Academy**

Kaden was an excellent student-athlete and a worthy recipient of the Career and Life Pathways Award. He truly embodied the spirit of engagement, consistently demonstrating the qualities essential for success in any chosen path. Kaden's aspiration to pursue engineering is a testament to his understanding that lifelong learning and tenacious problem-solving are paramount. He didn't just attend classes; he actively sought out opportunities beyond the classroom, delving into complex physics and math concepts and engaging in practical projects to deepen his understanding. His proactive approach to learning—marked by his willingness to collaborate, ask insightful questions and continually seek new information—set him apart. When faced with challenges, particularly the rigorous demands of engineering, Kaden did not shy away. Instead, he embraced them with an open mind, breaking down difficult concepts, analyzing them thoroughly and devising effective solutions. This ability to innovate and persevere, coupled with his readiness to "reinvent" ideas, reflected his strengths as an engaged and adaptive learner. Kaden's dedication to intellectual growth and his forward-thinking approach made him an exceptionally deserving recipient of this award.

## **Dani Ruiz**

### **W.P. Wagner**

Dani's journey in the Game Design program, which began in Grade 11, was marked by exceptional creativity and a deep commitment to inclusive design. Despite joining the program a year behind her peers, she quickly excelled—completing two levels in Grade 11 and Advanced Game Design in Grade 12—and secured a place in NAIT's Game Development program. Dani's games showcased imaginative concepts and artistic skill, resulting in projects that were both visually captivating and highly interactive. Drawing on a range of technologies, Dani brought a unique perspective as a Latinx woman with a disability, which deeply informed her strong advocacy for accessibility in video games. This commitment was powerfully reflected in her project for Interactions students, where accessibility served as the foundation of the design. Dani's innovative spirit and focus on inclusive design positioned her as a significant emerging talent in the field.

# FINE ARTS AWARD

The Division Fine Arts Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in one or more of the performing and visual arts, including subjects pertaining to music, art, dance and drama.

## **Jordan Carroll**

### ***Academy at King Edward***

Jordan was a student at the Academy at King Edward for approximately nine years. A talented artist with boundless creativity, he explored a wide range of mediums, including sketching, painting, silk screening, sculpting and constructing. Through film and media, he discovered a passion behind the camera and became highly skilled in video editing, producing polished films of his own creation. Jordan was accepted into the Alberta University of the Arts in Calgary, where he plans to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts beginning in the fall. His long-term goal is to return to the classroom as an art teacher, following the completion of a Bachelor of Education After Degree program.

## **Rowen Clamp**

### ***Braemar***

Rowen was a positive and uplifting presence in the art room. She was passionate about art and worked diligently in her creative practice. Her sketchbook was not just a space for assignments—it was a living record of her artistic journey, revealing a deep commitment to the creative process. Rowen's pursuit of artistic excellence was matched by her empathetic nature, as she consistently demonstrated kindness, respect and inclusivity in her interactions with peers. Whether offering praise for a classmate's work or lending a helping hand with a project, she led by example and fostered a positive, collaborative environment wherever she went. Rowen distinguished herself not only through her artistic talent but also through her dedication to learning, her innovative and entrepreneurial mindset, and her consistent demonstration of ethical citizenship within the classroom and school community.

## **Naomi Kwok**

### ***Dr. Anne Anderson***

Throughout her high school journey, Naomi actively contributed to the school's arts program in various capacities. She participated in drama productions, dance performances, open house promotions and band concerts. All of these activities required her active engagement, collaboration with peers and a strong work ethic and self-discipline for regular practice. Naomi demonstrated a willingness to embrace new challenges, such as learning the art of dance, which was a completely new experience for her. She also continued to develop and refine her existing skills in music and drama. Balancing academic responsibilities with extensive involvement in extracurricular arts required significant effort, yet Naomi consistently showed that she believed the experience was valuable for her personal and artistic growth. She plans to pursue her passion for the fine arts in post-secondary education.

## **Zoey Fajardo Gylarte**

### ***Eastglen***

Zoey exemplified artistic excellence, leadership and integrity. A central figure in Eastglen's fine arts community, she hosted the school's music and dance showcases for all three years and stepped in at the last minute to speak at the Edmonton Public Schools Night of Music, addressing over 1,000 attendees with grace and confidence. In Grade 12, she embraced dance as a new discipline, performing in multiple pieces with courage and curiosity. Her visual art portfolio shared the complex experiences of being a third space youth—deeply personal, educational and moving. Zoey's dedication, initiative and passion for meaningful expression made her a powerful storyteller and a natural leader.

## **Madeleine Lizotte**

### **Edmonton Christian High**

Madeleine was a dedicated and creative learner, demonstrating exceptional achievement in the visual arts classroom. She was engaged and self-motivated in her studies, showing both confidence and mastery across a wide variety of artistic mediums. Madeleine readily embraced new creative challenges, regardless of the task, and worked with discipline to achieve her artistic goals. She collaborated well with her peers and contributed to a positive, supportive classroom environment. As a creative and reflective thinker, she consistently found ways to incorporate drawing into her studies beyond the confines of art class. Madeleine will excel in whatever creative path she pursued beyond high school.

## **Annika Schoenhardt**

### **Harry Ainlay**

Annika was a student who excelled in the arts in numerous ways. As an instrumental musician, she served as the principal flutist in the Harry Ainlay Symphonic Band and as the pianist in the Harry Ainlay Jazz Band. As a vocalist, she was featured multiple times performing the national anthem at school events and sang with the Harry Ainlay Choir. She also performed in the community with the world-renowned Korora youth choir. In addition to her performance talents, Annika was an outstanding composer, working with John Estacio as part of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's Young Composers Project. She also thrived in the drama department, playing the lead role in the school's musical production of *Mamma Mia!* and competing at the national level with the Harry Ainlay improv team.

## **Katherine (Katie) McCallion**

### **J. Percy Page**

Katie possessed the rare ability to balance high levels of artistic passion and creativity with academic rigour. She excelled at meeting class project objectives while also pursuing her own personal artistic ambitions. Not only was she an accomplished visual artist, having completed an exceptional Advanced Placement art portfolio, she was also a musician. She took opportunities to perform and display her work both in and outside of J. Percy Page School. Katie was a phenomenal leader within the Page fine arts community, and we were grateful to have her as a representative of our J. Percy Page programs and our recipient of the Fine Arts Award.

## **Avery Boutin**

### **Jasper Place**

Avery was an outstanding member of the drama community at Jasper Place High School. As the leader of the musical theatre club, she encouraged students to try something they had never done before. As one of the leads in the improv club, she inspired others to take risks on stage, helping them develop confidence and a stronger stage presence. As a senior in advanced acting, Avery demonstrated an exceptional work ethic and served as a mentor to newer members, ensuring the program continued to grow and thrive. In Drama 30, she was an engaged and inquisitive learner, asking thoughtful questions and taking creative risks to elevate both her acting and her understanding of the craft. Avery dedicated significant time and effort to the success of the drama program at Jasper Place High School. Her passion, leadership and commitment have left—and will continue to leave—a lasting impact.

## **Charlie Simons**

### **Lillian Osborne**

There were few students who did as many things at as high a level as Charlie did. She danced! She created costumes! She worked on the tech side of shows! She acted! She sang! There are triple threats, but Charlie was like some sort of polygonal threat. On top of all that, Charlie took great care and pride in everything she worked on, never willing to let something be merely satisfactory when excellence was within reach. As a costume designer and wardrobe head in Tech Theatre, she was responsible for some of the most stunning costumes the theatre at Lillian Osborne had ever seen, regularly producing professional-quality work in an impressively short amount of time. As a performer, she was someone others looked to for guidance—and Charlie was always there, leading the way as only she could. Her outstanding qualities, both on and off the stage, made her a truly deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

## Adam Wenzel

### *M.E. LaZerte*

Adam was one of the most dedicated contributors to fine arts at M.E. LaZerte, taking on projects and assisting in classes even beyond his own enrolment. He played piano for the choir during his spare classes, directed the pit band for the musical, and was a class leader in both instrumental music and jazz classes. His dedication to his craft was impressive, as he went above and beyond at every available opportunity. Adam was also recognized in the broader community for his commitment to music—he was selected to perform a piano concerto with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra and was invited to audition at several prestigious schools across the country, including The Glenn Gould School, McGill University, University of Toronto and University of Alberta. Beyond his musical talents, Adam was always the first to lend a hand in the arts community and to volunteer his time whenever needed. He consistently demonstrated his commitment to both the school community and the arts at M.E. LaZerte.

## Gracie Weber

### *McNally*

Gracie truly exemplified the heart of an artist and ethical citizen. As a multi-disciplinary artist, she was equally at home crafting pieces in ceramics class, playing saxophone in multiple ensembles, singing in choir and vocal jazz, and captivating audiences in lead roles in multiple drama productions at McNally and the Fringe Festival. She actively poured her creative energy and dedication into each of her artistic pursuits, championing respectful collaboration and achieving a standard of excellence across all disciplines. Gracie was a caring and empathetic peer who participated in Community Helpers and Best Buddies—programs that promote mental health literacy, listening and advocacy skills, and provided opportunities for students in the Community Living Skills program to build friendships and connections with peers in other classes. She regularly acted as a mentor for new students whose anxiety required additional support when transitioning to high school. Gracie's exceptional talent, compassion and leadership has made a lasting impact on the McNally school community and beyond.

## Cianna Chin

### *Millwoods Christian*

Cianna dedicated three impactful years to theatrical productions, wholeheartedly contributing her diverse talents, refined skills and unwavering servant heart. She was not only an engaged learner who performed in key roles with perceptive understanding, but also a supportive presence for her fellow performers—offering insightful assistance that empowered them to achieve their best on stage. Cianna was a consistent collaborator who created costumes from unique materials, often using them in unconventional ways to communicate powerful ideas. She always met her goals, but more importantly, she inspired and mentored other creatives to succeed in their own artistic endeavours.

## Naresh Reddy

### *Old Scona*

Naresh actively participated in both drama and music throughout his high school career. He was an accomplished musician, playing five instruments and writing his own songs. In drama, he demonstrated exemplary skills as an actor, designer and director, along with a strong familiarity with lighting and sound technology. Despite facing personal challenges, Naresh consistently demonstrated resilience, maturity and strong leadership qualities. His empathy and compassion distinguished him as a reliable and proactive contributor. He regularly took initiative and effectively anticipated potential issues, offering support without prompting. In music class, he led sectionals, coached his peers and supported others in developing their skills—contributing to a more balanced and cohesive band. With the depth of his passion for the arts, there is no doubt the arts will continue to play a significant role in his life. Naresh is an outstanding recipient of the Fine Arts Award.

## Rukmini Gonzalez Padillo

### *Queen Elizabeth*

Rukmini's dedication and talent shone brightly across music, drama and dance, making her a true embodiment of a well-rounded arts student. She actively participated in every artistic endeavour at Queen Elizabeth High School and consistently demonstrated leadership and unwavering reliability. Her commitment extended beyond the school walls through her involvement in a competitive community dance troupe. Rukmini's passion, versatility and leadership made her an ideal recipient of the Fine Arts Award.



## Rheanna Tuffs

### *Ross Sheppard*

Rheanna lived and breathed art. She was an incredibly dedicated and hardworking student who was constantly thinking about, researching, studying and experimenting with her art. Her work found a delicate balance between exceptional skill, creative expression and conceptual depth. Rheanna demonstrated a mature understanding of the creative process and was able to patiently synthesize her ideas and skills to produce compelling work. In class, she was highly engaged with her peers—always willing to offer helpful insights on their work and equally receptive to feedback on her own. Whether she was seeking out artists to study or researching ideas and concepts for her projects, Rheanna was a prepared and thoughtful learner.

## Alice Keeble

### *Strathcona*

Alice is an outstanding artist and performer who excelled in the visual arts and dance at Strathcona. In AP Art and Design, she demonstrated a commitment to excellence, developing a unique style that reflected both her creativity and dedication. She was a reflective learner, evaluating her work with a critical eye and continually striving to grow as an artist. Her pieces showcased both her technical skill and her ability to convey deep meaning. Alice also demonstrated exceptional leadership in the Advanced Dance program. A leader in the classroom, she created her own choreography and consistently took on roles that inspired those around her. She embraced dance opportunities and remained committed to training outside of school, continually refining her skills and expanding her movement vocabulary. Alice was an engaged learner, an ethical citizen, and demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit. Her drive to master both the visual arts and dance reflected her dedication to growth and her ability to lead by example.

## Lila Maxwell

### *Victoria*

Lila studied a wide variety of arts disciplines at Victoria School, including acting, directing, vocal jazz, concert choir, musical theatre and theatre performance. She was a confident performer who thrived on stage. In class, she was curious, attentive and hardworking. She pushed herself to take on leadership roles through stage management, the directing class, and the Student Arts Leadership Team. Through her commitment to personal growth, she developed greater self-advocacy and confidence—using her skills as a performer to build confidence in other areas of her life. Lila was a dedicated member of every ensemble, helping to foster safe and caring environments for her peers. She plans to pursue her theatre studies at the University of Alberta.

## Sarah Vachon

### *Vimy Ridge Academy*

Sarah is a truly deserving recipient of the Fine Arts Award. She embodied remarkable dedication and a proactive pursuit of excellence in all her endeavors. Her ability to successfully balance demanding academics with significant dance commitments and a part-time job in her dance school's wardrobe department spoke volumes about her exceptional organizational skills and unwavering motivation. She consistently sought feedback from both teachers and peers, demonstrating a mature and insightful approach to continuous improvement. Sarah's journey in dance was truly inspiring. She not only completed numerous major ballet examinations but also competed in international competitions, earning offers from prestigious dance programs across North America. Perhaps most impressively, her story included overcoming the significant challenge of knee surgery. Her resilience and profound passion for dance allowed her to recover and return even stronger—a true testament to her incredible spirit. Sarah's achievements and inspiring journey made her an outstanding example of artistic dedication and perseverance. Vimy Ridge Academy was incredibly proud to celebrate her accomplishments with the Fine Arts Award.



## Ezrin Farkes

### *W.P. Wagner*

Ezrin demonstrated exceptional talent, dedication to musical excellence, and generous mentorship within the W.P. Wagner fine arts community. He consistently took initiative as a leader in choir, band and jazz ensembles, actively encouraging his peers and sharing his knowledge and passion. Ezrin showcased strong vocal ability and versatile technical skills across these disciplines. Beyond his individual musical achievements, Ezrin contributed to building a sense of community and fostering a supportive environment among his fellow musicians. His dedication to mentorship was particularly noteworthy, as he regularly shared his expertise and enthusiasm with others. Ezrin also made meaningful contributions to the art and pottery communities at Wagner through his commitment and collaborative spirit. His positive impact across multiple disciplines within the Fine Arts program made him a highly deserving recipient of this award.

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS AWARD

The Division Health and Wellness Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and/or model leadership in one or more of the following areas: physical education, school athletics, health and life skills, and overall wellness, such as healthy life choices.

## **Jordan Carroll**

*Academy at King Edward*

Jordan continuously showed a commitment to an active lifestyle, playing on the school rugby team and participating in the Division's cross-country running series. This young athlete entered and competed in various running events in Edmonton, including a half marathon the previous year. He also travelled to Spokane, Washington twice for the annual Lilac Bloomsday 12K race. Throughout the summer, Jordan worked for Pedalheads, where he organized trail riding for children of all ages. Jordan was a well-deserving recipient of the Health and Wellness Award.

## **Nour Hadado**

*Braemar*

Nour's skill, participation and positive attitude in class made her an ideal candidate to receive this award for health and fitness. Nour excelled in all the sports and activities she participated in, always giving her best effort in class. She inspired her classmates with exceptional motivation and support, especially considering she is a young mom who has faced much adversity in life. She consistently pushed and helped her fellow classmates to be their best and played a key role in encouraging girls to participate in class. She embraced an active lifestyle both inside and outside of school and encouraged others to follow her example regarding fitness, healthy eating and personal hygiene. She is a passionate advocate for health and fitness, and her dedication to promoting wellness makes her truly deserving of this recognition.

## **Nya Lapierre**

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Nya exemplifies the principle of consistently doing the small things right. She approached every opportunity to learn about and improve her own health and wellness with an open mind and relentless effort. As a result, Nya became an elite-level athlete who stood out on each athletic team she represented and in her Sports Performance classes. She was a true role model for her peers in health and wellness, making her an outstanding recipient of this award.

## **Dahir Hassan**

*Eastglen*

Dahir exemplified the true spirit of leadership, service and excellence at Eastglen. Since Grade 10, he had been a key player on nearly every sports team, leading with heart, positivity and a relentless work ethic. His impact extended beyond athletics; Dahir volunteered as a referee for volleyball and basketball tournaments, mentoring younger athletes and promoting sportsmanship. Over the summer, he further gave back by helping run a summer school gym class, inspiring students through his example as a dedicated student-athlete. A top leadership student and constant volunteer, Dahir was always the first to step forward when his school or community needed him. Despite his many commitments, he consistently achieved academic excellence, balancing all aspects of his life with integrity and determination. Dahir's passion, resilience and unwavering commitment to bettering himself and those around him made him an exceptional and truly inspiring recipient of this award.

## **Zoe Esser**

### **Edmonton Christian High**

Zoe has been actively involved in physical education and athletics for the past three years at Edmonton Christian High School. As the captain of both the volleyball and basketball teams in her Grade 12 year, she was responsible, competitive, respected and humble in her role as a team leader, communicator and role model. She played at the highest level in both basketball and volleyball and was awarded the prestigious Metro Edmonton All-Star basketball award in Grade 12. Zoe also competed on the Lions badminton, track and field, and soccer teams, making her a year-round athlete in five major sports. She was committed and passionate about being active, healthy and fit, putting in a tremendous amount of extra training outside of school activities. Her commitment to personal and team success was admirable. Zoe is an inspiration to others and truly deserving of this award.

## **Rae Wedman**

### **Harry Ainlay**

Rae was an outstanding contributor in physical education, wellness and athletics throughout her three years at Harry Ainlay. She was committed to excellence in all that she did. Rae was a key member of the women's basketball team, leading them to a city championship in her second season. She was also an amazing teammate in handball and flag football during her time at the school. Rae was a true asset to any team she was a part of, and her commitment to health and wellness was always evident. We are confident that Rae will continue to pursue her ambitions at the University of Lethbridge and achieve even greater success in all her endeavors.

## **Simon Schlack**

### **J. Percy Page**

Simon was the ideal student-athlete. He excelled academically, maintaining a 90 per cent average, and was a fantastic leader outside of the classroom. He was on numerous school athletic teams, always encouraging and supporting his teammates. Simon was respectful towards his coaches, as well as the game officials and volunteers. He consistently demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship at games and served as a fantastic ambassador for both J. Percy Page School and the community. Simon was an attentive listener, always eager to learn and embrace new challenges. He embodied the qualities of the ideal student-athlete and was a truly deserving recipient of the Health and Wellness Award.

## **Zack Stewart**

### **Jasper Place**

Zack demonstrated outstanding leadership, a positive and uplifting attitude and selfless contributions to both physical education and school athletics. In the Physical Education 30 class, he consistently went above and beyond—voluntarily setting up and taking down equipment, treating his classmates with kindness, and bringing an infectious energy that made the class enjoyable and engaging for everyone. Beyond the classroom, Zack served as a captain on both the senior football and rugby teams, where his commitment to team success and unselfish nature set the tone for his peers. Whether stepping into any role needed, lifting up teammates, or leading by example, Zack always put the team first. His dedication, humility and passion for wellness made him a truly deserving recipient of this award.

## **Sahej Kullar**

### **Lillian Osborne**

As a Grade 12 student, Sahej demonstrated strong leadership in Sports Performance 35 and Physical Education 30, consistently leading by example and inspiring her peers through her enthusiasm and dedication. Her passion for physical activity, positive attitude and commitment to overall wellness made her a standout student and role model within the school community. A consummate leader, she naturally drew others in with her positive energy, and her peers consistently looked to her as a role model. Sahej's genuine passion for all forms of physical activity made her a joy to have in class and a driving force in creating a welcoming, inclusive environment. Sahej is a truly deserving recipient of this award, recognized for her dedication, leadership and positive impact on those around her.

## Himesh Kallychum

*M.E. LaZerte*

Himesh is a highly deserving recipient of the Health and Wellness Award, recognized first and foremost for his exceptional character and unwavering commitment to ethical citizenship. He understood the importance of community and responsibility, consistently demonstrating fairness, respect and empathy in all his interactions. These qualities helped him build strong relationships with both peers and teachers. He was deeply committed to the well-being of others and actively sought opportunities to contribute positively to his school community. Himesh's willingness to listen to diverse perspectives made him a trusted and respected leader. In addition to his role as an ethical citizen, Himesh was an engaged learner, driven by a genuine passion for learning. He embraced challenges, took risks in his learning and collaborated effectively. His dedication to personal and academic growth extended beyond the classroom, inspiring those around him. Himesh's strong commitment to ethical citizenship, combined with his academic drive and entrepreneurial mindset, made him a truly deserving recipient of this award.

## Norah Shippit

*McNally*

Norah exemplified excellence in health and wellness through her dedication, leadership and commitment to an active lifestyle. She consistently gave 100% effort, participated fully in every activity and approached challenges with enthusiasm and resilience. A natural leader, she encouraged and supported her classmates, creating an inclusive and positive environment. Her sportsmanship, integrity and respect for others made her a role model in class. She never complained, always pushed herself to improve, and motivated those around her to do the same. Beyond participation, she demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit by taking initiative, leading warm-ups, strategizing in games and inspiring others to stay active. Her dedication to health and wellness, combined with her leadership and character, made her a deserving recipient of this award. She truly embodied what it meant to be an engaged learner, ethical citizen and leader in physical education.

## Carter Harrod

*Millwoods Christian*

Carter was a dedicated member and captain of the football team, consistently pushing his physical limits through disciplined training and smart nutrition. His passion for sport went beyond his personal involvement—he also shared his love of the game with younger children. Carter took his commitment even further by volunteering internationally, using sport as a means to give back during his time in Mexico. As captain, Carter led by example both on and off the field, always staying true to his principles. Beyond his athletic achievements and service, he recognized the vital connection between physical and mental health. He actively fostered a positive and resilient mindset, which not only influenced his leadership on and off the field but also shaped his approach to coursework, inspiring others to adopt the same attitude toward challenges. Carter's holistic approach to health, fitness and mindset made him a true role model for his peers.

## Dominic Mao

*Old Scona*

Dominic embodies the traits of an engaged learner, ethical citizen and entrepreneurial leader. He earned the highest achievement award in Leadership and pursued physical activity beyond the classroom through cross-country running, skiing, track and field, and by launching a school pickleball initiative. As an ethical citizen, Dominic volunteered with CADS Edmonton, teaching individuals with impairments to ski, and promoted cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation. His leadership in installing a secure bike system and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices reflected his commitment to environmental and community well-being. As an entrepreneurial leader, he organized a two-day ski trip for over forty students, managing logistics and \$17,000 in finances, and co-founded the student-run Students' Union Shop. He revitalized student engagement by coordinating over thirty clubs and the school's club fair. Dominic's passion, initiative and impact on school wellness made him an outstanding recipient of the Health and Wellness Award.

## Doyle Paufler

### *Queen Elizabeth*

Doyle's active participation in multiple sports, including outdoor soccer, indoor soccer and cross-country, demonstrated a strong commitment to physical fitness and an active lifestyle. Beyond his athletic involvement, Doyle also dedicated his time to the school community by volunteering to scorekeep and assist with numerous school athletic events. This commitment to service, combined with his diverse athletic participation, illustrated a holistic approach to health and wellness. Doyle not only prioritized his own physical well-being but also actively contributed to the health and wellness of his school community by supporting its athletic programs. Doyle's dedication to both personal fitness and community service, along with his unwavering support for his school's athletic programs, makes him a deserving recipient of this award, highlighting his exemplary commitment to health, wellness and leadership.

## Raffi Traub

### *Ross Sheppard*

Raffi exemplified holistic well-being through her remarkable ability to balance rigorous academics, diverse athletic achievements and entrepreneurial drive. As captain of the volleyball team, a cross-country runner, a club volleyball referee and a handball player in the playoffs, she demonstrated exceptional physical dedication and leadership. Her positive attitude fostered an inclusive and engaging environment in Physical Education 30. Balancing these athletic pursuits with three years of honours studies showcased her strong work ethic, organizational skills and ability to manage her time effectively. Raffi's entrepreneurial spirit shone through with the successful Etsy shop she launched at the age of fourteen, displaying her business acumen and innovative mindset. Additionally, her commitment as a Volleyball Canada referee highlighted her ability to excel in dynamic, high-pressure environments. Raffi's multifaceted success not only exemplified a commitment to a healthy, balanced lifestyle but also served as an inspiration to her peers.

## Linnea Morisbak

### *Strathcona*

In addition to being a top physical education student, an accomplished athlete, and maintaining excellent attendance and marks in her core classes, Linnea exemplified the attributes of a dedicated and compassionate leader. She actively fostered an inclusive and supportive learning environment, welcoming new students and ensuring they felt comfortable, particularly those who were English language learners. Over the past two years, Linnea took on the significant responsibility of mentoring and assisting a student in Physical Education 20 and 30. Her role encompassed skill development, partner running, and facilitating daily tasks such as navigating hallways and transitioning between classes. Her contributions were invaluable, not only to the student but also to the teaching staff and the student's family. Linnea's compassion, patience and dedication suggests that she would excel in any role involving education, mentorship or community engagement.

## Ellis Bell

### *Victoria*

Ellis consistently demonstrated a strong dedication to both her school's sports programs and academic pursuits. She was in the process of completing her IB CP certificate, a goal she had tirelessly worked toward for the past two years. During this time, she completed over fifty hours of community service, with more than half of those hours dedicated to her school community. Whether she was helping out with the school's open house, scorekeeping a junior or senior high game, captaining a team or coaching a junior high team, Ellis consistently showed her passion for giving back to her community. During her time at Victoria, Ellis was instrumental in expanding the school's sports offerings. She played a pivotal role in establishing Victoria's first-ever rugby team in Grade 10 and launching the first junior high flag football team in Grade 12. Ellis's profound involvement in her school's community, along with her dedication to creating new opportunities, showcases her strong commitment to leadership and service.

## Saige Kleinmann

### *Vimy Ridge Academy*

Saige has consistently demonstrated outstanding academic achievement throughout her Grade 12 year. Beyond her academic success, she embodies the spirit of this award through her exemplary leadership and dedication to health and wellness in multiple facets of our school community. In Physical Education, Saige is not only a highly skilled and engaged participant but also a natural leader. She readily assists others, offering encouragement and demonstrating a genuine passion for physical activity and its benefits. Within school athletics, Saige has been an invaluable member of the volleyball and handball teams. Her commitment extends beyond her personal performance; she actively takes initiative in team activities, offering strategic insights and supporting her teammates both on and off the field. She exemplifies sportsmanship and consistently promotes a healthy competitive spirit.

## Payton Pascuzzo

### *W.P. Wagner*

Payton made outstanding contributions to W.P. Wagner's rugby and basketball programs over several years. On the rugby field, she showcased remarkable physical strength, tactical awareness and determination. Her ability to read the game and perform under pressure was crucial in key matches. Likewise, her basketball skills—sharp decision-making, precise shooting and strong defense—consistently boosted the team's performance. Payton's commitment to training, her resilience in overcoming challenges, and her supportive team mentality embodied the qualities we value most in our athletes. In addition to her athletic achievements, Payton maintained exceptional academic standing in our STEM program and actively participated in the school community through her involvement in the Student Senate's social justice initiatives. She was an exemplary student, athlete and valued member of our school community.

# HUMANITIES AWARD

The Division Humanities Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in one or more of the following subject areas: English, social studies and languages.

## **James Aklilu**

### ***Academy at King Edward***

James consistently demonstrated a strong desire to excel, achieving the highest standing average in both social studies and English language arts. He consistently challenged himself by enrolling in higher-level courses and impressed his teachers with his writing style and his ability to read and retain complex information. James plans to join the Canadian Army Reserve while pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Alberta, majoring in mathematics and economics.

## **Mojahed Salman**

### ***Argyll Centre***

Mojahed consistently demonstrated exceptional engagement in the classroom, mentoring peers, developing and sharing learning resources, and achieving outstanding academic success. His commitment to environmental pluralism and sustainability was evident in his conceptualization of a community garden—a space designed to bring people together to share ideas and cultures. His entrepreneurial spirit was further demonstrated through the initiation of the Argyll Muslim Student Association, where he led discussion groups that reflected a deep commitment to universal values such as generosity, tolerance and equity. Mojahed's leadership, vision and academic excellence made him a highly deserving recipient of this award.

## **Starlight Bird**

### ***Braemar***

Starlight exemplified the attributes of an ethical and engaged learner. As a member of the classroom community, her quiet determination did not go unnoticed by her peers. Her consistent demonstration of ethical citizenship was reflected in treating her classmates with respect, kindness and integrity. Always engaged and hardworking, she strove diligently to complete her studies in both English and social studies. Starlight explored issues critically, with compassion and a genuine desire to understand, analyze and connect. When faced with challenges, she readily accepted feedback and pushed herself to improve. Her resilience was commendable. Self-reliant and motivated, Starlight cultivated an entrepreneurial spirit that shone through her efforts. She was a thinker, a doer and an admirable influence whose impact extended beyond the classroom.



## Aries Stepp

### *Centre High Campus*

Aries was an exceptional student who consistently demonstrated active engagement in his academics and served as an exemplary role model for his peers. His enthusiasm, thoughtfulness and strong work ethic set him apart in the classroom. Aries approached his studies with dedication and a genuine eagerness to learn, which was reflected in his impressive academic performance, including earning high nineties in English 30-1. Beyond his academic achievements, Aries exhibited qualities of leadership, responsibility and compassion that made him a respected member of the school community. His commitment to personal growth and resilience prepared him well for the next chapter of his journey. As Aries enters into MacEwan University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, there is no doubt that his determination and character will contribute to his continued success both academically and professionally.

## Tara Pemberton

### *Dr. Anne Anderson*

Tara was unwaveringly engaged, inquisitive and enthusiastic in every English and social studies class. More importantly, her peers also benefited from her depth of thought, articulate arguments and open, inviting nature. She elevated class discussions and inspired others to think differently in their writing, to engage on a more profound and personal level, and to cultivate curiosity in their own way. Her dedication to personal excellence and critical thinking was evident in every assignment she completed. Whether through in-class discussions, bringing life to the humanities during the school's open house, or advancing academic inquiry in AP Seminar and AP Research, Tara was the ideal humanities student.

## Korane Yassin

### *Eastglen*

Korane demonstrated a genuine passion for the humanities and consistently engaged as a thoughtful, inquisitive learner with a strong focus on understanding global issues. She approached her English and social studies classes with diligence and determination, consistently striving for excellence. Eager to grow, she actively sought feedback and viewed challenges as opportunities to improve.

Korane participated in the Advanced Placement program throughout high school, not only to challenge herself academically, but also to deepen her understanding of the world around her. To further expand her awareness of social issues affecting communities both locally and globally, she actively engaged in initiatives such as Model UN, the Student Senate and the Interact Club. A passionate reader, Korane also volunteered her time at the local library, where she shared her love of literature and helped foster a meaningful connection with the community. These experiences reflect both her intellectual curiosity and her commitment to making a positive impact beyond the classroom.

## Emilie Ooms

### *Edmonton Christian High*

Emilie is a caring, motivated and empathetic leader, and well deserving recipient of the Humanities Award for excellence in English language arts and social studies. Emilie's character and learning reflected a sophisticated understanding of the humanities—from expressing emotion, nuance and character/plot development to understanding the roles, rights and responsibilities of citizenship within the Canadian context. Emilie was never shy about unveiling God's role in both individual and collective stories. This was evident in her writing, class participation and leadership within and beyond the classroom. She consistently demonstrated excellence in her academic work and in her leadership role on Student Council. Without Emilie's commitment to extracurricular activities in the school community, many of those value-added experiences would not have been possible. Edmonton Christian High is proud to recognize Emilie.

## Connor Berry

*Harry Ainlay*

Connor demonstrated remarkable growth as both a student-athlete and a well-rounded individual. As a member of the track and field and cross-country teams, he consistently showed dedication, positivity and a willingness to support others. His commitment to excellence—in both athletics and academics—reflected the school's motto, "In All Things Excellence." Connor was generous with his time, regularly assisting with equipment after practice and offering help wherever it was needed. Academically, he was curious and motivated, often seeking opportunities to deepen his understanding. He frequently engaged in thoughtful discussions about social studies topics, not only to refine his thinking but also to strengthen his academic skills. In preparation for a Model UN event, Connor demonstrated discipline and initiative by seeking feedback over several weeks to ensure his research was thorough and well-organized. His leadership, humility and commitment made him a strong and deserving recipient of this award.

## Katherine (Katie) McCallion

*J. Percy Page*

Over the past three years at J. Percy Page, Katie demonstrated an exemplary level of academic achievement in English and social studies. More importantly, she consistently showed passion and a deep intellectual curiosity for the humanities. Katie regularly contributed to class discussions and activities, raising important questions and ideas that elevated the engagement and interest of her peers. She had a voracious appetite for literature, and her insightful interpretations of texts enriched the learning experience for all. Katie was an outstanding recipient of the Humanities Award.

## Garrett Skakun

*Jasper Place*

Garrett was a profound thinker and a curious learner who brought energy and excitement into every classroom he entered. He never hesitated to be part of the discussion and made every effort to welcome others to join him. Garrett's dedication to his studies was truly admirable—he embodied everything a teacher hopes for in a student. In addition to his leadership and academic excellence, Garrett was deeply committed to engaging, challenging and improving every aspect of himself. He competed at Provincials with the Olympian Swim Club, organized study groups and tutorials, and participated in Jasper Place's cross-country team, triathlon club, Citadel Theatre club, and the Interact Club, which provided opportunities to volunteer at various community centres. Beyond these admirable pursuits, Garrett also organized games and volunteered regularly at Snow Valley ski hill, while helping coach new and upcoming swimmers at his swim club.

## Shaan Graham

*Lillian Osborne*

Shaan demonstrated the highest level of achievement in his humanities classes. His most noteworthy accomplishments were achieving 100 per cent on his social studies diploma exam and 94 per cent on his English exam. Shaan drove classroom engagement by asking insightful questions, responding thoughtfully and thinking critically about the bigger picture. He was always willing to contribute more than just a surface-level answer to the topic at hand. Shaan was extremely considerate of his classmates' perspectives and contributions, often enhancing their learning and understanding of the topics under discussion. He consistently showed a desire to go well beyond the requirements of the curriculum to deepen his knowledge in areas of personal interest. He demonstrated the qualities of an autodidact, driven by a sincere passion for learning. For instance, he began studying Japanese, inspired by a school trip that sparked his curiosity and interest.

## Charles Creighton

*M.E. LaZerte*

Charles had an intense passion for the written word and the performance that often accompanied it. His desire to engage with his studies across many courses was evident, and his conscientious approach to conversations and discussions on a range of issues and global concerns facilitated thoughtful and constructive discourse. He found ways to interweave his learning, connecting explorations of language in English with historical inquiry in social studies. These interdisciplinary explorations fueled his creative spirit in the fine arts. Charles crafted compelling compositions that captivated both his teachers and classmates through vivid storytelling. His love and appreciation for history shone through his sharp critique of historical perspectives and his deep concern for the future of humanity. Charles' exceptional talents in writing, critical thinking and performance made him a well-rounded scholar, artist and advocate for social awareness.

## Allison Samm

*McNally*

Allison is hardworking and inquisitive. She was a model student in English, social studies and French. She loved learning and actively engaged in class discussions. She participated with both courage and compassion, always considering different possibilities and perspectives. Allison was an excellent communicator, both in writing and speaking. She demonstrated leadership in the classroom, modeling strong habits for her peers. Through her attentive and engaged participation, she helped maintain a focused learning environment, often guiding her classmates with thoughtfulness and respect. Her genuine curiosity and eagerness to learn were evident in every aspect of her work. While on a school trip to France, she interacted with locals in French, further developing her language skills through authentic practice. Allison was an exceptional student, actively involved in school life through music and athletics, and consistently demonstrated true excellence in the humanities.

## Sarah Lee

*Millwoods Christian*

Sarah's level of character and integrity with which she approaches life is remarkable. She consistently exemplified the qualities of an engaged learner through her intellectual curiosity, thoughtful contributions and pursuit of academic excellence. In her writing and classroom participation, she demonstrated insightfulness, precision, confidence and creativity, whether working independently or collaboratively. As an ethical citizen, Sarah showed integrity, empathy and a strong commitment to community, consistently acting with fairness and respect. Moreover, she possessed a remarkable entrepreneurial spirit—self-motivated, resilient and innovative in her thinking. This was also evident in her voluntary endeavours, which included leading a school book club and taking extra language courses.

## Victoria Yan

*Old Scona*

Victoria's outstanding academic performance in English 30 IB and social studies clearly demonstrated strong academic skills. Furthermore, her submission of a superb literature-focused extended essay as part of her full IB requirements provided compelling evidence of her qualities as an engaged learner. Victoria consistently displayed motivation and actively contributed to the learning environment. Her in-depth research for the extended essay highlighted her curiosity and passion for learning both within and beyond the subject area. This rigorous academic undertaking showcased her abilities as a critical and creative thinker. Her dedication to her IB studies underscored her commitment and aligned perfectly with the criteria for an award recognizing outstanding high school students for their academic excellence. Victoria will continue to achieve success and well-deserving praise.

## **Jameela Ibrahim**

### **Queen Elizabeth**

Jameela joined our school in her final year and immediately brought a spirit of curiosity and openness. Her eagerness to explore new ideas and connect with diverse perspectives enriched our community, fostering meaningful friendships and a vibrant atmosphere among her peers. Beyond her inclusive spirit, Jameela's passion for the English language was undeniable. Her insightful discussions of literature revealed a deep appreciation and understanding. Moreover, her dedication to writing poetry—a personal endeavor she generously shared—offered a unique and valuable lens through which others could view the world. Jameela's kindness and eloquent voice made her an inspiring figure, and we eagerly anticipate the day when we might read a collection of her own writings.

## **Parsa Shojai**

### **Ross Sheppard**

Parsa demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in social studies, exhibiting a keen interest in the political, economic and social impacts of historical and current events as an engaged Social Studies 30-IB student. He contributed insightful perspectives to class discussions, consistently analyzing content through a critical lens. His polished public speaking skills enhanced his impact, and he actively encouraged others to join the conversation. Parsa's intellectual curiosity and ethical nature were evident in his leadership of the "Speak Up Shep" High School Model United Nations debate club, where he fostered a stimulating environment and even helped revise school policy to ensure fairer elections. As president and former student senator, Parsa showed an unparalleled commitment to community advocacy and a deep interest in human rights and ethics, making him a motivated, responsible and highly valued member of the school community.

## **Andrea Short**

### **Strathcona**

Andrea demonstrated outstanding achievement in the humanities, excelling in social studies, English, and languages. Andrea's ability to think critically, communicate ideas effectively, and engage deeply with complex texts and historical perspectives set them apart. Whether analyzing literature, discussing global issues or mastering new languages, Andrea approached learning with curiosity, insight and dedication. Their strong analytical skills and thoughtful contributions enriched classroom discussions, while their written work reflected both creativity and precision. A passionate and engaged learner, Andrea consistently showed a commitment to understanding the world and expressing ideas with clarity and depth. Their achievements in the humanities were a testament to their hard work and intellectual curiosity.

## **Franka McKague-Larson**

### **Victoria**

Throughout her 13 years of school, Franka demonstrated a high level of engagement and achievement in English, social studies and French. Her thoughtful analysis and deep curiosity about the world enabled her to expand her understanding in meaningful ways and emerge as a leader in class discussions and activities. In past years, she attended the SUNIA Model United Nations program, wrote for Victoria's school newspaper, volunteered at French cultural events, and received a variety of citizenship and academic honours and awards. A gifted writer and thinker, Franka is committed to exploring the humanities in her post-secondary studies. Franka has earned the pride and admiration of the Victoria community, which is honoured to recognize her many accomplishments.

## **Saige Kleinmann**

### **Vimy Ridge Academy**

Saige consistently demonstrated outstanding academic achievement throughout her Grade 12 year. Beyond her academic success, she embodied the spirit of this award through her exemplary leadership and dedication to her studies. She actively contributed to school initiatives, inspiring her peers with both her work ethic and positive attitude. Saige's commitment extended beyond the classroom, reflecting a well-rounded and motivated individual who made a lasting impact on her community.

## Lucas Santos

*W.P. Wagner*

Lucas was an engaged learner in his humanities courses. He actively participated in and contributed to the learning environment by sharing his ideas and interpretations of texts, asking his peers for their opinions and building on others' ideas. He sought out opposing viewpoints and reflected on them, aiming to extend his understanding and see beyond his own perspectives. Lucas was respectful, aware and kind. He enjoyed reading, discussing social issues and philosophy, and engaging with ethical questions. His teachers praised his resilience, confidence and relentless drive for self-improvement. As a dedicated member of the Model United Nations team, Lucas excelled in both English and AP social studies. A natural leader in the classroom, he is poised to make a meaningful impact beyond the school walls.

# MATH/SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGIES AWARD

The Division Math, Science and Technologies Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in a subject area related to mathematics, science or technologies.

## **James Aklilu**

### **Academy at King Edward**

James achieved honours in his math, science, chemistry and physics classes this year. He demonstrated exceptional problem-solving abilities, evident in both his lab work and classroom assignments. Approachable and generous with his knowledge, James supported others by sharing ideas with teachers and classmates. Highly ambitious, he planned to pursue higher education and expressed a strong passion for challenging himself academically.

## **Haisar Mohamed**

### **Argyll Centre**

Haisar was, quite simply, an exceptional student. He consistently demonstrated intrinsic motivation, working toward comprehension without the need for external prompts or rewards. In the classroom, Haisar was a thoughtful and engaged contributor, bringing energy and curiosity to every discussion. He worked exceptionally well with his peers, fostering a collaborative environment by valuing all perspectives and offering his own insights and support. Haisar often answered his classmates' questions with clarity and insight. The effectiveness with which he applied his commitment to education was evidenced by his achievement of the standard of excellence with distinction in all of his courses. He had an inquisitive mind, fueled by a genuine desire to better understand the world around him. He often looked beyond curricular constraints with his inquiries. His goals were never limited to grades—he sought real understanding and the ability to apply his knowledge meaningfully in the future.

## **Cayley Willier**

### **Braemar**

Cayley demonstrated a clear aptitude in mathematics and the sciences, shown through her quick learning abilities. She consistently engaged with the material and strived to reach her maximum potential. She took initiative in her own learning by seeking help from teachers and collaborated positively with her peers. Her goal of studying animal sciences reflected her desire to contribute meaningfully to the field and demonstrated a long-term commitment to education and the community. Cayley was involved in public speaking events as part of the Terra Youth Leadership program. Her role at Terra showcased her confidence in public speaking, where she presented awards and facilitated discussions with poise and professionalism. This involvement highlighted her commitment to personal growth and her desire to uplift others in her community. Her journey exemplified perseverance, initiative and a passion for science and math that deserved recognition.

## **Audie Petalco**

### **Centre High Campus**

Audie was an excellent student who demonstrated a genuine curiosity and strong interest in learning math and science-related subjects. She consistently achieved high marks across her science, chemistry, math, biology and English courses, earning honours in several of them. Beyond her impressive academic ability, Audie's exceptional character stood out. She was always kind and respectful to others and served as a positive role model among her peers. Audie planned to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a focus on perioperative nursing at MacEwan University.

## Aaron Wang

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Aaron was an exceptional student. Achieving high marks in his math and science courses, Aaron consistently demonstrated engagement as a motivated and active learner. He was a leader in class discussions, showing genuine curiosity and passion for the subject matter. Beyond his academic achievements, Aaron exemplified ethical citizenship. He took initiative to lead peer tutoring, fostering a collaborative learning environment and supporting his fellow students in math and sciences. Aaron also organized conference sessions for other students highlighting summer career opportunities with a focus on resiliency, showcasing his dedication to benefiting his community. His academic excellence, combined with his commitment to helping others and proactive approach to personal and community growth, made him a highly deserving recipient of this award.

## Ioanna Dravila

*Eastglen*

Ioanna stood out for her passion, excellence and leadership in math, science and technology. After transferring late into Alberta's education system, she successfully caught up on a significant number of advanced courses, demonstrating remarkable resilience and determination. She mastered complex concepts in math and science courses, applying critical thinking and excelling in problem-solving under pressure. Beyond academics, Ioanna actively sought opportunities to expand her knowledge through STEM events, advanced coursework and collaborative projects. Her relentless curiosity, innovative mindset and ability to apply her skills to real-world challenges set her apart. Ioanna's analytical strength, perseverance and commitment to scientific exploration reflected her drive to push boundaries and achieve excellence. Her achievements promise a future of meaningful contributions to the fields of math, science and technology, where she would continue to lead and inspire others.

## Daniel Auger

*Edmonton Christian High*

Daniel exhibited mastery in math and science. He took a genuine interest in the core concepts of both subjects and enjoyed learning new ideas independently. Daniel made good use of his class time to deepen his understanding of the material and helped his peers tackle particularly challenging problems. Daniel consistently demonstrated quiet confidence and deep understanding, approaching challenging problems with thoughtful insight and a clear mastery of the material.

## Nicolas Allegretto

*Harry Ainlay*

Nicolas was a dedicated, engaged learner, ethical citizen and entrepreneurial thinker. At CapitalCare Grandview, he coordinated engaging activities for residents with dementia, while his volunteer work at Edmonton's Food Bank and Hope Mission reflected deep compassion for those in need. He supported community events like the CIBC Run for the Cure and Pilgrims Hospice Society fun run, showcasing leadership and teamwork. As a volunteer in a University of Alberta research lab, he pursued scientific inquiry beyond the classroom. Nicolas excelled academically by not only taking Math 30 and 31, Chemistry 30, Physics 30 and Biology 30 but also by achieving the highest combined average of any student at Harry Ainlay. His commitment to learning, service and innovation made him a deserving recipient of this award.

## Benson Bateman

*J. Percy Page*

Benson consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement in math, science and technology through his commitment to learning. This commitment was most evident in his willingness to tackle challenging concepts with enthusiasm and actively contribute to the learning environment by fostering a collaborative atmosphere. Benson distinguished himself through his dedication to independent learning, exemplified by his initiative to study Computer Science 30 independently. He then extended his support by assisting peers enrolled in the course. Benson's drive, curiosity and willingness to help others made him an exceptional role model and leader in the learning community. Benson was well deserving of this recognition.



## **Violet Neufeld**

### **Jasper Place**

Violet's passion for learning was reflected in her relentless curiosity and determination to understand how things work. She approached problems with insight and precision and thrived in the demanding environment of Advanced Placement mathematics. Violet was not only a hardworking student but also a supportive and friendly presence in her school community. She had a great sense of humour and a willingness to help others succeed. She fostered a positive learning environment and contributed to the success of those around her. Her passionate curiosity was demonstrated through her work with the Jasper Place Renewable Energy Research Club. There, she helped conduct research, build wind turbines and solar panels and present results to the school community. For her outstanding work ethic, collaborative spirit and commitment to scientific inquiry, Violet is a highly deserving recipient of this award.

## **Stanley Song**

### **Lillian Osborne**

Stanley achieved exceptional academic standing in his math, science and technology courses, maintaining an average near 100 per cent. Stanley demonstrated a genuine enthusiasm for the sciences and consistently shared that passion with others. As a student leader in the peer tutoring club, Stanley supported his peers with dedication, further highlighting his commitment to helping others and his love of learning. Through this leadership, he contributed meaningfully to building a positive and collaborative community at Lillian Osborne. A memorable example of Stanley's passion occurred in Grade 11, when he excitedly visited his former science teacher's classroom during a break, right after completing a physics experiment in another class. He couldn't wait to share the excellent data he had collected—a moment that perfectly captured his joy and enthusiasm for scientific discovery. Stanley exemplified the spirit of this award through his academic excellence, leadership and genuine love of math, science and technology.

## **Khusheeli Bajambally**

### **M.E. LaZerte**

Throughout high school, Khusheeli demonstrated exceptional proficiency in both mathematics and science, consistently excelling in coursework and projects. Beyond her academic accomplishments, Khusheeli was known for her kind, caring nature and her willingness to support her peers. She was always eager to help others understand concepts and served as a positive influence in the classroom. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for learning made her a pleasure to teach, and she consistently went above and beyond to deepen her knowledge. This award acknowledged her hard work, perseverance and the positive impact she had on the school community. We are confident that her future holds great success in any path she chooses to pursue.

## **Rayna Thoms**

### **McNally**

Rayna channeled her passion for STEM beyond her academic achievements through internships, competitions and self-led clubs. In Grade 11, she joined her school's Science Olympics team, where she played a key role in designing, building and competing with a working robotic arm. She was accepted into the WISEST Summer Research Program in the summer of 2024, which allowed her to explore a wide range of subjects and inspired her to create an engineering club at her school. Many members of the club later collaborated on their project for the 2025 Science Olympics competition. Leading the club provided Rayna with a valuable opportunity to develop her leadership skills, where she learned to lead with humility, adaptability and confidence. She believed that leadership came with the responsibility to uplift and empower others, helping them reach their full potential.

## **Deepak Kakinada**

### **Millwoods Christian**

Deepak was a bright, highly motivated and exceptionally conscientious student who consistently demonstrated excellence in his math and science studies. He had excellent communication skills—both written and verbal—and was able to organize his thoughts and ideas effectively. His problem-solving skills were outstanding, and he demonstrated the tenacity to work through difficult problems, trying multiple approaches until he found the appropriate solution. Deepak also applied those skills to support student-led community-building initiatives within the school. The dedication, persistence and conscientiousness with which he approached his studies were qualities regularly recognized by both peers and staff.

## Alex Dudek

### *Old Scona*

Alex was an exceptional student who excelled in all areas of STEM. He was one of the top Math 31 IB students in his cohort and an outstanding science student. He successfully completed Chemistry 30 IB in Grade 11, demonstrating a solid mastery of the subject. Additionally, he earned high marks in biology and math, reflecting his dedication and strong aptitude in these challenging courses. In addition, Alex worked in a chemistry lab at the University of Alberta, where his research contributed to a study that is soon to be published. His passion for STEM and his commitment to the full IB program were clear testaments to his love of learning.

## Thomas Chirila

### *Queen Elizabeth*

Thomas's achievements in challenging science, math and computer courses reflected his strong academic aptitude. Thomas actively volunteered, showcasing his commitment to both the school and the wider community. His leadership as captain of the senior boys' volleyball team, culminating in a gold medal victory, highlighted his maturity and ability to inspire others. Thomas's curiosity and eagerness to learn consistently impressed. He actively contributed to discussions, excelled in group projects, and served as a positive role model. His peer tutoring, particularly his engaging science demonstrations with English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners, revealed a passion for sharing knowledge. Thomas's deep involvement in computer science and robotics, coupled with his ambition to pursue engineering, underscored his genuine enthusiasm for STEM. He was a true ambassador, inspiring future students through his dedication and achievements.

## Eshal Shaizan

### *Ross Sheppard*

Eshal was a dedicated and high-achieving student who consistently earned honours and honours with distinction in math and science. She demonstrated a strong grasp of scientific inquiry and causal relationships, often making insightful observations. As an engaged learner, Eshal articulated her ideas and curiosities with humility, enriching the classroom atmosphere. Though quietly insightful, she critically challenged ideas and participated in meaningful discussions. Beyond academics, Eshal actively contributed to her school and community through leadership programs, event organization, the Green Project, Rotary Interact (as fundraising co-chair), the South Asian Alliance Club, a local food bank, and The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts. Her commendable ability to balance academic excellence with extensive volunteerism reflected her empathy, compassion and strong sense of social responsibility.

## William Ma

### *Strathcona*

William was one of the top students across multiple science and technology disciplines. In his Grade 11 year, he founded, led and instructed other students in the school's competitive computing club. As a Grade 11 student last year and again as a Grade 12 student this year, William placed in the upper echelon of all North American participants in the prestigious University of Waterloo Canadian Computing Contest, narrowly missing an invitation to the Canadian Computing Olympiad.

## **Xinran Li**

### **Victoria**

Xinran was an exemplary student in Math 31, demonstrating great curiosity and engagement in her learning. She consistently demonstrated a high level of achievement in Math 30-1, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30, and excelled in Math 31 with an exceptional understanding of the material. She often asked insightful questions during lectures, seeking a deeper understanding, and was not afraid to take risks by exploring advanced topics independently. For example, when faced with a challenging problem, she collaborated with peers to develop multiple strategies, demonstrating both critical thinking and teamwork. Xinran was also a strong ethical citizen—always respectful of others' ideas and actively fostering inclusivity in group projects. She recently organized a study session for her classmates, ensuring everyone had the support they needed. Her entrepreneurial spirit was evident in the way she set personal academic goals and showed perseverance, often seeking out additional resources to strengthen her skills.

## **Avery Pepper**

### **Vimy Ridge Academy**

Avery's dedication to both academics and dance beautifully illustrated her exceptional capacity for time management, stress control and performing under pressure. Since the age of 11, Avery has navigated the rigorous demands of a pre-professional ballet academy, dancing 20–25 hours per week, all while consistently achieving academic excellence. Her outstanding performance in Math 30, Math 31 and Physics 30 was clear evidence of her brilliant mind and unwavering commitment to STEM subjects. Beyond her personal achievements, Avery embraced her role as a positive mentor and role model for younger students within the academy. She selflessly supported them through their graded syllabus exams and various travel experiences, demonstrating both leadership and a nurturing spirit. Avery's remarkable ability to excel in such diverse and demanding fields made her an extraordinary example and an inspiring recipient of this prestigious award.

## **Om Aggarwal**

### **W.P. Wagner**

Om was one of the standout STEM students at W.P. Wagner. He maintained an excellent average in all his math and science courses, including earning a perfect mark on the Math 30-1 diploma exam. He participated in the Wagner Science Olympics during its inaugural two years, where he built an impressive acoustic levitator and innovative piezoelectric insoles. As a STEM student, Om embodied the qualities of an engaged learner with an entrepreneurial spirit. He embraced the design thinking cycle throughout his high school career, which equipped him with an impressive repertoire of tools for his bright future. Om was an exceptional student in mathematics, sciences, computer science and STEM overall—an incredible young man whose passion and drive set him apart. He was, and will continue to be, a leader in whatever path he chooses to pursue.