



2024

**CENTRAL NEW YORK**  
**DEAF/HH**  
**TEENS**  
**TENTH EDITION**

*WHEN YOU HAVE A DREAM YOU HAVE TO GRAB IT AND NEVER LET IT GO.*

**CAROL BURNETT**





## HEARINGLIKEME.COM

HearingLikeMe.com is an online community for people whose lives are affected by hearing loss. We bring together people from all around the world to share stories that inspire hope in almost any hearing loss situation.

We created this site with a simple idea: Sharing our hearing loss stories with one another is a powerful thing. Together, we can learn to live with hearing loss more successfully and advocate in a more meaningful way.

[www.hearinglikeme.com](http://www.hearinglikeme.com)

## CAMP MARK 7

Camp Mark Seven (CM7) offers an array of recreational, educational, leadership and spiritual programs for deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals of all ages. CM7 offers many waterfront and outdoor/indoor activities such as swimming, canoeing, arts & crafts, lawn games, basketball and various ball games. There are many nearby trails for enthusiastic hikers. Located on Fourth Lake in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York.

[www.campmark7.org](http://www.campmark7.org)

## NTID- NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

Deaf and hard-of-hearing students at RIT/NTID receive a world-class private university education at a public college price, unparalleled educational support services, dynamic academic programs that reflect the needs of the marketplace, and unmatched support in starting a career.

[www.ntid.rit.edu](http://www.ntid.rit.edu)

## DESCRIBED AND CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM

We're here to educate students with sensory disabilities, along with their parents and teachers. Our major network-produced, educational content is carefully customized to serve the needs of K-12 students, as well as adult students studying to meet the needs of blind and deaf students.

[dcmp.org](http://dcmp.org)

## CROS SYSTEM

The CROS system is designed for single-sided deafness. It wirelessly sends the sound from the side where you cannot hear to your better hearing ear.

[www.phonak.com/us/en/hearing-aids/phonak-cros-ii.html](http://www.phonak.com/us/en/hearing-aids/phonak-cros-ii.html)

## ACCES-VR

(Vocational Rehabilitation)

Assisting individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living.

[www.acces.nysed.gov/vr](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr)

## THE CLERC CENTER

The Clerc Center is thrilled to announce that the K-12 ASL Content Standards are ready. On the website, you will see Anchor Standards, grade-level standards, the glossary and more.

[www.gallaudet.edu/k-12-asl-content-standards](http://www.gallaudet.edu/k-12-asl-content-standards)

## LIVESCRIBE 3 SMARTPEN

Because the Livescribe 3 Smartpen captures everything you write and hear, you can focus on engaging with your peers and instructors during lectures rather than frantically scribbling notes.

[store.livescribe.com](http://store.livescribe.com)

## SUPPORTING SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss began in 2011 and was created by Karen Anderson, PhD, with the goal of creating an 'umbrella website' for teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing. Karen had many practical materials that were frequently requested and had developed a personal website of these tools. Supporting Success built on the concept of making practical information readily available, resulting in the current resource-packed website.

[successforkidswithhearingloss.com](http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com)



# DEAR READERS

It is an honor to present you with the 10th edition of the New York Deaf/HH Teen magazine. To make the magazine a reality this year, it required recruiting interested students, having those participants complete an extensive questionnaire, drafting and editing their personal stories, photos, and crafting pages. This process involves extensive collaboration to produce this diverse educational resource.

Our purpose for publishing our own magazine is to highlight the talented deaf and hard-of-hearing teens from across New York state, as well as to expand one's knowledge regarding hearing loss. This magazine's primary focus is to support deaf and hard-of-hearing students, their families and their educators. Students from all over New York state like to read this magazine and can relate to the students who are featured.

## BEST WISHES,

### **SUPERVISOR:**

*Lisa Phinney, Teacher of the Deaf/ HH*

The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi)

*Lphinney@citiboces.org*

### **A special "Thank you" to:**

*Shelley Majka for helping to put this magazine together and make it beautiful!*

*Erin Joyce-Simmons, Director of Special Education for The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi)*

*Gary Brisson, Principal and Supervisor of the Deaf Education Program at The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi)*

# IN THIS ISSUE

**04**

**Daniel  
Burgy**

**06**

**Anvita  
Corron**

**08**

**ASL Fun  
Facts**

**10**

**Jayden  
Dibble**

**12**

**Lily  
Spencer**

**14**

**Savannah  
Timmerman**

Find a digital copy of the Central New York Deaf/HH Teens magazine online at:  
[www.CiTiboces.org/ExceptionalEducation](http://www.CiTiboces.org/ExceptionalEducation)

# DANIEL BURGY

***Hello, my name is Daniel Burgy. I live in the country in upstate New York. Sometimes we get a lot of snow from Lake Ontario, one of the Great Lakes.***

***I am 17 years old and turn 18 in September. Currently, I am a senior at Sandy Creek High School, and do the morning Agricultural Studies CTE program at The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation in Oswego County.***

## EDUCATION

I have two schools that I attend daily. In the morning, I attend CiTi BOCES. In the Agricultural Studies program, I have learned how to grow crops, harvest maple syrup from maple trees, how to care for chickens and how to plant in soil beds. In the afternoon, I attend Sandy Creek Central School District, where I take integrative science, English, and economics.

My favorite class is the Agricultural Studie program because there is a lot to be learned from the program. My favorite is making maple syrup, I really enjoy going and collecting the sap, and tending to the fire to keep the maple syrup at the right temperature.

I'm involved in History Club, which I really enjoy because we talk about topics that are current, and how we can make a difference in society. I'm also in the Deaf Education Club, where I meet with my deaf and hard-of-hearing peers where we decide trips to go on and fundraisers. I really enjoy being with others that have similar experiences as me with their hearing loss.

If I could change one thing about my educational setting, it would be that I could be involved in a work study program, because I like to be on my feet and active. I also wish there were more kids with hearing loss around me.

## HEARING LOSS

I have a bilateral hearing loss. I have a harder time hearing low frequencies in both my left and right ear. I have a moderate-to-severe hearing loss. In the higher frequencies, I have a mild hearing loss.

I use my hearing aids at school and at home. They make a big difference in how I am able to hear.

My hearing loss was detected around when I was 8 years old. I got my first set of hearing aids around that same time. My hearing loss doesn't bother me at all.

## COMMUNICATION

I use my voice to communicate, but also if I don't understand someone, I will use my phone to write information. I do not know sign language very well.

I am the president of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Club at CiTi BOCES. We get together once a month through Zoom, and then we have field trips three times a year.

## STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

I don't feel as though I've had many challenges due to my hearing loss.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

I have a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, and I use hearing aids to help me to hear.

I use closed captions in school to help me to better understand movies presented in class and have accommodations on my IEP that also help. For example, my teachers repeat information, clarify directions and I have preferential seating in my classes.

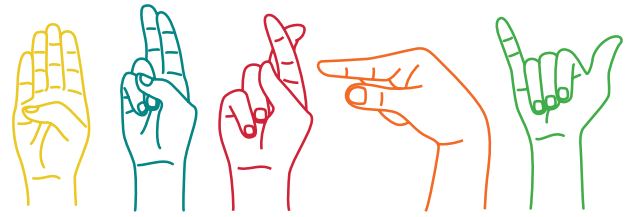
## ADVOCACY

Sometimes I need to ask teachers and peers to repeat information that I have not heard. I have also had to ask for closed captions when a movie is played in the classroom. I typically will tell someone that I didn't hear what they said and they will repeat the information for me.

## GOALS

After high school, I would like to go to a BOCES program or get a job working with animals.





## FAMILY

My family is very supportive. They make sure I have my hearing aids and at home they might speak a little louder so I can understand them.

## ADVICE

I want people to know don't be afraid to try something new and step out of your comfort zone.

## MORE INFORMATION

I am a very talkative person. I like to learn about things to make my knowledge base stronger. I am a huge jokester and enjoy making people laugh.

My role model is sister. She is very hard working and is a nice person.

***A quote to live by is, "The golden rule still applies...of treating others as one would want to be treated by them."***



***“ONE SUGGESTION THAT I HAVE FOR FAMILIES OF KIDS WITH HEARING LOSS IS TO MAKE SURE THE FAMILY HAS SOME TYPE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR CHILD WITH HEARING LOSS.”***

# ANVITA CORRON

***Hello, my name is Anvita Corron, and I live in Henderson, New York in the rural country with only a few neighbors. I am 19 years old and a senior.***

## EDUCATION

I go to the New York State School for the Deaf (NYSSD). It's a small state school. I started coming here when I was 3 or 4 years old. We have four seniors this year, including me.

I love math because it's a challenge to figure out and solve the problems. And I also enjoy physical education because I love being active.

At NYSSD, I participated in the Academic Bowl competition, science fair and yearbook. I also go to BOCES each day to study Early Childhood Education.

I've been involved in the Academic Bowl for the last two years. I play soccer, basketball and softball. I've been playing basketball the longest. I participated in drama club and played the hand bells as well.

If I could change one thing about my educational setting, it would be that I wish there were more students here. We only have boys sports teams because we don't have enough players for a girls team, and I wish we had girls sports teams so I didn't have to deal with the boys!

My amplification at school is my two cochlear implants, but I only use the right side. I wear it at school and home.

The awards I have received have included: Honor Roll, Daughter of the American Revolution (2), Student Achievement in BOCES, 2016-17 Girls Basketball Outstanding Potential award, 2018 and 2019 Most Improved girls basketball player award, 2020-21 Character and Toughness Award (boys basketball as the only girl on the team), 2022-2023 NCAC League Championship NYSSD (boys basketball as the only girl in the game).

## HEARING LOSS

I have profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. When I take my cochlear implants off, I can't hear at all.

I was adopted from India, so we aren't sure when I was diagnosed with my hearing loss.

I tried hearing aids for the first time in about 2008 when I was 4. Shortly after, I had my cochlear implant surgery.

I feel great about my hearing loss! I'm happy I'm deaf and I don't feel bad about not being hearing.

## COMMUNICATION

At home, I talk and at school, I talk and sign. I use ASL when I sign. I can speak with my hearing friends and I sign with my deaf friends.

## STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

I think the hardest part for me was reading and writing. The inability to hear affects relationships with peers and making friends. Sports are different with people that don't know sign language because it's harder to communicate. I have a great set of teachers who are willing to help. They allow me to redo my assignments to improve my grades.

I've learned that I can do anything I set my mind to.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

I've had many TODs (Teachers of the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing) and I've taken speech therapy. I also had PT and OT when I was little. Our school has an educational audiologist who helps me with my cochlear implants. Also, I like videos to be captioned.

***“ I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRY SOMETHING NEW AND STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE. ”***





## ADVOCACY

I believe I've always had equal access at school. I have an interpreter who goes to BOCES with me. At NYSSD, most of my teachers sign and talk.

I can talk with teachers and peers via sign language since many at my school can sign. I have an audiologist at school who helps me with my cochlear implant and batteries. If I miss information, I can ask my teachers. If I am in a social situation with peers and I cannot hear very well, I can write notes or text on my phone.

## GOALS

After I graduate, I'm going to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. I want to become an elementary teacher.

## FAMILY

Some of my family knows ASL and I wear my cochlear implant at home, so we don't have communication issues. I have a brother and a sister who are also deaf.

I communicate effectively with my immediate family and extended family. Things that could improve the situation is if everyone lived closer.

## ADVICE

I want people to know don't be afraid to try something new and step out of your comfort zone.

## MORE INFORMATION

I want people to know that I'm a caring and friendly person. I love playing sports including soccer, basketball and softball. I enjoy working with kids in my BOCES, and I love to hang out with my friends. I am a very hard worker and I don't give up.

## THE QUOTE THAT BEST DESCRIBES ME IS

"When you're feeling fatigued and weak, that will be the spark that keeps you going on that journey. It doesn't matter whose fault it is that something is broken. It's your responsibility to fix it." -Mike Dee

My Role model is Mrs. Roberts from Madison-Oneida BOCES. The reason why I chose her is because she is a very helpful, friendly and caring person. Mrs. Roberts helps people set and achieve their goals. She takes time to talk with me and always has positive feedback for whatever the situation is. She always makes students happy and is the sweetest person I've ever met!



# 8 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

## 01 ASL IS CONSIDERED AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

ASL has its own vocabulary, grammar, word order and style and does not necessarily reflect English words. ASL originates from France, that's why French Sign Language is very similar to ASL.

## 02 SIGN LANGUAGE IS NOT ONLY A SIGN, GESTURE LANGUAGE BUT ALSO A FACIAL EXPRESSION LANGUAGE

Sign Language users often use facial expression to change the meaning of signs. **For example:**

Lowering eyebrows indicates who-what-where-when-why question.

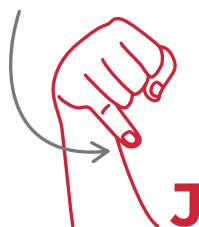
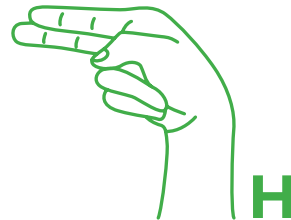
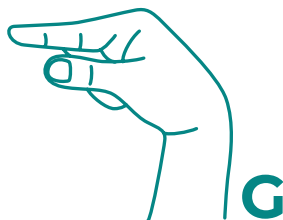
Raising eyebrows indicates yes/no question.

## 03 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENT SIGN LANGUAGES

Sign Language developed naturally from interactions between people and was influenced by their age, gender, culture and more. There are about 6,000 different sign languages around the world.

## 04 CHILDREN ACQUIRE SIGN LANGUAGE IN THE SAME WAY THEY ACQUIRE SPOKEN LANGUAGE

Through interactions with people around them, deaf babies explore the hand shapes and movements that make up signs by babbling with their hands. In the early developmental stages, deaf children often substitute easier handshapes for more difficult ones.





# AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

## 05 ASL IS THE THIRD MOST POPULAR LANGUAGE IN THE US

Behind English, Spanish and Chinese, ASL is the fourth most widely used language in the US with around 2 million users.

## 06 "I LOVE YOU" IN ASL IS THE COMBINATION OF SIGNS FOR THE LETTERS I, L AND Y

## 07 GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON DC PROVIDES MOST OF THEIR COURSES IN ASL

Founded in 1864, Gallaudet University is the major university that offers education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the US. Most courses are taught in ASL even though they do have other learning programs in English.

## 08 BEETHOVEN BECAME A TALENTED COMPOSER AND PIANIST EVEN THOUGH HE WAS HEARING IMPAIRED.



N



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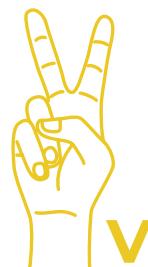
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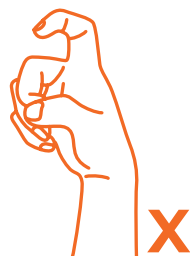
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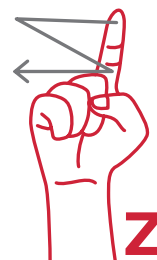
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<https://www.alsglobal.net/blogs/2017/02/05/8-interesting-facts-about-american-sign-language-asl/>

# JAYDEN DIBBLE

***Hello, my name is Jayden Dibble, I live in Lee Center, which is near Rome, New York.***

## EDUCATION

I am in the 12th grade at the New York State School for the Deaf (NYSSD). I have been going to NYSSD since I was 3 years old.

I love going here because I get to see my friends every day of the week. The students and staff have a close bond.

My favorite subject is performance. I love performing and putting on a show. In high school, I have taken multiple drama classes as electives, along with yearbook and workshop. I played soccer and softball at school. When I was younger, I played ice hockey.

The only thing I think I'd want to change would be that we had more students at my school.

I have won many awards but one of my most honorable is a scholarship to MVCC for one year!

## HEARING LOSS

I have a profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss.

My parents found out I was deaf when I was 3 years old. I used to wear a hearing aid on the right and a Cochlear Implant (CI) on the left. I was 3 years old when I got my first hearing aid and CI. Since 2020 I've had two CI's and I wear them all the time!

My feelings about my hearing loss are that it is not a major loss.

I was born deaf, but I feel OK about it. I feel fine with it. I must live with it and it doesn't bother me. If anything, I feel proud of being deaf. I'm not ashamed of it.

## COMMUNICATION

I use both spoken English and ASL. With my hearing friends, I speak. With my deaf/hard-of-hearing friends, I'll speak or use sign.

## STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

When I was little and played hockey, I had difficulty with my CI and the hockey helmet. The pressure against my head hurt. We tried cutting out space inside the helmet. Eventually we gave up, and I just took the CI off.

I've learned that sometimes it's better to be deaf. I also learned that I needed to pay more attention to my surroundings if I wasn't wearing my implant.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

In elementary school I had speech, OT, PT and we had an educational audiologist at school. In middle school I had speech but that stopped early on. In high school, "speech" became language lab.

In school we use FM systems and closed captions. My cochlear implants are Bluetooth, so I can use them with my phone or iPad. I also have a TV receiver that streams the television directly to my cochlear implants.







**“ IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING, GO AFTER THAT DREAM. ”**

## ADVOCACY

For the most part, accessibility is fine. We have some new teachers who are trying to learn ASL.

If I missed something that was said, I'd ask for repetition. If there is too much noise, I'd respectfully ask them to quiet down.

If my devices aren't working or my batteries die, I'd ask to go see the school audiologist for help. In social situations where I cannot hear, it would depend on the situation. If I were with my deaf peers, I would communicate with ASL. If I were with my hearing peers, I would ask them to repeat what they said.

## GOALS

I am going to Mohawk Valley Community College for a year, then moving to Florida to get my interpreting degree. I'd like to interpret at Walt Disney World.

## FAMILY

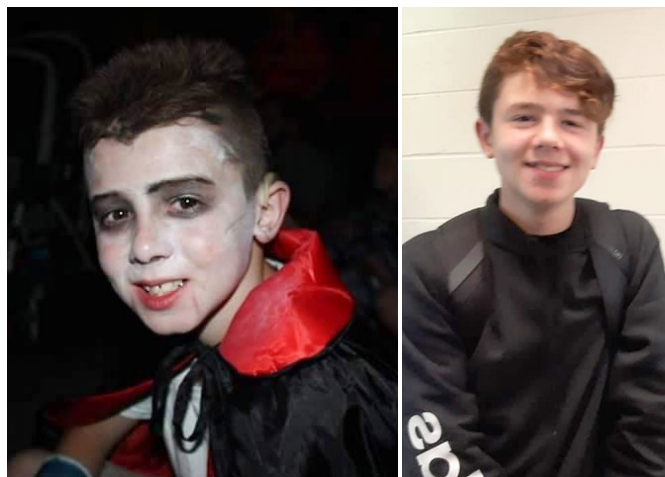
My parents made the decision to get one cochlear implant when I was 3, then my parents supported my decision in 2020 when I decided I wanted the second implant. I feel I can communicate well with my immediate and extended family. They mostly speak, and my mom does know some basic sign.

I want people to know that I am very outgoing and I'm a huge Barb (Nicki Minaj fan). I am also very sassy and my friends consider me funny.

I'm also blunt. Sometimes too blunt.

The quote that best describes me is: "Do you know what inspires me? Fearlessness, drive. I hate lazy people. Barbz, stay in school. Don't you ever be lazy. Don't you ever complain about hard work. Work hard, it pays off." Nicki Minaj

My celebrity role model is Nicki Minaj, but my parents and family are my everyday role models. They all motivate me to go after my dreams. My advice is don't let people walk all over you. If you want to do something, go after that dream.





# LILY SPENCER

***Hello! My name is Lily Spencer. I live in Oswego, New York. I am 18 years old and in 12th grade.***

## EDUCATION

I go to the New York State School for the Deaf (NYSSD). I came here from public school to have deaf culture, further access to sign language and to socialize with deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

My favorite subject is music, I've always loved music since I could talk and I love singing and listening to music.

I have participated in basketball, soccer and French Club. Also, chorus, ceramics, Mentor Scholar, Environmental Club, theater, yearbook club and workshop.

If I could change one thing, it would be that I wish I learned more sign growing up, and I wish I had access to an AP science class.

At school we have FM systems and I also use my hearing aids.

I have won awards. At my old school I performed as part of the New York State School Music Association and earned both merit roll and honor roll status in the past two school years in each quarter.



## HEARING LOSS

I have a bilateral hearing loss: mild to severe hearing loss in my right ear and moderately severe to profound in left ear. My parents found out when I was born. I failed the hearing evaluation. I was 6 when I got my first hearing aids and FM (frequency modulation) system.

I feel proud of my hearing loss because it has helped me to be successful and a positive role model to other deaf/ hard-of-hearing individuals.

## COMMUNICATION

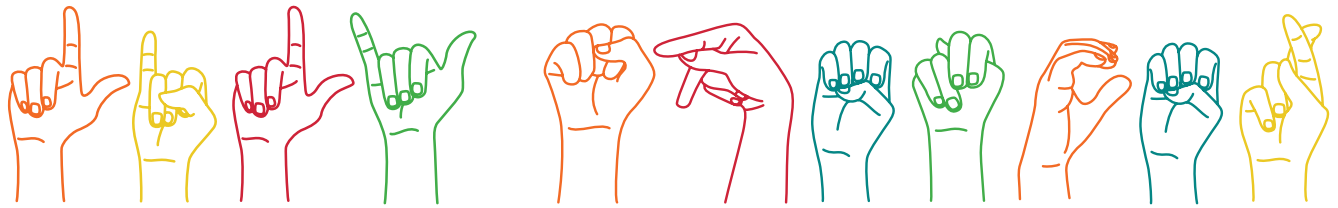
I prefer signing only. At school, staff signs, and at home my mom is learning sign but mostly we communicate by speaking. I communicate with my friends using voice and sign.

## STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

I didn't have a full-time interpreter at my old school and the teachers weren't fully equipped for my needs as a deaf student, that's when the decision was made to send me to NYSSD. I've learned that I am determined and have the skills to be successful.

***“I WOULD LIKE OTHER STUDENTS WITH A HEARING LOSS TO DREAM BIG, BE YOURSELF. DON'T CHANGE FOR ANYONE. BE PROUD TO BE DEAF.”***





## SUPPORT SERVICES

At public school, I had a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing until I left for NYSSD. I also had closed captioning for some classes. At NYSSD, I was given access to all of my needs. I received an interpreter, which was the most important. This helped me communicate and understand academic classes.

Hearing aids, live captioning and closed captioning are all devices that have helped me to be successful. They help me understand without saying "what?" all the time.

## ADVOCACY

If I don't understand I ask people to sign or repeat. At times I rely on my hearing aids, or I will communicate through writing.

If I need more batteries or I'm running low, I ask my mom to get more or see my audiologist. If I am in a social situation with peers and I cannot hear well, I will ask them to repeat or sign if they can. If a barrier still exists, I'll write or text it.

## GOALS

I want to go to college and eventually work in the media or become a motivational speaker.

## FAMILY

My family has supported me by speaking up for me. They look at me when talking and mom is trying to learn sign. I feel I can communicate with my family, although, it could help if they learned more sign or take some classes.

## MORE INFORMATION

I want people to know I'm social and I like to help people.

The quote that I like is, "Be kind, be strong, be determined, be a champion."

My role model is Jennifer Putrelo, Joanne Piazza (Mammy), Uncle Don, Jenny (cousin) and my mom. They took care of me, supported me, helped me become who I am.

## ADVICE

I would like other students with a hearing loss to dream big, be yourself. Don't change for anyone. Be proud to be deaf.



# SAVANNAH TIMMERMAN

***Hello, my name is Savannah Timmerman and I live in Pulaski, New York.  
I am 17 years old and a senior at Pulaski Academy and Central Schools.***

## EDUCATION

I go to Pulaski High School and I have attended this district since I was in elementary school. I am mainstreamed in all my classes.

I also attend the Center of Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi) for its CTE program in Cosmetology.

Cosmetology is my favorite class. I enjoy learning about this trade because it will benefit my future. I earned Top Three in my class and also an award for being most improved.

In high school I have taken classes such as baking, art and health. I've played volleyball, basketball, soccer and track.

At school, I used to use an FM system but when I had my bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA) removed I stopped using the FM system.

## HEARING LOSS

I have a mild to moderate, unilateral hearing loss which was detected at the age of 3. Soon after, I received surgery for a my bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA).

My hearing loss doesn't make me feel any different. I've always been able to do just fine in school and outside of school.

## COMMUNICATION

I use my voice only and communicate with others by just speaking.

I can communicate with my friends just like everyone else. If I ever have trouble hearing someone, I ask them to repeat what they have said.

## STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

One challenge I feel that I have faced throughout school is proving that I am just like everyone else, even though I have a hearing loss.

I've learned to ignore people that don't have anything nice to say and to just focus on me.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

The support I have at school is a teacher of the deaf. I used to have an audiologist when I had equipment, but do not really need the audiologist anymore. But she still checks on me from time to time to make sure I'm doing OK.

My teachers will put closed captions on when showing a movie to help me understand better, if needed.

## ADVOCACY

I have always felt I have had "equal access" at school. I ask teachers to repeat things when needed, I always let my teacher of the deaf/HH know if I need something.

If I am in a social situation with peers and cannot hear very well, I would ask them to repeat what they had just said.

## GOALS

My goal after high school is to get my cosmetology license, and work in a salon one day.

## FAMILY

My family has supported me in everything I do. I've always been able to communicate with my family and extended family too.

## MORE INFORMATION

I want people to know that I am hard working and I like to hang out with my friends.

A quote that sums up my personality would be, "Be yourself and you can be anything."

My parents are my role models because they are always there for me!

## ADVICE

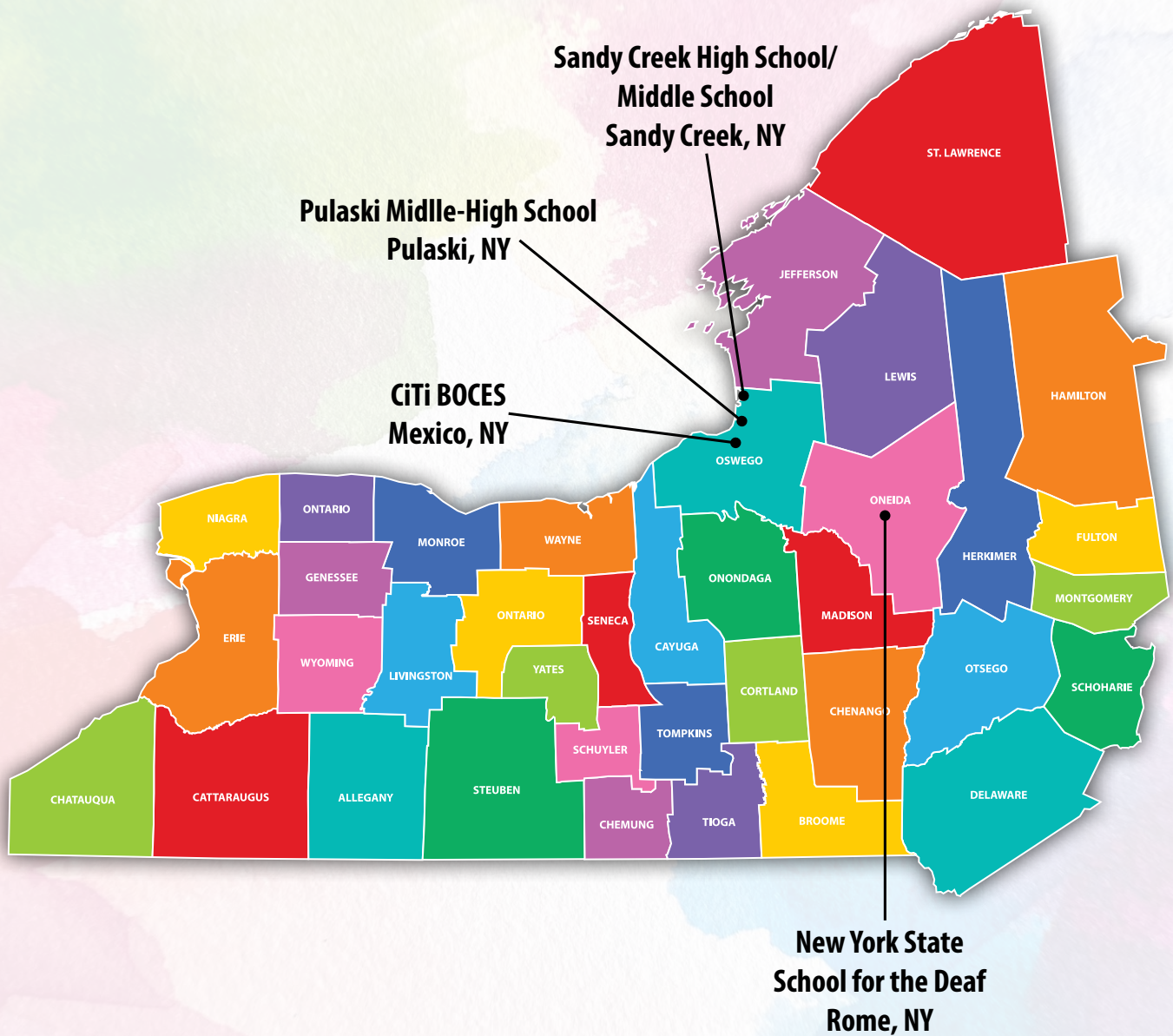
My advice for other children with hearing loss is to make sure you advocate for yourself!





***“BE YOURSELF and YOU can BE  
ANYTHING.”***

# TOD/HH STAYING CONNECTED



Created by CiTi Public Relations

