

2021

Central New York

**DEAF/HH
TEENS**

7TH EDITION

Citi

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

Dale Carnegie

Dear Readers

We are proud to present to you the seventh edition of the Central New York Deaf/ HH Teen magazine. This year's magazine was a bit more of a challenge to produce due to Covid restrictions, and each school district having their own procedures and policies. We have pushed through, and just as in previous years, the creation of this publication followed a similar process as the previous magazines: recruiting interested students, having those participants complete an extensive questionnaire, drafting and editing their personal stories, editing photos, and crafting pages. This process involves extensive collaboration in which 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/ hard of hearing students, their families and their educators.

Best wishes,

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*A special
"Thank you" to:*

Julie Landy
Shelley Majka

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**Find a digital copy of the Central New York Deaf/HH Teens magazine online at:
www.CiTiboces.org/ExceptionalEducation**

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/

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

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

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

ACCES-VR

(Vocational Rehabilitation)

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

www.acces.nysed.gov/vr

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

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/

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/

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



Carlos VELAZQUEZ

Describe where you live: I live in Syracuse, NY on the north side with my mom and dad. I live in a yellow house with two big trees in the front of it. I live on a quiet side street without much traffic. My best friend Isaiah lives on my street. We have been friends since we were toddlers.

How old are you? I am 18 years old.

What grade are you in? I am in 12th grade. I am graduating this year.

EDUCATION

The name of my high school is Solvay High School. It is a small public school district. I have gone to Solvay Schools all of my life. I live in Syracuse, but I go to Solvay because I am in the OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Solvay. I go to the mainstream for all of my academic classes. I have academic support in the BOCES classes here. I have speech, counseling, physical therapy and audiology services.

My favorite subject was Global History because I like history. I like learning about the past.

Some of the elective classes that I have taken are photography, computer science, forensics, food science, physics, business and finance and food preparation.

I participated in DECA during my freshman year after school one day each week to distribute food to the sports athletes. That is the only afterschool activity I participated in.

I would not change anything about my educational experience.

I wear hearing aids because they help me hear better. I am very dependent on my hearing aids. I would not like it if I could not wear them for any reason. I always remember to put on my hearing aids more than I remember to put on my glasses. I have worn them since pre-K. I wear them at school and at home every day.

I have been on the honor roll/high honor roll many times.

HEARING LOSS

I have a minor bilateral hearing loss. When I was a toddler, my hearing loss was detected. I am guessing I got hearing aids during pre-K. I am good with my hearing loss. It is minor and I've always had it, so I am good with it.

COMMUNICATION

I talk with people. I verbally communicate with people at home and at school. I know sign language, so I can communicate with deaf peers too.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

One challenge for me is being able to speak clearly. Sometimes I have to swallow first, and then speak. Speech and language classes have helped me a lot. Getting braces has also helped with my speech production.

Another challenge for me is to type faster. This is difficult for me because of my Cerebral Palsy on my left side/hand.

My vocabulary has improved because I read a lot.

SUPPORT SERVICES

I have counseling, speech, audiology services and a scribe who writes for me in my classes. I have PT, which helps my body from stiffening up, especially during wintertime. At home, I have advocates who help me with my stretches that help my body stay mobile and they help me with my homework. We go out in the community and do stuff like go to

*I believe that people should treat others
the way they want to be treated.*

movies, go for walks and go to the mall. Because of Covid, the things I normally do are much harder to do. For example, my advocate and I cannot go to movies anymore. I am hopeful that the movie theaters will open up so I can do the number one thing I love to do on Friday nights...going to the movies. I use closed captions on the TV but not when I'm watching a football or basketball game. I have the closed captioning on more than I have it off. I use a HAT system at school. I am able to hear the teachers more clearly when I use it. The HAT system helps me to understand videos shown in class better because I can hear the audio directly. I prefer to use closed captioning though because sometimes the audio is not good.

ADVOCACY

I do think that I have had equal access at school. I have the ability to take any class offered at Solvay High School. I have access to the library if I am researching for a paper. I also have access to the Library Commons online. Examples of advocating for myself include: when I need to clean my hearing aid or change the batteries I just inform my teachers and then I take care of it; if I miss information said in class I either ask my TA's or I raise my hand and ask the teacher directly. In a social situation with peers if I am not hearing well, I would either get closer or ask them to speak more loudly and clearly.

GOALS

My goals after high school are to go to college and learn a job skill for a future career. I have no idea what my career will be right now. One possibility may be to become a librarian. I really like reading books and would enjoy helping people find books that they would enjoy reading. I will continue to live at home during my college years.

Another goal I have is to get my permit, which will lead to getting my driver's license. I am studying with my speech and language therapist right now to accomplish this goal.

FAMILY

I communicate with my family through talking. We also text and call each other. My family has supported me by getting me to school and helping me get ready for college. They get me out in the community. They teach me how to be responsible with handling money. My mom and dad are teaching me how to do my laundry. I really do not like doing it, but it is a skill that I need to learn. It is easy once you get the hang of it. I take care of my pets at home. I have a dog and a cat. I feed them, make sure they have water and take the dog out when needed.

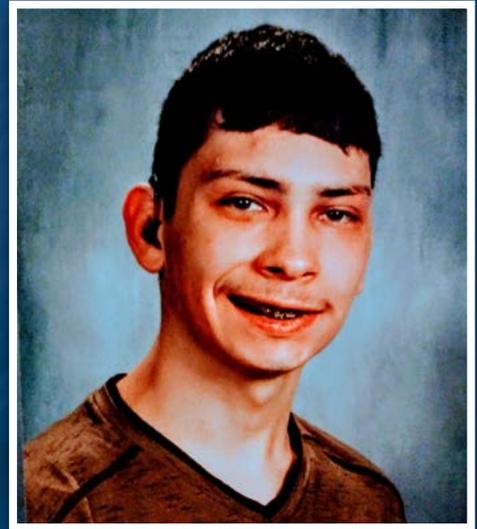
I take out the garbage and the recycling once a week too.

MORE INFORMATION

I am a happy and kind person. I believe that people should treat others the way they want to be treated. I have discovered that when you do hard work you are rewarded for it. It feels refreshing to complete my work. I always like to plan my days at school. Figuring out what needs to be done and what can wait helps me stay organized.

ADVICE

Just because you have a hearing loss does not mean that you are not smart or that you do not have the same emotions that other people have. It just means that you have to work harder than others have to work, but that is okay.





Hunter OCMAND

Describe where you live? I live in a rural area.

How old are you? I am 19 years old.

What grade are you in? I am in 12th grade.

EDUCATION

The name of my high school is New York State School for the Deaf, NYSSD for short. I was in a mainstream school for kindergarten through third grade. I was in mainstream schools in Hawaii, Oklahoma and New York. I started at NYSSD at the end of third grade. New York State School for the Deaf is a state-operated school and has about 60 students in school.

My favorite subject at NYSSD is math, I like numbers and to figure things out.

I have taken elective classes in music, health, CPR/AID, current events and art. Right now, I am mostly taking art classes for my interest this year. I also take Transition to Adulthood right now.

I have participated in extracurricular activities. NYSSD only has three sports: basketball, soccer and softball. My favorite sport is soccer.

I really like the way that teachers communicate in American Sign Language.

AMPLIFICATION

Yes, I use hearing aids everywhere I go.

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

I have two awards of "Academic Excellence in Math" in 2017-18 and 2018-19. I have an award of "Excellence Attendance" in 2018-19. I have an award of "Member of our Academic Bowl Team" in 2017-21. I have an award of "Angelina M. Starks Scholarship" in 2020-21. I have an award of

"STAR Luncheon Award Recipient" in 2020-21. I have an award of "Rome Lions Club Wiliam Hapanowicz Memorial Scholarship" in 2020-21.

HEARING LOSS

I have a profound hearing loss on my left side and severe sloping to profound hearing loss on my right side.

I lost my hearing at age 2.

I got my first hearing aid at age 3 and a CI on my left side at age 4. My CI was removed at age 5 or 6. Currently, I am using hearing aids.

I am fine with it, it is part of who I am.

COMMUNICATION

What modes of communication work best for you?

At my school, teachers use ASL at all times. At home, my family is learning ASL.

I use my notepad or my phone to type to communicate with.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

I did have a hard time hearing when I was in karate and using the protective headgear.

I was moved to the front and had my protective headgear cut off a little on the inside to make space for my hearing aids.

It is not bad to ask help for your hearing problem.

SUPPORT SERVICES

My school has support services. An interpreter is mainly used for meetings. The school has a full-time educational audiologist and speech-language pathologists. I used to get speech services when I

was younger. The audiologist helps with my hearing aids if I need support.

I use my hearing aids both at home and school. I also use closed captions(CC) on TV to understand the shows, otherwise I wouldn't understand the context.

ADVOCACY

Yes, all the students and teachers in my school know ASL.

I always carried an extra pack of batteries with me. If I ran out, I would go to the audiologist office.

I don't socialize much with peers in my school. But if that happened, I would ask one of my peers who I associate with to help me understand what the peers are talking about.

GOALS

My goal after high school is to get a job to help me earn money and to improve my social skills. After that, I will go to some colleges, SUNY, MVCC or RIT, to partake in Geologist studies.

FAMILY

I would say that in the beginning I do not remember, I wasn't aware of being deaf at that time. My family supports me though.

Yes, but not quite effectively. My family still has some learning to do with ASL. We do okay communicating with each other.

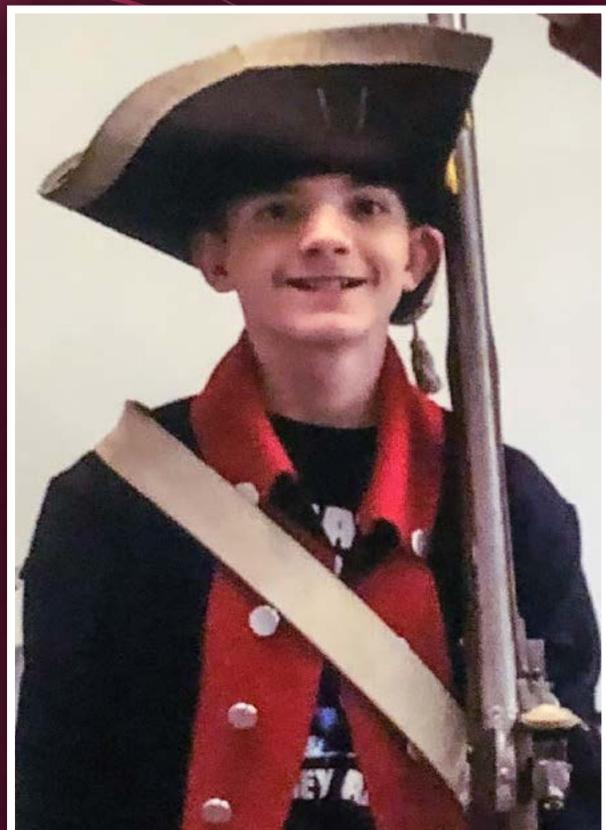
MORE INFORMATION

I'm a traditional artist as a hobby.

ADVICE

It is best to have your parents support you in whatever they can. Parents with a child who is deaf need to learn about deafness.

I will go to some colleges, SUNY, MVCC or RIT, to partake in geologist studies.





Jacob

HORNING

My name is Jacob Horning, I live in a quiet rural/ country area in Northern New York, called Hastings. I am 17 years old and I am in the 12th grade.

EDUCATION

The name of the school I go to is called Paul V Moore High School. It is a public school, the total number of students in the high school is 1,212 9-12th grade.

Elective classes I took in high school were career internships. I also, volunteer with several animal organizations in the community including: Animal Alliance of Greater Syracuse, board member with Dawn Of A New Day Animal rescue, operate and manage Jake's Furry Friends Pet Detective, I work with local police departments to identify owners of lost/stolen animals by scanning animals for a microchip. Lastly, I collected donations at my high school for Friends Forever Animal Rescue.

If I could change one thing about my educational setting, it would be learning more ASL. I use hearing aids at home and in school I use FM and my hearing aids.

I have been on the honor roll since ninth grade.

HEARING LOSS

I have is bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. My left ear is mild to moderately severe high frequency my right ear is mild to moderate. My hearing loss was detected when I was in preschool, that is where I was first amplified. I am currently using hearing aids.

My hearing loss does not bother me. When we found out I had a hearing loss at such a young age it was just a part of my life I was going to have to go through.

COMMUNICATION

The modes of communication that works best for me are speechreading when I am in loud places and if I am in quiet setting we just use our voices.

I best communicate with hearing friends over facetime where we can read each other's lips. In the community I never let anyone know I have a hearing loss.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

A challenge I have faced as a result of my hearing loss is missing some important information.

I overcame the challenges by reading lips better and wearing my hearing aids.

What I have learned about myself with this hearing loss is I will not give up.

SUPPORT SERVICES

My support services in my school have helped me a lot. The captionist helps with writing down important information/notes in case I have missed something, The Teacher Of the Deaf (TOD) services helped a lot as I have learned more and more about my hearing loss. I had TOD services since elementary school which has not changed much, only the TOD's. I have had two different captionists since seventh grade.

The technology I have at home and at school that supports my hearing loss was the closed captions. It helps me with understanding what is being said.

ADVOCACY

I think I had equal access at school. Not being discriminated by and taking part of what you want no matter what your disabilities are. I advocate for my hearing needs at school, for example when I run out of batteries I contact the TOD or the audiologist and let them know that I am out of batteries. If I missed something the teacher said, I would ask them if my captionist was not in class. When the captionist is in class I can always depend on the notes to get the information I have missed. If I was in a social situation with peers and can not hear them very well, I will try to move near them so I can hear what they are saying.

GOALS

My goals after high school are to become a local dog control officer and

running my own animal rescue for the abused/neglected animals and become their voice.

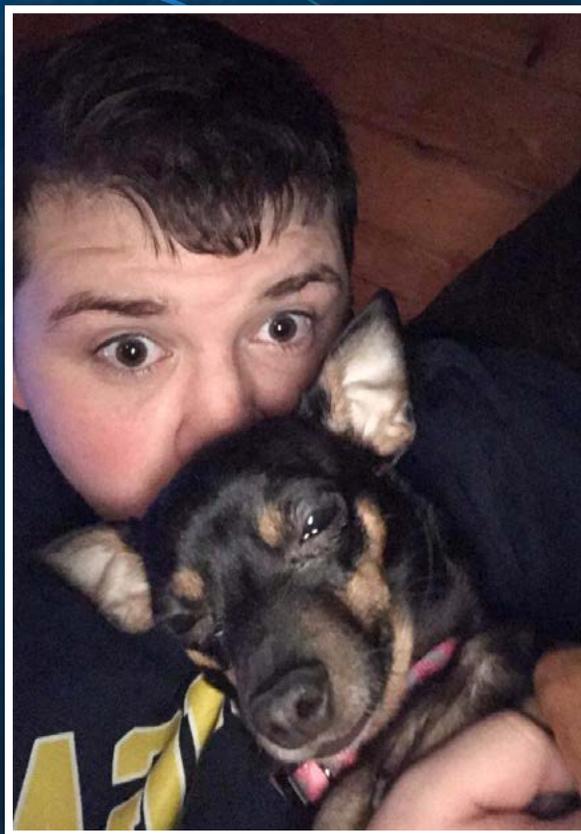
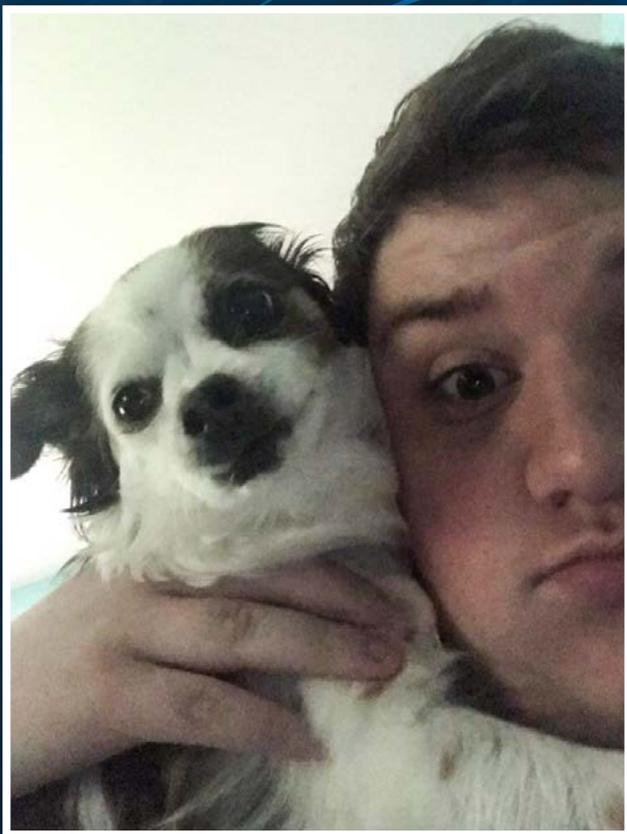
FAMILY

My family has supported me with my hearing loss by getting me to my appointments that I needed for my hearing tests and getting new hearing aids. I feel I am able to communicate effectively with my immediate family.

MORE INFORMATION

What I want people to know about me is I have a huge heart for animals.

The quote that best sums up my personality is "We can judge the heart of a man by the treatment of animals." My role models are my animal rescue friends because we all work together.



*What I want people to know about me is
I have a huge heart for animals.*

Madelyn ALIBRANDI



Hello, my name is Madelyn Alibrandi. I'm 18 years old, currently I'm a senior at Cicero-North Syracuse High school here in Cicero, NY. I live in the suburb in North Syracuse.

EDUCATION

I will be graduating with a regents diploma and CTE diploma from Early Childhood program at BOCES with high honors and 6 college credits. I was inducted into the National Honor Society. At my high school there are over 2,300 students and will be graduating with over 600 seniors. I am ranked 134th out of 631 seniors. It's a pretty large school in the area with so many opportunities and choices that some other schools don't have.

HEARING LOSS

This district is incredibly amazing, they are so willingly to help many students meet their needs and wants in the education system especially with me who is profoundly deaf in both ears since birth (I was a premature - was born two months early) and have a cochlear implant, Advanced Bionics, on my left ear. I have an amazing case manager and TOD services (teacher of the deaf) to help me become successful in my academics. Before I came to this district, I was a former student in the Deaf Hard Of Hearing program at Solvay for seven years- left in October of 2016 and transferred over to Liverpool (Chestnut Hill Middle School) for only a few months. I moved to the North Syracuse School District. Adjusting from the DHH program into a "hearing" school was one of the challenges I faced because coming from the program was a lot different than mainstreaming - I stayed in the classroom all day with only communicating in sign language with students who are deaf and the learning environment was different. Before I left, I knew this program wasn't for me and that it was time for me to leave and start a new journey. Not everything is for everyone, we are all different. If you feel something that is not right or that it's not for you- don't be afraid to advocate for yourself!!

ADVOCACY

I had trouble advocating for myself for a while thinking I would be judged for asking for help because I couldn't understand the curriculum or asking for repetition because I didn't hear what the teacher(s) were saying. It took a lot of encouragement to be able to overcome that obstacle. I used to freak out when my interpreter would ask my teacher to help me with a subject. Please speak up for yourself when you need help if you don't, it will prevent you from being able to understand anything. You'll be advocating for the rest of your life! Be you! If I can do it, you can do it! It may be hard but you can get through it! This is why we have teachers to be able to help us get through the challenges that we all face as a deaf person. If you are not comfortable asking for help in front of the class, walk up to the teacher and pull them to the side outside of the classroom and tell them what you're having trouble with and come up with ideas to overcome it or ideas about the subject you are working on in class. If you are working with a group of kids in class but not comfortable with telling them that you are deaf - tell your teacher before class about it and the teacher will tell the group of kids that you will be working with. Maybe one day, if you are comfortable enough- you could make a whole presentation about yourself and what it is like to be deaf so the classmates can have a better understanding of what it is like to be deaf without any judgments. Yes, we all will deal with judgment for the rest of our life but don't let them get you down for being who you are and standing up for yourself for what's right for you! You're not alone if you are dealing with that situation- I had to do it too. Another challenge

I face is making friends, as a deaf person I have social anxiety- I'm sure you all deaf kids deal with social anxiety too because literally you have many thoughts wrapping around your head feeling like you're being judged within seconds of trying to make friends because of the deafness, the way we communicate, the way we learn things, etc. Especially trying

to be involved in conversations with a group of people, it's really hard to hear them all talk at once. It's basically feeling left out of the conversation having this fear of asking for repetition because sometimes we know what the answer will be "never mind," "it's nothing important," "don't worry, it's not about you.". Getting those responses from other people is very frustrating because it makes us feel less important. We will always struggle in the hearing community because they are not educated enough on the deaf culture.

AMPLIFICATION

I use an FM system, Phonak touchscreen, which is basically a microphone around the neck that the teachers/students wear that is connected to the processor to help me hear what they're saying. The FM system blocks out the chattering and background noises. Secondly, I use a pass around microphone, Roger- to pass along the microphone around the classroom. For example- In class the teachers are wearing the microphone around their necks but don't have time to take it off and give it to the students, the pass around microphone is a bonus - all they have to do is talk into it about 6 inches from their mouth and pass it along like a normal microphone. Sometimes it feels like a concert with it!! Lastly, I use a hub - a hub is almost like a headset but it's automatically connected to the processor by syncing the FM system to activate the hub and connecting it to the smart board with the wires all hooked up. This is what all deaf students struggle with, comprehending what the video is talking about (obviously with closed captioning) and taking notes at the same time. This is what I personally struggle with.

GOALS

The plan I have after I graduate in June is to attend OCC in the fall, and major in Early Childhood Education! Ever since I was little - I always wanted to become a teacher. Here's some memories I have relates to teaching - me and my cousin(s)/friend(s) would play school literally for hours in the playroom at my house, we would pretend to be the kid and the other person would be a teacher and a principal- teaching math and literacy. Pretending to go to the "cafeteria" and going outside for "recess." This happened every time when I had company over. And as a student/"teacher" at CTE- It's a dream that came true that I'm able to experience what it is actually like to be a teacher to the preschoolers or in any teaching field and learn how to be an actual teacher. It's my second

year in this Early Childhood program- and I'm loving every moment of it. I highly recommend going to this program or even if you're considering going for other fields such as nursing, cosmetology, mechanics, culinary, computer science, etc.

ROLE MODELS

I have many role models who have inspired me. One of those is my grandmother who was a daycare owner for 26 years. She has taught me and her daycare kids about kindness and to be there for one another! Other role models are my teachers from Liverpool, North Syracuse, and Early Childhood teachers.

I want to thank my teacher(s) for helping me get through my obstacles as a learner. It has taught me so many things that will help me prepare for college and the future! I couldn't be more thankful to have such amazing teachers who have supported me throughout everything. If I wasn't mainstreamed and had these incredible support around me - I wouldn't be who I am today.

FAMILY

I want to thank my family for letting me have an opportunity to have more experience in the mainstream/hearing community and supporting me in everything I do - I couldn't be more grateful to be a part of this!

ADVICE

My advice to parents, please listen out to what your child is saying because you never know what's going on in school or outside of school based on their struggles. Not being able to help them with their own needs will prevent them from having the ability to advocate. Always check on them! With that being said, here are some of the things I use in school to conquer my struggles. Also, another piece of advice to parents, I would recommend putting your kids in the mainstream setting because the more opportunities and obstacles they will face, the more prepared they will be for college and the future! Also, know that not everything is perfect, we all face our own struggles! I know that you can do it! If I can do it, you can do it! - I have so much faith in you! Here's one of my favorite quotes- "We all have self-doubt. You don't deny it, but you don't capitulate to it. You embrace it." - Kobe Bryant. Here's another quote that will get you going, "Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and INSPIRATION. I don't think you can go wrong." -Ella Fitzgerald.



*We all have self-doubt.
You don't deny it, but
you don't capitulate to it.
You embrace it.
- Kobe Bryant*





Nathaniel HOOSE

My name is Nathaniel Hoose, I live in Cleveland, NY. It is a quiet and small town. I have two ponds and one giant lake across from my house. I am 18 years old and in the 12th grade.

EDUCATION

I go to the New York State School for the Deaf, which is a deaf school that has pre-k to 12th grade. It has a dorm, snack bars, gym and pool. It has 59 students from pre-k to 12 grade.

My favorite subject is math because I love to use math for cooking and measuring.

The electives I take at school are Transition to Adulthood, Yearbook and Workshop. I attended a CTE program at Madison Oneida BOCES, for Culinary Arts.

I love to play sports at school. I play soccer, basketball and softball. I also participate in drama club and Academic Bowl club.

If I could change one thing about my school it would be that I wish my school had more deaf students and staff, and our cafeteria had many more food options, so I can choose what I want. I want our school to have more activities for kids to keep busy.

Due to my profound bilateral hearing loss, I use a cochlear implant at home and school. I always use my cochlear implant to listen to music and to communicate with hearing staff and my family. My hearing loss was detected when I was born, and I have been using a cochlear implant since I was 6 years old. I feel happy to be deaf because I want to communicate with deaf people.

Some of my awards/achievements are:

2020-21 Rome Lion Club William Hapanowicz Memorial Scholarship

2020-21 STAR Luncheon Awards Recipient

2017-21 Member of our Academic Bowl Team

2018-19 Library Spirit Award

COMMUNICATION

At school, I use more sign language to communicate with teachers, kids and staff. At my home, I use my voice to communicate with my family.

In the community I can use my voice or write on paper to communicate with hearing people. I can use sign language with deaf people to make deaf people happy and they understand what I say.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

One of the strengths that I have is sports. It was awesome to join the deaf team and communicate with players. My challenge is I don't need to use my voice and use my sign language to communicate with my friends, staff or teachers. I have overcome my challenges by trying my best and never gave up from using sign language without my voice to communicate with deaf people.

I have learned more sign language to communicate at school and more speech to communicate to my parents at home.

The supports that I have at school are having teachers of the deaf to communicate with deaf students. I had speech language therapy too to help me have higher language skills.

I also, use Smartphones to communicate with hearing people through text.

I use a special alarm clock to wake me up in the morning for school.

"Your body hears everything your mind says." – Naomi Judd

ADVOCACY

I believe I have had equal access at school because all my teachers and staff use American Sign Language to communicate with me. We watch youtube and movies with closed captions.

If my cochlear implant battery dies, then I will stop at the audiologist to ask for an extra battery to wear. If I miss what my teacher says, I will ask my teacher to repeat what they say before I get lost.

In social situations where I can't hear well, I will ask my friend to use my phone to text me or write on paper so I can understand very well. Or, I will ask my friend to talk slowly so I can read the lips to make me fully understand.

GOALS

My goal after high school is to go to college. I may go to two different colleges: National Technical Institute of the Deaf in Rochester or Mohawk Valley Community College. After college, I will work in a restaurant and earn more money. Someday, I will own my restaurant.

FAMILY

My family knows some sign language and I speak to communicate.

I can communicate with my own hearing family because I can use my voice and sign language. Also, I can improve communication by writing on paper.

MORE INFORMATION

I always play basketball, soccer and softball. I always love socializing in the dorm with my awesome friends and staff.

The quote that sums up my personality is "Your body hears everything your mind says." - Naomi Judd

My role model is Sandor Sarus, because he is deaf. He always teaches me what I need to know and works on it in the dorm.

ADVICE

If a kid is born deaf, you need to learn sign language to make it easy to communicate. If you want, send deaf kids to a deaf school. If your child goes to hearing school, you should ask for an interpreter.



A circular portrait of Teresa Thompson, a young woman with glasses and a red shirt, set against a dark red background with a white circular border.

Teresa THOMPSON

My name is Teresa Thompson, I am 18 years old and I am in the 12th grade. I live in a small rural town in Upstate New York, called Mexico NY. It is so small we have no signal lights.

EDUCATION

I go to Mexico High School in the Mexico Academy & Central School District. I have been in a mainstreamed education for my entire school career with support from related services such as Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Deaf/HH Education. There are approximately 500 students in my high 9-12 school. Currently, we have three models of education: hybrid, virtual, and in person four days a week. I attended the high school four days a week and The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi) for Culinary 1 day a week.

My favorite subject is English, mostly because I enjoy reading and getting lost in the writer's words. The elective classes I have taken are Culinary Arts, which I plan on studying further at Niagara Community College in the future. If I could change one thing about my educational setting it would be that I would like to have more interaction with other hard of hearing kids.

I only wear amplification and FM in school, not at home.

I have earned merit and honor roll.

HEARING LOSS

My hearing loss and vision issues are due to Stickler's Syndrome. I am considered legally blind with a flat mild sensorineural hearing loss. I also have Type 1 Diabetes. My hearing loss was detected when I was in the first grade. I am not exactly sure when I was first amplified but currently I use Roger Marvel hearing aids, Roger X Receivers, Roger Touchscreen Microphones. I tend not to let my hearing loss bother me and not think I am any different from the other students.

COMMUNICATION

In school I use FMs and hearing aids and use my voice. I communicate with my friends, sometimes in American Sign Language, other times we use an FM and hearing aids through spoken English.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

In school I have missed a lot of conversations from others not wearing an FM and often I am the one to misunderstand. I have overcome this by increasing the range the mic picks up with my audiologist.

Over the years I have learned I don't always care what others think because if they don't know who I am or understand what I go through each day its negative and I as a human being don't need the negative.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The support services at school I have received are TOD from elementary to high school. I have also received vision services from elementary to high school. This is important to me because she has helped me in many ways.

The technology I use is Closed Captions (CC) for any kind of videos at school and at home. CC helps because without them I tend to miss the important things and the background noise makes it hard to understand what is being said.

ADVOCACY

If I were in a situation and could not hear what is being said with a teacher, I would ask to sit near them and ask to stay after to understand better.

GOALS

My goal after high school is to get in Niagara Falls Culinary College.

FAMILY

My family is constantly telling me to use my hearing aids when forgotten or not in use.

I do not feel like my communication is always good with my extended family. The things that could be improved are: understanding my hearing loss and them seeing what it is like.

MORE INFORMATION

I want people to know that I am from a small town, family and education is very important and do things you put your mind to and life will be easier.

A quote that explains me is "Great things never came from being in your comfort zone"

My role model is Paul Walker because whenever he was acting, he showed he had cared and always says his friends are his family.

ADVICE

If someone is asking questions about your hearing loss it's not because they are being rude, they are only learning from what you tell them. Be proud to be different and always be yourself.



*Be proud to be different
and always be yourself.*



TOD/HH STAYING CONNECTED

