



CENTRAL NEW YORK

DEAF/HH TEENS

8TH EDITION

2022



*Own your identity.
Love who you are in the world.
Love your deafness.*

NYLE DIMARCO

Dear Readers

We are proud to present to you the eighth edition of the Central New York Deaf/ HH Teens 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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Lisa Phinney

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*A special
"Thank you" to:*

Julie Landy

Shelley Majka

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www.CiTiboces.org/ExceptionalEducation

CARSON MUNN

My name is Carson Munn and I live in Fulton County in upstate New York, by the Adirondacks. I live about an hour from Albany. I am 18 years old and in 12th grade.

EDUCATION

I am a senior at Broadalbin-Perth High School, located near a small village in upstate New York. It is a public “B” sized school with less than 2,000 students. I’ve been at Broadalbin-Perth since I was in pre-K, and now I’m the big man on campus.

My favorite subject is English. Now if you know me, I usually don’t like reading and writing. But the reason it is my favorite is because it is a college-driven English course. To be honest, I was a little nervous at first because it is more heavily involved, but turns out it wasn’t so bad. My teacher was very supportive and helpful when we needed guidance. The important part was that I was getting exposed to the college curriculum. Suddenly, I felt more confident in my work. I knew what I was learning was going to be beneficial to me when I go to college.

Throughout my junior and senior year at Broadalbin-Perth, I attended the Digital Multimedia program at the HFM Career and Technical Center located in Johnstown. Every day for two hours, I was granted with opportunities and skills in the ever-growing digital world. We work with photography, illustration, music, film and special effects. We learn to navigate Adobe software to compile our projects and assignments. Toward the end of our senior year, instead of attending our class at HFM Career and Technical Center, we research any internships related to digital media and attend them for two weeks to get a better idea of how it is out in the field of work. Choosing that class was the best decision I ever made. It gave me a better representation of what I want to study in college. Everybody, including teachers and staff, was super friendly. I made lots of friends and I wouldn’t have made it through without them. Without this experience, I probably would have headed into college undecided.

During all four years of my high school career, I participated in Drama Club at Broadalbin-Perth. In my freshman year of high school, I wanted to branch out and try new things. I didn’t play sports, so I didn’t have a big group of friends. I loved music so I thought being involved would be good for me. I was part of the stage crew, designing and moving sets on stage. I even performed a couple skits here and there. As I got further into the club, I started becoming a mentor to the underclassmen. I would answer questions and make them feel comfortable in this new environment. It may have not been in the direction of what I wanted to study in college, but I found drama more important as a way to be compassionate with other people, have fun with friends and step out of your comfort zone – and that’s what I did. After a couple cameos, making new friends and saying goodbye to old friends, I’ve had a blast.

If I could change one thing about my educational setting it would probably be to have an ASL (American Sign Language) class available at my school district. However, in college I will probably take an ASL class as one of my electives. Even though I don’t sign, I feel it is important to know at least the basics of ASL so you

have the ability to communicate for those who only sign.

I mainly use an FM system in school because it is the place where it has the most background noise. There is always information during lessons and instructions for projects or homework that are important to know. I have a cochlear implant on my right ear and a hearing aid on my left. Reading lips also helps me understand a lot and the mask wearing during COVID-19 certainly hasn’t helped in that regard.

Throughout high school, I’ve also managed to achieve high honor roll and principal’s list as well as being accepted into the National Honor Society.

HEARING LOSS

I have moderate to severe hearing loss. My left ear is moderate and my right ear is severe. My hearing loss was detected when my parents took me to get a hearing test. I was a couple months old. That’s when the audiologist confirmed that I’ve been HOH since I was born. At 16 months old, I was implanted with my first processor, the “Freedom” cochlear implant. My second implant was the Nucleus 6. About six or seven years later, I got the Nucleus 7, which is what I have currently. By far, it’s my favorite one yet! I love the Bluetooth connectivity to my iPhone. It is super easy to change channels or even listen to music. I believe that my hearing loss has created a path for me to overcome challenges. I don’t think of my hearing as a “loss.” I think of it as a way to communicate in my own way and to be my own person.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

I never knew how much I depended on lip reading until the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though I have a cochlear implant, the mask wearing has taken a significant toll on my understanding of what people have to say. The FM system has been a huge help in terms of deciphering what other people are saying. It’s not just at school where it happens. Similar situations occur when I’m out in public, around family and participating in extracurricular activities.

I’ve overcome these difficulties by being a better advocate for myself and not depending on my parents by my side to repeat what they said to me. It can be a little nerve-racking at first, but I certainly grew a lot from these experiences.

SUPPORT SERVICES

My school has speech pathologists as well as TOD services. I utilized speech therapy when I was in elementary school to help with my verbal skills, but in high school I’m pretty independent in terms of services for my hearing. I feel having a TOD is most important to me because I still stay in touch weekly and it’s good to have someone back you up if you are trying to get access to a service at school.

Whether I am home or at school, I use closed captions to support my hearing loss. Even my family prefers to have them on because they are very useful for understanding someone’s accent or hearing quiet sounds. I also use my

iPhone to manipulate the volume or switch channels if needed for different environments.

ADVOCACY

I am one of few deaf/HOH students at my high school. However, all my teachers are cooperative in wearing my FM system, repeating themselves and writing instructions down. I've had to develop these skills over time because I knew it wasn't going to happen by itself. I had to take that step to be successful.

If I were in a social situation with my peers and I couldn't hear very well, I would place my FM in the middle of the table to project their voices. I could also tell them to speak up a little bit.

GOALS

My goal for after high school is to go to a four-year college either at SUNY Oswego, SUNY Plattsburgh or RIT. I want to study film and digital multimedia. All three schools have excellent film programs, which is going to make the decision process difficult for me.

FAMILY

I was born with a hearing loss, so my family has been supportive of me the whole way. They understand how I communicate and express better than anyone. I feel completely comfortable communicating to my immediate and extended family. Since I can speak, it makes it easy for anyone to talk to me so there's not much to improve on.

MORE INFORMATION

I like meeting new people and I am a big dog lover. My family rescued a dog who only had one eye. Her name is Bella. She is a mix of border collie and German shepherd. We've had her for about seven years now!

I enjoy outdoor activities and hanging with friends.

The quote that best sums up my personality is, "An attitude of positive expectation is the mark of the superior personality."

~ Brian Tracy

I believe having that positive mindset will bring about your best personality and give the best first impression.

My role model is my grandpa. He refers to what he calls, "Pop's 4 rules." Always tell the truth, never give up, always do your best and don't do drugs. He always inspires me to be the best I can be and understands what people my age go through. He always tells me to smile, be kind and keep your chin up.

ADVICE

My advice to other kids and their families with a hearing loss: Don't lose hope! Your hearing loss shouldn't hold you back from doing something you want to do. Just go do it. Face your challenges because that is what is going to make you stand out and excel. Be the person you want to be!

**"AN ATTITUDE OF POSITIVE EXPECTATION
IS THE MARK OF THE SUPERIOR PERSONALITY."**
BRIAN TRACY



CODY S. SHARPSTEEN

My name is Cody S. Sharpsteen. I live in Rome, in a quiet neighborhood outside of the city. My home has a large backyard that is near a pet shelter. I am 19 years old and in 12th grade.

EDUCATION

My high school that I attend is The New York State School for the Deaf. My school is a state-operated public school for all pre-K through 12th grade students who have a significant hearing loss. My school has a dormitory, a track, a pool and playgrounds. We currently have about 50 students. I love my school because it is a special place that means a lot to me. I also attended Rome Free Academy recently as my second high school.

My favorite subject is history because I love to study the events of the past and current events. I am passionate about studying past and current events and how they are impacting the world.

The elective classes that I take are CPR training, transition to adulthood, and studio arts.

I participated in basketball, co-ed soccer and softball. I have played these sports for five years, but I stopped playing basketball. I also participated in Academic Bowl when I was 16 years old, and I was one of their top players with the most questions answered. I led NYSSD to sixth place in Pittsburgh in 2018.

If I could change one thing about my school, I would want new teachers and staff to learn ASL because my school has some hearing staff who aren't fluent or learning ASL. NYSSD does offer classes for new staff to learn ASL.

AMPLIFICATION

I used hearing aids when I was 4 years old. However, I stopped using hearing aids because they were too loud and bothered my ears. I don't want to wear hearing aids again.

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2018-2021 Member of Academic Bowl Team
- 2018-19 Academic Excellence in Math
- 2018-19 Academic Excellence in Science
- 2018-19 Academic Excellence in English
- 2018-19 Academic Excellence in History
- 2018-19 Excellent Attendance
- Model Student Award
- Hajna Award
- 2018-2019 Library Spirit Award
- Honor Roll Award
- Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award

HEARING LOSS

I have bilateral and severe-profound hearing loss. My hearing loss was detected when I was 2 days old. I have had a hearing loss since birth.

I was first amplified when I was about 4 years old at the New York State School for the Deaf. My parents borrowed cochlear hearing aids from Faxton Hospital in Utica, and I used it for one and a half years.

I feel great about being deaf because I don't like hearing aids. I strongly prefer communicating with sign language instead of lip reading.

COMMUNICATION

ASL is my preferred communication mode because I want to chat with my fellow students and my deaf parents.

The reason why I use ASL is to communicate with my deaf classmates. However, the challenge is I can easily struggle communicating with hearing students because I cannot read lips nor speak, so I have to either write notes or use my cell phone to communicate.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

I have a few challenges that I have had to face with my hearing loss. When hearing teachers were talking, interpreters helped me to understand the teachers, but I had a difficult time trying to do my best to work on the assignments. It was overwhelming to me because the assignments in Rome Free Academy (RFA) were very different from NYSSD. I have taken a couple of classes at public school, RFA, with hearing peers. In these classes, I use an interpreter!

I have overcome my own challenges by asking my teachers to help me understand the course. I continued following up on assignments and achieving my grades.

From these challenges, I learned to make a difference to the community. I have to accept my hearing loss and keep going because I want to be successful.

SUPPORT SERVICES

My school has teachers of the deaf and some interpreters. It felt different that TODs are the most important than interpreters because they are the most common services in my school. They can sign well and clear as interpreters and support other deaf students. Interpreters are only used for meetings and ceremonies.

A piece of technology that I use are closed captions on Google Meet for virtual physics class at RFA. I found that closed captions are more useful for me because I can read and understand what the teacher is talking

about. I use my smartphone to communicate with hearing people, too.

ADVOCACY

My school had equal access for deaf students because teachers of the deaf and hearing staff are fluent in ASL.

I need an interpreter when I go to the hearing school, so I can understand what teachers say. The only challenge is that I need to use my iPhone to text in order to chat with hearing people because it is not easy for me to try to have a conversation without it.

GOALS

When I graduate high school, I would like to attend Gallaudet University and find a career. Also, I am looking forward to getting a bachelor's degree.

FAMILY

My parents always supported my hearing loss. Some of my family members do not use sign language, but they still support me. They enjoy communicating and joking with me.

I am glad that I am able to communicate with some of my family because they use ASL. My grandparents knew how to communicate since my father is deaf. But, the rest of my family are unable to

understand ASL, which is difficult for my parents and me. So, my grandparents need to translate for us to communicate with my family.

MORE INFORMATION

I want people to know I have a hard time living in the hearing world, but I want to be successful and I will not give up on myself because I listen to my parents. I've had a few of my own struggles, yet I have had been able to overcome them, so I can understand.

"Own your identity. Love who you are in the world. Love your deafness."
- Nyle DiMarco

My parents are my role models because they care about me and my deafness. They raised me as a responsible and mature boy. Now, I am about to attend Gallaudet University and I know that my parents are very proud of me in regards to how hard I've worked and everything I've accomplished!

ADVICE

My advice is to tell all students with hearing loss and their families that they should care about their disabilities because they will make the world a better place.

**"OWN YOUR IDENTITY. LOVE WHO YOU ARE IN THE WORLD.
LOVE YOUR DEAFNESS."**

NYLE DIMARCO

SHARPSTEEN RD



EVAN HAWKINS

My name is Evan Hawkins. I live in Canastota, which is a small place between Syracuse and Rome with not too many people. I am 19 years old and in 12th grade, and I'll be graduating in June 2022.

EDUCATION

My high school is called, New York State School for the Deaf, which has a school program and a residential program (dorm) for some students. I learn and use sign language at NYSSD. I used to live at home all the time and go back and forth to school, but I didn't like waking up so early. So, when I was about 10 years old, I decided to live in the dorms instead. The dorm feels better because I can socialize with people, get help with my homework, and I get to sleep in a little later! Also, sometimes I have a hard time with my homework and communicating with my parents. In the dorm, I can get help from people using sign language.

My favorite subject is my CTE Culinary Arts program. I learn something new from there all the time. I learn cooking skills, cleanliness, allergens and practice cooking. At NYSSD, my favorite thing that I learned is American Sign Language. I use ASL to communicate all the time in school.

I attend a CTE program called: Culinary Arts. I also take a class called transition to adulthood, which teaches me about things I will need to do independently when I graduate. I am in the yearbook class and we are making the yearbook for 2022. In the past, I took photography, work study, health and social skills group. I have also come to summer school most summers to continue learning.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I play soccer, basketball and softball. If it isn't interesting, I will try it and then stop playing. But I like soccer a lot and have played soccer forever. It excites me and challenges me. I prefer to be on a team with deaf players because it is easy to communicate with one another and the coaches. I even got the Most Valuable Player award. Soccer is my favorite, but I also like to play basketball and softball for fun.

One thing I would change about my education if I could:

I wish there were more students at NYSSD. I want more opportunities with my deaf friends at school with the dorm and school activities. I also wish the dorm was open for students to stay all weekend. It is not, we all must go home Fridays and come back Mondays.

AMPLIFICATION AT SCHOOL

I do have cochlear implants, but I do not use them.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

I have been on Madison Oneida BOCES honor roll for CTE Culinary Arts, which has been an honor. Also, I received the PBIS award, and a certificate of recognition from the dorm at school.

HEARING LOSS

I have a bilateral profound hearing loss. It was detected when I was born, I believe. I was born in China and adopted, so I have limited information.

In the past, I used hearing aids. Then, I got two cochlear implants. I do not use my cochlear implants now. I would get headaches sometimes when I used them. When I lived in China, I had no hearing aid devices.

Feelings about hearing loss:

When I was 12 years old, I got a cochlear implant. I learned about sounds and practiced knowing where the sounds came from. The noises I heard were my parents' voices, and the speech therapist covered her mouth with paper while I practiced listening to other sounds like people walking, people talking, airplanes and other sounds that were weird to me. The therapist put different pictures on the table, and I had to listen to what they sounded like, and I had to point to the cards if I could hear them and figure out what I heard. I could not handle it, and I had to remove my cochlear implants. I prefer to not listen to sounds. I prefer to use ASL. I prefer to be deaf. I face a lot of challenges in my life, but I overcome them.

COMMUNICATION

I use American Sign Language. I also use gestures and write. I know how to communicate with people who do not understand sign language by using paper to write basic notes and use my Smartphone to text. I also show people how to use sign language to help communicate. I can use gestures with some people too.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

One of the challenges I have is spelling and writing because English is hard. I have learned spelling and vocabulary to improve my skills in English. I do my best to communicate with people. I also use closed captioning on the TV so I know what is happening on TV shows and movies. I use an interpreter when available. I have support in school in my classes because teachers break down everything into small parts. I need help with language and writing skills.

I have overcome many challenges trying to understand English grammar/vocabulary words. I watch movies or TV shows and video games with closed captions. If I don't understand what a sentence or word means, I use gestures and role play with people to help me understand. I've learned about myself that I can't give up.

SUPPORT SERVICES

My teachers use sign language at NYSSD. I receive speech-language services to help me with language, vocabulary and writing most of the time. At BOCES, I have an assistant teacher that goes with me from NYSSD and she interprets for me and then tutors me too, to help me understand. The most important thing in school is that I am with teachers and assistants who use sign language. I also use closed captioning, which helps on Google Meets for virtual learning.

I use my Smartphone, a vibrating bed alarm to wake me up and the school has flashing lights for fire alarms, which all help me to succeed.

ADVOCACY

People at NYSSD use ASL, so school is accessible to me. Teachers use sign language and help me understand because they focus on important parts of things. Sometimes I get upset if I miss something a teacher says. I get frustrated but I ask for them to repeat it.

I can't hear talking. I need people to sign, gesture, role play or write to communicate with me.

GOALS

My goals for the future are to earn money for my future. I will get a job at a restaurant. I will have independent control of my life and have many skills for my future. My goal is to work as a chef in a restaurant and earn money for my future.

FAMILY

My family has supported me by using basic signings/gestures to communicate with me. Also, they use their phone to send me texts. They agree with me and they don't force me to wear cochlear implants.

MORE INFORMATION

I remember when I was in China, I was not taught a lot. I was born with a cleft palate and I had surgery. My real parents left me at the hospital. I sat in the crib and nurses cared for me in an orphanage and I learned nothing for seven years there. It is a shame, and I was unaware what to do until I was 7 years old and I

was adopted. I had a new life for me when I moved to America. I was in awe of everything I was seeing for the first time. At first when I attended NYSSD, I was confused and scared, because my new adopted parents did not tell me where I was. My life changed completely. At home and at NYSSD, I learned English words and ASL. Teachers and dorm staff taught me many new things such as learning subjects like math, experimenting, tasting new food, making new friends, living with independent skills, cooking, and many more. I thank NYSSD for giving me a lot of learning experiences.

I believe this quote is true for myself: "If you believe in yourself, anything is possible."

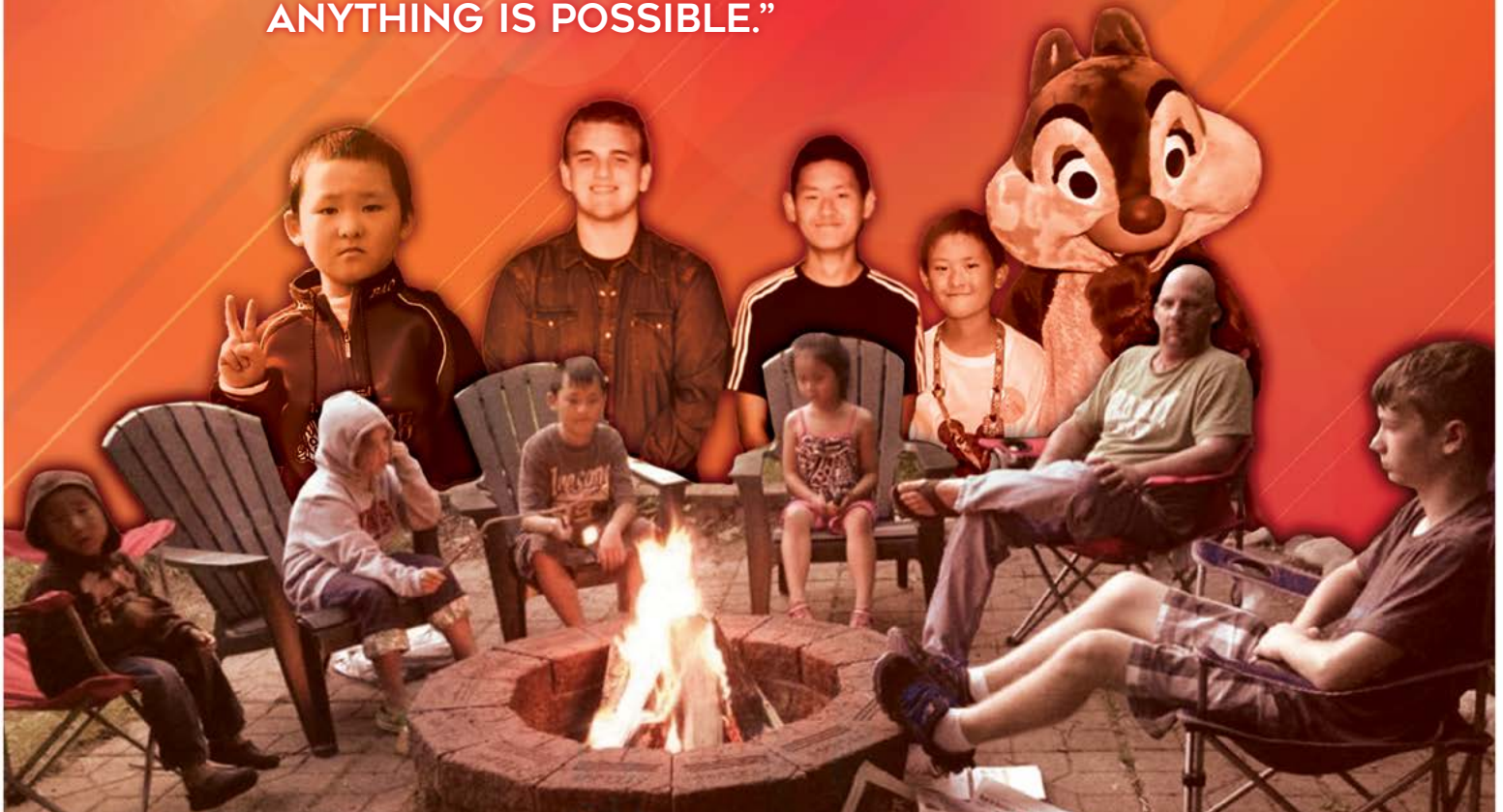
ROLE MODEL

Chris Kimball is my role model. He is my guidance counselor and helps me so much through my life and through my mistakes. He knows me very well and he can communicate with me in sign language. He teaches me to do the right things. Of course, I have made some bad teenager decisions, but he tells me that I need to face my mistakes and learn from them. This will help me when I get older, and I become a better person. I am grateful for having Chris in my life. I appreciate what Chris has done for me and I respect him.

ADVICE

I suggest you and your family use basic sign language, no advanced words. It is important for you and your family to have open communication with basic and home sign language. That makes your relationship with them better. Use visual materials like pictures; you can use an iPhone, which can help too.

**"IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF,
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE."**



JADEN ROBINSON

My name is Jaden Robinson. I am 18 years old and in 12th grade at Waterloo High School.

EDUCATION

I started in the district as a kindergartner and continued through for my educational career. It is a smaller school, with approximately 800 students. My favorite subject is US history. I like to learn about the wars and my country. Some of the electives I took were transportation and advanced production. I also played trumpet in the school band for about four years. Currently, I am enrolled at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES electrical trades class. I have a couple after-school jobs, one as a landscaper and the other for a vending company.

In the past, I played football and lacrosse. However, this year I decided to try something new, and I joined the golf team. I am happy I did because I really enjoyed it. I also participated in the ski club. I have been skiing for the past 16 years. Outside of school, I competed for Bristol Mountain free style team for eight years. I participated in mogul, aerial and slope style events.

I currently wear bilateral hearing aids in school, at home and in the community. I use an FM system in school and as needed at BOCES.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout my high school year, I have made the honor roll and high honor roll. I received the Student

of the Month Award at my BOCES program.

HEARING LOSS

I have a mild to moderate bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. I was identified with my hearing loss around 6 years old and started wearing my hearing aids shortly after. My hearing aids have changed drastically over the years. The technology is so much better. The sounds and quality that I hear has helped significantly. One of the advantages is that the aids allow me to connect to my Bluetooth on my phone. Having a hearing loss is part of who I am. It does not really affect who I am or my capabilities.

I have grown up in a mainstream class and use oral communication. I do not know or never learned ASL. I communicate mostly with hearing people and have little interaction with other deaf individuals that require signing.

OBSTACLES

I am sure in school there have been certain obstacles that I had to overcome; however, I cannot remember any specific examples. If there was something that came up, it was quickly taken care of, so I did not miss out. Also, when I was younger and competing for skiing, I did not wear my hearing aids due to environmental issues. If needed, I would stand close to the coach to hear instructions better or ask for clarification after. I do use captions when I am watching TV or movies at home or in school. Also, due to the environment in my BOCES class, there is a lot of noise. The teacher will make sure he has my

attention if he has to say something while we are working and has even pulled me out of the noisy classroom and into the hall to make sure I heard and understood what is being said. I feel it is important to be a good advocate for myself to get the most of my education.

FAMILY

My family has always been supportive of me, my hearing loss and my goals. My mom always fought for my educational needs, making sure I had what I needed to be successful in school. My father, who is employed for the same place I work, talked to management and workers about my hearing loss before I started working for them to better understand my needs. My parents always encouraged me to try new things I was interested in. They never allowed my hearing loss to hold me back. They taught me to be a great advocate for myself.

In the end, I am just an average senior that has not let my hearing loss stop me from doing what I want. It was never an excuse to do poorly or to fall back on. I have gone out and just lived my life regardless. I am proud of who I am and my accomplishments. If I had to give advice to other students, it would be "don't let others put you down."

GOALS

After high school, I plan to attend Alfred State to continue my studies in electrical construction and maintenance electrician. My goal after graduating is to become a certified electrician.

"DON'T LET OTHERS PUT YOU DOWN."



TIFFANY MACRI

My name is Tiffany Macri, I am 18 years old and in 12th grade.

EDUCATION

I attend G. Ray Bodley High School, which is a medium sized high school.

I love math because at first it is confusing and a challenge, but once you figure it out, it is instantly easy.

I have taken French 2 and 3, choir, human development 1 and 2, health and psychology. I also did varsity high school cheerleading, competitive dancing, all-star cheerleading, volunteering and fostering for CNY Cat Coalition.

One thing I wish I could have changed about my high school career is that I would have had an interpreter all years of high school and more deaf peers within the school.

AMPLIFICATION

I use hearing aids at school and home, I also communicate with my mother using ASL since she is deaf herself.

HEARING LOSS

I have bilateral hearing loss that was discovered when I was 4 years old, which is when I began using hearing aids in both ears. I currently wear Phonak hearing aids MARVEL edition, which have Bluetooth and built in boots if I ever need to use a FM system.

I love my culture, my language and my accessibility to hear.

ASL is my favorite method of communication, but I speak verbally with my hearing peers.

ADVOCACY

If I had equal access at my school, I would have an interpreter. I carry my batteries in my backpack, or if I am out in public, I carry them in my purse. I will tell my peers if I cannot hear them.

GOALS

I want to go to college to become a teacher of the deaf.

FAMILY

My mom is deaf, so it was never a problem with acceptance and my family doesn't treat me any differently. If I do not respond to them, they will ask if I heard them.

MORE INFORMATION

I love animals, my culture, my language, and the tremendous amount of support from my current and past teachers of the deaf.

My personality is very shy and kind, but I am very passionate about what I love.

My role model is my future self because it is who I want to be in the future and it gives me motivation to keep going.

Some advice I have is don't be afraid to stick up for yourself; you can do whatever you put your mind to.

**SOME ADVICE I HAVE IS
DON'T BE AFRAID TO
STICK UP FOR YOURSELF;
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER
YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO.**



NITHIN KESARI

My name is Nithin Kesari and my hometown is Gloversville.

HEARING LOSS

My hearing loss is from the middle ear and is moderate to severe, it is called a conductive hearing loss. I can still hear without my hearing aids, just not as well as when I have them on. I am currently using a bone anchored hearing aid. From birth to 8 years old, I wore a behind-the-ear hearing aid. I first got it when I was 8 years old. I feel fine with my hearing loss as I have had it my whole life. My hearing loss was first detected shortly after I was born.

EDUCATION

I have been going to the Broadalbin Perth district my entire life and it has around 1,800 students. I go to a mainstream program with mostly hearing students. I am currently a senior and I take pre-calculus, social studies, conspiracy theories, a Star Wars class, python and computer security. My favorite class is the Star Wars class. Extracurricular activities that I did were drama, track and robotics. If I could change one thing about my educational setting it would be to learn ASL. My amplification

COMMUNICATION

At school, home and in the community, I communicate with my voice only. I don't use interpreters. I communicate with my friends by using my voice.

SUPPORT SERVICES

My support services at school are Teacher of the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing (TOD), FM system and captions. I don't think any of them have changed since elementary school. The most important support service is my FM, because without it I won't be able to hear what the teachers are saying. At home, I have captions to use if I want to watch something. Captions help me to understand what the characters/actors are talking about.

ADVOCACY

I think I have equal access to the same things my hearing peers do at school. If my hearing aid batteries die in school, I ask the teacher if I can go change them. If I was in a situation where I could not hear my peers, then I would use my other senses. I would use my sense of sight to look around the room to see what's going on. When I can't hear the teacher,

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS A BONE ANCHORED HEARING AID OR ANY OTHER KIND OF HEARING AID, I URGE YOU TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD WITH YOUR LIFE NO MATTER WHAT DIFFICULTIES YOU MAY HAVE WITH YOUR HEARING LOSS.

at school includes an FM system and hearing aids. My achievements are that I got onto the honor roll many times.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

A challenge I faced in school because of my hearing loss was that I couldn't always hear the teacher and I had to ask them to repeat what they were saying. I overcame this over time by getting better at listening. What I learned about myself is that I can do anything if I try hard enough.

I speak up for myself. My peers will sometimes help me to understand what is going on in the classroom if I point out that I did not hear what was happening. Sometimes, I advocate for myself at home by asking others to repeat themselves.

GOALS

My goal after high school is to go to college at Rochester Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in computer science. I want to be a computer engineer. I would like to know more about how computers

run. Also, another goal is that I want to get my license to drive, maybe by this summer.

FAMILY

My family has supported my hearing loss by taking me to the audiologist and by giving me hearing aids. I feel like I can communicate well with my immediate and extended family. To improve the hearing situation, I could ask people to speak louder so I can hear them better.

MORE INFORMATION

One thing I would like people to know about me is that I like to play basketball. I also enjoy archery and would like to try that again in the

future. I also enjoy listening to music; I don't have a specific genre, I really like listening to them all.

One quote that I believe in is, "Happiness is the key to success," by Albert Schweitzer.

One person that I look up to is my sister because she did so well in college and now is in medical school. She wants to become a doctor.

ADVICE

For anyone who has a Bone Anchored Hearing Aid or any other kind of hearing aid, I urge you to keep moving forward with your life no matter what difficulties you may have with your hearing loss.

**ONE QUOTE THAT I BELIEVE IN IS,
"HAPPINESS IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS,"
BY ALBERT SCHWEITZER.**



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.

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