

## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

### General Sterling Scholar

#### Aaron Wang

Skyline High School  
**Parents:** Xiaodong Wang and Sichun Mu, Salt Lake City

*"The Sterling Scholar program will support my research and academic interests in the fields of artificial intelligence and machine learning. I aim to employ computer science and robotics to assist people with motor impairments."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** His research at the Utah Neuro

Robotics Lab focuses on the creation of a wristband that will enable people with neuromuscular disabilities to control smart devices with hand gestures. Co-authored a paper in the Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems that was presented to the Transportation Research Board. Took second in Computer Science at the 2022 Utah Science and Engineering Fair. Helped establish an ambassador program to increase participation in the fair.



## BUSINESS & MARKETING

#### Raegan Rogers

Weber High School  
**Parents:** Hali Larsen and Matt Rogers, Pleasant View

*"Because of these unprecedented times, the need for tutors in our area was dire. As a result of the additional support students need in our community, Level Up Learning was born. I started this business to help my community and support students with academic success in mind."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Serves as student body vice president, FBLA president, DECA and NHS



officer, and Weber Business Academy officer. She holds numerous state titles in both FBLA and DECA and a national title in FBLA. Volunteers at The Pledge Jar, a local nonprofit.

## DANCE

#### Caroline Hill

Skyline High School  
**Parents:** David and Whitney Hill, Millcreek

*"Dance has been the one constant in my life that continually influences my body, mind, and spirit to feel healthy. ... Being able to dance for those who cannot helps me to appreciate my health, both physically and mentally, which allows me to do what I love most every single day."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Elected as the president of the Skyline Dance Company and also dances at Elite Academy. Her 16-year career includes ballet, pointe, contemporary, hip-hop, jazz



and modern. She has been co-president of the CHOICE Humanitarian Junior Board for the past two years. She held a benefit concert to raise money for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research, a disease which took her mother a few years ago.

## ENGLISH

#### Keira McNamara

Skyline High School  
**Parents:** Mike and Kimberly McNamara, Salt Lake City

*"Since I was little I've always enjoyed reading and have dreamt of becoming an author. Every time I read a book by an accomplished author I would think that could be me. Recently I have started to write a children's book series to accomplish my dreams."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Aims to have a 20-book children's series, "The Adventures of Jack," published by the end of the year. Has helped quadruple the membership in the school's book club while serving



as president over the last two years. She is the most influential book-related Pinterest influencer with over 11,000 followers. Helped found Title 1 Strings, a nonprofit that teaches underprivileged children how to play instruments.

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

#### Lora Larson

Cottonwood High School  
**Parents:** Adam and Jodi Larson, Taylorsville

*"Throughout my entire life, I have been drawn to everything and anything related to family and consumer sciences. Since I was a young girl I adored sewing with my grandma, caring for and babysitting children, cooking with my parents, and designing my unique outfits for each day."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Selected as vice president of the school's FCCLA club and attended the Utah FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference. She teaches at KoltKids preschool. She hosted "Lora's Drop and



Shop," a five-week summer camp where parents could drop children off and have time to run errands. In addition to volunteering in the classroom, she used her sewing skills to help with an elementary school's musical productions.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

#### Sofia Detjen

Lone Peak High School  
**Parents:** Reina Detjen, Draper

*"Though a patchwork of accomplishments, opportunities, and odds and ends comprise who I am today, they have all been connected through one thing: music."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Has garnered 12 DownBeat and eight Best of State Awards as a drummer. Has played drums since she was 5. Is a classically trained percussionist in marimba, timpani, and snare drum. Was nominated by the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy and Global Ties U.S. to take her band to



Expo 2020 Dubai. Earned a full scholarship in 2021 to the Harvard Undergraduate International Relations Scholars Program. Became an ambassador the Harvard Undergraduate Foreign Policy Initiative the following year. She has been admitted to Harvard.

## MATHEMATICS

#### Luke Holt

Academy for Math, Engineering and Science  
**Parents:** Nikole and Brian Holt, Cottonwood Heights

*"It is my personal mission to share the inner beauties of mathematics with as many people as possible."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** For the past five years, he has represented the state at the American Regions Mathematics League national competition. He also competes in the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament and other nationwide contests. He's won the state math contest three years in a row. He's participated in the FIRST



Robotics Competition over the last four years and is currently team captain. He works as a Mathnasium instructor and is a part of Mission Math, a nonprofit created to instill a love of mathematics among elementary and middle school students.

## SCIENCE

#### Katherine Kaufman

Olympus High School  
**Parents:** Rosie and Trent Kaufman, Holladay

*"I'm excited to pursue a career in neuroscience. I look forward to conducting self-guided projects, working with other scientists, and making discoveries. Specifically, I hope to study the molecular mechanisms that lead to depression and anxiety."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Interned at the University of Utah's Shepherd Lab where she researched proteins and neurons. Is senior editor for an international youth neuroscience journal. Started the Titan Brain Club as a junior. As



the director, she gained funding for the club through a STEM grant and also recruits guest speakers. She is student president of Friend-2-Friend, a nonprofit which runs the Olympus Food Pantry. She will continue her studies at Harvard.

## SKILLED & TECHNICAL SCIENCES

#### Divya Sundar

West High School  
**Parents:** Krishna and Sue Sundar, Salt Lake City

*"My curiosity for medicine began when I learned how to trace a drop of blood through the cardiovascular system. I was fascinated by how intricately categorized the human body was. It wasn't until I learned about the brain and its myriad functions that I fell in love with the medical sciences."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Presented an abstract at the American Society of Hematology conference and was the recipient of the 2022 Abstract Achievement Award. She worked on a project regarding the JAK2 mutation: a



mutation that was responsible for disease in one of her family members. She began working in a hematology lab at age 13. Volunteers with the Kids Crew at Primary Children's Hospital. Joined the student leadership of the Tutors of West High.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

#### Lydia May

West High School  
**Parents:** Heather and Daniel May, Salt Lake City

*"My first house was across the street from the Utah State Capitol ... I was amazed to be in such close proximity to the democratic process. ... I want to write public policy that improves Utah children's lives. I'm especially interested in children's mental health. I'm also interested in becoming a clinical psychologist."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** She is the student board member for Salt Lake City School District where she works with district and city officials. Elected president of the Utah Attorney General's



Youth Committee. Serves on the leadership board for the school's Peer Court and is a panel chair at Salt Lake City Peer Court. She captains the debate team, reaching NSDA Premier Distinction, a level given to fewer than 3% of members.

## SPEECH/THEATER ARTS/FORENSICS

#### Nevaeh Parker

Roy High School  
**Parents:** Lori Bunnell, Roy

*"As a young child, my mother encouraged me to use my voice, and that if I saw a need, to take action. ... Words have an impact, and I believe that when an individual is given a platform to speech, that they should use it to help. ... My experience and ever growing expertise as a speaker is something I cherish and plan to use for a lifetime."*

**AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Competed in the 2022 National Speech & Debate Tournament and is team captain of the school's debate team. She is Roy's student body president and has been involved in stu-



dent government since seventh grade. She organized a Black Student Union. Serves on the Roy City Youth Council. Organized a "Your Voice Matters" event that led to her appearance on PBS. Aims to pursue a career as a lawyer.