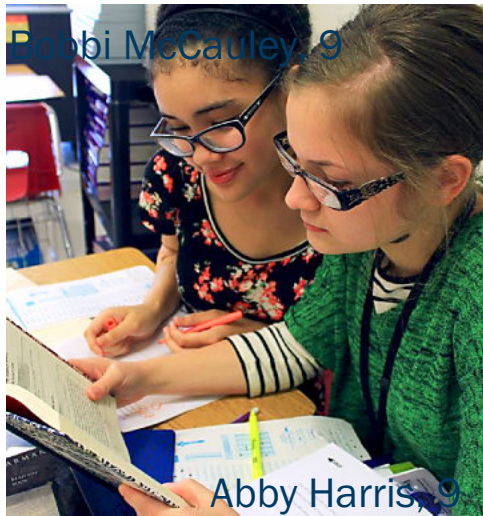


#UpdateWifING-Lesly Zermeno, 9

#WhoCares-Lupe Gomez, 12

#StraightOuttaNigeria-Lois Adewunmi, 11

Presenting her question in AVID tutorials, senior **Esperanza Garcia** looks to her AVID peers for help. photo by SaSchel Moore



Robbi McCauley, 9

Abby Harris, 9



George Gegbe, 10



Alyssa Rico, 12

TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE

Math, Science, & Technology

Do you prefer working



"I like to work in groups. We can share ideas and make comments."

freshman Nimit Desai



"I'm okay with working alone, because you can express yourself."

sophomore Kim-Vy Le

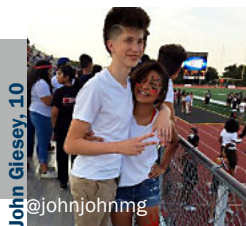


"Alone, I work faster without stressing if the others have their work done."

junior Edward Martinez



Jackie Gonzalez, 11
@jackie_gonzalez



John Giesey, 10
@johnjohnmg



Julia Langlois, 11
@julia_langlois



Karla Romero, 11
@karlarxm



Neelam Patel, 9
@neelam.patell

#WhatsAHashtag-Jacob Carl, 10

#JuniorYearIn5Words-James Garrett, 11

#PayneTrayne-Myles Ledet, 9

Self-determination

Balancing five AP classes, six clubs and applying to 50 universities, a senior manages to stay at the top of her class and stay true to herself.

Senior Esperanza Garcia finds herself losing sleep every day because of the workload she carries, but with graduation slowly approaching she doesn't plan on quitting now. Juggling homework for five AP classes and participating in six clubs is only the beginning for her. Pulling all the motivation and drive necessary to stay on top of all of her work, she pushes herself to achieve the one goal her mind is set on.

"Self-determination is my will power."

"I want to raise my GPA, [so] my class rank will go up, because I want to be in the top 10 percent of my class," Garcia said.

Unlike most students who were encouraged to try hard and do their best, Garcia was pushed down by those who were supposed to lift her up, but that didn't make her want to quit; it made her want it even more.

"I had a rough childhood. It taught me that no matter what you go through, we all have situations that we face, no matter who we are; we just have to overcome our situations," Garcia said.

Having more than just her graduation in mind, Garcia has already begun to pave her future for herself by setting a goal of applying to 50 universities in hopes of getting accepted to more than half of them.

"It was merely out of competition," Garcia said. "I heard that a kid from last year got accepted into 21 colleges, and I figured he just applied to a bunch of schools and thought maybe I should try and beat him. This could happen, and it's going pretty well so far."

Her drive to excel at everything she does requires Garcia to be even more organized than the average student

in order to meet both college and scholarship application deadlines.

"I really don't know how I do it, but I do," Garcia said. "Sometimes I stay

up past 2 or 3 in the morning. Maybe it's that, but I have a composition notebook that has all my deadlines in it and sticky notes that remind me what to work on and what needs to be checked on."

She pushes herself physically, mentally and emotionally past exhaustion to finish what needs to get done. That is why Garcia finds herself ahead of the game, excelling academically,

devoting her time to organizations and beginning to pave her future after graduation.

"My situation at home really impacted who I

am as a person," Garcia said. "I've done a lot of bad things that I regret in my past, but I'm trying to make up for it and my future as a whole, which is why I feel that self-determination is my willpower."

Story by Yadira Albarado



Carlos Bueno, 11

alone or in groups?



"I prefer working by myself, mainly because I know the work will get done how I like it."

senior **Brenda Hernandez**



@theidesofmads

Madison Potter, 11



@alec.g.duke

Alec Duke, 11



@adriy123

Adrianna Burns, 12



@too_rad_brad

Erika Maldonado, 9

Summer - September

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Academics