

'School work is always No. 1'

Johnstown student is Challenge Program honoree for academics

Katelin Lindrose, a junior at Greater Johnstown High School, recognizes that a good education is vital to her future success.

That's why she has spent her high-school career working hard to achieve her current grade point average of a 4.53 on a 4.0 scale.

Katelin's academic achievement is impressive for more than the fact that her curriculum has consisted almost entirely of honors/gifted classes.

She also is very active in extracurricular activities, such as being a member of Johnstown's softball and soccer teams, the Key Club and Leadership Plus.

She also holds a part-time job at the Westmont Pizza Hut.

Although Katelin, like most high-school students today, maintains a busy life outside of school, she makes sure that her extracurricular life never interferes with her responsibilities as a student.

"School work is always No. 1," Katelin said. "You have to make it your priority. You must be willing to make sacrifices in order to succeed and achieve all you're destined to be. Academics mean everything and can take you anywhere."



THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Kayla Washko

Katelin plans to continue to challenge herself with a heavy course load next year, scheduling several advanced placement classes offered at Johnstown, such as AP Spanish, AP history, AP calculus and AP English.

AP courses are approved by the College Board, a not-for-profit association that manages standardized testing for high school students planning to continue postsecondary education. AP classes provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. After a year of college-level instruction, students are tested and rated by the College Board on a 1-5 scale, with a grade of 5 being the highest.

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GREATER JOHNSTOWN
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR**

Although university policies vary regarding AP scores, most provide credit hours as incentives for students who have performed well on AP tests.

Katelin said that challenging academics push her to be "the best she can be."

She also credited some of her academic success to Johnstown teachers who have mentored her throughout her high-school career.

"Mr. Heinrich always has positive feedback and enjoys helping in any way he can," Katelin said.

She said it was Heinrich who originally sparked her interest in Key Club, and that she has taken many of his classes throughout her high-school career.

After graduation next year, Katelin plans to continue her education at the college level. She hopes to enroll in either architecture or business.

Katelin is the 2007 recipient of the Challenge Program's Highest G.P.A.-Sophomore award at Greater Johnstown High School.

This article is part of a human interest series that will feature past recipients of The Challenge Program's four award categories: Most Improved, Best G.P.A., Most Community Service and Best Attendance. The Challenge Program is a nonprofit organization located in Johnstown that provides financial incentives to students for successes they achieve while still in high school. The Challenge Program also aims to provide a bridge between high-school students and the local business community.