

Schools

Student Spotlight: Maria Montzka, senior at Boulder High School



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Accomplishment: Maria is a talented artist. Her artwork was recently chosen from submissions of students from around the school district to be the brochure cover of the "Impact on Education" awards celebration.

Q: What got you into art?

A: I have been into art for as long as I can remember. I really started to produce finished pieces in eighth and ninth grade. I think the idea of being able to produce something that created a reaction in people, and that they enjoyed looking at, was encouraging for me. It wasn't until high school that I started feeling like I was accomplishing what I wanted, though.

Q: What's cool about creating art?

A: Creating the art, in the first place, is fun. I like painting, especially when I am really into the piece, and I just want to paint and paint until it's done. It's cool to be able to look at something and rework it in such a way that it appeals to the eye. I also enjoy seeing people's reactions to my art.

Q: What's the best part about being a teenager?

A: The best part about being a teenager is that there are a lot of new opportunities that come your way. I have enjoyed my later teen years more than the earlier ones because I am now starting to shape my life and starting to try to figure out what I want to make of it. It is exciting to think about what will come next.

Q: What's the worst part?

A: The worst part, well. ... There are some rough patches, but you just get through them.

Q: What makes a good teacher?

A: A good teacher is someone who listens to what you have to say and truly considers it, someone who is enthusiastic and wants you personally to learn. They are prepared for class, make lectures interesting and encourage their students to work hard. A good teacher makes you laugh, and gets you excited about the topic so much that you are excited to go home and read the text book. A good teacher teaches the material well and prepares you for anything that comes your way.

Q: If you could change one thing about high school, what would it be?

A: I would take out all of the teachers who do not actually teach their students, and replace them with teachers like the one described above. I find that it is much easier to learn when your teacher teaches, and they are excited about teaching.

Q: What was the last song you downloaded to your iPod?

A: "The Way I Am," by Ingrid Michaelson.

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: "The Color Purple," by Alice Walker.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?

A: I enjoy listening to music, playing the harp, painting, hanging out with my friends, drawing, playing soccer, going camping, sledding, making cookies, traveling and chocolate.

Q: What do you want to do after high school?

A: After high school, I plan on attending a four-year college and figuring out what I want to do with the rest of my life.