

the TRADITION CONTINUES

National Speech and Debate Association 5th Place Finisher

The National Speech and Debate Association held its annual national tournament on June 14-19th. The Piper speech and debate team sent six competitors in a total of nine events. This tournament is the largest academic competition in the world with over 4400 individual competitors. **Amaya Starks**, class of 2021, had a truly outstanding tournament. She placed in the top 60 in the nation in Program of Oral Interpretation and poetry interpretation. This year, the NSDA offered a new event, Original Spoken Word Poetry. In this event, students wrote their own poem, memorized it, and prepared it for performance. Amaya placed 5th out of 269 competitors in OSW. Her coach, Tori Deneault, comments that "Amaya is the sort of student that knows that 'talented' is the bare minimum for competing at this level. Her success is due to her intense dedication and work ethic. Her unique combination of talent, hard work, and vibrant personality is absolutely a recipe for success." Amaya knows that this kind of work is essential. She frequently



Amaya Starks

quotes her mother (and biggest cheerleader), Antoinette, by saying "The sky was never the limit, we just believed it was." Amaya's dedication to excellence will take her to Spelman College in the fall to study performance and political science.

Piper High School's First CTE (Career & Technical Education) Scholar

The CTE Scholar is a new award given by the Kansas State Department of Education. To receive this award, a scholar must meet a minimum GPA in CTE coursework; document technical skill attainment; demonstrate leadership,



John Webb

employability skills and community engagement; and earn the recommendation of adult mentors. This year, KSDE announced 50 students received such recognition, and one of those represents Piper High School. Congratulations to **John Webb**, class of 2021, for all of his hard work and for achieving the CTE Scholar recognition of achievement.

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#FROM
the
HELM

of PIPER PORTRAIT
A GRADUATE

Piper USD 203



It is with great pride we share with our community the Piper Portrait of a Graduate competencies based on the hard work and feedback of the Community Advisory Committee, Piper District Staff, and Piper Parent Community:

In December, the Board of Education approved the adoption of the Piper Portrait of a Graduate. The **Portrait of a Graduate** process involved a sustained conversation leading to shared agreement focused on a unique community-owned picture of what graduates need for success. Building a Community Advisory Committee was an integral part of the process. Representatives included communities of faith, business, higher education, community members at large, social service agencies, elected officials, district leaders, school leaders, families, teachers, and students. Through this inclusive process, the **Piper Portrait of a Graduate** encompassed the community's collective vision for our students. This process was branded **#FUTUREREADY** with a focus on the class of as 2033 when this year's current kindergarten students will graduate from high school.

The Community Advisory Committee's feedback was garnered through two meetings. The first meeting took place on October 28, 2020. At that meeting,

competencies were shared in the cognitive, personal and interpersonal realms. Assembling the participants in groups of three, each group was asked to discuss and select their top two competencies in the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal categories. At our second meeting on November 18, 2020, the Community Advisory Committee members were provided the prioritized list of competencies based on their work from the October meeting. Participants were once again asked to select their top two competencies from the three categories. In addition to the Community Advisory Committee, the voting on the narrowed categories (after the October 2020 meeting) was opened to the District Staff and all parents in the Piper School District.

At the current time, we are utilizing the newly-minted Piper Portrait of a Graduate to drive the creation of an updated District Strategic Plan which will encapsulate the competencies and drive our future work as a district and as a community. We look forward to sharing the updated Strategic Plan in the very near future!

