



QuEd up for Education

People and programs impacting our QCSD community

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QCHS senior earns rare scholarship

Sarah Godshalk one of 8 students to get "full ride" into Temple nursing program.

By Gary Weckselblatt

It was a Saturday morning and Sarah Godshalk was having brunch with friends at John's Plain & Fancy Diner when an email from Temple University popped up on her phone.



Sarah, the senior class president at Quakertown Community High School, clicked on the attachment and after reading it thought it might be a prank.

Normally conversational, her friends asked what was wrong as Sarah hadn't been chatting.

She shared the contents of the message with them. They got excited and suggested she call home. "Mom, I forwarded you this email," Sarah said. "I got a full ride to Temple!"

Susan Godshalk began to scream with the joy of a mom whose child's hard work had paid off in a big way.

Sarah received a rare offer from Temple University, whose Bachelor of Science in Nursing program receives approximately 4,000 applicants a year. Only about 100 students are accepted. Even more special, Sarah is one of only eight students to receive the J. Russell Fawley Scholarship, which pays for tuition and program-related costs



Following QCHS graduation, Sarah Godshalk will become a Temple Owl.

such as course fees, books, and uniforms. The funding is designed to encourage students with a history of high academic achievement to make Temple their first choice for nursing education.

"Temple was my reach school," Sarah said. "Their nursing program has like a 2 percent acceptance rate. I was in disbelief. I had no words."

The next day, Sarah, her sister Me-

gan and their mom and dad visited the Temple campus. A day later she accepted their generous offer.

Erica Henry, Sarah's counselor, wasn't surprised at her student's achievement. "Sarah is not only a phenomenal student, she is a compassionate, kind and giving young woman," Mrs. Henry said. "She demonstrates the best that Quakertown Community High School has

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to offer. It is no surprise to anyone who knows Sarah that Temple would award her this outstanding scholarship."

During a recent interview at QCHS, Sarah spoke about her scholarship, praised her teachers, counselors and coaches, and talked about the many opportunities she received as a student in QCSD.

"The classes, the rigor, the extra-curricular activities, the tutoring, the technology, the programs, I took advantage of all of it," she said. "It's all made such an immense difference in my life. It's been a privilege to be able to utilize all of these different resources that are offered."

On Tuesdays and Thursdays she's taken courses taught by Bucks County Community College professors: introduction to sociology and interpersonal communications.

Sarah is also part of the district's popular Medical Career Pathways program, which allows students to visit St. Luke's Hospital twice a week. One day is for lectures, the other day is for rotating throughout the hospital to learn about a variety of topics like different therapies, surgeries and post operative care.

Sarah played soccer during her first two years of high school and, as a talented musician, has been part of just about every band and choir.

"I'm getting involved in anything I possibly can," she said. "The plan is to be prepared for any challenges life throws at me."

Strayer Middle School Band Director Joe Santanello, who taught Sarah as far back as 2012, said she

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Sarah Godshalk



Sarah Godshalk, bottom left, traveled to the state capitol with the QCHS Varsity Singers and met Gov. Tom Wolf during the holiday tree lighting ceremony.

"has been an amazing asset to the program as a percussionist and pianist - playing in the jazz band, concert band and marching band for many years. Most importantly, Sarah has been a model student and has shared her wonderful personality with all of those around her. It's no surprise she has great things ahead for her at Temple. An outstanding young woman!"

Sarah describes her family as her biggest support system. Her dad, Scott Godschalk, is principal of Neidig Elementary School. Her sister, Megan, a sophomore, is also a talented student, singer and musician. Sarah says her sister is "my best

friend."

Sarah recalls having a passion for medicine at a young age and "wrapping ace bandages around anything I could find."

At one point she considered becoming an orthopedic surgeon. But with her self-described "biggest goal in life to be a mom," she didn't want the long hours to take away from the type of home she's benefited from growing up in.

The way she sees it, as a nurse practitioner "I can work independently, have a flexible schedule to support my family and still help people and save lives."

Sounds like a plan!

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