



MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

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207's Best: Improved Performance

Maine South is pleased to recognize Yesenia Martinez as one of 207's Best in the area of Improved Performance.

Yesenia has always enjoyed being around people where she can help and serve. Her mother has been a major source of inspiration and motivation. During her sophomore and junior year, Yesenia went through a period of time of self-doubt. Through many conversations with her mother, she was able to turn around her academic performance. She now wants to use her abilities to help children as a pediatric nurse. She has been a member of photo club, she volunteers at her church with seven and eight year olds after school, she had an internship at Resurrection Hospital in the Emergency Room. She learned many things during the internship and it cemented the reasons why she wanted to go into healthcare. When Yesenia started high school, she was in mostly transitional classes and by the time she has graduated, she is in four AP/Dual credit classes.

Yesenia's Health Care Careers and Medical Terminology teacher, Ms. Melissa Damewood, says, "Yesenia is walking sunshine, she always brings joy and enthusiasm into the world. I have had the pleasure of working with Yesenia on her goal to become a nurse and she has never wavered in her determination to achieve her career goals. She has been faced with disappointment of not being selected for opportunities at the hospital, but it has never stopped her from moving forward and continuing to achieve her goal. I am very proud of Yesenia and how hard she has worked at creating a successful life for herself, I feel confident that she will continue on her career journey and be a talented nurse."

Marianne Gonzalez, Yesenia's Biology teacher, says, "Yesenia always set a good example for other students in the class. She was responsible and diligent, always doing her best. She cared about her classmates and was always willing to help them."

Mike McGreevy, her World Cultures teacher and current Dean, says, "Yesenia is an outstanding individual. I had the pleasure to serve as her freshman year World Cultures teacher. I encouraged Yesenia to strive for classes a level up due to her exemplary academic performance in class. Yesenia has a genuine enthusiasm for learning simply for the sake of knowledge. She is one who reminds a person why they entered the discipline of education. Yesenia's personality is such that her peers and my colleagues speak highly of her. She is one who is full of goodness and will give her very best in any situation. Yesenia is a person that would make any institution proud with her association. I am proud beyond words of Yesenia."

Trish Conlon's, Yesenia's Counselor, says, "We have all loved working with her and are cheering her on as she prepares for college and a career in nursing, which is truly a dream of hers. She has advocated for herself, disciplined herself to stay on track, and is determined to move life forward. Her freshman year she went into transitional level classes in English (with a Reading class included), math and science where there is extra support. Now, as a senior, she is in 3 AP classes, one being AP Biology. I've not seen that before in 19 years in this position. By sophomore year, there were no transitional classes on her schedule. She jumped into Spanish 4 Accelerated as a junior due to background knowledge and is now in Spanish 5 AP. She started in Introduction to Algebra as a freshman. She wanted to get on track so she could get beyond Algebra 2 in high school. She was allowed to register for the second semester of Algebra 1 in the summer before sophomore year because she did well in Intro. She earned an A in the summer 3 week course without having had the material before. She was then placed in Plane Geometry for sophomore year along with the majority of sophomores. Her classes could not

emphasize any more her desire to pursue nursing. She has taken advantage of every opportunity we offer to get experience in the field: Health Care Careers, Medical Terminology, Internship at the hospital (5 hours a week during both semesters junior year) and now she will become a Certified Nursing Assistant during second semester. Yesenia stands out for her character, she is one of the nicest students ever, and for her will to succeed no matter what.”

Her freshman English teacher, Paul Bellisario, says “Yesenia was a hard-working, serious student. It's no surprise to me that she wins an award for ‘Improved Performance.’ Congratulations!”

Kevin Stock, Yesenia’s Advanced Composition teacher, says “Yesenia has excelled and has taken a leading role in Advanced Composition. Yesenia is a powerful, needed, female voice in our classroom. She participates daily in discussion with insightful comments on character, theme, and style, and literary analysis. When I see her hand raised, I look forward to hearing from her because I know she will add to the class discussion. Her writing demonstrates her maturity, reflects her strong intellect, and exhibits a stylistic technique not often found in a high school senior or college student for that matter. Yesenia has the mind of a philosopher. She thoroughly enjoys reading literature and debating ideas. Because she genuinely wants to understand the texts, her contributions to discussion consistently bring the class to a high level of understanding rather than simply reflect a desire to earn participation points. I am very proud of her progress and maturity as an individual. Yesenia’s attitude toward her fellow students also reflects her heartfelt compassion for others. This openness to all people was also evident in our class workshops on one another’s writing. Her intellect and compassion will be missed at Maine South High School, but I have no doubt that she will continue to benefit those she works with in the future. Yesenia is the total package of an ideal student: intelligent, compassionate, thoughtful, competitive and engaged with both classes and classmates.”

Rachel Santucci, her AP Psychology teacher, says “Yesenia is a hardworking, responsible, kind and motivated student! She is a pleasure to work with in the classroom. I appreciate her questions, her consistency in performance, and her ability to work well with those around her. She is a leader in her group and respected by her peers. Yesenia truly is the best for the month!”

Yesenia has been accepted University of Massachusetts at Boston. She will be studying pediatric nursing. She will be the first member of her family to attend college. We could not be more proud of her!!

Sincerely,



Dr. Ben Collins
Principal
Maine South High School

