



MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

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207's Best: Academic Achievement

Maine South is pleased to recognize George Dalianis as one of 207's Best in the area of Academic Achievement.

When I arrived in the position, I was greeted by an email from Mr. Dalianis, asking if he could meet to discuss how we could improve the Principal's Advisory Council. From that meeting on, I was impressed by George's perseverance to making South a better place. It seems only fitting that this evening, nearly 18 months later, we honor George with this award. His academic success is beyond what any normal student would have accomplished. His GPA is a 4.94. He is a National Merit commended student. George's motivation is a combination of taking advantage of opportunities that his parents have provided and making the best of his high school experiences where he has had excellent teachers. Working hard has been the underlying principle that George has been raised on. Music also occupies another corner of George's world. He is an accomplished concert pianist, practicing two to three hours everyday. He was a National Young Arts winner for the his playing among his peers. He's performed recitals and even performed once at Symphony Center. In high school, he has taken a rigorous course load, including, AP Euro, AP Calc BC, AP US History, AP Physics 1, AP Language and Composition, AP Econ, AP English literature, AP Psychology, AP French, AP Physics C, Multivariable calculus, and a member of our state championship C-team (unit 1). He is in National Honor Society, Junior State of America, and Principal's Advisory Council.

George's AP Calculus BC teacher, Mrs. Beth Ann Ball, says, "This is my seventeenth year teaching high school mathematics after a career as a chemical engineer in the plastics industry. George is the most patient, unflappable, broadminded student I have met. George is an intellectual and a scholar who will seek out opportunities and use them to make the world a better place. George Dalianis is truly one of the top few encountered in my career. What makes George stand out from other intelligent, intellectual, high achieving high school seniors is his maturity, his patience, and his genuine concern for others. George is humble. He has high expectations for himself and others, but is patient. George understands that every person's thoughts and opinions matter. He is respectful, disciplined and conscientious."

Mark Smith, his Geometry and Trig ACC teacher, says, "It was honor to teach George. Beyond his natural ability, he worked hard to master the standards taught in Accelerated Geometry. As a result of his tireless efforts, he improved dramatically over the course of the year. George had the wisdom to listen and the courage to ask high level questions that ultimately furthered his understanding. In addition, whenever necessary, he was willing to spend time outside of class to get extra assistance."

George's AP Language and Composition teacher, Ms. Teri Knight, says, "A diligent student, George skillfully interprets fiction and non-fiction texts, and, as a result, his writing is marked by insightful observations. During class discussions, he inspired his peers by sharing his ideas. George consistently demonstrated exceptional analytical skills in my AP Language and Composition class."

Dave Inerra, George's Junior Leaders teacher, says "George is a serious student who has also been an asset to our Physical Education Leaders Program. His genuine leadership and trustworthiness allows our students, and our department to exceed everyday."

Jeff Downing, his AP Physics C teacher, says “George is an awesome student who achieves at a level that very few approach. In addition he is one the most insightful students who I have had the pleasure of teaching. The questions he asks in class are very thought-provoking and always benefit his classmates. He is definitely worthy of this recognition. Congrats!”

George’s Counselor, Mr. Bob Tortorelli, says, “To say that George Dalianis has high standards for himself would be the understatement of the year. He doesn’t just enjoy getting to the finish line or being the best but he truly loves the journey no matter how challenging and grueling the road may be. George is one of the brightest, most talented, and most driven individuals that I have had the pleasure to work with not only among this year’s senior class but as compared to the last several classes. In spite of all of his accomplishments George has remained humble and appreciative. He takes nothing for granted. His talents and his personal skills are impressive. George brings the same level of commitment, interest, and intensity to the many extracurricular activities that he partakes in. He is a leader among leaders as a member of our Principal’s Advisory Council. George has been instrumental in helping our new principal make many positive changes to the climate of our school. George also is responsible for founding the Junior State of America (JSA) chapter at our school. He did the research and obtained approval from our administration as well as the national organization to start and organize this national, student-led, non-partisan political awareness debate club. He also recruited over twenty members to participate in healthy debates. George and fellow JSA members helped plan an Illinois Attorney General Candidate Forum. The activity that I associate George most with is playing piano. The level of talent in his piano performance that George has developed is amazing and the commitment that has been required to get there is equally impressive. He practices piano two to three hours a day. This speaks volumes to his dedication to piano and also to his amazing time management skills. He really is passionate about his music. George’s efforts have been rewarded by not only performing at but also by winning national music competitions.”

Mrs. Jill Braverman, his English 2 ACC teacher, says “While in my English 2 Accelerated class, George demonstrated a high skill level as an insightful reader and precise writer. Curious, he engaged in learning and respected the ideas of his classmates.”

George’s AP English Literature and Composition teacher, Mrs. Amy Krukowski says “What impresses me most about George is his consistency and his versatility. George is unflappable. No matter what the circumstance, he is always prepared at the highest level for class. I love how he makes this seem so normal. I have greatly enjoyed reading and listening to George's writing this year. When he speaks, his peers listen, because they know what a class act he is. I particularly enjoyed the playful use of language he employed in a piece describing his papau and yiyia. I am so lucky to have him in class, and even though the year will winding up soon, I'm looking forward to the excellence he will display in the next few months.”

George plans to study history or political science and has been accepted to Yale. He is still waiting to make a decision on which school he’ll attend. Whatever the future hold for George, we know he’ll be successful. Congratulations to him and we are honored to have be graced by his presence while he was at Maine South.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ben Collins
Principal
Maine South High School