



MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL WEST

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March 2019

207's Best: Elective Area of Achievement

Maine West is pleased to recognize **Dhruvi Patel** as one of 207's Best for *Elective Area of Achievement*.

Life gives you the Journey. You create the path.

There is not one path.

There is not even the right path.

There is only your path.

Dhruvi is truly deserving of the award of 207's Best in Electives because she has used Career and Technical Education electives (CTE) throughout her high school experience to explore career options. This is the true mission of electives and it is so exciting when students realize it. Through exploring, students should find out what fits and what doesn't feel exactly right. Dhruvi did just that. She readily admits there were moments where she felt a little unsettled or anxious, but she used it to drive herself forward rather than hold herself back.

Dhruvi thought she saw her career path clearly very early in her high school experience. She also knew she could explore the wide array of elective courses in D207 to prepare her for it. Influenced by her sister's decision to study physical therapy, Dhruvi was also drawn to the idea of medicine. In particular, she thought she might like to be a pediatrician. This goal drew her to electives like Child Development and School Age Child. Dhruvi was very successful in these classes; however, she just didn't feel it was her passion. According to her Child Development teacher, Mrs. Archer:

Dhruvi was an exceptional student in Child Development and School Age Child. She worked well with the 3rd graders and she had a great understanding of the content. Dhruvi started on the education path as a freshman and even when she realized it was not her passion, she stayed committed to the class and her partnership with Plainfield students was unwavering.

Dhruvi had a repeat of that experience, and then she struck gold. According to Mrs. Mazanowski:

Dhruvi was in my Introduction to Business class, and while she performed well, she realized that business was not the career for her. When she enrolled in my Internship class as a junior, she told me she was interested in architecture. She interviewed at a local architecture firm, but did not get the internship due to her lack of experience with CAD. However, she did not let that discourage her either. Dhruvi went on to intern at another firm where she used online tutorials and case studies to teach herself the basics of CAD. Her supervisor gave her an "Exceeds Expectations" rating in all categories of her work experience and added, "Dhruvi will go far." It has been a pleasure to watch Dhruvi's career goals come into focus and her skills evolve in many CTE courses over the past four years.

207's Best for March
Dhruvi Patel

The Internship experience solidified Dhruvi's decision to pursue a career in architecture or engineering. Now as a senior, she is enrolled in Mr. Pederson's Project Lead the Way course to further improve on her CAD Skills and Automotive Fundamentals to feel confident in auto repair and maintenance situations. Mr. Pederson comments:

I can honestly say Dhruvi is not only an amazing student, she is also an amazing young woman. Her work ethic and passion is second to none. She meets all of the project deadlines and is the first student to step up and assist others in both of my courses. Her maturity has definitely set her apart in both of my classes. I'm thrilled that her plans are to study Architecture/Civil Engineering next year at the University of Illinois.

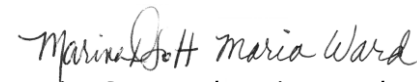
Dhruvi is equally as amazing with her other coursework. She is currently taking AP Art History, AP English, AP Calculus BC, AP Physics C and is a PE Senior Leader. Dhruvi maintains an impressive 4.49 GPA. Mr. Sumida, Dhruvi's AP Physics teacher notes:

Dhruvi is an incredibly diligent and hardworking student. As a student in AP Physics C, she has met the challenges presented by the material head-on. She uses multiple resources to resolve her issues, comes in during free periods outside of school hours to ask questions and get additional practice, and works to both complete and understand all parts of every classroom assignment. Her commitment to her own learning will serve her well in her post-secondary studies.

Aside from her academic success, Dhruvi is one of the most involved students at Maine West High School. In the midst of her incredibly challenging schedule, she finds time to serve as a Coach Tutor, volunteer with the Key Club, serve on Student Council, lead the Indian Student Association, serve on the Executive Board as treasurer of NHS, and participate in SALT, Spanish NHS, Warrior Pride, Mu Alpha Theta, and Pi Sigma Pi. Mr. Aldworth comments that Dhruvi's positivity and selfless leadership are traits to which we want all our students to aspire. Dhruvi's counselor, Ms. Bader concurs:

Dhruvi is a dynamic and charismatic young lady who takes chances, possesses strong leadership skills, and connects with others with ease. As a Warrior Pride Mentor, Dhruvi assisted with the freshman lessons during the "I Am A Warrior" day earlier this year. As a facilitator of one of those lessons, I was able to observe Dhruvi interact with the freshman class in a leadership role. She had a strong presence with a kind approach. The students looked to her for direction and guidance and she responded with a level of professionalism and patience that was well beyond her years. Dhruvi has a strong work ethic, has tremendous self-advocacy skills, and engages in her education with great dedication and independence.

Thank you Dhruvi, for reminding us that a change in direction does not mean one is abandoning their path. Few paths are straight or predictable. Yours at Maine West has been incredible. Congratulations on all you have achieved and for being named one of 207's Best in the Area of Elective Achievement.


Marina Scott and Marina Ward
Interim Principals