



MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL EAST

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District 207's Best for Elective Area of Achievement: Suzan E. Georges

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Maine East High School, I am pleased to name Suzan Georges as "District 207's Best" in recognition of Elective Area of Achievement.

Suzan has been consistently enrolled in accelerated and Advanced Placement classes since entering Maine East as a freshman. Her AP elective courses have focused on Television & Radio Broadcasting (four years), Drama (3 years) and French language (all four years accelerated level), and her Advanced Placement classes have consisted of AP Calculus BC, AP US/Comparative Government & Politics, AP Environmental Science, AP US History (earning Honors of Academic Achievement), AP English Language & Composition, AP Physics 1, and AP European History. Other core classes have consistently been at the accelerated level, and she has been a Junior/Senior PE Leader. Her academic accomplishments include membership in the National Honors Society (member 2017-2019), inclusion on the High Honor Roll every semester since starting at East, and an IHSA Scholastic Achievement Award in 2018. Suzan is also a talented soccer player where she has been team captain of our Girls Soccer Team, recognized as All-Conference by the CSL in 2016, 2017, and 2018, and she was a member of the Champion Team Nike Cup Classic in 2017. She also plays club soccer with Sockers FC. Additionally, she has been an active member in the Comics, Cartooning, and Animation Club.

While all of these achievements are commendable, it is specifically for her achievement in TV and Radio Broadcasting that we are recognizing Suzan for tonight. She has received multiple awards and recognition from the Midwestern Media Educators' Association (MMEA): Gold Award Midwestern Media Educators Association High School Video Festival 2017, Finalist in Division AA for Documentary Midwest Media Educators Association Film Festival, Second Place in the MMEA Seven Day Film Challenge 2018, and she was a nominee for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NARAS). Here at Maine East, Suzan also serves as the co-station manager for WMTH-TV, and she regularly appears live on the air for WMTH-FM. She is the go-to news anchor for our live broadcast news programs. Her voice is known throughout our school as the voice of our daily public address announcements, and her catch-phrase, "Good Morning, Maine East," is imitated endlessly by her peers - as is her weekly pitch for "Pizza, Pizza, Pizza!"

Her Broadcasting teacher, Phil Ash, goes on to explain:

It is difficult to fully explain the scope and breadth of Suzan's talent, but simply put, she has a natural gift for storytelling. It is clearly evident in all of her work, regardless of topic, genre, or style. During her time as a student, Suzan has produced a diverse media portfolio including dramatic narratives, news packages, public service announcements, movie trailers, and music videos. All of these projects contain a singular common element: exceptional storytelling. Suzan's visual stories draw an audience in, hook them, and do not let them go until the credits roll. She has a natural understanding of story structure, narrative pacing, and has the creativity to put unique twists upon her work without convoluting the message or purpose. Suzan is able to carry out her stories using skillful writing, cinematography, and editing. She has the instinctual knowledge necessary to make what is written on the page come to life both behind the camera and in an editing bay. Her talents have not gone unnoticed by others, including her peers, teachers, and the greater Chicagoland student filmmaking community. Last year, Suzan co-wrote,

directed, and edited a silent film that was showcased at the prestigious Sanfilippo Estate's private, silent-film theater, Place De La Musique. Suzan is a rare talent: in short, she is the type of student all teachers want to teach - I consider myself lucky to have had her as a student.

Her school counselor, Suzy Caliendo, commented, "She's fantastic! Truly one of our best," and went on to say: *I have had the great honor of working with Suzan for the past four years. In this time, I have been constantly impressed with her maturity, work-ethic, and strength of character. She has been a tremendous student at Maine East High School in the classroom, in our fine arts programming, and on the soccer field. She has a passion for understanding challenging material and applying that which she learns to new situations. Her interests are varied and her work at Maine East has allowed her to explore possible careers in radio, TV, and film as she contemplates how best to use her talents. This quality of effort and focused performance is also seen in Suzan's work on the soccer field; with both her club and school soccer teams, Suzan's positive energy, supportive direction, and mental and physical toughness are expressed with each moment of success and challenge. Her coaches and teammates know that they can always depend upon her in any situation, and look to her to set the tone for the team.*

This fall she also took the risk of adding one more activity to her repertoire and became part of a unique theater opportunity by acting in our fall play "The Compass." As part of the immersion theater cast, Suzan was charged with the task of responding to the feedback of the audience and generating her performance based upon their directives. It was such a great opportunity to showcase her multitude of talents. Also, this past fall, Suzan and a classmate took on the challenge of creating a fun and informative video highlighting all of the elective areas to share with our incoming class of 8th graders. The end product was super professional and so helpful for our incoming students to make informed choices!

Physical Education Lead Teacher Theresa Bonifazi referred to Suzan as "*a vibrant and charismatic young lady who volunteered to work behind the scenes as our video consultant and master of ceremonies during our PE leader led basketball game. She was our point person in creating our senior leader breakfast video where she compiled memories from our 2017-2018 graduating senior leaders. Soccer is also one of her many talents. A true leader both on and off the field, she displays her leadership through her exemplary work ethic and dedication to sportsmanship. I have seen this play out in our PE Leader program as she continually projects positivity, humor, and a passion for physical wellness.*"

In terms of both academics and leadership, Suzan Georges is a model student. She works hard every day, and she is, according to her teachers and coaches, her own biggest critic. She approaches projects with enthusiasm and a high level of critical thinking and inquiry, and she never settles for "good enough." Suzan leads by example in class and on the playing field, and she enthusiastically takes on additional responsibilities. She truly exemplifies Maine East's R Code in the way she is consistently Respectful of self and others, Responsible for her actions, and Ready for whatever opportunity comes her way. She is truly one of "District 207's Best" and we are a better school for her investment of time, talent, and energy over these past four years.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael W. Pressler
Principal