



# MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL WEST

1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018-1994 847-827-6176 Fax: 847-296-4916

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Dr. Marina Scott  
Ms. Maria Ward  
Interim Principals

Mr. David J. Matkovic  
Associate Principal

Dr. Eileen McMahon  
Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

Mr. John Aldworth  
Assistant Principal for Students

Dr. Claudia Rueda-Alvarez  
Assistant Principal for Student Services

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## **207's Best: Extracurricular Involvement**

Maine West is pleased to recognize Sarah Magnoni as one of 207's Best in the Area of Extracurricular Involvement

*"My role as part of this team is to come off the bench, give a little fire, try to add a little spark."*

~ Sarah Magnoni, as reported in Daily Herald, December 2018

"Give a little fire, try to add a little spark" is what Sarah Magnoni does in curricular and extracurricular involvement, and it is this "spark" that made her a unanimous choice to be Maine West's 207's Best recipient in the area of Extracurricular Involvement.

When I told Sarah she was the unanimous selection for the 207's Best in Extracurricular Involvement, she was appreciative but humbled. As a leader in numerous extracurricular areas, Sarah is a "subtle leader," as characterized by Mr. Aldworth, Assistant Principal for Student Activities. He states, "While she may not be the most vocal leader, she is one who leads exceptionally well by example." Mr. Aldworth went on to say, "Her work with SALT (Student Activities Leadership Team) helped create a new orientation day for freshmen that introduced them to the student culture at West."

Sarah's involvement stretches across all areas of West. She participates in numerous volunteer organizations which include the aforementioned SALT as well as National Honor Society and Pi Sigma Pi. Furthermore, Sarah is active in Student Council and Class Council. When I met with Sarah, she highlighted other volunteer organizations in which she has been involved. They include: St. Emily - basketball with kids, Feed My Starving Children, and Feed My Sheep soup kitchen. In all that she does, Sarah tries to lead by example, even dressing up each day for Spirit Week and encouraging others to get involved and to show their support and pride for Maine West. Mr. Aldworth points out, "She does all this while competing at an incredibly high level during all three athletic seasons."

Sarah's participation in the athletic arena, too, has been impressive, and she is always focused on doing her best to contribute to the team she is on during each season. In the fall, Sarah competes on the Cross Country team, and Coach Regalado had this to say about her: "Sarah Magnoni is a remarkable young lady. The most impressive quality that I admire about Sarah is the sense of pride that she has not only in herself but the school. She puts her heart and soul in all the activities she participates in... she lives by example and is a true Warrior!" In the winter, Sarah is a member of the girls' basketball team, a team on which Sarah contributed to the team winning its first State Championship in thirty-one years. Head coach, Ms. DeMarigny states: "Sarah is a wonderful young lady and a fierce competitor. She was a very important part of this year's State Championship Girls Basketball Team, oftentimes playing through injuries and fatigue to contribute to the amazing success the team enjoyed this season."

It is in the area of soccer, however, that Sarah excelled at the highest level, earning her an athletic scholarship to play soccer at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Her coach, Mr. Bishop comments: "Sarah is a coach's dream of an athlete. Her leadership is the best that I have seen since I took over the

program. She makes our team better by leading by example and challenging her teammates to raise their game to match hers. She understands the game and has a high soccer IQ.” He adds, “Sarah understands how to communicate effectively with her teammates, when to be stern, and when to be caring. She is always positive and is the first one to pick up her teammates when they fall. I’m sure coaches say this often, but in this case, it couldn’t be more accurate – there is no replacing Sarah both on and off the field.”

Sarah’s leadership and “all in” attitude are not reserved only for her extracurricular involvement. Rather, Sarah annually takes a full course load to maximize her learning. Her teachers, too, can add to the accolades shared by her coaches and sponsors. Ms. Wisdom, Sarah’s Senior Composition teacher and NHS sponsor says, “I love Sarah! She is warm, collaborative and always dedicated to growing as a person and a student. She follows her passions... and dives into every new learning opportunity with enthusiasm and focus. When Sarah is present the whole room gets better.” Mr. Matan had Sarah as a freshman in Spanish 1 and now has her, again, in Spanish 4. He states, “In Spanish, she has a passion of not only learning the language but using it as much as possible. She is a humble person who cares for others. Even though she has accomplished so much, Sarah is still a very down to earth person who loves life.” Her Civics and Government teacher, Ms. Parciak, adds, “Sarah is a stellar athlete and person as well. She is inclusive, polite, and friendly. Sarah is a classmate that everyone wants to work with and be around.” Ms. Giricz, Sarah’s counselor, shared that Sarah’s grade point average is 3.9 and states: “Her excellence in balancing both academics and extracurriculars is evident in that she already had offers from colleges in the beginning of her school year and scholarships lined up.”

When I asked Sarah what she plans to pursue upon graduating from Maine West, she said that she will most likely pursue Business or Accounting, leaning toward Accounting at this time. Indeed her Accounting 1 and College Accounting Accelerated teacher, Ms. Mazanowski, echoes others when talking about Sarah. She recalls a time when making an early morning run in the neighborhood before school, stating: “I would often see the cross country team out there as well, and Sarah was at the front of the pack, leading her teammates. Sarah has a positive attitude always... in class, she actively participated and her effort and engagement serve as an exemplar for her classmates. She is very deserving of this award.”

Finally, Mr. Kirshner, Athletic Director, sums up what sets Sarah apart for this recognition: “She is a team player... a great person and a solid role model for her teammates.” He adds, “I have a daughter. I would be blessed if my daughter grows to demonstrate some of the incredible character, discipline, and work ethic that Sarah exemplifies.” Can there be any stronger testimony of Sarah than a desire to have one’s child emulate her strengths?

Just knowing Sarah for a short time, we have had the opportunity to witness and learn about her talents in the athletic, leader/volunteer, and classroom arenas. As described, Sarah is humble, caring, and a selfless leader. We agree with her teachers and coaches that there is nothing Sarah can’t accomplish!

We are very proud to recognize Sarah Magnoni as 207’s Best in Extracurricular Involvement, and we wish her great success in every future endeavor!



Marina Scott and Maria Ward  
Interim Principals