

# Academic All Stars

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His academic honors include: National Honor Society, National Merit Scholar finalist, certificate of commendation, Continental Mathematics League, National Council of Teachers of English writing awards competition, Who's Who Among American High School Students, finalist Shell Century Three Leader Competition, certificate of recognition Michigan Education Assessment Program, qualified for Part II of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition and received invitation to participate in engineering symposiums at Purdue University, Carnegie Mellon University and the U.S. Naval Academy.

Joseph cites Ralph Springfield, his physical education teacher at Frost Middle School as having the greatest influence on his high school academic career.

"The lesson he taught me began on the basketball court and soon began influencing every aspect of my life. I had never played a minute of organized basketball or football prior to attending Stevenson. The odds of me making either of these teams, therefore, were stacked highly against me. Mr. Springfield always emphasized that one may accomplish anything through dedication, self-sacrifice and hard work. That I have earned my varsity letter several times over in basketball and baseball and have served as defensive captain of the junior varsity football team is a testament to his advice," writes Joseph in his all-star application.

He is the son of Richard F. and Mary L. Joseph.



Benjamin Spector

**BENJAMIN SPECTOR**  
North Farmington High School

Benjamin Spector plans to attend either Duke University or the University of Pennsylvania and study biology. He wants to be a genetic therapist or genetic researcher.

Spector has packed his high school career with a variety of extra-curricular activities including: president of junior and senior classes, class board, National Honor Society, founder and chair of environmental club, student

council, science olympiad, many school musical productions — including the lead in five, yearbook staff and Michigan Math League.

His non-school related activities include member of Temple Israel, photography classes, recreational skiing and tennis.

He worked summers at a fruit market and part-time during the school year as a Sunday school music aide at Temple Israel to earn money for his college education.

During summers, he attended Harvard Summer School, Michigan Boys' State and six-week college prep course in physics at Tufts University.

His academic honors include finalist in Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, National Merit commended scholar, Michigan Summer Institute nominee.

A teacher, Virginia Lambert, has been the biggest influence on his academic career.

"She has taught me to use my many interests and talents to my advantage. She has showed me the beauty of biology," wrote Spector in his all-star application.

He is the son of Steven and Louise Spector.



Wilson Lee

**WILSON LEE**  
Plymouth Salem High School

Wilson Lee will graduate at the top of his class in June and then plans to study medicine at either the University of Michigan, Cornell University or Harvard University.

He wants to be a physician because he believes that medicine, "with its opportunity for person-to-person contact with patients, is among the most direct means possible of serving my fellow citizens."

"I hope to meaningfully contribute to the effort toward universal health care for all Americans, something that a democracy like ours should be able to provide for," said Lee.

Lee's high school activities include: secretary National Honor Society, captain of science olympiad, captain of quiz bowl, vice president of the German club, computer team (finished first out of 20 teams in the 1992 Metro Computer League) and tennis (he lettered in doubles and singles).

He volunteered in the financial department at St. Mary Hospital in 1991.

Lee has received three college scholarships — \$500 from the Association of Chinese Americans and bronze awards from the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition in 1991 and 1992 (each worth \$350). Both years he finished among the top 50 high school math students in the state of Michigan on a statewide math test.

He is the son of Liang Tan Lee and Shun Lunn Lee of Canton Township.



Tara Schubert

**TARA SCHUBERT**  
North Farmington High School

Tara Schubert will attend Swarthmore College and study biology.

She credits her parents, Arlene and Timothy Schubert, for influencing her academic career.

"They helped me with countless essays and projects and gave me the support through the years to strive to be my best," said Schubert in her all-star application.

Her extra-curricular activities during high school included drama (four school plays), student government (four years on student board) and sophomore class secretary, junior class vice president, National Honor Society executive board.

Schubert's academic honors include Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, finalist 1990 and 1991, National Merit finalist, recipient of 1991 Michigan Society of Women Engineers Madame Curie Award for Excellence in Math and Science.

**KARUNA MANTENA**  
Mercy High School

Karuna Mantena will enroll in a three-year bachelor of economic's program next fall in the London School of Economics. She then hopes to earn a doctorate in international relations, and plans a career in the United Nations or some other international non-profit organization.

A native of India, Mantena has spent most of her life in the United States.

"I have had the unique opportunity



Karuna Mantena

to see firsthand the riches of the First World and the unbelievable poverty of the Third World," said Mantena in her all-star application.

"This fact alone has shaped much of what I feel my purpose in life is to be. I am convinced that in my life, I always want to be committed and dedicated to issues of justice and peace and more concretely, I want to work toward a world where knowledge, power and wealth are more evenly distributed among all nations."

Her extracurricular activities in high school included co-chair of the human relations council, Model United Nations, co-leader of Amnesty International, junior varsity and varsity tennis teams, poetry club, National Honor Society, French Honor Society, National Organization for Women and CoAim (youth group).

Her academic honors include recognition for highest school score in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, National Foreign Language Award, National Leadership and Service Award, Bausch and Lomb Award for Excellence in Science, Who's Who Among American High School Students, advanced placement scholar and several speaker and delegate awards from Model United Nations.

She says her 23-year-old sister, Rama, has had the biggest influence on her high school academic career.

"She has opened up my mind and heart to the world of literature and has forever changed by life. My love of reading will last forever," said Mantena, who is the daughter of Suryanarayana Raju and Anasuya Mantena.

**JOHN J. WYDERKO**  
Churchill High School

John J. Wyderko plans to study engineering at the University of Michigan or General Motors Institute next fall.

A 4.0 student at Churchill, Wyderko credits his parents, Bernard and Dinah Wyderko, for having the biggest influence on his academic career by "being supportive and putting a great deal of emphasis on education."

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