

Application Form

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The West Michigan Officials Student/Athlete

**The student/athlete must be a graduating senior to qualify for this award. **

Student/athlete: Jaiden Lee

School: Zeeland East Highschool

Parent(s) or Guardian name(s) & phone number(s):

Resident Mailing address:

Student Email Address:

Parent Email Address:

Parent Contact phone number:

(Please note that this number will be kept confidential)

Below are five suggested questions we would like you to answer. Provide your narrative answers on separate attachments to this application. TYPE ONLY

1. What person or event has had the most influence on your life? Please give a detailed explanation.
2. What are your goals for the next five years and what steps are you taking to accomplish them?
3. List outside activities that are important to you and why. (clubs, volunteer work, etc.). *[Please specify year(s) for each]*
4. List any special academic honors, awards, scholarships, or achievements. *[Please specify year(s) for each]*
5. List any athletic achievements or awards, plus other sports participated in during the high school years.
[Please specify what level (varsity, sub-varsity) and year(s) for each]
6. GPA: Optional

Letters of recommendation may be submitted by your: Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, Guidance Counselor, Teacher, or Minister.

Please return the application to the address below.

Bob Wojcik

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DATES SHOWN BELOW.

Boys' Basketball: January 24

Girls' Basketball: January 24

1. What person or event has had the most influence on your life? Please give a detailed explanation.

Auntie Jan is in no way biologically related to me, but she is my family. This tightly woven bond was created when my Mom's best friend had a girl, Kamrin, and needed someone to watch her. That's when our Auntie Jan was born for me and my childhood friends. She had been in childcare for the past 20+ years and, through some far-off connection, she stepped in to help. One by one, the rest of us girls were born. One by one, we went with Auntie Jan during the days. She helped raise us, taught us how "sharing is caring," and most importantly, she brought us all together and showered us with love. She is a free spirit adventurer herself and allowed me to be the muddy outdoors kid and explore everything I was curious about. I built the strongest connections with her and the 4 other girls that surrounded me, and to this day I value them and their support more than anything.

2. What are your goals for the next five years and what steps are you taking to accomplish them?

My goals for the next five years are to grow knowledge and skills in my intended major, graduate college, and secure a strong job soon after I finish school. I am undecided about my major but Western Michigan University has a fully certified art school, strong Communication and Public Relations departments, and support to help me find internships during college. Choosing to go to this school gives me confidence and opportunities to accomplish my future goals of pursuing a career in arts. I am also contemplating on accepting their invitation to Lee's Honors College because I get better class options, and a second academic advisory to guide me in my studies over the next 4 years.

3. List outside activities that are important to you and why. (clubs, volunteer work, etc.). *[Please specify year(s) for each]*

In school, I am leading the Public Relations on Student Senate (2021-2024) and Vice President of our National Honor Society chapter (2022-2024). I am proud to be a part of these organizations because I get to influence the atmosphere at our school, work with many types of people, and gain real-world experience. In Student Senate, I can connect with our student body about issues and help organize school events like dances and fundraisers. On NHS I love being in a strong leadership position and helping volunteer around my community with food drives, blood drives, helping in K-5 classrooms, and more. Being in these organizations gives me pride in my school, gives back to my community, and builds my work-based experience.

4. List any special academic honors, awards, scholarships, or achievements. *[Please specify year(s) for each]*

Throughout my high school career, I have entered my artwork into the Scholastic Art and Writing competition and won 2 gold keys (2022, 2023), 1 silver key (2021), and 2 honorable mentions (2022, 2023) for my artwork. In our local MAEA art competition, I was granted a \$3,000 scholarship from Olivet College for my artwork titled "Hang In There." I have also participated in my district Debut art competition (2020, 2023), Art te Leen (2022), and a Congressional District art show (2021). Through these art achievements, I have been recognized by Congressman Huizenga and have a work of art permanently hanging in a local business (Engage Therapy). Along with many art awards, I was also granted merit scholarships for my academic standing. Western Michigan is offering me the Gold Scholarship (\$4,000/ year), Central Michigan is also offering me the Gold Scholarship (\$7,000/ year), and GVSU is offering the Excellence Scholarship (\$3,500/ year). This year I was nominated for my school's DAR Good Citizenship award, served on my school's Super Intendent committee, and was asked to participate/speak on a student panel in front of Zeeland staff members as well (2023-2024). I have taken multiple AP courses available at my school and have gotten college credit for each exam I took (2023).

5. List any athletic achievements or awards, plus other sports participated in during the high school years.

I played Freshman and Junior Varsity volleyball (2020-2022) and was a co-captain on my team both seasons. I played Junior Varsity basketball (2020-2022) and was the captain of the team when I was a Sophomore. That year I also played partially on the Varsity team with the 5-quarter rule. All 4 years of high school I was on our Varsity Softball team (2020-2024). I was a co-captain my Junior season, and plan to be captain my Senior season. Junior year I was given the "Chix Energy" award for strong sportsmanship, encouragement, and leadership. I earned OK Green All-Conference Outfielder Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior seasons (2020-2023) as well. In my Sophomore year (2021-2022) I was nominated to attend the Hope College Sports Leadership Conference with 5 fellow athletes to learn and expand our knowledge on sportsmanship, leadership, and acceptance on and off the court.

[Please specify what level (varsity, sub-varsity) and year(s) for each]

6. GPA:
- Weighted: 4.095
 - Unweighted: 3.98

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to offer my sincerest recommendation in favor of Jaiden Lee. I have had the pleasure of being Jaiden's art teacher since August 2020, and it has been my privilege to watch her natural artistic talents grow while I have had her in class each day.



Jaiden has been blessed with a variety of creative skills far more advanced than her peers, and I know that her drive to succeed will help her flourish. She has proven to be more than capable of excelling in all advanced art classes we have provided her with by being awarded in a variety of art competitions including earning two Honorable Mentions, one Silver, two Scholastic Gold Keys, one Regional MAEA award, and placed in our 2nd District Congressional art contest. Recently Jaiden's oil painting *Rafef- "Portrait of a Syrian Refugee"* placed in our regional "Debut" art contest. This was very special as Jaiden so generously donated this incredible painting to the little girl from Syria through a program called *The Memory Project*.

In addition to the extraordinary artwork Jaiden has the ability to produce, she somehow finds time to be the Vice President of the National Honor Society, helped start a club called "Calling all Colors", was part of public relations for student senate, and volunteers her artistic talent by helping adults with special needs, and senior residents learn how to paint as a member of our National Art Honor Society. Jaiden also has been involved for many years in a variety of extracurricular activities including Softball and basketball, while working as a host at a local restaurant. She was even voted the 2023 Homecoming queen by her peers!

Even though most of her awards have been won from her mature ability to render drawings equivalent to a college senior, Jaiden's character is what really makes her stand out from the crowd, she is extremely intelligent, kind to all, trustworthy, and highly motivated!

Jaiden Lee truly is an amazing young lady, but I believe I have yet to see her full potential. She deserves to be academically challenged by a professional staff, and I am very anxious to see her spread her wings! Please allow her this opportunity and I promise she will not let you down.

Kind Regards,



Michelle Fuller
Visual Arts Instructor
National Art Honor Society Advisor
3333 96th Ave, Zeeland MI 49464

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away." - Pablo Picasso*

Samantha Hillary
Social Studies Teacher
Zeeland East High School
3333 96th Avenue
Zeeland, MI, 49464

1-12-24

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Jaiden Lee

Dear recipient,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Jaiden Lee, a dedicated and exceptional student, for a scholarship. I have had the privilege of being Jaiden's Social Studies and Advisory teacher at Zeeland East for the past 3.5 years, and it is with great enthusiasm that I provide this letter of recommendation.

Jaiden has consistently demonstrated outstanding academic performance, a strong work ethic, and a genuine passion for leadership and community. Their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning are truly commendable. In my History class, Jaiden has consistently excelled in understanding complex concepts and applying critical thinking skills to solve problems. They were a true leader in the classroom.

What sets Jaiden apart is not only their academic prowess but also their exceptional character. They possess excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, and are an active participant in class discussions. Jaiden collaborates effectively with peers and has shown strong leadership qualities in group projects and extracurricular activities. Jaiden puts themselves in a position to bring students and staff together.

Furthermore, Jaiden has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to community service and extracurricular involvement. They have actively participated in the Student Senate, National Honor Society, and multiple sports teams and have made a positive impact on the school community through their dedication and leadership.

In addition to Jaiden's academic and extracurricular achievements, they exhibit strong personal qualities, such as integrity, responsibility, and a strong sense of empathy. Jaiden approaches challenges positively and is resilient in the face of adversity.

I am confident that Jaiden will excel in any endeavor they choose to pursue. Their combination of academic excellence, leadership skills, and personal qualities make them a standout candidate for this scholarship.

If you require any further information or clarification, please feel free to contact me at shillary@zps.org. I wholeheartedly endorse Jaiden.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I am confident that Jaiden Lee will make significant contributions and excel in their future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Samantha Hillary
Social Studies Teacher
Zeeland East High School



ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Samantha Hillary

Social Studies Teacher

3333 96th Ave, Zeeland MI 49464

616.748.3100

Safe, Valued, Loved, and Learning