

HONOR STUDENTS



Student Brandy Montesrin
Grade Senior
School Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School
Location Norristown, PA

What sets me apart from the rest: I work hard as a graphic design artist and an artist in general. That is the hardest challenge. I work hard to help my community church, not to mention my school. I volunteer as a tutor and a peer mentor for students, and it requires hard work and dedication. It is the hardest yet most challenging thing I've ever done, but it is the most rewarding. I learned so much from it and more than I ever would anywhere else.

My top three accomplishments:

- Nominated student ambassador and traveled to China sophomore year
- Nominated to go to the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.
- I learned a great deal by working with the graphic designers for the Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School

Advice: "There is nothing but competition in this world. You need to work hard in everything you do. Learn from mistakes and be willing to compromise. Remember who you are and never let work be the only thing that makes you happy."

What sets me apart from the rest: When I was 9, I started my business, Pencil Bugs (www.pencilbugs.com). My story has been featured in best-selling books, newspapers and magazines, and on TV, radio and the Internet. I have been fortunate to speak at businesses, schools and large events to inspire people of all ages to try their ideas and not give up.

I donate part of my proceeds to children's charities and received a Young Philanthropist Award for my contributions. After *Forbes* named me on its Top 10 List of Role Models 18 & Under, I took it very seriously and now always try to present myself in a positive manner to inspire other kids.

My top three accomplishments:

- Youngest person, at age 11, to receive the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Young Entrepreneurs of America
- *Forbes* Top 10 List of Role Models 18 & Under at age 12
- Having my first book published, "Bitten by the Business Bug: Common Sense Tips for Business and Life from a Teen Entrepreneur," published in June 2010

Advice: "While it's great to be an honor student, education is not all about textbooks, tests and grades. You can learn a lot from life experiences if you are open to other opportunities. Don't be in a hurry to get through school, onto college and into a job. We have a whole lifetime ahead of us to work but only a short time to be a kid."



Student Jason O'Neill
Grade Freshman
School Linfield Christian School
Location Temecula, CA