2022 Manni Awards: Youth Visionary Leadership Award nominees

These are the Manitou Springs High School students who are finalists for the 2022 Manni Awards, which will be awarded on Thursday, March 31. School district leadership has selected these seniors for their admirable commitment to their school, classmates and community, and their excellence in academics and extracurricular activities.

Next week’s Bulletin will highlight a staffer and two teachers who go above and beyond to serve District 14.

Abby Parker
Abby Parker currently serves as the student body president and has grown tremendously over the past four years. She is fun, expressive, approachable and endlessly positive. Abby consistently challenges herself academically and leads with enthusiasm and empathy. Her hard work and dedication is evident in the classroom and in athletics. As a third-year varsity athlete in basketball and soccer, Abby models dependable effort and encouragement. She is a mentor on and off the court by treating others with the respect they are due. Abby is committed to not only improving herself, but also our entire community: she is the personification of a Manitou Mustang. Post-graduation, she will study at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, where she will play Division 3 soccer.

Anton Akse
Anton Akse has been involved in the performing arts throughout his middle school and high school years. He’s played a variety of roles, and brings to each project thoughtfulness, intelligence and a sincere desire to learn. He’s balanced his artistic side with his athletic side, and commits to each in a manner that shows his dedication and respect for the event. Last year, Anton was offered an opportunity to direct a 10-minute play. It seemed like the next step in his evolution as an artist. He chose a piece and a cast that worked well, and showed himself to be capable of that kind of leadership. His involvement in theater and musical theater will stand him in good stead as he continues toward his goal of becoming a music educator. Anton is also on the soccer team and a member of the National Honors Society. He has attended Manitou Springs School District since kindergarten.

Jackson Dunlap
Jackson Dunlap is a scholar, a leader, a person of integrity, in all that he does. Captain of the School Mountain Biking Team, 65th at State last year. VP of the National Honor Society, he planned and successfully executed a school-wide fundraiser to raise money for The Place, a Colorado Springs organization that serves homeless youth. His community service work supports “Kids on Bikes,” which encourages young children to bike.

Jackson has taken nine AP courses in two years, while maintaining a GPA higher than 4.0. Jackson volunteers in the school tutoring program helping students. He has attended Manitou Springs School District since kindergarten and is still considering the excellent post-graduation options he has been offered.

Weatherly Hall
Weatherly Hall is a dedicated student who is eager to learn and lead in ways that contribute to the entire community. She is involved in rigorous coursework that will prepare her to be successful in college and beyond. Although she excels academically, she also is highly involved in extracurricular activities and athletics, including cheerleading, Student Council, Key Club, yearbook and many more.

Weatherly volunteers her time and positive energy often to the school and community as a tutor and mentor. She was accepted as a student in the W.A. Franke Honors College at the University of Arizona.