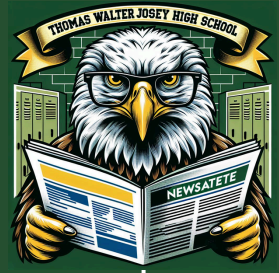


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From Doubt to Triumph: The 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Share Their Inspiring Stories

As the Class of 2025 prepares to walk across the stage, two students have emerged as leaders, not only for their academic excellence but also for their determination to overcome personal challenges along the way.

Valedictorian: Jan Ciara Blake - Overcoming Shyness to Lead

Jan Ciara Blake, the valedictorian of the Class of 2025, never imagined she would be the one delivering the valedictory speech. A quiet and reserved student, Jan often keeps to herself. She admits that she never thought she'd be in this position, but she says it "feels great!"

Throughout high school, Jan has pushed herself out of her comfort zone, tackling challenging subjects. Her hard work has paid off in ways she hadn't expected.

Jan's transformation from shy student to confident valedictorian is a testament to her determination and the support of her teachers and friends. Her advice to underclassmen is "do [your] work and study."



Jan Ciara Blake, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2025, is set to continue her academic career in the Philippines. After graduating, she plans to pursue higher education abroad, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in her life.

Salutatorian : Makayla Johnson - Proof That Introverts Can Shine

Right behind Jan Ciara Blake is Makayla Johnson, the salutatorian of the Class of 2025. Not only did she earn the title of Salutatorian, but she also has been recognized for her outstanding SAT performance.



With a natural curiosity for learning, Makayla has excelled in a wide range of subjects, from math to literature. Her ability to balance schoolwork as well as be involved in various school and community activities is a testament to her incredible time management skills, despite being a self-described introvert.

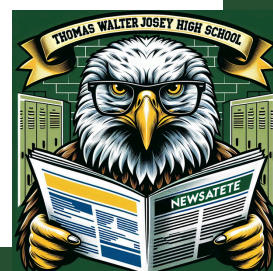
Makayla proves that being introverted doesn't mean one can't have a strong impact, it simply means she likes to work behind the scenes, focusing on what's important to her. Makayla says, "I am an overachiever, so I am happy my work is finally paying off."

"Setting yourself up for success is key," Makayla says. "Getting enough sleep, trying not to procrastinate, and submitting quality work" is advice she would give to any underclassmen looking to earn this prestigious honor.

With graduation on the horizon, Makayla is already looking toward the future—planning to attend Howard University in Washington DC and pursuing a degree in law.

Inspiration for All

Jan and Makayla's stories highlight what it means to push through doubts and face challenges head-on. Whether it's overcoming shyness or balancing academics with personal growth, both students have shown that perseverance, hard work, and heart can lead to success. Jan Ciara Blake and Makayla Johnson represent the true spirit of the Class of 2025—proving that every student has the power to rise above their challenges and achieve greatness.



Josey Celebrates Black History with Powerful Performances and Meaningful Reflections

On February 27, the Social Studies department led by Ms. Freeman hosted an unforgettable Black History Month program that left students and staff inspired and energized. With the theme "You may kill a revolutionary, but you cannot kill a revolution," the event honored the ongoing fight for equality and justice while celebrating the rich history of Black culture.

The program kicked off with the Chorus, who delivered a moving rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black national anthem. The powerful song echoed through the gymnasium, reminding everyone of the perseverance and unity that defines the Black experience in America.

The audience was then treated to a captivating African dance performance by the Eaglettes, whose vibrant moves and rhythms celebrated the beauty of African heritage and culture.

A standout moment of the program was the tribute by the AFJROTC, who honored the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. Their tribute not only celebrated these brave pioneers but also reflected the strength and resilience of Black Americans in the face of adversity.

To keep the energy high, the program featured a tribute to one of music's icon greatest icons—Whitney Houston.

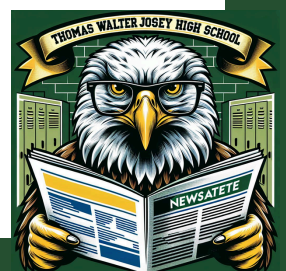


AFJROTC tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

A talented student performed her hit song "I'm Your Baby Tonight," reminding everyone of Houston's timeless impact on Black music and pop culture. The program also included a dynamic dance performance by the Bad Boys of Josey, who brought down the house with their energetic moves to "If This Isn't Love." Their performance showcased the creativity and passion of Black youth in today's world.

Finally, Greek organizations took the stage for an impressive display of strolling and stepping. Their intricate and rhythmic movements not only entertained but also honored the legacy of Black fraternities and sororities, highlighting the importance of unity and tradition in the Black community.

This year's Black History Month program was a powerful reminder of the strength and cultural pride that define the Black experience.



Josey Shines in Academic Competitions



Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Team

Josey students have proven that hard work and dedication truly pay off, earning impressive accolades in academic competitions. Our school has shown that excellence isn't just about sports or extracurricular activities—it extends to the classroom as well!

In the Math Competition, our students came out strong, securing second place in a tough contest. Their problem-solving skills, quick thinking, and teamwork set them apart from schools across the district. This achievement reflects the hard work and focus of our math team, who have been sharpening their skills all year long.



Math Team

In addition to the math victory, our school also claimed third place in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Reading Competition. Our readers demonstrated their comprehension and speed.

These victories highlight the incredible talent and determination of our students. Whether it's solving complex equations or diving into a good book, our students continue to excel in academics and prove that excellence comes in many forms.

Let's keep pushing forward and striving for even more success! Congratulations to all the students who represented our school with pride.

