



Teacher of the Year

Joelle Traynor

Picking just one teacher of the year from the staff at Gonzaga Prep was a near impossible task. So many teachers, counselors, and staff at my time here at Prep have impacted me, and formed me into the person standing before you today. Our employees exemplify the profile of the graduate, and encourage us to do the same. I know I'm not always the easiest student to have in class. My curiosity and drive to learn causes me to constantly ask questions and stay after class to ask them. My teachers have been beyond understanding, and are always willing to offer their time to help me in any way they can. Counselors and staff are always happy to chat with me, and are genuinely interested in my activities and how I'm doing. I am very lucky to have so many people in my corner that I can turn to whenever I need guidance.

Despite the already high bar set by all the staff here at Prep, there is one teacher who has exceeded any standard. They have a clear passion in the subject they teach, and it shows in their lesson and teaching style. They use interactive methods that cause the class to become closer, and the variety helps keep lessons fun and interesting. Even during online class, we were constantly in groups working on projects, or creating videos to show what we'd learned. This teacher puts an emphasis on material they believe will be useful, and genuinely help us become more well rounded people moving beyond high school.

Outside of the classroom, this teacher goes above and beyond to support all their students. They've supported me at several extracurricular events like cross country and cheerleading, and goes to any concert, game, meet, or match to encourage all activities prep offers equally. They have more school spirit than humanly imaginable, and are willing to be part of any silly activity the ASB or students can get past administration. They care about every one of their students, and adjusts their plans to be at a level everyone has the mental space for at the time. I've never doubted this teacher cared about me as a person, not just a student. They were there whenever I needed someone to talk to, and supported me through the hectic ups and downs of my insane schedule. Their positivity and alacrity inspires me to use what they have taught me to connect with others around the world. Thank you to all my teachers, y gracias a mi profesora del año, Señora Traynor.

