

Honors athlete to receive national scholar award

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DAYTONA BEACH – Campbell Middle School student Malana Jackson will travel to San Diego, Calif., to accept the 2014-2015 Pop Warner All-American Scholar Award on Saturday, May 23. She also is a participant in the local Food Brings Hope Honors (FBHonors) program.

Malana has been a Pop Warner cheerleader since she was 6 years old. The special recognition is a result of her academic achievements last school year where she received all As. To qualify for the national award, the student-athlete needs to rank academically in the top 2 percent of approximately 350,000 children that participate in Pop Warner nationwide.

Young role model

“We are extremely proud of Malana’s achievement of being selected as a national scholar,” expressed Aimee Shank, a Food Brings Hope Honors sponsor. “She is a very dedicated and focused student. Malana is a positive role model for others academically and socially. She shows great citizenship consistently.”

Food Brings Hope (FBH) states that it is a 501(c)(3) charity that provides collaborative solutions for families with children who experience hunger due to homelessness, poverty, or unfamiliarity with community resources.

Future doctor

The sixth-grader has participated in FBHonors since she was first selected as a fourth-grader attending Westside Elementary. FBHonors students attend after-school programs for three hours every school day. Through FBHonors, Malana is exposed to STEM-related activities and lessons that her mother, Melissa Burke-Jackson, believes have helped her gain a greater love for math and science.

“Malana’s dream is to become a pediatrician,” said Mrs. Burke-Jackson. “I believe that the foundation she is building at FBHonors is propelling her to accomplish this goal. I am appreciative of the opportunity that she has to participate in the program.”

About the program

The FBHonors program, consisting of fourth and fifth graders from Westside and middle school students from Campbell, Holly Hill, and Hinson, meet for three hours everyday after school. The program is specially designed for Food Brings Hope’s highest achieving pupils and provides educational opportunities in STEM fields and organized activities to further enrich and challenge students.

FBHonors is administered by Westside principal Judi Winch and teacher Aimee Shank. They are backed by a dedicated team of volunteer teachers who share a passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and the development of young minds.

“This is an incredible accomplishment for such a young lady,” said Forough B. Hosseini, FBH founder and chair. “She is a bright student who has worked very hard for this achievement. We will continue to foster her talents through FBHonors and keep her on this path to success.”



Malana Jackson is flanked by Pop Warner region representatives.