

Jaden

Class of 2021

From: Midtown Manhattan

First Year at Horace Mann: 6th grade

Favorite Classes: Pre-Calculus AB, English 11, Filmmaking, Chemistry (all tied for first)

Why HM?: I have changed so much since the time I came to HM. My insecure and shy 6th grade self would never believe that in a couple of years I would lead clubs, serve on the student government, hit a buzzer beater at Buzzell, and interview distinguished alumni in front of hundreds of my peers. I developed the self-confidence, public speaking skills, and knowledge to do all this through the help of the students, faculty, and programs at HM. Horace Mann is filled with opportunities and spaces for students to find their voice, try new things, learn from others, and pursue what they are passionate about. I strongly believe that the life lessons Horace Mann taught me outside of class are just as valuable as what I have learned in the class, and that HM is the driving factor that turned me into a person I am proud to be.

Out of School Activities: Filmmaking, NY Jayhawks Basketball, Magician, Ryan Martin Foundation Volunteer, Intern for Tony Awards and Russian American Foundation

Favorite In Class Discussion: In English 11, we read *In a Bamboo Grove*, which is the story of a grisly murder told from different perspectives. This is now one of my favorite stories ever. Our in-class analysis of the unique story structure only elevated my love for it.

Most Underrated Thing About HM: Horace Mann has a phenomenal visual arts department. There is a wide variety of classes to choose from (Filmmaking, photography, ceramics, etc.) and the visual arts faculty are some of the nicest and most passionate people on campus. I have done Filmmaking at HM for 3 years. The equipment, resources, distribution, and faculty are borderline college level. However, the most underrated thing about HM is our basketball team. Do not sleep on us.

