



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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EHS December 2025 Senior Spotlight: Meet Valentina Angon Rojas



If you could use one word to describe yourself, what would that word be?

If I could describe myself in one word, I would say I am determined because I'm always looking for ways to accomplish my goals, no matter how difficult it may be.

What is your secret to being a highly successful student with a passion for learning, with a profound commitment to service and leadership?

My secret to being highly successful is having a goal. When I first started high school, I was working towards getting accepted into the Princeton University Preparatory Program, so I made sure to do my absolute best in school. Because of this, once I got in, I learned to genuinely love learning, and this motivated me to continue doing well in school, not only for me but for my family, because education is a key that will open many doors for me. Also, having a goal made me become aware of the things that I wanted to improve in my community, and this has kept me going and has made me realize my profound love for helping others.

Tell us about your participation in the Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP) and being selected as a PUPP Scholar during your freshman year of high school.

Becoming a PUPP Scholar was something that I had been working towards since 8th grade. This was because my cousin had been in PUPP, and I saw his love for being in this program and how it had a positive impact on his life. So, when I got in, I was really proud of myself because I accomplished my 8th-grade dream. Now that I have been a PUPP scholar for the last three years, I have no regrets because it is a community that uplifts others and wants to see everyone succeed.

As a PUPP Scholar, you participate in weekly after-school academic enrichment sessions. What are you working on now that you are a senior applying to college?

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As of right now, we have college admissions, and during this time, we have the opportunity to write and ask questions in regards to college. As of right now, I'm applying to 14 colleges! Even though this may seem like a very large number, I'm making lots of progress.

You have selected some intense courses to take in your senior year of high school. This first semester, you are taking AP World History with Mr. Dutch, AP Literature and Composition with Ms. Ginsburg, and AP Statistics with Mrs. Montferrat. How are you handling the coursework along with your other school leadership commitments, National Honor Society President, Student Council President, and president of the Rotary Interact Club?

I'm going to be honest, at the beginning of the school year, handling all my coursework was rough because it was my first time being in all these leadership positions, and balancing three different AP classes. However, as the year goes by, I have become better at managing my time and also balancing all my extracurriculars.

Last year, you co-founded the Bilingual Buddies peer support group. How did this idea come to fruition?

This idea of Bilingual Buddies came to be due to my cousins. My cousins had just arrived from Mexico and didn't know a word of English after not being here for 17 years. When I first met them, it was the summer of Freshman year, and I saw the difficulties and struggles they faced as Spanish speakers in a school whose primary language was English. Their experience made me realize that there were many students like them in Ewing High School who may not have had the support to continue their academic endeavors or simply someone to rely on because they were in an unfamiliar world. Because of this, I wanted other students to also help with creating a space where they could be not just a tutor but also a friend.

You were also a founding member of the EmpowerHer initiative. Tell us what EmpowerHer is, and as a community, how can we offer support?

EmpowerHer is a program within the school whose mission is to foster a supportive and positive environment for all the women at the high school. Our goal was to create a space to empower, educate, and advocate for the women in our school. When we first created this project, we began by installing feminine hygiene stations and adding informative and empowering posters in the bathrooms. Overall, I hope to relaunch this program in the upcoming weeks to continue to uplift students with the resources they may need. To support this project, everyone can follow Instagram @empowerher.ehs to see what we will do in the upcoming weeks.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

I'm very proud of having become president of the Student Council, National Honor Society, and Rotary Interact Club. When I received the news that I would become Student Council president, I was jumping with joy because it was a position that I had always dreamed of holding one day. Also, learning that I would be president of Rotary was something that I was so delighted in leading because it was one of the clubs where I first got to lead. Additionally, when I became president of the National Honor Society, it was so unexpected because I never imagined that it would be me, but I'm really proud of myself for being so dedicated. EmpowerHer and Bilingual Buddies are two programs that I created with the help of

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my peers, and without their help, it wouldn't be possible. I'm especially proud of these two programs, especially because they have brought awareness to issues that have helped students within the school.

What is your favorite subject?

My favorite subject has to be history. I think my love of history mainly stems from my interest in my family history. Because of this, I realized that everyone carries a piece of history with them. This led me to find history fascinating because there are many things in history that you can learn from and that can help you understand how these events in history have affected the structure of our society. I also just like to stay informed about the things that have occurred in the past and how they parallel the things that are occurring today.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

I honestly would say that all the teachers that I have had for the last four years of high school have made an impact on my life because in every single class, I learn something about myself. However, despite this, I do want to mention Mr. Hammer, Ms. Chi, Ms. Burd, Ms. Kennedy, and Mr. Dutch, because they are always supporting me with my spontaneous endeavors.

Who or what has positively impacted your life?

The reason I am the type of person I am is entirely due to my parents. My parents are my motivation to always keep on going, no matter how difficult the obstacle is. They are also one of the reasons why I love school, because they are my biggest cheerleaders. My mom has taught me the importance of leading with kindness and always going everywhere with an open heart, and because of this, I strive to be like her. My dad is a person who is always positive, friendly, and goal-driven, and has inspired me to always dream big and accomplish my goals. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for always helping me become the best version of myself.

How do you define success?

Success looks different to everyone, but to me, being successful means being content with everything I do as long as I give my 100%. Because of this, I feel that every day I'm being successful because I'm always giving it my all, whether this be in my classes, friendships, or family.

What are your plans after you graduate from Ewing High School?

My plans after graduation are to major in political science and attend a four-year college, join a club to continue community service, and eventually attend law school to become an immigration or criminal justice lawyer.

What is your favorite quote or book?

"No matter how your heart is grieving, if you keep on believing the dream that you wish will come true." - Cinderella

What are your hopes and dreams?

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My hopes and dreams are to one day become a lawyer, continue helping those around me, and live for my parents by seizing all the opportunities that they had to give up for me and my siblings to have the life we have today.

Tell us something about yourself that your peers don't know... only if you would like to share.
Something that many of my peers may not know about me is that whenever I watch a series, I love watching it at 2x speed :)