



Immediate Release

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EHS March 2026 Senior Spotlight: Meet Gabrielle Damoah



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

I would describe myself as innovative!

As you look to your future, what is your destiny?

My destiny is to fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming an Architect. Architecture has always been something I could picture myself doing as a career since my freshman year. I love how architecture is its own broad category with different types that combine Science, Math, and Art to design infrastructures, landscapes, residential, and many more.

It is your final semester of high school, and your schedule includes the course, “STEM Creative Design”. Why did you choose this class, and what have you learned so far?

I chose to take STEM Creative Design to get some experience in engineering design since there is no specific architecture course provided at Ewing. So far, we’ve constructed our own paper towers to hold a golf ball, designed an alarm clock tailored to a specific person and their own needs, and read the first chapter of Design Through Discovery that covered the functions of design and how many cultures interpret design differently. Despite it only being the beginning of the second semester, I’ve already experienced so much in this classroom, but one surprise I didn’t realize when applying for this course was that it actually gives college credit through TCNJ!

Last semester, your schedule included the art class Ceramics. Is there a correlation between these two classes?

Yes, there is! I took Ceramics in my junior year because I wanted to get more experience in sculpting. In fact, the first time I ever handled clay was for another class, 3-D Design, that I took in my sophomore year, which inspired me to take the full class. The correlation between STEM Creative Design and Ceramics is that they are creative and innovative courses that my school has to offer that allow me to sketch, build, and conceptualize, which will help me build the skills I need to succeed in architecture.

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You are a Peer Leader. It is the time of year when applications are due soon for Juniors to apply to be selected as Peer Leaders for the 2026-2027 school year. What are your three top takeaways from the Peer Leadership Honors Class?

For me, my first takeaway would have to be the retreat to the Poconos over summer break, and how we started to open up, get to know each other, and understand one another emotionally. It's that bond that makes the Peer Leadership experience unforgettable. My next takeaway would be how this class provides useful life skills like teamwork, public speaking, planning, trial and error, and projection. Plus, if you're interested in a career like education, social work, or psychology, Peer Leadership provides a great opportunity to really experience what it's like to teach! Lastly, Peer Leadership allows seniors to not only communicate with freshmen but also impact their overall experience. One of the most common reasons for a lot of people, including myself, to choose to apply for Peer Leadership was because of the engaging and positive experience we had our freshman year. I wish all the luck to all the juniors applying this year. Just remember to be yourself and have fun, no matter the results!



You were also selected to participate in the Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP). It is March of senior year. How has the program shaped your high school career and your future?

Over the years, PUPP has really helped me break out of my comfort zone and motivated me to try new things and make an impact in my community. During my freshman year, I often found myself participating in activities and classes that only felt meaningful when a friend was involved, rarely considering what I genuinely wanted to do, simply so I could fit in. But one choice to try something new and apply for this program that I didn't really know much about at first changed my whole trajectory. I met new people, got to visit colleges, and tried new things that I wouldn't have done on my own because I felt uncomfortable without my friends. But over the years, I learned to embrace being in unfamiliar situations and making the most of those situations. I even bonded with other PUPP scholars from different schools that I'll never forget! I used to think that community meant fitting in, but my cohort showed me that community is about growing together and finding yourself, and I'm happy that I met them.



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What is the top reason a Ewing High School freshman should say, “YES”, and make the four-year commitment to participate in PUPP if selected for the program?

Believe it or not, I've already had some freshmen walk up to me and ask about the program and application process, and it's honestly heartwarming that many people are taking an interest in the program and what it has to offer. But if anyone is stuck on whether or not to commit, I'd say make that leap. My top reason why any freshmen admitted into PUPP should say this is that they tell you things about the college process that other people won't. The opportunities that PUPP provides to its scholars are 100% going to benefit your future and will help you stand out from the millions of other applicants at your dream school. Yes, it's a long commitment, but think of it as the biggest investment of your high school career. Personally, I'm highly grateful that I was accepted into PUPP because I don't really have anyone in my life who would have prepared me as much for college as this program.

Do you have a favorite subject?

Aside from the horror stories everyone shares about Math, I do consider Math to be my favorite subject, not because I'm perfect at it, but because it challenges me as a student. Having to learn and adapt to new problems while considering the elements of others is no easy task, but I love the sense of accomplishment when I'm able to solve problems on my own and actually understand them. And I'll admit, AP Calculus has definitely been the hardest course I've taken yet, but I've never backed down from a challenge.

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

I actually have three favorite teachers that I refer to as my Academic Trinity, Ms. Bailey-Williams, Mr. Halpern, and Mr. Ballek! It's a silly name that I just made up, but it honestly describes how much I learned from each of their classes, and the experience alone was beneficial to my future. I had Ms. Bailey, my freshman year for African American literature, and I was able to read many books that had a more vivid image of the reality of slavery, like “Up from Slavery”, “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass”, and “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl”. Mr. Ballek teaches a variety of history classes, but his most well-received class that I had the opportunity to take was Human Behavior. I learned the behaviors of the human mind through fun and engaging activities that always made the class worth walking into every day. It's very rare that you get a class like this that's not only educational but equally as fun. And there was this one film that we got to watch, “Regarding Henry,” which, in my opinion, was very heartfelt. Lastly, Physics with Mr. Halpern, yes, Physics, the subject that society dreads! If I had to describe Mr. Halpern in one phrase, I'd say he's one of a kind. Every time he teaches, it feels like I'm already in college learning from an experienced professor teaching us about the fundamentals of astrophysics; except, instead of the class being 100 people, it was less than 20. Nonetheless, Mr. Halpern always made sure to check in with everyone individually to see where we are and where improvements need to be made. The class was definitely no joke, but through hard work, I managed to pass Physics overall with an A, which made me really happy!

What activities do you participate in at school?

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After school, I participate in a variety of clubs that allow me to contribute to something positive in my school and my community while expressing myself. To start, I'm involved in the Yearbook Club, where I take pictures of school events and help arrange the official yearbook through Studio Balfour. On top of that, I'm a video editor for a newspaper that recently made a showcase highlighting a couple of after-school activities that'll be broadcast on our school's new TVs. In addition to having ceramics, I also participated in Clay Club that allowed me to have more time outside of school hours to make more projects.

And finally, I hold a leadership role as a

Media Coordinator for the Environmental Club with my partner, Diana Lima-Flores, where we collect media footage for community events and create flyers for upcoming meetings.

What activities do you participate in outside of school?

Aside from PUPP, I'm involved in a virtual social justice program for girls of color called Digital Decode that holds meetings bi-weekly for 30 weeks. Digital Decode covers several topics, such as racism, disability, feminism, and immigration on a deeper level, teaching things you wouldn't normally learn in school. Before each meeting, articles and videos are assigned to read and learn about to participate in the group discussions. These discussions are led by assigned leaders who prepare deep and interesting questions to consider and think about from our bi-weekly readings. Overall, this program is very informative and taught me more about history and discrimination in America that I would've never learned in school.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

I'm proud of a lot of things, like putting myself out there and applying for opportunities like Digital Decode, Peer leadership, and this youth radio program in Philly that I was accepted into to be their Media Manager, but unfortunately had to give up because of transportation but I still think about it constantly as something I would have loved to be a part of. But, out of all of these, my biggest accomplishment without a doubt would have to be PUPP and how much that program has done for me as a scholar and a person.

Who or what has positively impacted your life?

Growing up, my mother has always been my role model! Her strength and perseverance showed me that anything is possible. Despite working long shifts, she always found time to support my siblings and me.

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Even though my mother tries to hide her vulnerability to provide a stable life, she continues to put my siblings and me first, teaching me that perseverance means showing up even when things feel overwhelming, and that's something I'll never forget. So, mom when you read this, I hope you're proud of yourself and how far you've come because you deserve the best.

How do you define success?

To me success is happiness, and to achieve it you have to chase your dreams!

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

After high school, I plan to attend the college of my choosing and pursue a 5-year Bachelor's degree in architecture, then apply for graduate school for my Master's in architecture and pursue a career in residential architecture mixed with real estate. Let's not forget, along the way, I have to get licensed, too!

What is your favorite quote or book?

"Everyone keeps telling me how my story is supposed to go. Nah, Ima do my own thing". - Miles Morales

What are your hopes and dreams?

I want to succeed in something I'm not only good at but passionate about, so I can wake up happy, living the life I worked hard for, and cherish all the good moments.