

2021 SEATTLE HIROSHIMA CLUB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In March 2021, Scholarships were given to three high school seniors. Here is information about each based on information received in March. Congratulations to all three on their accomplishments.

Kaylee Yokoyama

Parents - Jeff and Shelley Yokoyama

Grandparents - Fusae Yokoyama and Takeo Yoshihara.

Kaylee attends Roosevelt High School, where she has had a diverse academic career. She has taken a full load all four years, with classes ranging from three Advanced Placement Classes including AP Physics and AP Human Geography to courses in advanced math, American Sign Language, Ceramics and Tech Theater. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has earned a 3.942/4.000 GPA

Kaylee has dedicated herself to gymnastics since she was three years old. She was a gymnast with Seattle Gymnastics Academy for 10 years. Kaylee has been a member of Roosevelt HS Gymnastics, from 9th through 12th grade. Through Roosevelt's Gymnastics team, she has received a certificate of appreciation all four years, and a certificate of teamwork during her 11th and 12th grade.

Kaylee has also been a member of the American Sign Language (ASL) club for all four years of high school.

Kaylee has been an active participant at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church since she was three years old. For the past six years, she has participated in church camp as a co-facilitator, exploring a variety of curriculum including social justice programs. She has been an active volunteer with Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church's Youth Group throughout high school, including as a volunteer with the Vacation Summer Bible School.

Kaylee has earned recognition for being a dedicated bible school counselor as well as for Devotional and scripture writing, as faith has been a strong part of her life.

Throughout high school, she has also volunteered at University Food Bank and has helped with food drives for Asian Counseling and Referral Services. Kaylee has been a volunteer at Asian American Summer Camp for two year and a volunteer Patient Escort with Northwest Hospital for three years.

Kaylee also has many hobbies including baking, cooking and creating allergy-friendly recipes. She also enjoys hiking, volunteering and practicing yoga.

As someone born with life-threatening allergies, Kaylee participates as a Benaroya Research Participant for Life Threatening Allergies. In her letter of recommendation, Kaylee's school counselor writes that "from the first grade, Kaylee would give annual presentations to her classmates" about life-threatening allergies. Kaylee writes that the "strength and resilience of my Hiroshima ancestry inspires me to pursue a career in medicine as an allergy doctor."

Miki Kusunose

Parents - Taro and Nami Kusunose

Grandmother - Rieko Kuroda

Miki attends Newport High School, where he has taken 12 Advancement Placement (AP) classes as well as fourth year Chinese language. He has been named AP Scholar with Distinction. Miki has studied at the Seattle Japanese Language School from kindergarten through 10th grade. By scoring a "5" on the Advanced Placement Japanese Exam, which he sat for as a 9th grader, he has earned the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy for his Japanese language skills. He has earned a 3.98/4.00 GPA.

Miki's extracurricular activities demonstrate a wide range of interests from news editing to entrepreneurship to music and volunteering. For two years, Miki has been the Editor and Business manager for Knightlife, the Newport HS newspaper, raising over \$10,000 over two years. He has also participated in Newport DECA (Business and Entrepreneurship club) for three years, and has led the club as president for two years. He has won numerous DECA awards, in both local and international events.

Outside of school, Miki has definitely been an entrepreneur, co-founding 425 Tutoring, which provides free tutoring to elementary-aged students. According to 425 Tutoring Board member, Teri Silvestri, Miki demonstrates "determined hard work, passion for community service." Teri was also impressed by Miki's "humility, pursuit of knowledge, quiet strength and kindness" and his "collaborative and reflective leadership style." At the time of Miki's application to the Hiroshima Club Scholarship, 425 Tutoring included 600 students and 200 tutors from over 15 states.

Music has also been a part of Miki's life. He has been a violinist in the audition-in Chamber orchestra at Newport for four years. He is also Public Relations officer for the Orchestra council. He has earned a spot in Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) All-State Orchestra as a 1st violinist. and placed 4th in WMEA Solo Ensemble State Competition.

Miki's volunteer activities include participating in The Washington Bus, a Seattle-based civic engagement nonprofit. He has been on their Youth Endorsement council and was chosen to represent them at Seattle Rep Civic Theater Panel. He has also volunteered his time to many Japanese American events, such as Japan America Society Auction and Wing Luke Asian Museum Auction, as well as a Youth Leader at the Japanese in America Foundation Retreat. He has shared his culinary skills as a volunteer Nikudon chef at the Seattle Obon Odori Festival. For his volunteerism, Miki has earned the PTSA Knight Valor award.

Miki enjoys hobbies, such as jogging, reading about the Asian American experience, creating model airplanes and battleships and taking care of fish tanks. He also continues to learn new songs on his violin outside of orchestra.

Miki hopes to pursue an undergraduate degree in Political Economy/Political Science, then potentially attend law school, contributing in policymaking. Miki is also interested in research at economic policy centers.

Lea Hidaka

Parents - Mark Hidaka and Dina Jeppesen

Grandmother - Janet Inahara

Lea Hidaka attends Mercer Island High School, where she has taken six Advanced Placement classes. Lea has been named AP Scholar and is a member of the National Honors Society. She has studied French from 7th grade through 12th grade. In addition, she has taken a variety of classes from Glass Art to Physics. She has earned a 3.928/4.000 GPA.

As an artist, Lea is also an active member of the National Art Honor Society/Art club, serving as Secretary and President. Her artwork was showcased at the Mercer Island Visual Arts League Junior Art Show. She later volunteered with the show, as an organizer for their children's workshop. Her talents continued to benefit others, as she, as a volunteer, designed invitations for the Central Branch Preschool annual silent auction fundraiser. She was awarded a scholarship to attend the 2020 Pre-college program of California College of the Arts. However, the program was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Lea's volunteer work includes producing and editing an online video for the Nisei Veterans 75th Memorial Day Service. Her video received over 1300 views on YouTube. For her dedicated work, she was awarded the Nisei Veterans' Foundation's Commemorative Coin. In a letter signed by both the Nisei Veterans Committee and their Foundation, Lea was recognized for her "fortitude, perseverance, and poise responding to numerous edits and last minute additions as deadlines loomed and pressure mounted." The letter further explains that in less than two months, she "blended over 20 videos, photos and print submissions" and "demonstrated active leadership with active listening skills and patience."

Lea has also volunteered as a tutor, continuing even during the pandemic. She also volunteered at Island House Assisted Living, helping in the dining hall, exercise class and other activities.

Music has also been a part of Lea's life. As a trumpet player, she spends up to 38 weeks per year with Mercer Island HS marching band. She has been a member of the band all four years of high school and in her Freshman year, she also played in the Jazz band. She started playing trumpet in the 5th grade, attended Solo Ensemble sectional competitions and marched in the 2019 Rose Parade. She has helped her band to raise 11,000 lbs of food in their annual food drive.

Lea's hobbies include badminton, drawing and painting. In her free time, she created a website with blog in the last two years, that focuses on positivity.

Lea hopes to pursue a degree in Communication Design, as well as to continue with French and to begin Japanese. Not a surprise, Lea is interested in exploring design careers and wants to continue drawing.