

## Kayla Banks



Kayla Banks recently graduated from Cheltenham High School with a 4.17 GPA. This fall she will be attending **Howard University** pursuing a degree in Business Management. Her short term goal is to become an Accountant or Financial Manager, but her long term career goal is to become an entrepreneur that will allow her to reach back and hire other young African Americans.

While at Cheltenham High School, Kayla was inducted into the Black Scholars Program during her freshman year and the National Honors Society during her sophomore year. She successfully maintained the academic and community service requirements in both organizations for membership throughout high school. Other activities actively participated in include the school's Acappella choir, Black Student Union Cultural Discussions and the Blue and Gold School Spirit.

Kayla has excelled academically and was described by one of her teachers as an individual who has an innate ability in mathematics which has helped her succeed in Honors classes such as chemistry. She is also described as a conscientious student who is motivated and always puts an immense amount of effort into everything in which she takes part.

Aside from school and community service activities, Kayla is very active in her church and serves in several leadership roles. She is President of the church youth choir, the Golden Eagle Ushers and Youth Fellowship and a member of the Praise Dancers. She feels her church has played a significant role in creating the desire she has to give back to the community. Although the pandemic limited some of her activities, she donated food to the PSPCA and created numerous cards for patients and first responders at Abington Memorial Hospital. Prior to the pandemic, she helped make and distribute care packages, cards, crafts and quilts for the homeless through her church and during the Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service.

Kayla loves to play the piano and sing. She is also interested in mental health issues and describes herself as a big advocate. Kayla continues to try to educate herself as well as others about mental health issues. ■