

Sage Taweeq

This fall, Sage Taweeq is headed to **Rowan University** where she will major in Biochemistry. She plans to pursue a career in osteopathic medicine. Sage recently graduated from Springfield Township High School with a 3.7 GPA where she volunteered in extracurricular activities and held various leadership positions. She has a long list of service hours related to her participation with the Delta Gems Program and the Voices of Excellence (VOE), a minority student leadership group that focuses on building character through service. Through VOE, she was able to rekindle projects such as Bless Our Families run a successful food and clothing drive for Thanksgiving. The items were donated to a church. Little Buddies was another project that she successfully spearheaded. Seniors in high school had the opportunity to work with elementary students in grades 2nd to 5th for four months to assist teachers with student work. When that plan was interrupted by the pandemic, Sage created a school-wide, on line event called Mental Health Day. Mental Health Day allowed teachers and students to have a close interactive experience with mental health professionals to discuss various topics surrounding mental health.



Sage has been very active in the community outside of the classroom. One such organization is Diversity in Aquatics, a network of ethnically diverse aquatic leaders, water safety advocates, researchers, educators and practitioners. Sage is a volunteer for BLJ Community Rowing, which is the only African American owned and operated rowing company in the United States. Sage serves as a youth coach who helps youth and adults members of BLJ to get comfortable in the boat and learn how to row. Sage is also a Scholastic Athlete for Diversity in Aquatics (DIA) for Change program athlete. She helps coordinate and address the importance of diversity in water safety and opportunities in the aquatics field. This spring, DIA for Change produced two webinars to help facilitate dialog and increase public awareness with other aquatic participants around socioeconomic, justice, education and public health concerns that affect the communities in which we live and serve.

Sage is a warm, thoughtful, well rounded young lady with a desire to succeed and to give back to her community. This passion comes from both parents. Her interest in rowing comes from her mother who is a strong advocate for water safety and her desire to pursue a career in medicine comes from her father who is a strong advocate for STEM programs. Sage loves animals and trying new recipes from different cultures. ■