

**Black Horse Pike Regional School District**  
**“Spotlight on Alumni” - HIGHLAND**  
**FEBRUARY 2021**



**School of Medicine**  
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY®

**SCHYLER EDWARDS, CO 2014**

*“Schylar graduated from Highland and began her undergraduate degree at Montclair State University as a Pre-Med student, all the while playing NCAA Softball there as well. During her time at MSU, she was one of the top Pre-Med students and after graduating from MSU, she was accepted into the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. During Med School thus far, Schylar has traveled to numerous places and countries to study medicine, Puerto Rico and Manipal, India, being two examples. Throughout her years of higher education, not only has she studied countless hours to become a fantastic physician in the future, but she has given countless hours to volunteering in the communities where she studied. Schylar is an outstanding example of alumni that Highland had the pleasure of educating. She is and will do exemplary things in her lifetime.”*

*~ Samantha Harris, teacher/coach, Highland HS*

**1. AA: Upon graduation, what post-secondary path did you take and why?**

**SCHYLER:** *After graduating from Highland, I went to Montclair State University where I majored in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. I chose to pursue this degree because my goal was to apply to medical school. After graduating magna cum laude from MSU in 2018, I began my studies at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. At Temple I am enrolled in a dual degree program to*

*obtain my medical degree (MD) as well as a Masters of Arts in Urban Bioethics to best provide culturally competent and socially conscious healthcare for diverse, underserved populations.*

**2. Looking back, would you have done anything differently and why?**

**SCHYLER:** *Two things come to mind! First, I wish I applied to a few Ivy League schools for undergrad just to see what would happen. And if I could go back to undergrad, I would love to explore different topics sooner that weren't so science heavy. I still would have majored in Biology but perhaps having a minor in political science or anthropology to further develop some of my other interests.*

**3. AA: Describe your career/profession today?**

**SCHYLER:** *Today I'm studying in medical school with hopes to practice in Obstetrics and Gynecology after graduation. I have also been exploring my interests in teaching so I'm looking to work at training hospital to teach future medical students about women's health, social determinants of health and health policy. This year I have been working as a Research Associate with the Program for Maternal Health Equity at the Center for Urban Bioethics within Temple. This year has given me the opportunity to participate in different research projects, coordinate virtual high school education and workforce development programs and community engagement efforts. I'll begin my clinical rotations this Summer! While in medical school I have also been able to pursue my interests in global health and health policy. In my first two years, I have had the opportunity to work abroad in Puerto Rico and India. I am also finishing up my master's soon.*

**4. AA: What impact did your BHP high school have on your career path/profession?**

**SCHYLER:** *My time at Highland prepared me with the skills to be a successful student and leader wherever I go. This is where I got my first practice with advanced courses, time management and had the opportunity to be a student leader in different school clubs. Highland also introduced me to several mentors and friends who continue to be a part of my support system.*

**5. AA: Were there specific teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators, secretaries or other professionals that had a major impact on you while in school, and if so, who were those professionals and describe how they helped you along your HS journey.**

**SCHYLER:** *Absolutely! So many people come to mind for this question. I have to give credit to Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Rowland, Ms. Johnston, Diz, Mr. Storer, Mrs. Fudala, Ms Gadomski (Mrs. McGrath), Mr. Senft, Mr. Winfield, Mr. Corcoran, Mrs. Gore, Mr. Nealis, Coach Harris and Ms. Bradley. There are probably more names than I cannot remember but all of these wonderful individuals made my time at Highland unforgettable. From the mentorship, fostering my interests in reading, writing and learning about different cultures and the laughs we shared and through our continued connections on social*

media, I've been able to witness some of my favorite teachers retire, get married and start a family or just share their joys in teaching.

**6. AA: Which school clubs, sports, activities, etc., if any, did you participate in when you attended your BHP high school? If so, were there any moments or experiences that you can recall that helped you become the person you are today?**

**SCHYLER:** *I don't think I remember most of the clubs I was in aside from the National Honor Society, World of Difference club and playing on the softball team. One of my fondest memories from high school was being asked to tryout for the softball team after **Ms. J** saw me dive for a volleyball in gym class. I did and formed amazing friendships with my teammates and **Coach J** has been a mentor and role model for me ever since. This was my first time playing softball ever as a junior in high school! But I continued to play for a bit in college before I began preparing to apply for medical school. The National Honor Society was my first experience being elected as a student leader to run a club and was such a great experience. I think I learned a lot about myself as a student leader and team member through my experience in school clubs. I've continued to get involved in different extracurricular activities while in college and even still in medical school. I've had the opportunity to serve as a Co-president of Temple's Chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), VP of the OBGYN Interest Group and have led several community service events.*

**7. AA: Please share any other favorite memories of the Black Horse Pike Regional School District, your HS in particular, that would inspire today's youth?**

**SCHYLER:** *One memory I have from Highland was when the National Honor Society worked to raise money for Hurricane Relief. I can't remember the name of the hurricane or which area was impacted but we raised over \$1,000 to donate to the American Red Cross. That memory always reminds me of how you can bring an idea to life to make a positive impact in your local or global community, even as a high school student. If you have something you are passionate about, you should absolutely pursue it!*

**8. What advice would you give to our current student body? What would you have done differently in high school if you could turn back time?**

**SCHYLER:** *I would tell the current students to **be their biggest advocates**. You know what skills you have and why you would make an important contribution to a school, workplace or environment so be confident in your abilities. Brag a bit! Being your own advocate also means asking for help if you ever feel that you need additional support along the way. Reach out to your teachers, guidance counselors, family and friends for advice so you can reach your ultimate goals and full potential.*

