

Student Profiles



Profile: Brooke Hill

Current Age: 22

Graduated from: Elk High School

About Me:

- I have an ocular condition called albinism. I am low vision with a visual acuity of 20/80 in both eyes at distance with correction, 20/40 in both eyes at near
- I use assistive technology. I use low vision devices such as a built-in magnifier on my computer. In my beauty school program, I will make sure to always wear my corrective lenses and any other low vision devices that may help in my work.
- At home: built-in magnifier and high contrast with my low vision devices, such as my tablet, computer, and smartphone. I love to sketch/draw and paint. Mixing colors on a painter's palette is mostly possible when I use my handheld magnifier to make sure it comes out the tone I want it to. I channel my artistic side into my future goal of becoming a hairstylist.
- I am really close to my family
- I am in the process of applying to cosmetology school
- I don't want to move far away from home
- I have a few part-time jobs
- I am a leader

Educational Goal:

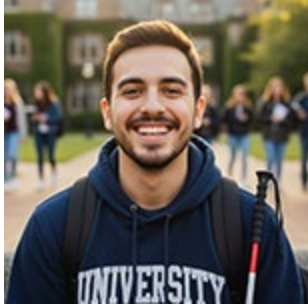
Want to attend beauty school

Personal Goal:

Get a job doing hair, nails, and makeup

Job Experience:

Summer camp counselor and nail tech



Profile: Sam Allen

Current School: Anita Community College

School Year: Sophomore

GPA: 3.5

Studying: Computer Science

About Me:

- I am blind from an ocular condition called Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). I have no light perception in one eye, and 20/400 in the other.
- At school: I used screen readers on my computer/tablet. I also used a braille note-taker for reading, writing, and taking notes. Now in college, I use all of my assistive technology with testing accommodations set up through the Accessibility Resource Center on campus. My accessibility resource counselor makes sure my tests are all electronic with accessible form fields for me to fill out the answers. I also have a volunteer note-taker in class who submits the notes they type out and send to me via email.
- Outside of school, I use my smartphone with a screen reader to access texts, social media, apps for online shopping, and way-finding apps to help with my orientation and mobility skills.

Professional Goals:

Start my own business

Develop computer programs/apps for blind/visually impaired kids

Personal Goals:

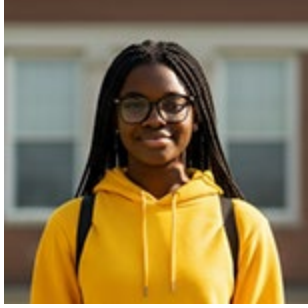
Work with blind/visually impaired youth

Inspire others

Get married and have kids of my own one day

About My Family:

I live with my mom, dad, and sister. My family is good about choosing shows and movies to watch with audio description to keep me included in anything we watch as a family. They know about assistive technology and the daily accommodations I use in my personal and school life.



Profile: Allison Siri

Current School: Cherry Creek High School

School Year: Junior

About Me:

- I am 17 years old.
- I have a visual impairment called optic atrophy with a visual acuity of 20/200 in both eyes (OU).
- I live with my mom and 2 younger brothers.
- I attend a mainstream high school and attend some classes with a few other students who are visually impaired, like me, with support from my teacher of the visually impaired (TVI).
- Sometimes at school and at home, I use assistive technology devices such as a laptop with screen enlargement software, where I can access my teacher's Smart Board by using Google Meet. I am learning to use screen reader software as well as braille in case my vision gets worse.



Profile: Joe Sanchez

Current School: Elk High School

School Year: Sophomore

GPA: 3.6

About Me:

- I have an ocular condition called Stargardt disease. Currently, I have 20/30 in the left eye (OS) and 20/40 in the right eye (OD), but my visual fields are less than 10 degrees in each eye.
- At school: I use contrast on my computer and tablet. I prefer my devices to have a black background with white letters. Too much light can cause my eyes to get fatigued. My parents bought me a smartphone with a large screen so I can use contrast with the built-in magnifier. My friends support me and come to watch me at my wrestling matches.
- My favorite subjects are math and science.

Personal Goal:

Make MVP in wrestling

Future Goal:

Go to college

Future Career:

Engineering

A Little About My Family:

My twin sister has Stargardt disease as well, so we always support each other in school and our personal lives. We are there for one another, especially when no one else really understands what we go through. My sister and I have very similar accommodations, and sometimes we share devices at home. We are really close.



Profile: Brandon Healy

Current School: Smith County High School

School Year: Junior

About Me:

- I am 19 years old.
- I live with my mom.
- I have a visual impairment called nystagmus with a visual acuity of 20/100 in both eyes with correction. I can still read print, but it must be enlarged to 18-point font. I also have a cognitive impairment as my primary disability, with my vision being secondary according to my IEP.
- I attend a variety of classes all day. Several of my core classes, like math and English, are co-taught with an additional special education teacher to help me and some of my other classmates.



Profile: Darcie Chin

Current School: Ash Creek High School

School Year: Junior

GPA: 3.1

About Me:

- I am 17 years old.
- I have a visual impairment called cortical visual impairment (CVI) 20/200 in the left eye (OS) and 20/200 in the right eye (OD).
- I also have cerebral palsy. I use a wheelchair to get around.
- I am a vegetarian.
- I have a lot of friends.
- I would like to have a job.

My Hobbies:

Listening to music and audiobooks, painting, and watching YouTube videos.



Profile: Marissa Leon

Current School: Liberty High School

School Year: Senior

About Me:

- I am 18 years old.
- I have a visual impairment called retinitis pigmentosa and only have 20/25 in both eyes (OU) with about 25-degree visual field loss in both eyes. That remaining vision is quite good at 20/25, but I use a white cane because otherwise, I'd be running into things and people all the time with my "tunnel" vision. I hope to get a guide dog when I graduate.
- I live with my mom, dad, and my brothers.
- In class, I use regular-sized print, but I must visually scan quite a bit, which makes my eyes tired. I use audio/screen reader software quite a bit instead, and I know the basics of braille in case my vision gets worse.



Profile: Patrick Richers

Current School: Patrick Ridge High School

School Year: Junior

Age: 17 years old

About Me:

- I am an actor, artist, mime, performer, and activist. I AM JUST ME
- I am deaf-blind and have Usher Syndrome type 2. My hearing has gotten worse over the years, and my vision has recently started to get worse at night due to RP (retinitis pigmentosa). I have cochlear implants for both ears. My visual acuity from Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) is 20/30 in each eye, but with less than 5-degree visual fields.

Personal Goals:

- Act in front of an audience
- Act in a movie
- Write and direct a screenplay

Academic Goals:

- Score a 1200 on my SAT
- Go to an Arts College

Future Goals:

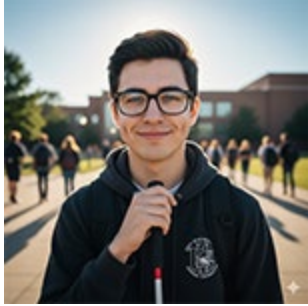
Teaching actors with visual impairments

What People Say:

- If you can't see and hear, you can't act.
- If you live in foster care, nobody cares about you.
- If you are Deaf-Blind, you can't read well.

What I Say:

I CAN DO ANYTHING, BE ANYONE, GO ANYWHERE. JUST WATCH ME!



Profile: Steven Marks

Current School: Richland High School

School Year: Junior

GPA: 2.3

About Me:

- I have an ocular condition called diabetic retinopathy. I am low vision with a visual acuity of 20/400 in the left eye (OS) and 20/200 in the right eye (OD)
- At school: I have a computer that I am allowed to use for note-taking. On my computer, I use Smart Invert, which turns the background black and white letters with natural colors to images/photos. I usually have magnification on, but do not always require it. I might try out text-to-speech next year.
- At home: I use my smartphone to listen to audiobooks. I enjoy listening to mystery novels. My parents usually put audio description on the movies we watch on the different streaming platforms we have at home.
- With your friends: I love to play video games on my console with accessibility turned on. My friends and I play video games live with one another, and I am really good. I compete a lot with sighted players, and usually beat them at my favorite games.

Academic Goals:

Graduate high school
Go to college

Future Goal:

Look into getting a job in a science lab

About My Family:

I live with my mom and dad
I do not have any siblings.
I have a dog.



Profile: Emily Brink

About Me:

- I have an ocular condition called optic nerve hypoplasia (ONH).
- My visual acuity is 20/400 in the left eye (OS) and 20/200 in the right eye (OD)
- In school, I use a combination of a built-in magnifier with a screen reader on my computer. I have a Braille notetaker that I am learning to use with my Assistive Technology Specialist. My TVI (teacher of the visually impaired) is teaching me to read and write in Braille.
- At home: I use magnification and screen readers on my tablet and smartphone. I learned to use touch screen gestures with my accessibility from my AT Specialist at school.
- With your friends: My friends are so cool because they will watch movies and TV shows with me with audio description turned on. I know they don't love hearing the additional voice during the show or movie, but they tell me they get used to it after a while. I am so grateful for the awesome people in my life. I love listening to animal podcasts on my smart speaker. Cats and dogs are my favorite type of animals, even though I love all types of animals. I may look into getting a guide dog one day.
- My smart speaker also has various sleep sounds to listen to, such as the rain, piano, and white noise. Sometimes I fall asleep to those sounds.
- I describe myself as a yoga nut, daughter, student, sister, dancer, and friend.

Personal Goal:

Own a Yoga Studio

Become a massage therapist

Teach people to eat healthy

Future Goal:

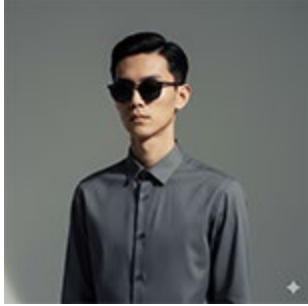
Make a yoga and meditation podcast

About My Family:

I live with my dad and stepmom.

I have one sister and no brothers.

My grandparents live down the street and have a farm I like to visit when I am not at school.



Profile: Zachary Jakes

Current School: Hensley High School

School Year: Freshman

Age: 14

GPA: 4.0

About Me:

- I lost my vision in both eyes when I was 4 years old due to retinal blastoma, which is a type of cancer in the eye that starts in the retina.
- My eyes had to be removed due to the cancer, and now I have 2 prosthetic eyes.
- I read and write in braille fluently and have learned so much about assistive technology on my laptop and my smartphone.
- I am taking many upper-level classes and hope to graduate at 17.
- I love my family and live with them in Ohio. I have 5 siblings.

Professional Goals:

I have always wanted to work in the medical field. I plan to apply to be a medical transcriptionist. I would like to work for a doctor someday who is an ENT (ear, nose, and throat).



Profile: Valentine Sal

Current School: Western Oregon University

Major of Study: Education

Graduated: 3 years ago

About Me:

- I have an ocular condition called anophthalmia. I have no light perception in my eyes, as they are both prosthetic.
- At school: I mainly use a braille note-taker. I learned to use a screen reader, which I often use as well. In school, I have extended time on tests. My teachers make sure all of my assignments and tests are in an accessible format for me.
- At home: I use my smartphone with my braille display or my screen reader. My screen reader voice has an Australian accent, because I love listening to people's different accents. I have a pottery wheel that I use to make art. I love to shape pieces such as cups, bowls, vases, and coffee mugs.
- With your friends: I use look-up tutorial videos online to learn to play songs on the guitar. I memorize the song lyrics to my favorite songs, and then play the guitar while I sing along. My best friend Sheryl plays the drums, and we jam out in her garage. We dream of starting an actual band one day.
- Words that describe me are: Hard working, loves children, creative, laughs easily, friendly, smart, outgoing, funny, and patient.

About My Education:

Mainstream High School

Community College

4-year University

About My Accommodations:

Refreshable braille display

Screen reader usage on a computer

Electronic format of my assignments, tests, and quizzes

Extended test time