



**December 9, 2019**

To: Superintendent  
Board of Education

Fr: Karen Geddeis

Re: Glenbrook Stories - December 9, 2019

## **MEMO**

### **Glenbrook South Senior leads STEM community, inspires younger students**

Sixteen-year-old Ellie Welch-Jani is a senior at Glenbrook South. Her STEM interests have led her to earn top honors in astrophysics, tutor her peers, and co-organize a local Science Olympiad competition for middle school students.

Over the summer, Ellie presented a 40-page research paper at the Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Competition at Southern Illinois University. She enjoyed the process of having judges ask her questions about her work, as she feels that it is empowering to dig deep into research and then demonstrate that knowledge. She began this research as an intern at Northwestern University's Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics.

More recently, Ellie helped plan the first-ever GBS Science Olympiad in which seven local middle schools participated. She conceived the idea as a way for high school students to share their love of science with future Titans. The event was student-run and student-driven.

Ellie is also passionate about helping others, as she works for a student-led tutoring company.

This Glenbrook story shows the powerful result of connecting a love of science with a deep caring for others.