

## September Student of the Month—Grace Catherine Estes

Grace Estes was chosen as September Student of the Month by the Stewart County High School (SCHS) faculty. This award was given in acknowledgement of her academic achievement, student involvement, and for serving as an exceptional role model for underclassmen. As a first generation college student, her desire is to attend an out-of-state private Christian university to progress in her studies as well as discover God's plan for her life. Her career choice remains largely undecided, but biochemistry or photojournalism top her list. Ultimately her goal is to serve God and help others.



Known for her dedication and pursuit of academic excellence, Grace has earned numerous Black and Gold awards. She has actively sought the rigor of honors, advanced placement and dual enrollment classes. Science teacher, Jessica Crutcher, speaks highly of Estes saying, "Grace is an exceptional student and she radiates positivity throughout the halls of Stewart County High School. She truly has a thirst for knowledge and a genuine spirit that is apparent in her enthusiasm and questioning in class. She has without a doubt made me a better teacher and it was a privilege to be a part of her journey!"

Estes is a four-year member of HOSA Future Health Professionals. She has been a part of the chapter leadership team and has worked in the capacities of Sophomore Vice President and President-Elect. At the 2021 HOSA State Leadership Conference, Estes was elected as the 2021-22 Middle TN HOSA Vice President. She has taken advantage of the Competitive Events Program competing in the Prepared Speaking event in which she has placed at multiple HOSA Regional, State, and National Leadership Conferences.

At SCHS, Estes is involved in several organizations. She is a three-year member of Student Council and the current President. She is a two-year member of the Bonanza Yearbook staff and an editor of the publication; a two-year member of Future Business Leaders of America, and a member of Beta. Mary Lambert, business teacher and yearbook adviser, praises Estes, saying, "Grace is a natural leader who is intelligent, enthusiastic, optimistic, courteous, approachable, and a tireless worker. She believes in wholeheartedly serving the organizations of which she is a part. She always has a smile on her face and a positive word to share—her kind heart shines through in her words and actions at all times. These qualities, along with her drive and determination will allow God to use her as a world changer."

When asked to reflect on her time at SCHS Estes responded, "Without Stewart County High School I wouldn't be the person I am today. I remember being terrified of going to high school. Looking back, I have learned that sometimes the scariest things in life are the events that will impact us the most. From the students, teachers, classes, and extracurriculars there is something truly special about SCHS. My experiences at SCHS have prepared me for my future, formed my work ethic, but more importantly taught me to take risks. I risked my grades when I took advanced placement courses, but there I found some of the greatest teachers who taught me more than I could ever dream. When I decided to compete in prepared speaking through HOSA, I discovered my voice and became best friends with people that I still admire today. I took a risk every time I could have given up and gone the easier route. When I walk out the front doors in May and wave goodbye to the only home I have ever known, I will never forget these lessons."

Grace is the daughter of Joseph and Lynette Estes.