

April Student of the Month—Joseph Semler

The Stewart County High School faculty has selected Joseph Semler as April Student of the Month. This award was given in acknowledgement of his academic achievement, student involvement, and for serving as an exceptional role model for underclassmen. Joseph will attend the University of Alabama on a five-year full-ride scholarship for both bachelor's and masters' degrees in mechanical engineering. He will participate in the Randall Research Scholars program.

Joseph is known for his outstanding scholastic achievements and is the Class of 2022 Salutatorian. Allen Ralls, science teacher, thinks highly of Joseph saying, "In my over 25 years of teaching, Joe Semler is the most amazing student I've ever known. Yes, he made a 36 on the ACT, yes, he's scored a five on all his AP exams, yes, he's taken enough hours in college already to have an associate's degree, yes, he's attended Tennessee Governor's School, and yes, these are just a few of his accomplishments. Joe looks great on paper for all of his academic performance but for all the accolades received, he is an even better person. He possesses empathy, humility, a warm personality and sense of humor. I've been very fortunate to have had the pleasure to be his teacher and look forward to seeing the adult he'll become."



His academic awards are numerous. He earned the prestigious distinction of being named a 2022 National Merit Scholar Finalist. He has completed two research projects with Austin Peay State University professor, Dr. Samuel Jator, and was designated by the Office of Student Research and Innovation as the 2022 Student Researcher of the Year. At the Middle Tennessee Science & Engineering Fair he won first place in the mathematics category in 2021 and 2022 and was the Grand Prize Alternate in 2021. In the Physical Science category Joseph earned the first place Tennessee Academy of Science Award. In 2021, he received the first place Naval Science Award and the second place Chemours Award. At the National Constitution Bee he was awarded Most Persuasive Preamble in 2021 and 2020 as well as second place in 2019. In 2021 he netted second place in the Tennessee State Championship Spring Qualifier for the Microsoft Office Specialist Excel 2016 exam. Joseph is a four-year member of the National Society of Leadership and Success at APSU and a member of the SCHS Beta Club.

Joseph was chosen to be the 2021-22 Career & Technical Education Ambassador for the SCHS engineering program. Kevin Hargis, engineering teacher, remarks, "Joe is an outstanding student that demonstrates great leadership skills. He has helped promote and elevate the Engineering Program here at SCHS and will continue to be a fantastic ambassador for our program going forward."

When asked about his high school experience Joseph stated, "My time at SCHS has taught me the most important lesson of all: self-reliance. Given any set of resources, I must endeavor to find my own way and use every opportunity for the fullest benefit in pursuit of my goals. With every class I've taken, every project I've worked on, I can say that I have done what was necessary to prepare me for a life and career in engineering. After all, what greater gift can one receive than the opportunity to live on one's own terms, and the means and teaching to do so?"

Joseph is the son of Chris and Jane Semler.