

WINTER

2020

VALLEY

Scholars

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



What's inside?

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WELCOME CLASS OF 2025

Schools Represented

- Beverley Manor Middle School
- Elkton Middle School
- J. Frank Hillyard Middle School
- Kate Collins Middle School
- Luray Middle School
- Page County Middle School
- North Fork Middle School
- Stewart Middle School
- Shelburne Middle School
- Skyline Middle School
- Thomas Harrison Middle School



ONLINE EXPERIENCES

Valley Scholars reflect on their experience with virtual learning and how they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I learned that although I am not a very social person, I like being in a social environment. I like hearing the stuff people say even if it isn't relevant to me.

BRIANA - 12TH GRADE

Having somebody to be there and not only support you but be the bigger friend and be like, "Hey you need to get this done," has been really beneficial.

GENESIS M. - 11TH GRADE

I am proud that I didn't just ignore school because with online school it is easy to do so.

SAMANTHA - 10TH GRADE

I think something I have learned about myself this semester is my ability to be independent and that you can do anything if you put your mind to it.

EVELYNN - 9TH GRADE

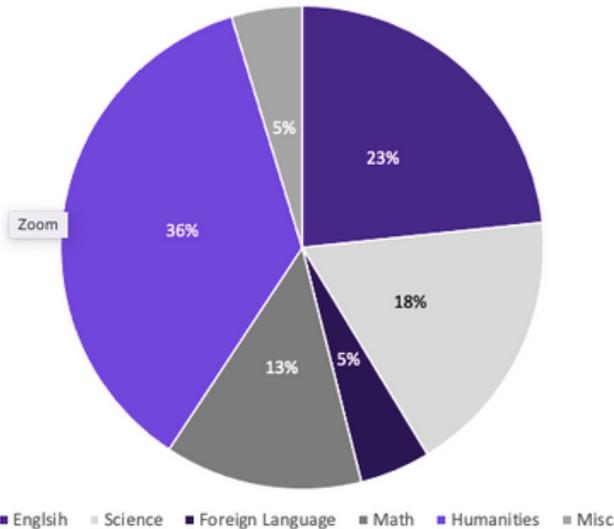


At the beginning of the semester I was definitely overwhelmed and stressed with the new environment, but now I have a pretty good routine and have adapted to all the complications of doing school at home.

CHARLIE - 10TH GRADE

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Class Type Distribution: AP and Dual Enrollment



Dual enrollment classes offer students the opportunity to earn college credit while completing high school. Since 2018, Valley Scholars have completed 562 college credit hours in math, science, humanities and language. The generous support of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation provides tuition assistance to make dual enrollment classes affordable and accessible to all students.

FURIOUS FLOWER POETRY CENTER

During the summer of 2020, Valley Scholars students teamed up with the Furious Flower Poetry Center refining writing skills, exploring personal journeys, and reflecting on the challenges of 2020. Ms. Lynne Procope, an American Poet, led virtual workshops for 10th grade scholars revising "Where I'm From" poems. Scholars reflected on their past while looking forward to the future. 11th and 12th grade scholars focused on how poetry can help process difficult circumstances and respond to challenging environments. The workshops were an opportunity to use writing as a way to find solace, community, and meaning in times of challenge and change. We are excited to share a few excerpts of poems written by students and look forward to the new series of programs for 2021!



FURIOUS FLOWER POETRY CENTER

2020

WHERE I'M FROM

In the summer of 2020, scholars collaborated with Ms. Lynne Procope, an American poet, to create their "Where I'm From" poems. These poems provide an intimate glimpse of the many places, people, experiences, and traditions that shape our scholars.



The tiny town no one visits for vacation
The little town in which only a handful of people have seen the baffling beauty
From the tight knit community where people help people
Learning the moral values of leadership and honesty
Coming to aid one another and making things right
Giving support when monstrous problems spring up
Verona
The tiny town no one visits for vacation

I am the middle name of my grandmother
J-E-A-N-E-T-T-E, Jeanette
Tightly packed kitchens on holidays and reunions
Kids everywhere scrambling around to get a chance to get the last bite of
homemade bread
The laughter and joy filling the air to consume you, inside jokes all around
I am the middle name of my grandmother

From Sisterly bonds in my household
I am from being the eldest daughter and granddaughter in my family
Welcoming new life to be followed in my footsteps
Teaching lessons of love and compassion
Showing new hiding spots that only the feet of our generation of daughters will
touch
From sisterly bonds in my household

Fearing change
I am from holding onto the fear of losing control
Needing reassurance and guidance
Feeling crippled in my bed as waves and waves of cries crash over me
Loved ones giving warmth and radiant vibes to soothe the pain
Fearing change

I am from the tiny town no one visits for vacation
I am from the middle name of my grandmother
I am from sisterly bonds in my household
I am from fearing change
I am me

The holy lands of India
Where one can find a small temple every half a mile.
Diwali is nationally celebrated
Firing crackers and eating new foods surely started our new year with light and prosperity

Teachers were allowed to slap you
Getting slapped a couple of times, made tears fall out my eyes
The concept of social life isn't a thing for all middle and high schoolers.
Getting 5 hours of homework every day wasn't necessarily enjoyable
Luscious and appetizing school food
Kept us full for hours

Surrounded by bullies.
Getting beat up every day, my butt said I can't take it anymore
My friends and I played clash of clans
Winning battles and making jokes filled our eyes with ecstasy

Cricket runs in the blood of every teenage guy
Atmosphere is filled with excitement
Crowds yelling and cheering
The priceless moment when you hear that knock when the ball hits the batter's bat

The moments that taught me family is everything.
Seeing my mom work hard to provide for me and my sister, gave us new lenses through which we see the world
Understanding what really matters allowed me to be a better man.

I am from the town with two parks and a pool.
From the town where the river divides it in half and the kids are nice.
I am from a small town in Virginia, where the railroad tracks run across the bridge.
From the farms to my house, it is peaceful, and the deer cross our road.
I am from the house on a hill, where the views to the East are busy, and to the
West there are beautiful mountains.
From the American flag out front to the shed and garden out back this is my
home.
I'm from the family that argues over little things.
The family that enjoys spending time together.
From the family who lost the person who held it all together, my father.
I'm from the family that had to deal with a loss to cancer at a young age.
The family that had to adjust to the current world yet keeps past traditions.
I'm from the family that shares memories, and laughter while smiling through
tears.
I am the one that looks most like him.
I am the reminder that with the way I laugh, sing, cook and sleep that he is still a
part of us.
This is where I am from.

SETH - BROADWAY HS

I belong in the little yellow house,
Where the kitchen was filled with the smell of the green sour dolma leafs,
Where grandma would gather all the girls to roll the dolma leafs,
Where the dolma boiling was music to our ears.
Where the play room was always crowded with my cousins,
Where we would always fight over that one special toy,
Where our family would crowd together to eat in the living room with no space for
you to walk out or move around,
I belong to a town that celebrates together,
A town that had community gatherings on eid morning,
Where the kids felt an overwhelming excitement on eid morning,
Where the colors of the dresses felt like a warm summer day,
Where the smell of henna on the girls hands was an announcement that eid is here,
Where the kids would not have enough of the dessert or the candies.
I belong to a town that was founded by strong independent leader Yusuf Salman
Yusuf,
Where he lead a group of people and built a town together,
Where there was nothing and he and his people built a town together,
Where now generations of kids and teens are proud of how they are today when
they came out of nothing.

SARAH - HARRISONBURG HS

In the valley where the cows graze
From the vast fields covered in buttercups and lush grass
A place where my dog trots in the fresh open space
That is where I'm from

In the small town of Luray where I reside
From the victorian homes that are so quiet yet hum in harmony
A place where the family dinner mends people back together
That is where I'm from

In the foggy mountains where the deer run
From the rocky paths that coil around the towering pines
A place where my footprints are left on the matted forest floors
That is where I'm from

In the streets where the MayFest comes alive
Where the smell of wood from woven baskets fill the air
A place where the people are serenaded in sweet bluegrass
That is where I'm from

In the emerald colored river where the sunfish swim
From the coarse sand that lays upon shady banks
A place where I drift upon the water fueled by serenity
That is where I'm from

MIA - LURAY HS

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



Valley Scholars have adjusted and worked diligently during this unique semester. Many of our scholars hold part time positions in various locations around the Shenandoah Valley, and we are confident they positively represent the program both in and out of the classroom. Our scholars can be found working at Luray Caverns, Dunkin' Donuts, pharmacies, Massanutten Resort and more. We take pride in the ways our scholars model good character, honesty, determination, hard work, and empathy in their respective positions.

OUR DONORS

To our donors, friends at James Madison University, and community supporters, thank you! The opportunities afforded to our scholars are made possible because of you. We are grateful for the continued support of our individual, corporate, and foundation donors!



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