

# WCSD NEWS



## RCK Senior Honored at MLK Breakfast

Roy C. Ketcham HS Senior Amanda Arvelo was honored January 20 at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, sponsored by the Catharine Street Legacy Committee. The MLK Breakfast honors community leaders in partnership with the Roosevelt Institute, and provides scholarships to local youth who plan to pursue higher education. An MLK awardee is someone that understands and embraces the philosophy of "giving back" and supporting others. They are well-rounded students that are actively involved in their school and community.

Amanda is indeed active in both her school and community: she serves as captain of the volleyball team and is a member of the track team; she is also President of the Spanish Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, and Math Honor Society. She plays viola in the string ensemble, and participates in peer tutoring. Outside of school, she is in a church youth group, plays club volleyball, and volunteers at an animal shelter over the summer. She even finds time to hold a job as a hostess at a restaurant.

"The Spanish Honor Society is particularly important to me, since I come from a Hispanic family. I've been speaking Spanish since I was very young, and I want to use my knowledge of the language to unite the Spanish community at my school with interesting fundraisers and events while also learning about other cultures."

In the future, Amanda plans to major in biology or neuroscience; she hopes to work in the medical field one day. She will bring a unique perspective to the field: she has a condition called hydrocephalus which, in her case, prevents cerebral spinal fluid from draining down to her stomach properly. "I have had five brain surgeries, three of which were in eighth grade. Through this experience, I saw all of the different occupations in a hospital, and it opened my eyes to the possibility of working in healthcare." As part of a summer medical internship, she has shadowed a neurosurgeon in the office for pre- and post-op appointments, and also went to medical conferences. "Being able to relate to a patient is very important, and I am able to do that since I was a patient myself." Amanda hopes to participate in research or internships in college.



RCK senior Amanda Arvelo reflects the MLK award philosophy of "giving back" and supporting others.

**"Having faced my own medical issues, I am drawn to a career in medicine by my ability to relate to the patients and their families."**