WOASF Founders Scholar



Kaitlyn Wilms

Virginia Beach, VA

Sponsor: PO1 Aron Wilms

College: Ursinus College

2026-2027: Freshman

Major: Bichemistry & Molecular Biology

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Senior Capstone Research Project
- Varsity Softball & Travel Softball
- Leader for Life Teen
- Young Vincentiens of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church
- Volunteer: Relay for Life, SPCA, Wreaths Across America
- Math and Science Academy Representative

Throughout the past four years, I attended the prestigious and rigorous Math and Science Academy. Often, I look back and ask myself, why me? Here at Ocean Lakes High School, the community is at the benefit of having top peers around us. Amidst the talent and sheer brightness of my fellow friends, I struggled to overcome the adversity and find my footing. The hard truth is, I am not the smartest student in the academy; far from it. Those around me can know the answer to a problem intuitively and memorize information from just hearing it once. I, on the other hand, have to handwrite all of my notes, study for three to four hours each night, and have relentless practice to understand. How did I fit in? As a freshman, I deemed my 'defective' learning style as a flaw, but now I argue that it is the exact thing that sets me apart.

The Math and Science Academy has taught me to study, keep my head down and work hard, to be pushed to my limits, and to stay organized. The necessity of putting extra effort in order to achieve the accomplishments I have today has made me more resilient and diligent. I can confidently say that I am one of the hardest working students. This title is not something that I take lightly.