

# IDEAS & GEMS

**TED<sup>x</sup>Youth@Dayton**

x = independently organized TED event

#gemcityyouthideas

## Emcees



**Tommy Balaj**  
The Miami Valley School  
Senior, Lead Emcee



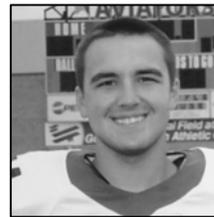
**Jordan Hunter**  
The Miami Valley School  
Senior



**Anna Mullin**  
Yellow Springs H.S.  
Senior



**Ben Phipps**  
Kettering Fairmont H.S.  
Senior



**Sam Penewit**  
Vandalia Butler H.S.  
Senior



**Rowan Goble**  
Dayton Regional STEM School  
Freshman

**Musical Performance By:**

# *Fusion*

Kettering Fairmont High School Acapella Group

## Speaker Bios



### ***The Emotional Connection of Street Photography, Armaan Ahmed***

Armaan is a sophomore at The Miami Valley School, and has been photographing for 7 years. He also plays three instruments and tennis and loves the art of origami.



### ***Volunteering – You Give More Than You Get, Holly Simones***

Holly is a senior at Vandalia-Butler High School. She is on the basketball team and is involved in the National Honor Society and the Muse Machine. She is also a member of the Peer Tutoring Club that works specifically with multi-handicapped students at her school. She plan on becoming an Intervention Specialist at the middle school level.



### ***Math is a Gem – No Matter How You Use It, Gabriel Day***

Gabriel is a senior at Yellow Springs High School. He loves math and plans to pursue it in college. He also plays the saxophone. Gabriel loves Russian literature, the music of Neil Young, the sports of tennis and fencing, and his cat, Queenie. He is a member of School Forest, a group known for growing Christmas trees and being the burliest club around.



### ***I Ain't a Politician, Alex T. Smith***

Alex T. Smith is a senior at the Dayton Regional STEM School. His favorite classes are Biology, Chemistry, English, and Creative Writing. During the Summer of 2015, he completed a land management internship at the Aullwood Audubon Center in Englewood, Ohio. During his sophomore year, Alex was awarded first place in entrepreneurship and second place in improving lives at the DRSS science fair for successfully growing potatoes in sand. In the Fall of 2016, Alex will be attending Hocking College for their Wildlife Resource Management Program, and he intends to pursue a career as a wildlife manager in a state or national park. Alex has been able to grow a full beard since the age of 15. Alex's goal is to motivate others to play an active role in the law-making process by proving to them that even the simplest of people can make a big impact in the political process.



### ***Sharing Ideas Through Internet Piracy, Jacob McGimsey***

Jacob is currently a junior at Kettering Fairmont High School. He plans to major in Computer Science later in life.



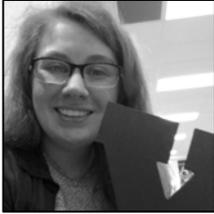
### ***Would You, Could You In a Box, Sammy McCellan***

Sammy is a freshman, but when she graduates, she want to go to Spelman College and become a writer and actress.



### ***Living With an Invisible Disability, Sarah Skinner***

Sarah is sophomore at Kettering Fairmont High School. She enjoys marching band and plays the piano. Her favorite subject is math, and she plans to be an engineer. Sarah's favorite activities are playing with her dog and hanging out with her friends.



### ***Defying Entropy, Lauren Miles***

Lauren is a senior at Kettering Fairmont High School with a passion for learning about the world we live in. Lauren is also strongly passionate about the arts, especially music, and she plans to study to become a music teacher. Above all, Lauren hopes that she is able to help others in her life however she can, whether it's through sharing her love of music with young students or by teaching others about the marvelous world we share.



### ***Learning How to Be a Grown-Up in America, Lilly Dunning***

Lillian Dunning is a junior at the Miami Valley school. She is an intern for senator Rob Portman and co-president of the Young Republicans Association at MVS. She is also an avid golfer and a die-hard fan of Grey's Anatomy and Scandal.



### ***Self Advocacy – A State of Mind, Abby Edwards***

Abby Edwards is a senior at Vandalia Butler High School and has participated in College Credit + through Wright State University for the past three years. She plans to complete her Bachelor of Science degree at WSU and then begin work on a Doctoral degree in Clinical Health Psychology. She recently received a national Yes I Can Award for Self-Advocacy from the Center for Exceptional Center.



### ***Domestic Violence, Christina Lobertini-Burks***

Christina is a junior at Yellow Springs High School. She is involved in her school's theater program, as well as being the president of a writing group she created outside of school. Christina wants to go to school for business, creative writing, and theater when she graduates high school.



### ***Trust Me ... I'm a Scientist, Shari Gordnier***

Shari is a senior at the Dayton Regional STEM School where she is an active member of the Junior Council on World Affairs. She enjoys swimming as a member of the Kettering City Swim Team and Centerville High School's varsity swim team. After graduation, she plans on pursuing her passions by seeking degrees in both psychology and national security.



### ***Veering Off My Path, Madison Choo***

Madison is from Centerville, Ohio and is a current senior at The Miami Valley School. She is a lifetime competitive dancer, currently training at JsquareDance, and she plans to pursue this passion through her college career. She has also been a fall season soccer player for her school, playing varsity all four years of high school.