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Kevin Flanders photo

Nine David Prouty High School students received White Sweater Awards last week to honor their academic accomplishments over a three-year period.

'Kids of excellent character'

WHITE SWEATER STUDENTS
HONORED AT DPHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — When David Prouty High School students don their white sweaters each year, they're not simply celebrating one accomplishment but instead an entire career of success.

This year's White Sweater Awards hon-

ored nine students who have maintained an unweighted "A" average from freshman year through the end of junior year. The tradition has carried on for over fifty years, with hundreds of students honored for their commitment to academic excellence.

Photo: Rand WHITE, page A17

DPHS officials shone spotlight on White Sweater students

WHITE

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"[Receiving a White Sweater Award] means you did all of your homework. It means you were never unprepared for an assignment. It means you were successful on every quiz and test," said first-year DPHS Principal Elizabeth York.

The following students earned White Sweater Awards this year: Jacob Fulmer, Jeffrey Fulmer, Eric Fyrberg, Olivia Fahey, Cheyanne Gustafson, Meghan

Bowen, Rebekka Yang, Elycia Figarsky and Jayme Hayes.

Most impressive of all, the students excelled in AP courses over the last year in addition to their regular coursework. York and her staff were thrilled with their desire to challenge themselves at the highest level as they prepare for college and beyond.

"All of these students are kids of excellent character," York added. "As a principal, I have seen what it takes to get A's

in AP classes. I appreciate the level of intricacy they have put into their studies."

Students were excited to be honored during the Oct. 27 ceremony, where they were joined by their family members for breakfast prior to the presentation of the awards. While high-performing students in several school districts often go overlooked, it is a priority for the Prouty staff to show their appreciation for the students' efforts.

For many of the stu-

dents, putting on the white sweater represented a longtime aspiration.

"It felt like all of the hard work paid off," Figarsky said. "It had been a goal I was working toward for three years, and for it to be reality felt empowering."

Superintendent Tracy Crowe and several teachers were in attendance as well to recognize the students. The teachers have watched their students come a long way since freshman year, and they have never lost their

determination to keep pushing themselves.

"These kids never took a day off. Even on the days when they weren't feeling their best, they always came to class committed and ready," York said.

The students, meanwhile, thanked their teachers for constant guidance and support. Whenever the kids needed extra help, their teachers always provided the required support, especially at the AP level.

"She is a fun, great

teacher. She is always there to help us," Fahey said of her favorite teacher, Ms. Mehringer.

In addition to honoring the students, the event also serves as an example each year to underclassmen. The Prouty staff hopes younger students can learn from these accomplished upperclassmen and the dedication they bring each day.

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