

# Jenny

Now a graduating senior from Santa Barbara High School, Jenny began with AHA! as an eighth grader at Santa Barbara Junior High. Since then, she has participated in AHA! Peace Builders, Girls' Group, and SBHS AHA! Seminar.

Jenny is a superstar student—one of 20 students selected by the Mission Scholars nonprofit which supports students in college access. Jenny has a 4.3 weighter GPA, participated in AVID and PEAC for four years, and runs her own baking business, Treats with Jenny (I can attest to the deliciousness and quality of her creations!).

Jenny has created opportunities for herself through hard work, courage, and determination. Her path has not been without challenges! Jenny was diagnosed with arthritis in her back during her freshman year of high school which has since spread to her knees and ankles. She manages the pain with physical therapy and medication, and despite the prognosis that this is a life-long condition, she continues to be determined to forge ahead and make her dreams become reality. In addition, Jenny has struggled with anxiety since she was in elementary school and has learned coping mechanisms which help keep it in check.

Jenny was the first of her Mission Scholars cohort to receive a college acceptance letter—from Westmont College. There will, undoubtedly be many more. This is a young woman who faces her challenges with grace, resoluteness, and diligence. She is mature and self aware with a clear vision of where she wants to go. I look forward to keeping in touch with Jenny, supporting her baking business, and following her growth as she evolves into adulthood and finds her passions.

“I have a special place in my heart for AHA! because of the friendships I've made and the bonds I've created with the facilitators. I feel very open to them and have learned to express myself because of aha!”

