

## 2019 Foreign Language Association

**Excellence in Foreign Language Study, Senior High School: Sarah Smith**



**This prestigious award is given to a Junior or Senior high school student of foreign language who exhibits superior performance in the foreign language classroom. The nominated students must demonstrate superior ability dependent upon their level of study in reading and listening comprehension, interpersonal and presentational speaking/writing and cultural awareness; demonstrate excellence in classroom cooperation and good citizenship; exemplify trustworthiness and responsibility; and display leadership and trustworthiness in the classroom.**

Foreign languages force you to find confidence within yourself. They take you by the hands, look you in the eyes, and exclaim to you that you've got this. They toss you in the ocean and watch you learn to swim. The middle of the journey can be intense. Learning the ins and outs of every irregular verb, every tense, every pronoun, every word...

It can be a lot to swim in. But you always get stronger. Suddenly you're walking down the Champs Élysées having a French conversation with every vendor you see. Or you're having a conversation with someone in Hindi in front of the Taj Mahal. Or you're speaking with the cashier of a shop near the Great Wall of China in fluent Cantonese ....Learning a foreign language connects you with others, not just by being able to speak to them, but also by opening your mind to them. By learning a foreign language, you open up to and submerge yourself into new cultures, and this is all without leaving your own town. Learning a foreign language equips you to venture out, to try new things, and to open up in general. It shows you confidence you didn't know you possessed, but most importantly, it reveals a version of yourself you didn't know had been hiding inside.