

MAAP STARS Officer: Breanna Kissel

Hello,

My name is Breanna Kissel and I am a senior at Ivan Sand Community High School in Elk River. I was elected as a MAAP STARS Officer for the 2018-2019 school year.

I have been at Ivan Sand since my freshman year. I originally started the year at Elk River High School as a Grade A Student, but I was very quiet and not in sports or any social circles. I had gotten jumped in a hallway which lead the way to future bullying so I was offered the opportunity to attend Ivan Sand instead.

Ever since I started at Ivan Sand I have had tremendous successes. Each year I have lead the school fundraiser Pennies for Patients and I raised \$830 for MAAP STARS doing a Disabled American Veterans Clothing Drive. I have done many more activities including community outreach and raised money for both the school and MAAP STARS. Also, I have been attending Anoka Technical College since the spring of 2016 as a PSEO student. As of right now, I will graduate in summer of 2019 with my Legal Administrative Assistant Degree. After that, my plan is to take the steps to become a lawyer. The end goal is to be a judge and I have taken big leaps to get where I am today.

My life has always been a never ending roller coaster ride. I've had to face a lot of hardships and struggled with many personal obstacles at a young age and most I had to do alone. I know many other students have had to do that too. That's why I want to make a difference. Students have a voice and definitely have the right for it to be heard. MAAP STARS is the way I plan to make our voices heard.

I have been in MAAP STARS for four years now. I started with attending a regional and state conference. Ever since then I have participated in all STARS events and activities. I would not be standing up here without STARS and their public speaking event. STARS teaches you real life skills and it boosts your individual confidence. That is why I became an Officer. STARS has helped me find a new piece of myself each year that I have participated.

I have big plans for MAAP STARS this year. I plan to stand up for all alternative students. I want to have more funding for schools and for STARS. I want people in the legislature to know that students and staff from ALC's have ideas and opinions. I think it is time that we have a say. How I plan to do this is I want to hear from the students. I want to hear their ideas, opinions, facts, whatever it might be; and I want to stand and speak up for students and STARS.

One of my goals as state officer is to visit alternative schools. I want to give new ideas but also take some with me. Schools need to know what STARS can do for them. I want alternative schools to be a discussion. What I mean by that is I don't want to hear anymore, "Well, what is alternative learning?". I want it to be known across the state who we are and what we do.

Again, my name is Breanna Kissel and I am making a difference from Ivan Sand Community High School.

Thank you for listening.