



October 2024

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Mackenzie Thompson

Nordonia Hills



Mackenzie Thompson is a senior at Nordonia Hills High School and a student in the Health Careers program at CVCC, instructed by Patty Valukievic. Joining CVCC's Health Careers program was a straightforward choice for Mackenzie, as it provided an ideal opportunity to kickstart her medical career while deepening her understanding of health and addressing her own health challenges.

Having faced multiple autoimmune disorders, she has spent years seeking answers. After undergoing physical therapy and navigating health scares, she has gained clarity about her condition. *"They called me the long-haul COVID kid at the hospital, but I'm doing much better and finally have some answers"* Mackenzie said.

Mackenzie enjoys collaborating with like-minded students and hopes to find the same camaraderie in her future career as a nurse, where she plans to specialize in infectious disease. *"Dr. Amy Edwards, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at University Hospitals, helped me get answers. I want to be that person for someone else,"* she said.

One of her favorite experiences at CVCC has been participating in HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America). *"Traveling and competing with my classmates was fun and eye-opening, and it helped me connect with my peers and Ms. Valukievic on a more personal level,"* she said.

Mackenzie is having an exceptional school year, balancing her time between two schools and working at Starbucks. Ms. Valukievic commends her for reaching the HOSA International Leadership Conference and Competitive Events this past June in Houston, Texas. Her Creative Problem-Solving Team, made up of juniors, excelled at both state and regional competitions, making it to the highest level of competition—an impressive feat for juniors.

Outside of school, Mackenzie enjoys arts and crafts and embraces her love of coffee through her job at Starbucks. Her advice to students considering CVCC: *"Don't hesitate. The skills you gain at CVCC are valuable, even if you don't pursue a career within the program you choose."* Keep up the great work, Mackenzie!

Written By: Makayla Robertson, CVCC Media Specialist



8001 Brecksville Rd.



www.cvccworks.edu



info@cvccworks.edu



CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CAREER CENTER