



March 2025

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Vasilea Gaudio

Brecksville-Broadview Heights



Vasilea (Lea) Gaudio, a junior at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, is making the most of her experience in CVCC's Fire & EMS Academy, led by instructor Heather Nelligan. Inspired by her father, a Marine, Lea has always been fascinated by emergency medicine. When she visited CVCC, she knew this was the right path for her. In just a short time, the program has solidified her career goals.

After high school, Lea plans to continue her education and earn her paramedic certification. Thanks to CVCC, she will graduate with both her National Registry Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Certification and her State of Ohio Level II Firefighter Certification—key steps toward her ultimate goal of working in a fire department.

One of her favorite aspects of CVCC has been the friendships she's formed with students from different schools. "I went in not knowing anyone, and now we're all super close," she shares. Lea is especially grateful for the support of her instructors. "Mrs. Nelligan and Mr. Spano (anatomy instructor) are so awesome. It is so evident how much they care about us and our success. They are more focused on us than just our grades."

Beyond her studies, Lea stays busy as a member of her high school's flag line team and serves as the CVCC Student Ambassador for Brecksville-Broadview Heights. In this role, she recently traveled to Columbus to advocate for Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding, sharing her experiences with legislators and senators. Next year, as a senior, she'll have the opportunity to do the same in Washington, D.C.!

In addition to her academic and extracurricular commitments, Lea works at a veterinary clinic as an animal care assistant and teaches CPR classes. During her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, spending time with friends, and making the most of summer at her camper. Her advice to anyone considering CVCC? "Go for it! Attending CVCC is such a great opportunity—don't pass it up. You have nothing to lose, and it also gives you a chance to restart." Way to go, Lea! Keep up the amazing work.

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