

Who from history would you like to have breakfast with? And why?

Hello, my name is Kayden Dructor, and I plan on becoming a chemical engineering major after high school. I have had a strong interest in science since I was a child, and many positive experiences with my various science teachers. Mrs. Kearns was the first science teacher I had that made me think of science as a career opportunity. By far though, I enjoyed chemistry. I have participated in Science Olympiad since my junior year and got 5th place in one of my events at last year's regional competition. I have learned to highly love being involved in these competitions, as I get to learn fascinating subjects like how to identify powders or decrypt a secret code.

I also had an intense passion for the arts before I was even able to write. I can remember a time in Kindergarten when I had to be in the hospital for a month because I contracted pneumonia, and after waking up from a surgery I was drawing in a coloring book with my left (nondominant) hand because my right arm was still numb. My mom has always used this as an example to show my toughness through the situation. I have been painting, drawing, and using mixed media as a main hobby throughout my life, and have started to learn the art of cross-stitching recently which I have been enjoying deeply. In addition, I am a member of the National Art Honors Society and Drama Club, having a fascination for performance arts. Finding themes in art such as paintings and films is something I am very passionate about as well. An event that encapsulates my interest in both science and art, was when I won a competition for creating a logo for the Governor's STEM Competition.

If I were to be able to spend a breakfast with one historical figure I would likely choose Vincent Van Gogh. Van Gogh's art has always deeply impressed me with his way of depicting what he sees, not just what is physically there, creating a highly charming quality. I also can

relate to his struggle with mental health, as he is known to have had depression, and I suffer from anxiety and OCD. Over a year ago, I started taking medication for my mental health which has greatly improved my quality of life, but I still vividly remember how difficult daily life was when I was at my worst. I find it very important that people know that Van Gogh created his best work when he was in recovery so that others know not to expect great inspiration and works of art from themselves when at their lows.

I believe there is a Doctor Who episode with a similar concept, but I very much would like to tell him the effect he has had on the world. Much of Van Gogh's work and recognition was only revealed years after his death, so he was unfortunately not able to experience the love he has received over the years. He has become one of the most well known and worshipped artists there are, whilst having to live a rather lonely and sorrowful life. There is also a slight mystery around how he died, since he died of a gunshot wound that was likely suicide but may have been as a result of someone else shooting him. Knowing a full confirmation of what happened to him would be appreciated to tell his story with full accuracy. It would be very interesting to talk to him about his life and his talent.

Thank you very much for your consideration for this scholarship.