Washougal salutatorian is off to college with a 'Running Start'

Hailey Bischoff attends Clark College

By Dawn Feldhaus
Post-Record staff

A Washougal High School senior who has already earned some college credits is looking forward to the next phase of her life.

Hailey Bischoff, a participant in the Running Start program at Clark College, is the salutatorian for the WHS class of 2010.

"I'm pretty excited," she said. "I did not even know about it until the principal called and asked me to speak."

With grade point averages of 3.97 in high school and 3.81 in college, Bischoff has lived in Washougal for one year. She and her family have also resided in Pasco, Wash., and Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Bischoff said attending three high schools has been a learning experience.

"Each time I moved, I had to extend myself," she said. "It was learning how to deal with people and how to be friendly. I'm a really reserved person. Extending myself was a really big challenge. Moving really required me to get outside my comfort zone."

Bischoff plans to major in engineering and math on a scholarship at Brigham Young University-Idaho.

"What I really want to do is to be a mother," she said. "It's something I've always wanted to get ever since I was little."

Bischoff, daughter of Brent and Sharon Bischoff, has four younger brothers.

According to Sharon Bischoff, Hailey did not play with dolls because she had "live ones" to help tend and change diapers.

In the first grade — after experiencing a loud and confusing atmosphere with three groups of 25 students each grouped together in an open pod classroom — Bischoff's request to be home schooled was eventually granted for most of her elementary school years.

During that time, she participated in activities such as volleyball, swimming and band — with children in public schools. At Pasco High School, Bischoff ran cross country and track. She lettered in cross country and choir, played the piano for jazz band and sang in audition choirs in both Pasco and Idaho Falls.

Her community involvement has included playing piano for church since she was 12 years old. Bischoff has served as president of her church youth group for three years and president of a 4-H Club where she showed sheep and chickens.

She has helped a fifth grade class with schoolwork at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary School, and she is a member of the National Honor Society.

Sharon Bischoff describes her daughter as self-motivated and disciplined.

"She's been a really easy teenager," she said. "She's been really pleasant. We've enjoyed her. I wish I had as much discipline as she does."

Brent said his daughter is "a very focused young lady" who is serious about her schoolwork.

"She's really minor for her age," he said. "She always has been. That helps her to set goals and accomplish what she wants in life. She doesn't spend an excessive amount of time. She has a high expectation for herself. She won't settle for anything less than doing her very best."

Barret

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Many notable accomplishments remain humble, hardworking, and intrinsically motivated to learn for the sake of learning," he added.

Barret's activities have not been limited to the classroom. She has been a member of the swim team for four years, basketball team for two years, and tennis squad for three years. She is also a member of the Key Club, National Honor Society, and the "Lit Lovers" club, an organization of which she is a founding member and current vice president.

If that wasn't enough, Barret is also a vocalist and has been a member of the school's treble choir, concert choir and vocal ensemble.

She has taken her love of music and used it as an inspiration for her senior project, which had her organizing a youth choir and concert at her church.

In the fall, Barret will continue her quest for knowledge and academic stimulation at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where her sister Chelsey is also currently a student. She plans on earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy, then going on to attend law school.

With her sister and lots of family members in Provo, Barret said she is looking forward to taking the big step leading to the next phase in her life.

"I'm excited to move on to a place where I'll be challenged."