

Meet Haley Weed, GHS Class of 2022



The science labs and art studios at GHS led Haley to pursue science and art at the college level. Haley was accepted into the University of Vermont, a public research university in Burlington, VT known for their life sciences programs. A longtime artist, Haley is passionate about nature and wildlife, and discovered her love of environmental science in classes and programs funded by GEF.

Haley's Gloucester social circle was cultivated by her many sports teams, and by the drama program funded by GEF. Her artistic side is just as crucial to her as her STEM side. Haley is entering her sophomore year at UVM and looking forward to getting into heavier science, more art, and engaging even more with Mother Nature.

What are you studying in college?

I'm studying environmental science with a concentration in conservation biology and biodiversity. I'm minoring in art, and also in wildlife biology. The environmental science major is very broad, so the college makes you pick a concentration. There are a lot of options, like ecological design, technology-focused ones, etc. I picked conservation biology because it sounded interesting, and I love field work.

At GHS, what were your extracurriculars? What about them did you find the most enriching?

Art was a big one. I took one of Ms. Cerrutti's art classes every term of high school. I did a lot of **theater**, and a lot of sports—soccer, tennis, and swim. I was also a vocalist for the GHS jazz **band** my senior year. I liked the **art** classes because all these supplies and resources were in one room, and there were a lot of great opportunities to do your own art along with class assignments. You could make the assignments your own, too. I liked **theater** because of the people, but also because it was a good opportunity to get out of my comfort zone. Tennis and swim were fun because the people were fun, and I felt like there was good, positive energy, and in soccer I liked the competition aspect the most.

Where do you feel like all these interests started for you?

I started playing soccer when I was 5, because it was fun and my parents figured I needed activity. Theater and **music** started in **O'Maley Academy**, the musical theater program at the middle school. I also used to want to be an artist when I was younger, and in elementary school we had an art classroom. Then, they changed it so that we had art in our own classrooms, and they brought this art supply cart around and we'd do that. In middle school, we had a lot of cool, big art projects that excited me, and kept my interest going, like movie-making and painting and sculpture. I liked being able to do projects my own way, and do them in an artistic way. When I got to high school, I loved that you could take specific kinds of art classes, like **printmaking**.

If everything goes according to plan, what do you see in your future?

I picked environmental science as a major because I took **AP Environmental Science** at GHS and liked it a lot, and then I discovered my concentration within my major and how it can lead to working in animal rehabilitation. I also like marine biology, so if I was to go to graduate school, I'd go for marine biology and focus on animal rehab in marine animals. I'd also maybe like to work as a lab technician in an environmental research lab.



Gloucester Public Schools

This interview was conducted by GHS student Aurelia Harrison in 2023, as part of a GEF Summer Internship. GEF funds a wide variety of dynamic programs in the arts, STEM, and more in the Gloucester Public Schools. GEF-funded programs are highlighted in yellow above.

To learn more visit our website: www.thinkthebest.org.



Gloucester Education
Foundation
www.thinkthebest.org