

## #NextGenMed 2023-2024 Seniors



**Heidi Simmons, 12**

I am a gymnast. I coach at my gym. I am interested in becoming a veterinary pathologist.

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**Akayla Jennings, 12**

My name is Akayla Jennings. I am a senior at Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts. My goal is to become an obstetrician-gynecologist. This has been my career goal for about 8 years now. I plan to do my schooling at either University of Florida or Florida A&M University. My hobbies are mainly sleeping and hanging out with my friends. I also spend a lot of my non-academic time working because I love money.

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**Autumn Thomas, 12**

I play multiple sports, including basketball, volleyball and track and field. I am also my school's class vice president and Beta Club Parliamentarian. I work part-time at a local grocery store near my home. My goal is to eventually become an exotic veterinarian and I want to go to Auburn University after high school. I also may participate in sports in college.

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**Ysabella L. Wijaya, 12**

I am a hobbyist runner. I enjoy running around my apartment complex a couple of miles a week. I used to be an active artist and now I draw and paint for fun rather than a career goal. In the future, I hope to become a researcher. At the moment, I am most interested in genetics as the focus of my research. Moreover, I want to go down the Ph.D. path because as a researcher it makes you more marketable for grants. Long-term goals, I am not looking to become a PI, I mainly hope to do active research given I am not fond of all the paperwork that PI's have to accomplish on a daily basis. In college, I hope to get into many summer internship programs for research such as RISE and the SURF program at the Mayo Clinic as a biology major.

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**Jemari Dickerson, 12**

I want to pursue a career in the dental field. Most likely a cosmetic dentist. I enjoy, listening to music, and hanging with family.

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**Diego Montanez, 12**

Hello, my name is Diego Montanez and I'm a senior attending Darnell Cookman School of the Medical Arts. I'm interested in computer engineering and would love to create software for Mayo Clinic. Mayo Clinic has broadened my career choices, and I'm extremely interested in nursing and would love to learn more about them throughout this program. I enjoy hanging out with friends, working on science projects with kids, and watching sports. I work at the YMCA with children and also run their STEM program, which is a lot of fun and has been a great experience thus far.

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**Jonathan Cepeda, 12**

Hello, my name Jonathan Cepeda and I'm a senior at Darnell-Cookman. I am interested in visual arts, science, and medicine. In college, I plan to pursue a degree in either studio arts or graphic design - though, a career in medicine is not completely off the table. My experience with Mayo's Next Gen Med program has been amazing, and I am excited for the opportunities it opens for me in the future.

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**Ruth Maldonado, 12**

My name is Ruth Maldonado and I go to Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts. I am in dual enrollment with the University of Florida. After school, I spend my days studying, exercising, or working at a day care with small children (who are adorable). In my free time, I watch soccer and anime. I participate in some clubs, and I am president of the Spanish Honor Society at my school. My educational goal is to continuously learn in the medical field, as I think I've fallen in love with the human body and medicine. Helping people has always given me a sense of purpose. Pursuing a career with these two passions of mine would be a dream. A doctor of any kind would be a sweet life, although surgery seems like the place I would like to end up.

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**Delaynee Cody, 12**

My name is Delaynee Cody and I hope to become a veterinarian. I have been interested in veterinary medicine since I was very little, so I have been exploring for a long time, and I feel I would do well in the field. Outside of school, I like to sing, I play the violin, and I am learning the piano, but I don't think I would be interested in carrying these activities into a career. Ultimately, I know my passions, but I am always willing to learn and explore more that could help me in the future.

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**Cing Lun, 12**

My name is Cing Lun and I am a senior at Darnell Cookman. My educational goal is to attend the University of South Florida and further expand my knowledge in the career I am most interested in which is Dentistry. At school, I am a member of various clubs such as Key Club, Beta Club, Great Decisions, and National Spanish Honor Society. In my free time, I love to go out on hikes and explore. I also love to volunteer in my community and help those around me. -Love listening to music -Photography

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**Sulame Berhe, 12**

Hello, my name is Sulame Berhe and I am a senior at Darnell Cookman. I never had an idea of my dream career until I came to Darnell. I have always wanted to help people, but I never knew which path I wanted to take. The medical environment in Darnell has helped me decide on my future goals in life. My main goal is to be a medical laboratory scientist and work in a lab testing bodily fluids and running sample testing.

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**Amina Selmic, 12**

Hello! My name is Amina Selmic and I am a senior at Darnell Cookman. Darnell sparked my interest in the healthcare field which inspired me to research the several sectors there are to healthcare. I spend my free time exercising, whether that be in the gym or in my fencing classes. Exercise and healthcare go hand in hand, leading me to pursue a degree in exercise science. My main goal is to earn my doctorate in physical therapy and start my own practice, helping athletes recover from injuries.

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**Terrianna Wright, 12**

Hobbies: Reading -Watching YouTube and anime -dancing -listening to music -doing arts and crafts.

Goals: Become either a medical laboratory technologist or pharmacist -get my masters (bachelor's is fine as well) -travel and gain experience in my field.

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**Larry Winters III, 12**

Hello, my name is Larry Winters III and I'm honored to be a part of the Mayo NextGen program! I've been interested in the medical field since about 7th grade and have made it a goal to become not only a great person, but a great leader in order to prepare me for my future medical career. I hold many leadership positions at school including President of the National Honor Society, President of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, Treasurer of the Key Club, and co-captain of the school announcements. As of now, my goal is to study exercise science/ kinesiology as part of my path to becoming either a chiropractor or a sports medicine physician. I'd like to thank Mayo Clinic for the opportunity and I look forward to the rest of the year!

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**Charles Sailor, 12**

Currently, my hobbies include educating myself about what's going on in the world and what problems are happening currently. I wish to go to an HBCU such as FAMU which has a phenomenal pharmacy school where I currently work in the field of as a pharmacy technician.

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